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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.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 20, 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.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, in You is light and salvation. Because You have compassion on our darkness, we always live with expectations of a new day. Be ever-present and shed Your light upon the Members of Congress.

When confronted by the complexity of problems to be addressed, grant single-mindedness and focus on justice. When confused by many voices of concern and advice, let the truth of Your Word be heard. When aware of limitations and the passing of time, provide patience and understanding of others and the ability to seize the present moment to accomplish Your holy will. For You are ever-faithful, God with us, 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 Ohio (Mr. LATTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LATTA 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2040. An act 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.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 1193) ''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.''

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 110–343, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual as a member of the Congressional Oversight Panel:

The Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG).

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO UNITED STATES—CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2009:

Mr. Michael Wessel, Falls Church, Virginia.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable RAY LAHOOD, Member of Congress:

NOVEMBER 19, 2008.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that my office has been served with a criminal trial subpoena for documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois. This relates to a constituent matter. Two of my district offices have casework files that are relevant to the investigation and charges filed.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

RAY LAHOOD,
Member of Congress.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

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tempore (Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas) at 3 p.m.

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, November 19, 2008.

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

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 125(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–343), I am pleased to appoint the Honorable JEB HENSARLING of Texas to the Congressional Oversight Panel.

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

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 440, 110th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Saturday, January 3, 2009, at 11 a.m.

OATH FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Under clause 13 of rule XXIII, the following Members executed the oath for access to classified information:

Neil Abercrombie, Gary L. Ackerman, Robert B. Aderholt, W. Todd Akin, Rodney Alexander, Thomas H. Allen, Jason Altmire, Robert E. Andrews, Michael A. Arcuri, Joe Baca, Michele Bachmann, Spencer Bachus, Brian Baird, Richard H. Baker, Tammy Baldwin, J. Gresham Barrett, John Barrow, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Joe Barton, Melissa L. Bean, Xavier Becerra, Shelley Berkley, Howard L. Berman, Marion Berry, Judy Biggert, Brian P. Bilbray, Gus M. Bilirakis, Rob Bishop, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Timothy H. Bishop, Marsha Blackburn, Earl Blumenauer, Roy Blunt, John A. Boehner, Jo Bonner, Mary Bono, John Boozman, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Dan Boren, Leonard L. Boswell, Rick Boucher, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Allen Boyd, Nancy E. Boyda, Kevin Brady, Robert A. Brady, Bruce L. Braley, Paul C. Broun, Corrine Brown, Henry E. Brown, Jr., Ginny Brown-Waite, Vern Buchanan, Michael C. Burgess, Dan Burton, G.K. Butterfield, Steve Buyer, Ken Calvert, Dave Camp, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Shelley Moore Capito, Lois Capps, Michael E. Capuano, Dennis A. Cardoza, Russ Carnahan, Christopher P. Carney, Andre Carson, Julia Carson, John R. Carter, Michael N. Castle, Kathy Castor, Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr., Steve Chabot, Ben Chandler, Travis W. Childers, Donna M. Christensen, Yvette D. Clarke, Wm. Lacy Clay, Emanuel Cleaver, James E. Clyburn, Howard Coble, Steve Cohen, Tom Cole, K. Michael Conaway, John Conyers, Jr., Jim Cooper, Jim Costa, Jerry F. Costello, Joe Courtney, Robert E. (Bud) Cramer, Jr., Ander Crenshaw, Joseph Crowley, Barbara Cubin, Henry Cuellar, John Abney Culberson, Elijah E. Cummings, Artur Davis, Danny K. Davis, David Davis, Geoff Davis, Jo Ann Davis, Lincoln Davis, Susan A. Davis, Tom Davis, Nathan Deal, Peter A. DeFazio, Diana DeGette, William D. Delahunt, Rosa L. DeLauro, Charles W. Dent, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Norman D. Dicks, John D. Dingell, Lloyd Doggett, Joe Donnelly, John T. Doolittle, Michael F. Doyle, Thelma D. Drake, David Dreier, John J. Duncan, Jr., Chet Edwards, Donna F. Edwards, Vernon J. Ehlers, Keith Ellison, Brad Ellsworth, Rahm Emanuel, Jo Ann Emerson, Eliot L. Engel, Phil English, Anna G. Eshoo, Bob Etheridge, Terry Everett, Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, Mary Fallin, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Tom Feeney, Mike Ferguson, Bob Filner, Jeff Flake, J. Randy Forbes, Jeff Fortenberry, Luis G. Fortuño, Vito Fossella, Bill Foster, Virginia Foxx, Barney Frank, Trent Franks, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Marcia L. Fudge, Elton Gallegly, Scott Garrett, Jim Gerlach, Gabrielle Giffords, Wayne T. Gilchrest, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Paul E. Gillmor, Phil Gingrey, Louie Gohmert, Charles A. Gonzalez, Virgil H. Goode, Jr., Bob Goodlatte, Bart Gordon, Kay Granger, Sam Graves, Al Green, Gene Green, Raúl M. Grijalva, Luis V. Gutierrez, John J. Hall, Ralph M. Hall, Phil Hare, Jane Harman, J. Dennis Hastert, Alcee L. Hastings, Doc Hastings, Robin Hayes, Dean Heller, Jeb Hensarling, Wally Herger, Stephanie Herseth, Brian Higgins, Baron P. Hill, Maurice D. Hinchey, Ruben Hinojosa, Mazie K. Hirono, David L. Hobson, Paul W. Hodes, Peter Hoekstra, Tim Holden, Rush D. Holt, Michael M. Honda, Darlene Hooley, Steny H. Hoyer, Kenny C. Hulshof, Duncan Hunter, Bob Inglis, Jay Inslee, Steve Israel, Darrell E. Issa, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Sheila Jackson-Lee, William J. Jefferson, Bobby Jindal, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Henry C. ''Hank'' Johnson, Jr., Sam Johnson, Timothy V. Johnson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Walter B. Jones, Jim Jordan, Steve Kagen, Paul E. Kanjorski, Marcy Kaptur, Ric Keller, Patrick J. Kennedy, Dale E. Kildee, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Ron Kind, Peter T. King, Steve King, Jack Kingston, Mark Steven Kirk, Ron Klein, John Kline, Joe Knollenberg, John R. ''Randy'' Kuhl, Jr., Ray LaHood, Doug Lamborn, Nick Lampson, James R. Langevin, Tom Lantos, Rick Larsen, John B. Larson, Tom Latham, Steven C. LaTourette, Robert E. Latta, Barbara Lee, Sander M. Levin, Jerry Lewis, John Lewis, Ron Lewis, John Linder, Daniel Lipinski, Frank A. LoBiondo, David Loebsack, Zoe Lofgren, Nita M. Lowey, Frank D. Lucas, Daniel E. Lungren, Stephen F. Lynch, Carolyn McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, Michael T. McCaul, Betty McCollum, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Jim McCrery, James P. McGovern, Patrick T. McHenry, John M. McHugh, Mike McIntyre, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jerry McNerney, Michael R. McNulty, Connie Mack, Tim Mahoney, Carolyn B. Maloney, Donald A. Manzullo, Kenny Marchant, Edward J. Markey, Jim Marshall, Jim Matheson, Doris O. Matsui, Martin T. Meehan, Kendrick B. Meek, Gregory W. Meeks, Charlie Melancon, John L. Mica, Michael H. Michaud, Juanita Millender-McDonald, Brad Miller, Candice S. Miller, Gary G. Miller, George Miller, Jeff Miller, Harry E. Mitchell, Alan B. Mollohan, Dennis Moore, Gwen Moore, James P. Moran, Jerry Moran, Christopher S. Murphy, Patrick J. Murphy, Tim Murphy, John P. Murtha, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Jerrold Nadler, Grace F. Napolitano, Richard E. Neal, Randy Neugebauer, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Charlie Norwood, Devin Nunes, James L. Oberstar, David R. Obey, John W. Olver, Solomon P. Ortiz, Frank Pallone, Jr., Bill Pascrell, Jr., Ed Pastor, Ron Paul, Donald M. Payne, Stevan Pearce, Nancy Pelosi, Mike Pence, Ed Perlmutter, Collin C. Peterson, John E. Peterson, Thomas E. Petri, Charles W. ''Chip'' Pickering, Joseph R. Pitts, Todd Russell Platts, Ted Poe, Earl Pomeroy, Jon C. Porter, David E. Price, Tom Price, Deborah Pryce, Adam H. Putnam, George Radanovich, Nick J. Rahall II, Jim Ramstad, Charles B. Rangel, Ralph Regula, Dennis R. Rehberg, David G. Reichert, Rick Renzi, Silvestre Reyes, Thomas M. Reynolds, Laura Richardson, Ciro D. Rodriguez, Harold Rogers, Mike Rogers, Mike Rogers, Dana Rohrabacher, Peter J. Roskam, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mike Ross, Steven R. Rothman, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Edward R. Royce, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Bobby L. Rush, Paul Ryan, Tim Ryan, John T. Salazar, Bill Sali, Linda T. Sánchez, Loretta Sanchez, John P. Sarbanes, Jim Saxton, Steve Scalise, Janice D. Schakowsky, Adam B. Schiff, Jean Schmidt, Allyson Y. Schwartz, David Scott, Robert C. ''Bobby'' Scott, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., José E. Serrano, Pete Sessions, Joe Sestak, John B. Shadegg, Christopher Shays, Carol Shea-Porter, Brad Sherman, John Shimkus, Heath Shuler, Bill Shuster, Michael K. Simpson, Albio Sires, Ike Skelton, Louise McIntosh Slaughter, Adam Smith, Adrian Smith, Christopher H. Smith, Lamar Smith, Vic Snyder, Hilda L. Solis, Mark E. Souder, Zachary T. Space, John M. Spratt, Jr., Jackie Speier, Cliff Stearns, Bart Stupak, John Sullivan, Betty Sutton, Thomas G. Tancredo, John S. Tanner, Ellen O. Tauscher, Gene Taylor, Lee Terry, Bennie G. Thompson, Mike Thompson, Mac Thornberry, Todd Tiahrt, Patrick J. Tiberi, John F. Tierney, Edolphus Towns, Niki Tsongas, Michael R. Turner, Mark Udall, Tom Udall, Fred Upton, Chris Van Hollen, Nydia M. Velázquez, Peter J. Visclosky, Tim Walberg, Greg Walden, James T. Walsh, Timothy J. Walz, Zach Wamp, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Maxine Waters, Diane E. Watson, Melvin L. Watt, Henry A. Waxman, Anthony D. Weiner, Peter Welch, Dave Weldon, Jerry Weller, Lynn A. Westmoreland, Robert Wexler, Ed Whitfield, Roger F. Wicker, Charles A. Wilson, Heather Wilson, Joe Wilson, Robert J. Wittman, Frank R. Wolf, Lynn C. Woolsey, David Wu, Albert Russell Wynn, John A. Yarmuth, C.W. Bill Young, Don Young.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

9390. A letter from the Administrator, Department Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Beef Promotion and Research; Reapportionment [Doc. No.: LS–07–0141] received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9391. A letter from the Regulatory Contact, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Swine Contractors (RIN: 0580–AB01) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9392. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Need Requests Under the Plant Protection Act [Docket No.: APHIS–2005–0103] (RIN: 0579–AB98) received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9393. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final

rule—Trichinae Certification Program [Docket No. APHIS–2006–0089] (RIN: 0579–AB92) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9394. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; Satte and Zone Designations; Minnesota [Docket No.: APHIS–2008–0117] October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9395. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assesment Rate [Docket No.: AMS–FV–08–0054; FV08–984–1 FR] received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9396. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Organic Program (NOP), Sunset Review (2008) [Docket Number: AMS–TM–07–0124; TM–07–12FR] (RIN: 0581–AC76) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9397. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dairy Forward Pricing Program [Docket No.: AMS–DA–08–0031; DA–08–05] (RIN: 0581–AC86) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9398. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tetraconazole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2007–1161; FRL–8386–7] received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9399. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—MCPB; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2007–0945; FRL–8387–1] received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9400. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Inert Ingredient: Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance for (S,S)–Ethylenediaminedisuccinic Acid [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0250; FRL–8362–4] received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9401. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Avermectin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0175; FRL–8387–8] received November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9402. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Thiencarbazone–methyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0132; FRL–8382–7] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9403. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Tolerance Nomenclature Changes; Technical Amendments [EPA–HQ–OPP–2002– 0043 FRL–8376–1] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9404. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyprosulfamide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0042; FRL–8377–4] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9405. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pyrimethanil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0609; FRL–8384–7] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9406. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Management and Disposal; Standards for Pesticide Containers and Containment [EPA–HQ–OPP–2005–0327; FRL–8387–2] (RIN: A2070–AJ37) received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9407. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Silane, trimethoxy[3–(oxiranylmethoxy) propyl]—, hydrolysis products with silica; Tolerance Exemption [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0571; FRL–8386–1] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9408. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Carbaryl; Order Denying NRDC's Petition to Revoke Tolerances [EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0347; FRL–8388–1] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9409. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Definitions; Disclosure to Shareholders; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Disclosure and Accounting Requirements (RIN: 3052–AC35) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9410. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the National Labor Relations Board, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

9411. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter (ARH) program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9412. A letter from the Deputy Under Secretary Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a prototype inventory list of activities performed, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2330a, section 807; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9413. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9414. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA–8043] received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9415. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Housing Operating Fund Program; Increased Terms of Energy Performance Contracts [Docket Number: FR–5057–I–01] (RIN: 2577–AC66) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9416. A letter from the Legal Information Assistant, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Optional Charter Provisions in Mutual Holding Company Structures [No.: OTS–2008–0005] (RIN: 1550–[AC15]) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9417. A letter from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Depoist Insurance Regulations; Revocable Trust Accounts (RIN: 3064–AD33) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9418. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—The Official Advertising Statement (RIN: 3133–AD45) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9419. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).—received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9420. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID ED–2008–OPE–0009] (RIN: 1840–AC94) received October 24, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9421. A letter from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Homeliving Programs (RIN: 1076–AE51) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9422. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting a decision to adopt and fully follow the advisory guidelines for addressing conduct inconsistent with Anti-discrimination and Whistleblower Protection Laws; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9423. A letter from the Deputy Director for Operations, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Benefits Payable in Terminated Single–Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single–Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits—received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

9424. A letter from the Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Office's report entitled, ''2007 Annual Report to Congress,'' pursuant to Public Law 97–245, section 304(c); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9425. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Removal of Separate Category for Vaccines Containing Live, Oral, Rhesus–Based Rotavirus From the Vaccine Injury Table (RIN: 0906–AA55) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9426. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on Thefts, Losses, or Releases of Select Agents or Toxins for CY 2007, pursuant to Public Law 107–188; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9427. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Stay of the Effectiveness of Requirements for Air Emission Testing Bodies [EPA–HQ–OAR–2008–0800; FRL 8737–5] (RIN: 2060–AP39) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9428. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Updated to Include New Jersey State Requirements [EPA–R02–OAR–2008–0308; FRL–8731–2] received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9429. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Navajo Nation; Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Primary Approval [EPA–R09–OW–2007–0248; FRL–8734–5] received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9430. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Emission Reduction from Large Stationary Internal Combustion Engines and Large Cement Kilns [EPA–R03–OAR–2007–0382 EPA–R03–OAR–2008–0113; FRL–8735–6] received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9431. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—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 November 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9432. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Major New Source Review for Nonattainment Areas [EPA–R03–OAR–2007–0522; FRL–8731–8] received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9433. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Completeness Findings for Section 110(a) State Implementation Plans Pertaining to the Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) NAAQS [EPA–HQ–OAR–2008–0452; FRL–8728–3] received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9434. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead [EPA–HQ–OAR–2006–0735; FRL–8732–9] (RIN: 2060–AN83) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9435. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Extension of Cross–Media Electronic Reporting Rule Deadline for Authorized Programs [EPA–HQ–OEI–2003–0001; FRL–8730–8] (RIN: 2025–AA23) received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9436. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan; Clark County [EPA–R09–OAR–2008–0728; FRL–8729–1], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9437. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; PM–10; Revision of Designation; Redesignation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin PM–10 Nonattainment Area to Attainment; Approval of PM–10 Maintenance Plan for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin; Approval of Commitments for the East Kern PM–10 Nonattainment Area [EPA–R09–OAR–2008 –030; FRL–8724–7] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9438. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; CILCO (AmerenEnergy) Edwards [EPA–R05–OAR–2004–IL–0003; FRL–8730–4] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9439. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Control of Stationary Combustion Turbine Electric Generating Unit Emissions [EPA–R03–OAR–2008–0068; FRL–8738–3] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9440. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Hazardous Waste Management Systems; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Final Exclusion [EPA–R06–RCRA–2008–0418; SW–FRL–8727–8] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9441. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; PM–10; Revision of Designation; Redesignation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin PM–10 Nonattainment Area to Attainment; Approval of PM–10 Maintenance Plan for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin; Approval of Commitments for the East Kern PM–10 Nonattainment Area [EPA–R09–OAR–2008– 0306; FRL–8724–7] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9442. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alabama: Approval of Revisions to the Visible Emissions Rule [EPA–R04–OAR–2005–AL– 0007–00819; FRL–8727–7] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9443. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Texas: Final Authorization of State–initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA–R06–RCRA–2008–0144 FRL–8727–3] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9444. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—New Mexico: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA–R06–RCRA–2008–0753; FRL–8729–6] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9445. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the Definition of Solid Waste [EPA–HQ–RCRA–2002–0031; FRL–8728–9] (RIN: 2050–AG31) received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9446. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances [EPA–HQ–OPPT–2008–0251; FRL–8371–3] (RIN: 2070–AB27) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9447. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—NESHAP: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Standards for Hazardous Waste Combustors: Reconsideration [EPA–HQ–OAR–2004–0022; FRL–8733–1] (RIN: 2050–AG35) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9448. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Virginia Major New Source Review, Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) [EPA–R03–OAR0–2007–0521; FRL–8731–9] received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9449. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings [EPA–HQ–OAR–2006–0971; FRL–8738–7] (RIN: 2060–AP33) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9450. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes in Montana; Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program; Primacy Approval and Minor Revisions [EPA–R08–OW–2007–0153; FRL–8733–4] received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9451. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Emergency Planning and Community Right–to–Know Act; Amendments to Emergency Planning and Notification; Emergency Release Notification and Hazardous Chemical Reporting. [EPA–HQ–SFUND–1998–0002; FRL–8733–5] (RIN: 2050–AE17) received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9452. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Minnesota: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL–8733–7] received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9453. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Diego Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA–R09–OAR–2006–0869, FRL–8721–7] received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9454. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Reasonably Available Control Technology Requirements for Volatile Organic Compounds and Nitrogen Oxides [EPA–R03–OAR–2006–0379; FRL–8732–3] received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9455. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Movement of Richmond and Hampton Roads 8–Hour Ozone Areas from the Nonattainment Area List to the Maintenance Area List [EPA–R03–OAR–2008–0656; FRL–8735–4] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9456. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois [EPA–R05–OAR–2008–0198; FRL–8722–9] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9457. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Revised Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets for the Parkersburg 8–Hour Ozone Maintenance Area [EPA–R03–OAR–2008– 0746 FRL–8735–7] received October 23, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9458. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Texas Low–Emission Diesel Fuel Program [EPA–R06–OAR–2006–0665; FRL–8733–8] received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9459. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Hazardous Air Pollutants From Mobile Sources: Early Credit Technology Requirement Revision [EPA–HQ–2005–0036; FRL–8729–7] (RIN: 2060–A089) received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9460. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Alaska; Interstate Transport of Pollution [EPA–R10–OAR–2008–0166; FRL–8728–1] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9461. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Approval of Rule Clarifications [EPA–R05–OAR–2008–0389; FRL–8711–3] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9462. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Dallas/Fort Worth 1–Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Determination of Attainment of the 1–Hour Standard [EPA–R06–OAR–2008–0420; FRL–8730–3] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9463. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Announcement of the Delegation of Partial Administrative Authority for Implementation of Federal Implementation Plan for the Coeur d' Alene Reservation to the Couer d'Alene Tribe. [EPA–R10–OAR–2008–0498 FRL–8729–3] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9464. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Removal of Gasoline Vapor Recovery from Southeast Florida Areas; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule [EPA–R04–OAR–2007–0836– 200739(w); FRL–8734–3] received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9465. A letter from the Legal Advisor, Office of the Bureau Chief, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules To Provide for Flexible Use of the 896–901 MHz and 935–940 MHz Band Allotted to the Business and Industrial Land Transportation Pool Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band Consolidating the 800 MHz and 900 MHz Industrial/Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels [WT Docket No. 05–62 WT Docket No. 02–55] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9466. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of An Inquiry Into the Commission's Policies and Rules Regarding AM Radio Service Directional Antenna Preformance Verification [MM Docket No.: 93–177] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9467. A letter from the Deputy, Chief Financial Officer, OMD, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008 [MD Docket No.: 08–65 RM–11312] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9468. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Wittenberg, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No.: 08–136 RM–11468] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9469. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations, (Vanderbilt, Michigan) [MB Docket No.: 08–204 RM–11492] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9470. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Greenville, North Carolina) [MB Docket No.: 08–133 RM–1165] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9471. A letter from the Cheif of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals: Amendment to Part 76 of the Commission's Rules [CS Docket No.: 98–120] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9472. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Shreveport, Louisiana) [MB Docket No.: 08–118 RM–11455] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9473. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Longview, Texas) [MB Docket No.: 08–112 RM–11456] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9474. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Salt Lake City, Utah) [MB Docket No.: 08–144 RM–11472] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9475. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Freeport, Illinois) [MB Docket No.: 08–135 RM–11467] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9476. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (LaGrande and Prairie City, Oregon) [MB Docket No. 08–67 RM–11426] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9477. A letter from the International Bureau Legal Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review—Streamlining and Other Revisions of Part 25 of the Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage by, Satellite Network Earth Stations and Space Stations Streamlining the Commission's Rules and Regulations for Satellite Applications and Licensing Procedures [IB Docket No. 00–248 IB Docket No. 95–117] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9478. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Hendersonville, Tennessee) [MB Docket No. 08–128 RM–11460] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9479. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Linden, Tennessee) [MB Docket No. 07–280 RM–11379] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9480. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (La Grande, Oregon) [MB Docket No. 08–121 RM–11449] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9481. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Honolulu and Waimanalo, Hawaii) [MB Docket No. 08–98 RM–11435] received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9482. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Fort Worth, Texas) [MB Docket No.: 08–148 RM–11474] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9483. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Honolulu, Hawaii) [MB Docket No.: 08–155 RM–11479] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9484. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations. (Bainbridge, Georgia) [MB Docket No.: 08–139 RM–11469] received 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9485. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Butte Falls and Netarts, Oregon) [MB Docket No.: 07–210 RM–11399] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9486. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Tecopa, California) [MB Docket No. 07–226 RM–11406] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9487. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Waldport, Dallas, and Monmouth, Oregon) [MB Docket No.: 07–124 RM–11378] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9488. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Elko, Nevada) [MB Docket No.: 07–281 RM–11408] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9489. A letter from the Cheif of Staff, Media Buraeu, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Antlers and Hugo, Oklahoma, and Hico, Texas) [MB Docket No.: 07–182 RM–11393 MB Docket No.: 07–194 RM–11397] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9490. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005 [CG Docket No.: 02–278 CG Docket No.: 05–338] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9491. A letter from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Revisions to Forms, Statements and Reporting Requirements for Electric Utilities and Licensees [Docket No. RM08–5–000; Order No. 715] received October 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9492. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Electronic Tariff Filings [Docket No.: RM01–5–000; Order No. 714] received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9493. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Mandatory Reliability Standard for Nuclear Plant Interface Coordination [Docket No.: RM08–3–000; Order No. 716] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9494. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting a report regarding the accuracy of the do not call registry; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9495. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Protection of Safeguards Information [NRC–2005–0001] (RIN: 3150–AH57) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9496. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC–UMS Revision 5 [NRC–2008–0438] (RIN: 3150–A148) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9497. A letter from the Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conforming Changes to Certain End–User/End–Use Based Controls in the EAR; Clarification of the Term ''Transfer'' and Related Terms as Used in the EAR [Docket No. 080220216–81424–03] (RIN: 0694–AD59) received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9498. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report and justification pursuant to Section 650(d) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, as carried forward under the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9499. 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.

9500. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2008 Performance and Accountability reports for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Government National Mortgage Association; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9501. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's FY 2008 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9502. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter of notification for arrival of the Department's FY 2008 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9503. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 95–452; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9504. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting notification that the Corporation has taken and will complete steps to follow the No FEAR Guidelines, pursuant to the Notification and Federal Employees Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9505. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting in accordance with Pub. L. 105–270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act), the Commission's inventory of commercial activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9506. A letter from the Chairman, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Museums's FY 2008 Report on Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9507. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and

Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9508. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Revisions for the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations (RIN: 3133–AD44) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9509. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled, ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2009,'' pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9510. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Persinnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Disabled Veterans Documentation (RIN: 3206–AL29) received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9511. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Nonforeign Area Cost-of-Living Allowance Rates; Alaska (RIN: 3206–AL37) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9512. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Reemployment Rights (RIN: 3206–AI19) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9513. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Repayment of Student Loans (RIN: 3206–AK51) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9514. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Veterans' Preference (RIN: 3206–AL33) received October 30, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9515. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Suitability (RIN: 3206–AL38) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9516. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Time-in-Grade Rule Eliminated (RIN: 3206–AL18) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9517. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Survey Schedule from Fiscal Year to Calendar Year (RIN: 3206–AL63) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9518. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Changes in Pay Administration Rules for General Schedule Employees (RIN: 3206–AK88) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9519. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Santa Clara, California, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area (RIN 3206–AL74) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9520. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Emergency Leave Transfer Program (RIN: 3206–AL26) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9521. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting in accordance with Pub. L. 105–270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (FAIR Act), the Commission's inventory of commerical activities for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

9522. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Minimum Internal Control Standards for Class II Gaming (RIN: 3141–AA37) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9523. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Standards for Electronic, Computer, or Other Technologic Aids Used in the Play of Class II Games (RIN: 3141–AA29) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9524. A letter from the Acting Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, BLM, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule—Oil Shale Management—General (RIN: 1004–AD90) received November 18, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9525. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Migratory Bird Permits; Changes in the Regulations Governing Falconry [FWS–R9–MB–2008–0039] [91200–1231–9BPP] (RIN: 1018–AG11) received October 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9526. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Wintering Population of the Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus) in North Carolina [FWS–RS–ES–2008–0041 92210–1117–000–B4] (RIN: 1018–AU48) received October 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

9527. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a petition, pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9528. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the security of Assistant United States Attorneys and other federal attorneys, pursuant to Public Law 110–177; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9529. A letter from the Director, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Procedures for Completing Uniform Forms of Trustee Final Reports in Cases Filed Under Chapter 7, 12, and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code [Docket No.: EOUST 101] (RIN: 1105–AB29) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9530. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting copy of the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement (ITVERP) Report to Congress 2008, pursuant to Section 1404C of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9531. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Thirtieth Annual Report to Congress pursuant to section 201 of the Hart –Scott–Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 18a(j); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

9532. 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–3291–EM in the State of Mississippi, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9533. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GMBH Model MBB–BK 117C–2 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA–2008–0042; Directorate Identifier 2007–SW–26–AD; Amendment 39–15614; AD 2008–15–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9534. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB–135BJ Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0416; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–297–AD; Amendment 39–15656; AD 2008–17–18] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9535. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777–200 and –300 Series Airplanes Equipped with Rolls–Royce Model RB211–TRENT 800 Series Engines [Docket No. FAA–2008–0967; Directorate Identifier 2008–NM–152–AD; Amendment 39–15671; AD 2008–19–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9536. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA–2008–0676; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–280–AD; Amendment 39–15676; AD 2008–19–09] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9537. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Engine Components, Inc. (ECi) Reciprocating Engine Cylinder Assemblies [Docket No. FAA–2008–0052; Directorate Identifier 2008–NE–01–AD; Amendment 39–15672; AD 2008–19–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9538. 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–2008–0748 Directorate Identifier 2008–CE–041–AD; Amendment 39–15677; AD 2008–19–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5

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

9539. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileria de Aeronautice S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 and ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0361; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–279–AD; Amendment 39–15681; AD 2008–20–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9540. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0070 and Mark 0100 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0675; Directorate 2007–NM–192–AD; Amendment 39–15682; AD 2008–20–03] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9541. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–8–400, DHC–8–401, and DHC–8–402 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0730; Directorate Identifier 2008–NM–055–AD; Amendment 39–15674; AD 2008–19–07] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9542. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Model 382, 382B, 382E, 382F, and 382G Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA–2008–0638; Directorate Identifier 2008–NM–035–AD; Amendment 39, 15680; AD 2008–20–01] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9543. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hours of Service of Drivers [Docket No. FMCSA–2004–19608] (RIN: 2126–AB14) received November 19, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9544. 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. 30620; Amdt. No. 3280] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9545. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747–100, 747–100B, 747–100B SUD, 747–200B, 747–200C, 747–300, 747–400, 747–400D, and 747SR Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2007–29227; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–100–AD; Amendment 39–15664; AD 2008–18–07] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9546. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0644; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–321–AD; Amendment 39–15659; AD 2008–18–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9547. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. TFE731–4, –4R, –5, –5AR, –5BR, and –5R Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA–2008–0264; Directorate Identifier 2008–NE–07–AD; Amendment 39–15679; AD 2008–19–12] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9548. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB–135 Airplanes, and Model EMB–145, –145ER, –145MR, –145LR, 145XR, –145MP, and –145EP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0642; Directorate Identifier 2008–NM–039–AD; Amendment 39–15643; AD 2008–17–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9549. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Dallas, GA. [Docket No. FAA–2008–1084; Airspace Docket No. 08–ASO–17] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9550. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Morehead, KY. [Docket No. FAA–2008–0809; Airspace Docket No. 08–ASO–13] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9551. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Roanoke, VA [Docket No. FAA–2008–0417; Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–20] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9552. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lexington, OK [Docket No. FAA–2008–0003; Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–1] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9553. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Black River Falls, WI [Docket No. FAA–2008–0024; Airspace Docket No. 08–AGL–4] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9554. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class D Airspace; MacDill AFB, FL [Docket No. FAA–2008–0983; Airspace Docket No. 08–AS0–14] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9555. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference [Docket No. 29334; Amendment No. 71–40] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9556. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Butler, PA. Removal of Class E Airspace; East Butler, PA. [Docket No. FAA–2008–0836; Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–23] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9557. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Victoria, TX [Docket No. FAA–2008–0434; Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–6] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9558. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Plains, TX [Docket No. FAA–2008–0683; Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–11] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9559. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Windsor Locks, Bradley International Airport, CT [Docket No. FAA–2008–0817; Airspace Docket No. 08–ANE–101] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9560. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Removal of Class E Airspace; Chicago, IL [Docket No. FAA–2008–0666; Airspace Docket No. 08–AGL–6] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9561. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Model HP.137 Jetstream Mk.1, Jetstream Series 200 and 3101, and Jetstream Model 3201 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0369; Directorate Identifier 2008–CE–015–AD; Amendment 39–15545; AD 2008–12–02] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9562. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000EX and 900EX Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0301; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–284–AD; Amendment 39–15559; AD 2008–12–15] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9563. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000EX Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0294; Directorate Identifier 2007–NM–288–AD; Amendment 39–15558; AD 2008–12–14] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9564. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Models DHC–6–1, DHC–6–100, DHC–6–200, and DHC–6–300 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0368 Directorate Identifier 2008–CE–007–AD; Amendment 39–15532; AD 2008–11–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9565. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. PC–6 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2008–0493 Directorate Identifier 2008–CE–028–AD; Amendment 39–15581; AD 2008–13–18] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9566. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Albuquerque, NM [Docket No. FAA–2007–0915; Airspace Docket No. 07–ASW–13] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9567. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Indianapolis, IN [Docket No. FAA–2008–0163; Airspace Docket No. 08–AGL–2] received October 9, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9568. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC–9–10, DC–9–20, DC–9–30, DC–9–40, and DC–9–50 Series Airplanes, Equipped with a Tail Cone Evacuation Slide Container Installed in Accordance With Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST735SO [Docket No. FAA–2007–28881; Directorate Identifier 2006–NM–263–AD; Amendment 39–15663; AD 2008–18–06] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9569. A letter from the Trail Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Electronically Controlled Pneumatic Brake System [Docket No.: FRA–2006–26175, Notice No. 4] (RIN:2130–AB84) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9570. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Flight Simulation Training Device Initial and Continuing Qualification and Use [Docket No.: FAA–2002–12461; Amendment No.: 60–3] (RIN: 2120–AJ12) received October 16, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9571. A letter from the Staff Assistant, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Seating Systems, Occupant Crash Portection, Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages, School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection [Docket No.: NHTSA–2008–0163] (RIN: 2127–AK09) received November 7, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9572. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transpotation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls–Royce plc RB211 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA–2007–0078; Directorate Identifier 2007–NE–40–AD; Amendment 39–15683; AD 2008–20–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9573. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulation and Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Response to the Waterkeeper Decision [EPA–HQ–OW–2005–0037; FRL–8738–9] (RIN: 2040–AE80) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9574. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Withdrawal of the Federal Water Quality Standards Use Designations for Soda Creek and Portions of Canyon Creek, South Fork Couer d'Alene River, and Blackfoot River in Idaho [EPA–HQ–OW–2008–0495; FRL–8737–9] received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9575. A letter from the General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—The Women–Owned Small Business Federal Contract Assistance Procedures (RIN: 3245–AF40) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Small Business.

9576. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill–Active Duty and Other Miscellaneous Issues (RIN: 2900–AM45) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9577. A letter from the Director of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Elimination of Co-payment for Weight Management Counseling (RIN: 2900–AM59) received November 5, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9578. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a report entitled, ''Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government—Fiscal Year 2007''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

9579. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Proposed Amendments to Qualified Intermediary Withholding Agreement—received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9580. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Section 382 Treatment Interests in a Loss Corporation Acquired by the Federal Government Pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9581. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program—received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9582. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Extension of Effective Date of Normal Retirement Age Regulations for Governmental Plans—received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9583. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Qualifying Gasification Project Program—received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9584. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—2008 Base Peroid T-Bill Rate—received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9585. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Charitable Contributions of Inventory Property under 170(e)(3) [Notice 2008–90] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9586. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2008–93] received October 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9587. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Insurance Dedicated Money Market funds [Notice 2008–92]—received October 10, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9588. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Election Involving the Repeal of the Bonding Requirement Under 42(j)(6)—received October 8, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9589. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2008 Marginal Production Rates [Notice 2008–89] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9590. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2008 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment [Notice 2008–72] received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9591. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2009 Limitations Adjusted As Provided in Section 415(d), etc. [Notice 2008–102] received October 27, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9592. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Under the Newborns' and Mother's Health Protection Act [TD 9427] (RIN: 1545–BG82) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9593. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Election to Expense Certain Refineries [TD 9412] (RIN: 1545–BF06) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9594. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Information Reporting on Employer–Owned Life Insurance Contracts [TD 9431] (RIN: 1545–BG58) received November 12, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9595. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Section 1367 Regarding Open Account Debt [TD 9428] (RIN: 1545–BD72) received October 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9596. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Payments in Lieu of Taxes Under Section 141 [TD 9429] (RIN: 1545–BF87) received October 22, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9597. A letter from the SSA Regulations Officer, Deputy Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Technical Amendments to Definition of Persons

Closely Approaching Retirement Age [Docket Number: SSA–2008–0031] (RIN: 0960–AG68) received October 29, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9598. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting notification of his decision to extend the period of production of the Naval Petroleum Reserves for a period of three years from April 5, 2009, the expiration date of the currently authorized period of production, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7422(c)(2)(B); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

9599. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the tenth Annual Report on the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) Program for Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395i; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

9600. A letter from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's second quarterly report covering the period from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008 as required by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Pub. L. 110–53; jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

9601. A letter from the Program Manager, 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 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, 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. REYES: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Security Clearance Reform: Upgrading the Gateway to the National Security Community (Rept. 110–916). 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. NADLER:

H.R. 7296. A bill to delay the implementation of agency rules adopted within the final 90 days of the final term a President serves; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H.R. 7297. A bill Emergency Automobile Industry American Jobs Protection Act of 2008; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 7298. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for expensing certain depreciable business assets and to allow a deduction for the original purchase of domestically manufactured automobiles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CANNON (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 7299. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make payments for certain treatments of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. DOGGETT (for himself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 7300. A bill to provide for the proper application under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of the limitations on built-in losses following an ownership change of a bank; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 7301. A bill to provide for the conveyence of a parcel of land held by the Bureau of Prisons of the Department of Justice in Miami Dade County, Florida, to facilitate the construction of a new educational facility that includes a secure parking area for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 7302. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 7303. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a one-time, $1,500 credit against income tax for the purchase an automobile manufactured in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 7304. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address the use of intrathecal pumps; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. GOHMERT:

H.R. 7305. A bill to immediately terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to purchase troubled assets, to require the Secretary to make insurance of troubled mortgage-backed securities available for purchase, and to provide incentives to reinvest foreign earnings in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 7306. A bill to immediately terminate the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to purchase troubled assets and to make a portion of the unused funding for such program available to meet critical infrastructure needs in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, 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. HODES (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H.R. 7307. A bill 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 institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. NADLER:

H. Res. 1531. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President of the United States should not issue pardons to senior members of his administration during the final 90 days of his term of office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

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

378. The Speaker presented a memorial of the Senate of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 200 supporting additional funding to expand Amtrak's capacity and routes in Michigan; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 736: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 1322: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1801: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1884: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1921: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 2049: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2208: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 2329: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2514: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 2596: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 3257: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 3609: Mr. CAPUANO and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H.R. 4173: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 5580: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 5734: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 5756: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 5852: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 5950: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 6057: Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 6310: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 6337: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 6404: Mr. WU, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 6548: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 6873: Mr. CLAY and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 6941: Mr. STARK, Ms. WATSON, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 7023: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H.R. 7187: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 7273: Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PAUL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 7276: Mr. PITTS, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 7277: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. BONNER.

H.J. Res. 101: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. SHADEGG.

H. Con. Res. 284: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Con. Res. 434: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H. Res. 1328: Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 1477: Mr. GOODE, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PICKERING.

H. Res. 1482: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Res. 1529: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

PETITIONS, ETC.

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

340. The Speaker presented a petition of the National Urban League, relative to a letter asking for an economic stimulus that meets the urgent needs of the nation; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

341. Also, a petition of the Polish Legion of American Veterans, relative to a resolution opposing the removal of memorials honoring heroic veterans; to the Committee on House Administration.

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of creation, You establish day and night and the orderly movements of the seasons. That same Providence orders the lives of our Senators, our Nation, and our world. As our lawmakers seek to do what is right, give them the wisdom to discern what is best. Show them the pitfalls to avoid and the opportunities to seize. Keep them from becoming weary in their pursuit of Your purposes as they remember Your promise to bring a bountiful harvest. May they cling to the enduring principles of Your truth that will lead them to their desired destination.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR 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. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, which is the emergency unemployment compensation legislation. Yesterday, cloture was filed on that motion to proceed to the measure. Senators will be notified when a vote is scheduled. Senators should be prepared for a rollcall vote today—or maybe votes.

We are in a situation where we do not know, procedurally, what we are going to be able to accomplish today. This doesn't ripen until tomorrow. So we could pass unemployment compensation legislation today, to give relief to people who are desperately in need of these checks. But we may not be able to do that until tomorrow. We hope that at least on this measure we would be able to get consent to pass this.

After that, we have some procedural roadblocks. I have spoken to a number of Senators today. Of course, the desire is we complete all of our actions until we come back on January 6, but that may not be possible. We have the Thanksgiving recess. I have had calls from staff and Senators. They are having trouble making new arrangements, if, in fact, we have any to be made. So it may be necessary that we come back after Thanksgiving. I have not had an opportunity to converse with my Republican counterpart, but I will do that. I have a meeting scheduled later today with the Speaker.

Everyone stay tuned, and we will do the very best we can to let Senators know where we are at any given time.

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 for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized in morning business for whatever time I shall consume.

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

BAILOUT DEMANDS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Americans are once again being asked to foot the bill for yet another very urgent bailout, as it is termed. In October, Congress voted for an unprecedented $750 billion bailout of Wall Street. Now much of the same alarmist rhetoric is being employed to pressure Members to act quickly.

The latest bailout demand making the rounds of Washington is for the Big Three in the auto industry. The Democrats would have you believe the proposed bailout is all about saving jobs. But having been in Washington long

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

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enough, my instincts led me to dig deeper, where I unearthed the green roots hiding behind the ''bailing out'' rhetoric. It now appears that much of what you have heard in the media about the auto bailout being about jobs has been misleading. In fact, there are the usual suspects working behind the scene to subvert the auto bailout and ultimately betray autoworkers.

These are the facts. The proposed $25 billion bailout of Detroit now appears to have been hijacked by the powerful environmental lobby. When I say ''powerful,'' it is by far the most powerful lobby and best financed lobby—those out in Hollywood I have referred to many times, moveon.org, George Soros, the Michael Moores—they talk millions and millions of dollars. They are indeed the powerful lobby.

I suggest there is an idea that came to fruition from the November 19 Wall Street Journal. They ask, in this Wall Street Journal editorial:

When is $25 billion in taxpayer cash insufficient to bail out Detroit's auto makers?

The answer:

When the money is a tool of the Congressional industrial policy to turn GM, Ford and Chrysler into agents of the Sierra Club and other green lobbies.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the auto bailout has degenerated into a tool to ''make Detroit a subsidiary of the Sierra Club.''

We hear proponents of the auto bailout endlessly saying this is all about jobs. But the truth is, this bailout appears to be about environmental lobbies taking over the U.S. auto industry.

The Wall Street Journal explains further, and I am quoting again:

In their public statements, proponents describe the bailout as an attempt to save jobs, American manufacturing and the middle-class way of life. But look closely and you can see that what's really going on is an attempt to use taxpayer money to remake Detroit in the image of the modern environmental movement. Given a choice between greens and blue-collar workers, Congress puts greens first.

That was an interesting quote in the article, that really has delved into this thing and talks about what the real motivation is behind it.

How did this attempt at a green takeover of Detroit come about? Congress approved $25 billion for Detroit earlier this year for ''green retooling.'' President Bush—when this came up, the need came up to have the $25 billion—proposed to revise that $25 billion, the same amount of money, and allow it to be used for Detroit's general purposes by eliminating the green conditions. In other words, the amount of money there that everyone is so anxious to get in there, that they say is going to resolve the problem, is there and it is available today, but it has been rejected. That shows the choice between green and blue collar is very clear.

The Wall Street Journal reported:

Democratic leaders refused. They are insisting instead that the Bush administration give Detroit another $25 billion in cash.

Let's keep in mind this is the second $25 billion we are talking about, not the first. ''The Bush administration's proposal is unacceptable,'' declared my colleague, Senate majority leader HARRY REID.

The Wall Street Journal asks, and I am quoting again now:

If the problem is so urgent, why keep the green chains on that first $25 billion? General Motors in particular is saying that it may have to declare bankruptcy by the end of the year without a taxpayer capital injection. Aren't jobs at stake?

Again, this is the choice being given. But the jobs do not appear to be the overriding concern when it comes to the proposed bailout. A November 13 commentary in the Chicago Sun-Times bluntly declared that Congress should ''attach environmental strings to the Big Three bailout.''

The auto industry occupies a critical position, not just in the U.S. economy, but also in the struggle to cope with climate change and the energy crisis. The government has immense leverage right now to force the Big Three to make progress on multiple fronts and should and should not be afraid to use it.

This is what Andrew Leonard wrote in the Sun-Times.

Barack Obama has spoken many times of his ambitious plans to steer the U.S. toward a future where Americans are driving fuel-efficient cars that run on renewable energy. If the government is going to bail out the auto industry, it should do so only with the explicit requirement that the Big Three accelerate down that road as fast as they can.

Again, I am quoting from the Sun-Times. One of the key ''green strings'' that the environmental lobby wants to impose on Detroit is making the Corporate Average Fuel Economy—that is the CAFE standards—more draconian than they are today.

My colleague, Democratic Senator BILL NELSON, wants conditions on the auto bailout that would mandate auto companies increase their average fuel economy to 40 miles per gallon in 10 years and then 50 miles per gallon a mere 2 years later, in 2020. He also reportedly wants requirements for an ''increased production of hybrids, flex-fuel and electric vehicles,'' according to Congress Daily.

My colleague, Democratic Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, has also tied auto bailout money to increased CAFE standards:

Congress should require that the automakers shift to a new business model that focuses on hybrid, electric, and other next generation vehicle technologies.

She wrote that on November 14. She even expands the mandates to include costly global warming concerns by ''requiring the NHTSA to use the Energy Information Administration's most accurate gasoline price projection and consider global benefits from reducing greenhouse gas emissions when setting CAFE standards.''

Again that is a quote.

The Wall Street Journal countered with a commonsense alternative to increasing CAFE standards.

If Congress wants to ease the immediate burden on Detroit, it could also ease the onerous fleet-mileage standards (CAFE rules) that force the companies to make cars domestically that are unprofitable. A mere tweak would help a lot—for example, simply allowing Congress to meet CAFE standards by counting the cars it makes at home and abroad.

If you include them all, they would be able to meet these standards.

This alone might save Chrysler from bankruptcy. But Congress won't budge on that simple change.

This latest bout of environmental thuggery is not an isolated incident. The legislative goals of Democrats and their environmental allies reveal that saving jobs is not their highest priority. President-elect Obama has pledged to grant California a global-warming-motivated waiver to allow the State to demand its own standards of emission reductions from new automobiles. This would essentially allow a State-by-State approach, thus creating a patchwork of regulatory compliance regimes in addition to the Federal standard that would be even more costly for automobile manufacturers.

We have gone through this before. We have had this same suggestion being made. If there is any single thing that would increase the price of cars and drive them out of the market, it would be to let each State determine what its own standards are going to be. It cannot work.

The Wall Street Journal summed up this attempted hostile green takeover and the efforts to create an ''Environmental Motor Company'' this way:

All of this shows that Democrats don't merely want to save jobs. They want an entirely different American auto industry that serves goals other than selling cars to consumers. The green lobbies have disliked Detroit for decades—for resisting fleet mileage standards and having the audacity to make SUVs, trucks and other vehicles that people have wanted to buy but that violate the modern environmental pieties. For the greens, the bailout is their main chance to remake Detroit according to their dictates.

That is the height of us in Government saying our wisdom is so much greater than the private sector that we are going to impose that on this industry. Now the problems are there.

They continued:

The more realistic alternative to this utopian green vision is to let GM or Chrysler file for Chapter 11 like any other company that can't pay its bills.

The immediate cost would be severe. At least bankruptcy would provide the political and legal means for them to evolve into smaller, more competitive companies. Taxpayers should not be asked to finance a green industrial policy promoted by lobbyists and Congressmen who know nothing about what it takes to make a car, much less what it takes to make a profit.

You have to look at this. I wonder sometimes, if we had not been so quick and so generous to come up with $700 billion in this bailout, that perhaps they would not be lining up. Who is going to be standing in line after the auto industry? I don't think anybody knows—I don't—but someone is. They are waiting to see what kind of results there are. Is it Government's role to

run businesses from Washington and to finance those businesses? Is it necessary?

I have gotten a lot of criticism because I have been quite outspoken in opposition to the $700 billion bailout. But I would like to do one thing; that is, if there is one thing people have not stopped to think about, that is the amount of $700 billion. What is $700 billion? It is very difficult for me and for anyone else, I think, to think in terms of those billions of dollars. But I did some research. I found that there are 139 million families, households in America, who file tax returns. If you do your simple math, 139 million families and $700 billion in a bailout, that is $5,000 a family. If people think in terms of that, maybe they will get a little bit concerned.

We have already spent, of that—Secretary Paulson—$125 billion on nine large banks. This is not what they said or what he said 2 weeks prior to the October 1 vote. What he said at that time was: We have to have $700 billion to buy damaged assets, and it is going to take $700 billion. If this continues to happen, we are going to have another Great Depression.

And we got all excited and concerned. Granted, I know Secretary Paulson is a very knowledgeable person. But for him to make that case, get the money, and then spend it on something else is something that is very difficult to understand.

I would suggest that when we drafted that law, which I opposed at the time, that was in two increments—actually, three. The first $250 billion was going to be handed to him to go ahead and spend as he wanted to, and then, if he needed $100 billion more, the President could see to it that they got it. That has already happened. They have $350 billon, of which $60 billion is left and has not been spent as of this moment in time, to my knowledge. I got my information personally from them last Tuesday.

So where we are today is we are sitting on $60 billion. He has described this as a cushion. When I say ''he,'' I am talking about Secretary Paulson. So we need to now think about the other $350 billion because it appears, as he said, the financial markets have been stabilized. If this is true, then maybe we do not need to get into that other $350 billion. Keep in mind, we have $60 billion there on the table ready to be used anyway.

So what I have done is drafted legislation that is called S. 3697. We have some Democrats and some Republicans cosponsoring this. It is not a freeze. I wish it were. I wish I could craft a piece of legislation that said: Let's take the $350 billion and give it all back to the taxpayers; it belongs to them. But we know that would not fly. So instead of that, we went ahead and did it to make a modest change in the system.

As the law is drafted right now, if the request is made by the Treasury Secretary, whether Secretary Paulson or another person, that money is going to automatically come to them if no one objects while we are in session for 15 days. Well, we are going to go out of session probably tomorrow and very likely will not be coming back until January 6. That means that if any need is there, all he has to do is say so and the money will come forward.

So what we have done is change—actually, we only changed one word. The word we changed was ''unless'' and ''until.'' I do not have it right here, but it says the money can be accessed unless Congress stops them from doing it. However, by changing that to ''until,'' that means it cannot be accessed until we take a positive action in the Senate. That is what I think is perhaps not nearly enough protection, but it is some protection. I would encourage colleagues to rally around this because there is no other means out there right now, no other vehicle that anyone has put forward that is going to resolve this problem. It is going to keep the other $350 billion, and that is about $2,500 for every family in America who pays taxes and files a tax return. There is no other way of doing it except for this bill.

So I would encourage our Members to join in this effort. And it is going to have to be done today. If it is not done today, it is not going to be done. I hope the people outside realize there are a few of us here who realize we want to stop this train, particularly if Secretary Paulson is correct, as he believes he is, when he says the financial markets have been stabilized. So we have S. 3697. I would encourage my colleagues to come down and sign this so we can actually bring it up and vote on it and have it become a reality.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

SAVING JOBS

Ms. MIKULSKI. I wish to speak in morning business on the topic of the economic situation which the country faces and where we are.

I want to acknowledge that the Senator from Oklahoma has some interesting ideas, and I would like to know more about it because I am pretty frustrated about what has happened with the taxpayer rescue money we have gotten.

First, let me say, though, I am pretty frustrated with the Senate right now. I am frustrated that we are lame in this lameduck session. I was telling my constituents as I moved around Maryland, as is my habit and joy, that I have used this as a November work session—you know, get back to work. The election is over. We know who won. Now it is time to govern and govern with responsibility, to come back and go to work. So we come back, and here we are again whirling around with a lot of parliamentary quagmires. Can we bring it up? I object. No. We could be filibustered, et cetera. While we are fiddling and diddling to a parliamentary tune here, our economy is burning. And the question is, Do we burn the economic house down around us by inaction?

Now, you might not like this rescue plan or that rescue plan or what about the automobile. I am a champion of jobs in the automobile industry. I do not champion an industry, I champion the jobs in the industry. I do not believe this Congress understands what the automobile industry is. Yes, it is manufacturers, union and nonunion. Whether it is the big three in Detroit and the UAW or whether it is foreign logo cars being made in the Southern States of our country, the Toyotas in Texas and Kentucky, the Nissans in Tennessee and so on, we are talking about jobs. We are talking about people who make the cars, and then we are talking about dealers who sell them, service them, maintain them, and the support services. In many rural parts of my State, the automobile dealers are the biggest employers outside of the local school system and the local hospital. So I want to talk about jobs, and that is what I have been talking about.

But while we are talking about the rescue plan, what is shocking to me is the rigidity of the administration to help wrap up their time in the White House and their time to get our economy going, the fact that they are unwilling to look at the rescue package as a tool for saving jobs rather than saving banks.

Now, this is where I believe we have gotten ourselves off on the wrong track. When I voted for the rescue plan, I thought I was voting for dealing with the credit crisis and bringing the financial system to some form of stability. It was a little too trickle-down for me, but I thought, we are in a crisis, square your shoulders and get out there and do it. Well, what has happened is, instead of dealing with helping with jobs, we have been helping with banks. The bailout has been simply a handout to Wall Street banks. And you know what, they have made out like bandits. Them that got want even more and do not promise to do anything in return.

Let's review how we got there. We were facing Armageddon. We were concerned about the collapse of our financial system that America essentially helped create in terms of a financial system. We were talking about a frozen credit system that would affect big business and small business in our community. We were also concerned about the homeowner who was losing their home. Well, what did we do? We said: OK, we are going to make a public investment of $700 billion of taxpayers' money in the economy, through our Secretary of the Treasury. Now, who was this investor? Well, the taxpayers became investors.

You know, we use that term, ''taxpayers.'' What does it mean? Well, I

will tell you what it means to ''Senator Barb'' from Maryland. It means that single mother, that single mother who is trying to hold her family together, maybe in a job that pays $10 or $12 an hour, trying to keep her kids together, collect her child support, make sure she has an 8-year-old car still running and make sure those kids are in school to do something. She does not have a lot of money, and we take a chunk of it. What about the farmer and what about the waterman who right now is out in this cold weather trying to bring oysters to our Thanksgiving table? We are going to have a table of bounty; they have a table of trouble. But no, we are going to take their money and give it to Paulson to give it to AIG.

Mr. INHOFE. Would the Senator yield for one question?

Ms. MIKULSKI. Let me finish describing the taxpayer, and I will come back to you.

What about the waitress—you know, somebody who carries, in that diner, big plates of food? And what does she end up with at the end of the day? A few tips, a bad back, varicose veins, and a government that is not on her side. That is where Paulson got the money from. OK. So that is where that $700 billion came from. Then I will talk about what he did with it.

I turn to my colleague.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Senator for yielding. I appreciate the very favorable comments she has made about my legislation. What is interesting about this is it is supported by a whole host—Senator SANDERS is supporting it, as well as on the far right we have Senator COBURN and Senator DEMINT. So we are not the only ones who feel this way.

But the point I would like to make and ask you if you agree is, $700 billion—you heard me describe how to put that in and understand how much that means to the American people. It is $5,000 for each family who files a tax return. We have an opportunity to save half of that right now. I would encourage the Senator from Maryland to join in this effort because I think it can get done and it could get done during this time.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Well, I will consider looking at his legislation, I assure him on the floor. I think we are in agreement with some of the principles you articulated earlier.

But let me go on with my speech and see if we can't find that sensible center, that common ground we both would like to perceive because when I say, What were the Congress and the American people promised for this astronomical sum of money we gave, we were promised by the Secretary of the Treasury, on behalf of the President of the United States, that the investment of the taxpayer would go to stabilizing the financial system, get credit flowing again in our communities, and get the economy rolling. What did we get? We got bait and switched from Paulson. Paulson changed his plan. He originally said he would use it to open credit and to also deal with the toxic mortgages. Now he is using it for money to buy ownership in banks and not asking anything in return. Paulson threw money at the banks with no strings attached. We have now spent close to $350 billion, and where are we? We are nowhere. The stock market is down and unemployment is up. Things have actually gotten worse. People continue to lose their homes. Now they are losing their life savings. And with our inaction on unemployment, they will lose their jobs.

So let's talk about them that got. Do you remember their greed? Do you remember their incompetence on Wall Street that got us into this economic Superfund site?

What did Wall Street say over the last several years to regulators and policymakers? Stay away. Get out of the way. It is our way or the highway. Having gotten buckets of bucks from the taxpayer, what does Wall Street say? Stay out of the way. Get out of the way. It is our way. And by the way, give us more, and let us keep our high pay.

Well, it is not only what we hear from them, it is what we don't hear from them. You know what is so shocking to me. After this money goes to the big banks, there is no sense of gratitude. There is no sense of gratitude that that waitress, that single mother, that farmer, that firefighter is willing to do this—no sense of gratitude. There is also no sense of remorse on how they got us into this terrible situation.

I know the Presiding Officer is a man of faith, as are our colleague from Oklahoma and myself. In my faith, when you have sinned, the way you get it right is you show remorse, you promise not to sin any more. You say: Let's make amends. How can I get it right?

Have we heard that out of them? I have read every paper, heard every conversation. There is not one bit of remorse. They swagger around and say: There are three Americas—North America, South America, and corporate America. They treat themselves like a free trade zone. Hello. Do they promise to sin no more? Do we see a sense in the passion for reform coming out of them, saying: Boy, did we screw up; we now want to get it right? No. Do they say: Let's make amends? And the way they want to say let's make amends would be to work with our economic people to get jobs, credit, and our economy rolling. No. So what, instead, do those who have gotten bailout money do? They give themselves lavish salaries, bonuses, big perks such as spa retreats and golf tournaments in the most luxurious places in the world. And we are told that in order for them to keep talent, they have to pay big bonuses or people will walk away. They say that in order to keep the big talent at the big banks, they have to give big bonuses. I want to say, if they want to go, it is OK by me. I am an investor. Not as a Senator, but as a taxpayer, Why would we want to hold on to them? They got us into this mess. So it is OK by me if they go. There are plenty of talented people ready to go to work for our country.

This is what ''Senator Barb'' wants to say to Wall Street: We do not want to be passive investors. We want to be active investors, not in a socialist form of government, picking winners and losers, but, by God, have a sense of reform. Cull out what is the best way to have sensible regulation. Come up with the great ideas to get our economy going and use the power and muscle of America's financial system. There is talent there to do that. If you need a lavish bonus to do this, then leave. Leave or get out of the way. There is a new sheriff coming to town, and I am part of that posse. There are not only young people but a lot of people who want to rebuild our country.

So I say to those on Wall Street who feel they can't work for less than $14 million a year, you now work for the United States of America. Once we started making that public investment in you, you now work for the United States. Work for the United States. Give us your best thinking. Give us your energy. Give us your ideas. What I want to say to them is: It is time to restore our economy, restore our national honor.

I say to those who are working in the economic system, pull up your pants and your pantsuits and start to go to work. Let's rebuild the economy.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

AUTOMAKER BAILOUT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to be back here this week. I hope the Presiding Officer and his family have a wonderful holiday season when we leave tomorrow. I rise today to talk about the proposed automaker bailout. I have tremendous empathy for all of the people involved. I spent most of my life in business. I am sure these CEOs and others leading these companies are going through tumultuous times. I empathize with them.

In my beginning period, I was a card-carrying union member. I know there are a lot of workers who are very concerned about their future. I have tremendous empathy for them and their families. This is actually a very serious time in our history. Regardless of where you are, people are concerned about the future. I was in other parts of the world last week. All around the world, people are concerned about the future.

I do want to speak to the speech of the Senator from Maryland regarding the financial component. Many of the car dealers who have called into our office actually are far less concerned about the Big Three. What they are more concerned about is having financing for consumers who are coming into

their dealerships. Like her, I want to see people throughout our country be able to operate their businesses. I am certainly not here to defend any of the Secretaries or anybody else. I will say that I did have a conversation yesterday with Secretary Paulson and with Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke. They are putting in place a facility to deal with consumer finance that hopefully will be in place by year end to help deal with some of the financing components that are stressing the automakers.

I wish to specifically address the request by the automakers. I was privileged to be part of a hearing the other day in banking where the three CEOs and the leader of the United Auto Workers testified. I was struck by the lack of coherence, the fact that we had three leaders in corporate America whom I actually have a degree of respect for. I was in some ways embarrassed for some of them. They evidently had no plan. They felt in the Senate and in the House today the time was good for receiving moneys from taxpayers. It was sort of a ''get here while the getting is good,'' if you will. It was embarrassing to hear their testimony and the lack of thought that had been put into place as it related to the request. They had come up with a number of $25 billion. They were actually hesitant to tell us how, as a pact, the three of them had decided to divide this money. After a lot of probing, we were able to get them to say that they have decided to divide the money based on their proportional share of the auto market.

I pressed them to find out if we did, in fact, agree to loan them this $25 billion, would that be it? It was evident that, no, this was a downpayment and that they had done nothing whatsoever to think about what might happen after the taxpayers invested in them.

One of the questions I wish to ask is: Why would we address these three automakers as some homogeneous group? They are three different companies. They are in three different circumstances. It is interesting to me that the head of the United Auto Workers knows that they are in three different circumstances. What he said was that Ford was actually in good shape. They had made some tough decisions and done some things back in the year 2006 that have put them in place to actually survive. They have about $23 billion of cash right now. He said he had been in to look at the books and Chrysler was actually in second place. I would have thought that Chrysler actually would have been the weakest of the three. Their books are not public because they are a private company. He laid out the fact that actually Chrysler was in a stronger position but that GM was a company that was in more disarray. So as we look at this, I find it so irresponsible that we would actually even talk about a rescue package, looking at these companies as a group. They are three very different companies that have addressed their issues in three very different ways. I find it incredibly irresponsible to even consider looking at them as a group.

I wonder, in a market with 10 million cars being sold, why we need three domestic automakers. I wonder whether we would be better off if possibly we had two or we had one that was strong. Again, that is something that the market can decide.

One of the greatest disservices we could actually do to these automakers and to the many people who depend upon them for employment, whether they be direct employees or tier 1 or 2 suppliers, is to grant them this money. That would be a major mistake. These companies have all kinds of legacy issues they have not been able to deal with. Let me point out one. General Motors has 7,000 dealers. They probably need about 1,500 dealers. What the dealers did years ago is, they went around and got States to pass laws that said that GM could not do away with their dealerships. We have had the strong dealers actually calling our office and telling us they actually have hurt themselves by putting these State laws in place, because there are so many dealers that each of them is having trouble making a profit. It would be a tremendous disservice for us to grant money to these companies without causing them to reorganize.

There is something we have in this country called bankruptcy protection. There is something that allows companies to go in and reorganize, to put their strengths in order, do away with their weaknesses and actually carry on. I do hope as we debate this—I realize nothing is going to happen this week; this was kind of a preapplication; that we will probably be dealing with this in January—but I do hope we will look at this in a mature way and realize that these companies have not done the things they should have done, maybe that they could have done, and that possibly we can be of service to them by making them do the things they need to do.

Another example: Chrysler Company has a situation where when they idle a plant, they actually, in some cases, are obligated to pay the workers of those plants for up to 4 years beyond the time the plant is idle. I don't know of any business in the world that can survive in a healthy fashion with those types of obligations.

I have tremendous empathy for the people involved. One of these companies has a plant in our State. But I say to my colleagues, the worst thing we could possibly do in this situation is to acquiesce to this request that lacked coherence, lacked thoughtfulness, lacked a plan as to how these companies would be successful in the future, and let them go about their business in the way that they have been going about it. They will be back, if this money is granted. I hope we will stand firm, that we will be responsible with taxpayer moneys, and that even though I am opposed to this, even if the money ends up being granted in some form or fashion, we will cause them to make the decisions that need to be made for them to actually be successful in the future.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise in support of extending unemployment insurance to help the 10 million jobless Americans, the most in a quarter century, who are searching for work.

In the wake of the subprime mortgage crisis, turmoil on Wall Street, and decline in consumer spending, workers throughout this country are being given pink slips by the thousands. In fact, we are seeing record numbers today, further amplifying the depth and the seriousness of this employment crisis in the United States. The situation continues to worsen. This does not appear to be a passing trend, but, unfortunately, unless we do something quickly and appropriately, we can anticipate continuing job losses. We have already seen across the country individuals whom we know—family members, cousins, friends—who, one, are either losing their job, or, two, are being very concerned that their employment status is tenuous and at any moment they could be given the word that they have lost their job. Over the course of 1 month, national job loss numbers jumped from 6.1 percent to 6.5 percent—an extraordinary jump in 1 month. Updated State numbers, which will be released on Friday, will unfortunately likely continue to reflect this deterioration in our job markets.

Despite this bad news, a resolution of this employment crisis does not seem to be approaching. As I suggested, there are indications this will get worse before it gets better—another reason to act now to try to provide support and assistance to those people who have worked and now find themselves without a job, through no fault of their own.

In my home State of Rhode Island, these national trends are amplified dramatically. Nearly 9 percent of Rhode Islanders are now unemployed. That is 50,200 people. We are a small State with a relatively small population. Mr. President, 50,200 people are without work. They are searching for work. They are searching for answers. They are searching for help. We have to provide the help, and then the long-term answers.

Job losses in Rhode Island are occurring in all sectors. This is not just one area of economic endeavor that is under stress. Every area is under stress. Workers in manufacturing plants have been particularly hurt, and that is another consequence or another aspect of this discussion of the support for the auto industry. We have thousands of jobs in Rhode Island that in

some way depend upon the auto industry. So their fate is linked to what we do effectively, constructively to assist these companies to maintain their presence, but also to change their practices so they are not only here for a few more months, but they can evolve into a sustainable manufacturing industry that will lead the world, as it once did, in the manufacture of high-quality, economically, and environmentally sound vehicles.

We are seeing layoff notices in the financial and services industries despite all the efforts we have made to support these industries through the legislation we passed last September. These losses are from small mom-and-pop manufacturing shops in Rhode Island and go up into national financial companies that are shedding workers.

This is a problem that must be addressed. We have done it in the past. In 1991 and 2002, Congress worked with the White House to successfully extend temporary benefits when unemployment rates were significantly high. In June, I was pleased that Congress came together and passed a 13-week emergency extension of unemployment insurance for all States. This was an important step to help desperate families make ends meet. But jobs are becoming scarcer. The action we took in June has actually been overtaken by events in the world marketplace.

We have to deal with this issue, particularly in those States such as Rhode Island that are seeing unusually high unemployment rates. So far, 4,416 Rhode Islanders have already exhausted their federal benefits. They are still searching for work, unsuccessfully, but now they have lost the support of unemployment insurance.

There are 20,000 Rhode Islanders who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits. In the first week of November, another 1,347 Rhode Islanders were added to our State's unemployment rolls. These are very dispiriting numbers. They call for action, and I hope we can act.

Nationally, it is estimated that nearly 1.2 million Americans will exhaust their current benefits by the end of the year. Where do they go? They have no direct financial support through the unemployment compensation program. They have seen the value of their homes whittle down to, in some cases, less than the mortgage they owe. They are seeing pressures in every area. Unless we provide them some assistance, their ability to simply keep their heads above water—to keep their families fed, to keep a bit of hope alive—will be extinguished. We cannot let that happen.

These benefits are not handouts. These people have worked. They have paid into the program. They receive a modest weekly benefit to keep them close to making ends meet.

There is something else too. We have a task before us not simply to deal individually with men and women who have worked hard and now—through no fault of their own, through the action of the huge economic forces worldwide—find themselves without jobs. We have to get this country moving again. We have to stimulate the economy.

Unemployment insurance helps do that. These benefits are spent right away in the local communities. These benefits are going to people who are not going to, unfortunately, be able to put it away for a rainy day. Today is their rainy day. They are going to have to go to the supermarket. They are going to have to go to the pharmacy. They are going to have to go put some gas in their automobiles to get around, to get their families around. This money is spent almost immediately on food, medicine, and gasoline. Economists of virtually every stripe believe this is one of the most effective ways to stimulate the economy, to increase consumer demand.

This is something we have to do. It generates approximately $1.64 in gross domestic product per $1 spent. So for every dollar of unemployment compensation benefits, we are generating additional support.

In September, I introduced bipartisan legislation to provide an additional 7 weeks of unemployment insurance to people who have exhausted their benefits, and 13 more weeks of benefits to unemployed workers in States such as Rhode Island that have unemployment rates above 6 percent.

Despite the urgent need for these extra benefits, a minority of Senators prevented this bill from moving forward. What we have seen since that date is not an improvement in the situation but a significant deterioration in the situation. We can no longer ignore acting on this critical issue.

Today there are more disturbing numbers. There is an indication also in the press that President Bush would sign a bill, but he cannot sign a bill unless we pass a bill. We have the opportunity to do that before we leave today. Since the economy continues to unravel, we cannot sit back and wait. We have to act.

In October, the House overwhelmingly passed a measure virtually identical to my legislation. We must do the same. I hope we take this action this week. We cannot wait until January. There will be more people without jobs, unfortunately, by January, and those who are having the opportunity to collect benefits bill exhaust those benefits by January. We have to act.

We have to do more than just an unemployment insurance program. We have to focus on other forms of relief that will provide not only help to Americans but stimulate our economy, such as funding for food stamps and food banks. Families are turning more to these institutions every day. It is not just the marginal American, someone who might be on the street struggling with mental health issues, who needs the assistance of those institutions. More and more families—working families—are coming to food banks and asking for a handout, for food, to feed their children.

We can do better, and we must do better.

We also have to make investments to improve job creation and provide long-term benefits. I think this means investing in our infrastructure, putting people to work, putting people to work to rebuild this country, not in a transient, temporary fashion but in projects that will last beyond this economic crisis.

When I was a child in Rhode Island, walking around on the sidewalks, looking down, I would ask my mom and dad: What is this plaque: ''WPA''? Well, it is the Work Projects Administration. That was from 1935, 1934. Well, in 1955, in 1958, in 1968, and, indeed, in 1998, and now in 2008, walk around, look at those facilities, those public infrastructures that are still serving the communities. They were investments to help people work, but investments that have spurred this economy for more than 60 years.

We have to do a lot, and we can do a lot. There are so many needs here: aging infrastructure, roads, bridges, public transportation systems, transit systems so people can get to work and get to school, drinking water systems and wastewater systems.

In Rhode Island, proposed funding for these initiatives would support $50 million for road improvements. Some of the discussions we have had about a package—$50 million for road improvements. It would also support $14 million for transit operations which would assure transit operations for particularly the poorest citizens of Rhode Island. It would also support $19.1 million for water infrastructure projects.

Across this country, these projects could generate more than 470,000 jobs. We are losing about 500,000 jobs, it seems, every reporting period. If we could reverse that and report an increase in jobs, that would not only put a lot of money into people's pockets and families' pockets, but it would also send a signal to the country that confidence can be restored, that hope can indeed be engendered.

Finally, I believe we need to provide some funding for the States and communities that are strapped by this crisis. We are looking at severe deficits. States are looking at them. Many States do not have the ability to operate beyond a balanced budget. They are going to have to make excruciatingly difficult cuts. I think we should put more money into our matching Federal Medicaid programs which will help States and help people receive health care. These investments, again, are not only compelling because of the needs of our fellow Americans, but justified because of their ability to stimulate the economy and to pick us up and move us forward.

Events over the last several months have dramatically highlighted the economic challenges we face. We are grappling with the most severe economic

downturn we have seen perhaps since post-World War II and perhaps since the Great Depression—the worst set of economic circumstances. We must do something. To sit back and watch Americans continue to lose hope, to lose their jobs, to lose their sense of the potential of this country is unacceptable. We need swift action. No more debate; we need to vote. We need to pass an unemployment compensation extension bill before we leave today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for morning business be extended until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

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

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, is the Senate in morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. It is. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. Con. Res. 106 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation? Is the Senator from Virginia able to address the Senate?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is in a period of morning business.

Mr. WARNER. I ask unanimous consent to proceed for no more than 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

TED STEVENS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this may well be my last opportunity to speak on the floor of the Senate. I see my senior colleague, the senior Senator from Alaska. I come for the purpose of saying some remarks about several colleagues, including my longtime friend. If it is convenient, I will take the 5 minutes I have just been granted by the Presiding Officer because I have to go out to the CIA for a meeting that has been established for some time. I shall leave shortly after I finish my remarks.

Again, I see my friend from Alaska, and it evokes many long years of interesting and happy memories. I recall so well that when I came here 30 years ago to the Senate, Senator STEVENS was one of those who sort of took the ''youngsters,'' as we called ourselves in those days, under his wing. He had been here 11 years, I think, when I arrived. I remember serving under the Senator when he was the whip. I remember that whip; he exercised it judicially but with determination. All in our freshman class remember that very well.

I suppose what I remember most is that I had a very modest and brief tour of military service in World War II. I was only 17. I went in the last year of the war, as did all the kids on my block. We joined and went in. I don't know if I ever shared this story with the Senator. In those days, the boys on the block who were a year or two older than me had already gone in and started military service and were coming back on leave to visit their families. Some were severely wounded and having to stay for long periods of hospitalization. It was a dramatic period in American history.

I remember the Army Air Corps and those fellows who would come back having flown their missions in Europe, Southeast Asia, north Africa, or wherever the case may be. All of us who were 16 and 17 and getting ready to take up our responsibilities stood in awe because the nearest thing we had connected with an airplane was building model airplanes. We built all the military model airplanes, and we knew them by heart. There were those magnificent flying jackets, and they were the envy of all of us. I tried to join the Army Air Corps and went down and signed up and joined the Navy. As happenstance would have it, the Navy first called me in. I had a modest career with my generation in the training command.

The record reflects that Senator STEVENS, at a very young age, displayed courage, determination, wisdom, and leadership. His service in the Army Air Corps in World War II won him two Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Air Medals, and other decorations for flying those aircraft. He and I have reminisced many times over the different types of planes he flew—primarily the old C–47, if my recollection serves me—and flying over the hump, which was a perilous, dangerous mission not only from enemy resistance, but if anything malfunctioned on that plane, there was no landing field below you, just miles and miles of rugged mountain terrain, much of it totally uninhabitable.

I think the Senator was under 21 when he flew those missions, and his crew exemplified the courage of the World War II generation. He, among many, deserves credit as being a member of the ''greatest generation.''

In subsequent years, when I came to the Senate and joined the Armed Services Committee, it was my privilege to travel to many places in this world with TED STEVENS to visit the men and women in the Armed Forces. How many times did we work together on this floor—I as an authorizer and him as an appropriator—shaping that annual bill which I regard with a sense of humility as the most important bill this body passes every year; that bill that cares for the men and women of the Armed Forces and provides the economic resources for them to train, to modernize, and to preserve and protect the freedom of this Nation. Speaking on behalf of the men and women of the Armed Forces, they are grateful to Senator STEVENS for all he has done for them through his distinguished career in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am grateful to the Senator from Virginia for his comments. I understand that duty calls him to go to his meeting at the CIA. I am grateful for his support.

Mr. President, just before Christmas in 1968, I was appointed to succeed Alaska's first senior Senator, Bob Bartlett. Next month will mark the 40th year I have had the honor and privilege to serve in this great Chamber.

First, and most important, I thank my family. After my wife Ann's tragic death in 1978, I thought the end of my career had come, but my dear wife Catherine entered my life in 1980, and joined by my six children, Susan, Beth, Ted, Walter, Ben, and Lily, and my 11 grandchildren, my family has given me love, support, and sacrifice, which made my continued career in the Senate possible and gave it meaning. I dearly love each member of my family.

Forty years. It is hard to believe that so much time could pass so quickly, but it has. I want everyone listening to know that I treasure every moment I spent here representing Alaska and Alaskans, the land and the people I love.

As a Member of this body, I served as whip from 1976 to 1984, as chair of the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee, as chair of the Arms Control Observer Group, as chair of the Ethics Committee, as chair of the Rules Committee, as chair of the Governmental

Affairs Committee, as chair of the Appropriations Committee, as chair of the Commerce Committee, and also had functions as the ranking member as the political change took place back and forth across this aisle. I also served as President pro tempore and President pro tempore emeritus.

I am having really a difficult time today articulating my feelings, and I hope if I puddle up a little bit, as my old friend used to say, I will be excused.

When I came to the Senate, Alaska had been a State for less than a decade. We were then more of an impoverished territory than a full-fledged State. The commitments made by the Federal Government in our Statehood Act were unfulfilled, and some are still unfulfilled. Alaska had not received the land and resources it had been promised. Poverty and illness reigned supreme in rural regions of our State. I remember so well when Senator KENNEDY and I went to the Arctic and examined some of those villages. It was a disaster. Our fisheries were in peril, primarily from the intrusion of foreign vessels that were anchored just a few miles offshore 12 months out of the year.

Many people doubted whether Alaska had what it took to be a successful State, and they asked whether Alaska was still Seward's Folly. We proved those doubters were wrong. Working with one another as Alaskans and with great friends in the Senate, Alaskans took control of our own destiny.

In 1958, as legislative counselor for the Department of Interior, I worked on Alaska's Statehood Act. Section 4 of that act committed Congress to settle the Alaska Native land claims.

In 1971, Congress did enact the Alaska Natives Land Claims Settlement Act, settling aboriginal claims in our State. Native corporations, established at my request to manage $1 billion paid to our State by the Federal Government, and the 44-million acre land settlement are now driving forces in the Alaska economy.

In 1973, after a dramatic tie-breaking vote by the Vice President of this Chamber on an amendment which closed the courts of this country to further delay by extreme environmentalists, the President signed into law the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. That act dramatically improved America's energy security and secured the economic future of Alaska.

In 1976, Congress passed what became known as the Magnuson-Stevens Act to fight foreign fishing fleets which endangered America's fisheries. Because of that act, America's fisheries today are the most productive and the best managed in the world.

Working within the framework of these basic laws, Alaskans have labored in the appropriations and administrative process to make statehood a reality. Where there was nothing but tundra and forest, today there are now airports, roads, ports, water and sewer systems, hospitals, clinics, communications networks, research labs, and much, much more. Alaska was not Seward's folly and is no longer an impoverished territory. Alaska is a great State and an essential contributor to our Nation's energy security and national defense. I am proud to have had a role in this transformation. Working to help Alaska achieve its potential has been and will continue to be my life's work.

My motto has been here ''to hell with politics, just do what's right for Alaska,'' and I have tried every day to live up to those words. I take great pride in the work of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee, the leadership of which I have shared for almost three decades with my brother Senator DAN INOUYE, and I thank him for being here. He is a great American patriot and a true friend. Together, we have worked to rebuild our Armed Forces to provide the support and training needed by our warfighters to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

I don't have time today to recount the highlights of 40 years of work in this body. That will take a lot of time. I will take time, however, to acknowledge the friendships I have enjoyed with so many of my colleagues and Senate staffers.

I really am grateful to every Member of the Senate for their friendship, and I bear no ill will toward any Member of this body. I am most grateful for the support and counsel of my colleagues in the Alaska congressional delegation, my old friend in the House, Congressman DON YOUNG, who has done so much for our State, and my steadfast partner in the Senate, Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, to whom I owe so much and admire so much. She has been a true friend and true partner. I wish her well in the future here.

I also want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by hundreds of young Alaskans who have come to Washington to serve on my staff. In particular, let me express my gratitude to my current staff, all of whom have worked hard for Alaska during the toughest of times. I know all will go on to do great things for Alaska and our country.

I feel blessed by God to have had the opportunity to serve in this body. I deeply appreciate the trust Alaskans have reposed in me for 40 years. When Alaska needed a strong voice to speak up for its interests, I did my part to the best of my ability. When an administration submitted legislation or a budget that ignored Alaska's legislative concerns, I urged Congress to exercise its constitutional power to redress the balance. When an Alaskan—any Alaskan—or any Alaskan entity needed help, my office was ready and did help to the maximum extent possible.

I feel the same way now that I did in 1968. I really must pinch myself to fully understand that I am privileged to speak on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Coming from the boyhood I had, I could never even have dreamed of being here today. And home is where the heart is, Mr. President. If that is so, I have two homes—one is right here in this Chamber, and the other is my beloved State of Alaska. I must leave one to return to the other.

As I leave the Senate and the work that has given me so much happiness and satisfaction over the years, I know Senator MURKOWSKI and Congressman YOUNG will continue to be strong voices for our 49th State. This is the last frontier. I also pray for my successor's success as he joins in that effort.

My mission in life is not complete. I believe God will give me more opportunities to be of service to Alaska and to our Nation. And I look forward with glad heart and with confidence in its justice and mercy.

I told members of the press yesterday that I don't have any rearview mirror. I look only forward, and I still see the day when I can remove the cloud that currently surrounds me.

That's it, Mr. President, 40 years distilled into a few minutes, I close by saying and asking that God bless Alaska and our Governor, God bless the United States of America and our President, and God bless the Senate and every Member of this body.

I yield the floor for the last time.

(Applause; Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to say farewell to our distinguished colleague, the senior Senator from the State of Alaska. TED STEVENS' public service has been more than a career, it has really been his life's calling.

After serving in World War II, where he rose to the rank of first lieutenant, TED STEVENS completed undergraduate work at UCLA and received a law degree from Harvard. He then came to Washington, DC, for the first time to work for President Eisenhower. His career in elected office started in 1964 with his election to the Alaska House of Representatives. He became majority leader in his second term. Appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1968, TED STEVENS was returned by the voters of Alaska six times and last year became the longest serving U.S. Republican Senator in our Nation's history.

His career has been more than about longevity. He has been an advocate for his State. And that is an understatement. He has served as President pro tempore of the Senate, and now emeritus. He has been a senior member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committees. He has been heavily involved, as I know, in the Appropriations Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and Rules Committee.

That is where I have become so well acquainted with TED STEVENS, is on the Appropriations Committee. I had the good fortune of helping on the floor on a number of appropriations bills. I consider a mark of distinction and something I will always remember my

Hulk tie Senator STEVENS gave me. I don't know anyone else he gave one to, but it was his way of saying thanks for getting that appropriations bill done; I liked the way you worked to get it done.

Events have transpired in Senator STEVENS' life these past 2 years that are deeply unfortunate. He and I had a number of conversations about what was going on. I wish nothing but the best for TED, Catherine, and his daughter, whom I have known since she was a little girl, now a distinguished lawyer.

Although I said in the past that Senator STEVENS flew in World War II with the Flying Tigers, on the Senate floor he will always be remembered as a lion.

I have two final stories. I was a brandnew Senator, and my friend Alan Bible died. Alan Bible served the State of Nevada with distinction for 20 years. A military aircraft was provided to take those who wished to go to Nevada for the funeral. There were two people on that airplane—HARRY REID and TED STEVENS. Think about that. We flew to Reno, NV, for a funeral. We went out and back in 1 day. It takes 5 hours to go out that way and 5 hours to come back.

I said—and I was a new Senator: Senator STEVENS, why are you on the airplane? I framed it a little differently than that. He said: I have a long memory. The Alaska pipeline bill would not have passed but for Alan Bible. It was very hard for him to make up his mind what he wanted to do, and when he did, he was the culminating vote that allowed that to pass. He said: I had to go to Reno to honor what Alan Bible did for me.

Finally, everyone knows I have a unique relationship with DAN INOUYE. When he ran for leader, I supported him above anyone else. I did it because he had been so good to me personally and, I felt, good to the Senate. And, of course, I admired this man for what he had done for our country, not only in the House of Representatives and in the Senate but as a soldier in Italy where he was badly wounded.

It doesn't take much intelligence to understand that the most secure, lasting friendship in this Senate and one that probably is a friendship I have never seen before is the one with Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUYE. Terms are thrown around a lot: ''He's my brother.'' With DAN INOUYE and TED STEVENS, they are brothers.

The Bible tells us in the Old Testament: ''Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, for he hath not another to help him up.'' DAN INOUYE may not be the most powerful physical person in the world, but I think he is the most powerful friend a person could have. And as Scripture indicates, he will always be there for his friend, TED STEVENS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senate colleagues, how does one sum up the extraordinary accomplishments of the longest serving Republican Senator in U.S. history? The majority leader has summarized Senator STEVENS' career, but I think there is a way to measure it and to summarize it that is even shorter. I think it is safe to say, without any fear of contradiction, there is no Senator in the history of the United States who has ever done more for his State than Senator TED STEVENS. Alaska would not be what it is today——

Mr. BYRD. That is right.

Mr. MCCONNELL. But for him.

Mr. BYRD. That is right.

Mr. MCCONNELL. So we say farewell to our friend from Alaska and wish him well in coming years. He can always be proud of the fact that no Senator in the history of this country has ever done more for his State than Senator TED STEVENS.

Mr. BYRD. That is right, TED. That is right.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to speak this morning from the perspective of an Alaskan. Sometimes it is not appropriate for a woman to acknowledge her age, but when Senator STEVENS first came to this body, I was 11 years old. Senator STEVENS, TED STEVENS, has been ''Alaska'' in this Senate for four decades now. Many Senators earn their place in the history of their States during the course of service in the Senate. But by the time TED came to the Senate back in 1968, he had already earned his place in Alaskan history. He had earned his place in Alaska's history for his work a decade earlier.

As an Interior Department attorney in the late 1950s, TED was the Eisenhower administration's point man on Alaska statehood. Well, this year, our State is celebrating its 50th anniversary of statehood. But for the persistence of TED STEVENS at that time, our statehood anniversary date might be celebrated some years off in the future. It was that persistence that TED brought to the Senate.

Historians will record the life of TED STEVENS and the history of post-statehood Alaska and suggest they are all interwoven. But I think there is an easier way to express that. When I think of the good things, the positive things, that have come to Alaska in the past 50 years, I see the face and I see the hands of TED STEVENS in so many of them.

Some of them are so small, like a washeteria for Golovin, a village of 67 people people near Nome. TED STEVENS, through funding from the Denali Commission, has enabled that village to have that washeteria. You might not think much of that, but when you don't have a water and sewer system and you don't have a place for basic sanitary services, providing a washing facility in a little community is a big deal.

There are also the big projects, whether it is our 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline that Senator STEVENS helped to create or the settlement of our Alaska Native land claims, the fact that we have F–22s at Elmendorf Air Force Base, or a compromise recently that allowed Eielson Air Force Base to remain a vibrant and strategic center for our military. And then the big things that are yet to come, as we are working to advance a natural gas pipeline to bring that energy source to the lower 48. We will also have a new VA outpatient clinic in Anchorage that TED has been responsible for.

When Alaskans think about the difficult debates, the issues Congress has dealt with over the years as they relate to Alaska—and primarily these are debates where the Nation has sought to tell Alaskans what we should be doing to manage our lands, to develop our economies, to live our lives. Every time there has been an argument, a debate, a victory, it has been the forceful voice of TED STEVENS defending the right of Alaskans that prevails.

We all knew when he would come to the floor wearing his Incredible Hulk tie, he was fighting a battle for Alaska that day, and look out. Whether it was our timber issues or the battle over ANWR or our fisheries, he was there working, fighting, compromising, negotiating these battles for the State of Alaska.

There are a lot of things we know about TED and his passions, as he has demonstrated them here on the floor, but there are some other things you might not know about Senator STEVENS and what drives him, such as his care and his passion and support for world-class fishing out on the Kenai River, his support for public broadcasting, which earned him two national awards, and his undying commitment for the Olympic movement and amateur athletics.

Somebody mentioned it would take a long time to enumerate the accomplishments of TED STEVENS. Mr. Majority Leader, I might suggest that in order to do that, it would take as long as it took you when you read your book about Searchlight on the floor when I was sitting in the Presiding Officer's chair. We don't have time to do that this morning, and that is not my purpose today. But I would like to refer to TED's accomplishments in two small areas to illustrate a point I wish to make about his character and his personal commitment to public service. These are in the areas of what he has done to improve the lives of Alaska's Native people and also his legacy to America's fisheries.

It is often said a society is judged by the way it treats its most vulnerable members, and it is appropriate we judge the character of our elected leaders in a similar way. In Alaska, the most vulnerable among us are our Alaska Native people—the 120,000 or so Aleuts, Eskimos, and Indians who are the descendants of Alaska's first inhabitants. We recognize that the statistics

about the condition of our Alaskan Natives are not something of which we are proud, with incomes that are half of other Alaskans and high rates of domestic violence, suicide, child abuse, violent deaths, and a prison rate among our population which is not acceptable.

For decades, Alaska's most vulnerable people have had no better friend than TED STEVENS. If you go to TED's Web site, it lists his milestone legislative accomplishments, and 8 of the 13 are directed to improving the conditions of Alaska's first people. So many of them are so basic. You have all heard the stories; TED has stood on the floor and talked about the economic conditions we face—the fact that we don't have road systems, the fact we have to fly to most of the villages or go by boat—but the reality is that in so many of our communities, in so many of our villages, we still don't have basic water and sanitation for those who live there. Before TED STEVENS came to the Senate, many of these villages had no running water, no flush toilets, no plumbing, no place to wash clothes or take a shower—the basic needs when it comes to sanitation and health.

In so many instances, our Native people have lived, and some still live, in what could be called Third World conditions, conditions that wouldn't be tolerated anywhere in this country, and conditions that TED STEVENS would not tolerate. He determined he was going to change it and he did. In 1980, only about 20 percent of the rural houses in Alaska had indoor sanitation facilities. Thanks to TED STEVENS, that percentage has risen to well over 75 percent. Now, we still have a ways to go, but what he has done is pretty remarkable.

Talking about health improvements and conditions, it is almost impossible to recruit health professionals to our small and remote areas. So TED looked into the future and wondered how we were going to provide access, how we were going to provide for the needs of those who live out here. And he said: Well, let's think ahead, and he brought statewide telemedicine. It is the backbone of what we have in Alaska in terms of how we provide for our health care needs. It is the largest telemedicine program in the world. It gives first responders an ability to consult with doctors in the larger cities. Thanks to TED STEVENS, people's lives have been saved. He has made an enormous difference in our community. He has championed the construction of hospitals in our rural hubs out in Kotzebue, Barrow, Nome, and Dillingham. He has brought about the community health centers and health clinics.

I know a lot of you have had an opportunity to come to Alaska, and your first stop is the airport in Anchorage, and you notice that the airport is named after TED STEVENS. Well, you might not know that there is a large monument at the entrance to the Alaska Native Medical Center that has been erected to remind Alaskans that this facility would not have been possible without the work of TED STEVENS. So our Alaska Natives today enjoy an integrated, high quality health care system thanks to TED STEVENS.

This is important for us to remember because so much of what we see in the Senate, the record that is created, we don't have the opportunity to see how that translates to the people TED STEVENS has represented for some 40 years.

Other areas he has worked for Alaska's Natives involve work to preserve their cultural lifestyles through preservation of their subsistence traditions and making sure the Inupiaq people can continue their whaling and helping with economic opportunities and reducing transportation costs. We are seeing a migration from our smaller villages into our larger cities, but I can tell you, without the lifestyle improvements TED STEVENS has brought to rural Alaska, our Native people would have left their villages decades ago. So I wish to thank you, TED, for all you have done there.

I mentioned the fishery resource, and Senator STEVENS himself mentioned that in his comments, but it was nearly 40 years ago that TED joined with Warren Magnuson and developed a new management regime for our fisheries. This was at a time when our fisheries in the United States, including Alaska, were heavily overfished by foreign fleets. The Magnuson-Stevens Act helped put America back in the fishing industry. This legislation also created the Regional Fishery Management Council. It is largely responsible for the development of Alaska's sustainable fisheries. We are very proud of the fact that to this day we supply about half the seafood that is caught in this country.

It was at TED STEVENS' insistence that the United States negotiated an agreement to stop the illegal fishing in the international waters of the Bering Sea. This agreement has restored the Alaska pollock fishery from near collapse. He has been an absolute champion of ocean conservation. He pushed the U.N. to ban high seas drift net fishing, a practice that was devastating our salmon fisheries. Alaska fishermen will never forget TED STEVENS, the conservationist, the advocate who has truly helped bring our fisheries where they are.

TED's departure from the Senate truly leaves a void in our hearts and some very big shoes to fill here in the Senate. There are a lot of us in Alaska who are wondering if anyone can fill these shoes. We agonize over whether the Federal Government's interest in Alaska is going to dwindle without TED here to fight for us. But I am optimistic, TED, that is not going to be the case.

You have said many times in speeches you have given here on the floor and back at home—you voiced the words of GEN Billy Mitchell back in 1935 when he said:

> I believe that, in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. . . . I think it is the most important strategic place in the world.

Those words of Billy Mitchell, I think you and I agree, hold true today. Alaska continues to provide this top cover for the defense of the North American Continent. Our troops tell us our communities in Alaska support the military like nowhere else in the country. The heartfelt appreciation is genuine. We offer unencumbered military training areas that are simply not available anywhere else. Our resources—our natural gas, our mineral resources—will support and continue to support America's national security for generations to come.

Through his investments in the development of our State and our people, TED STEVENS has helped to prepare Alaska to meet its future challenges. We are a strong and confident and skilled people, and we are empowered—we are empowered by all TED's work has brought to us over 40 years of service in the Senate.

While TED may leave this body, I think all of us will continue to seek his advice, his counsel, and his wisdom for as long as he is willing to offer it.

TED, you have earned a very special place in the golden hearts of Alaskans, and you hold a very special place in my heart. Thank you for your service to Alaska.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, all of us realize the events of recent weeks have been less than pleasant and at times dismal and heartbreaking. But to my friend, I say stand tall, TED, because you have every reason to do so. Your good and courageous service to our Nation is part of our history. It can never be obliterated. Your service to the people of Alaska is legendary, and I am certain that in decades to come, Native Alaskans—Eskimos and Indians—will be singing you songs of praise. But above all, I thank you for your four decades of friendship. I will cherish them. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate President pro tempore is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have been thinking, while sitting here listening to the eloquent remarks of the senior Senator from Alaska on this day, I have been here a long time, and so has he, the Senator from Alaska, although he is just a youngster compared to me. Some in this town would say we have both lived too long.

A long life is a blessing for many reasons. One of the reasons is one learns a lot. One learns to take the bad with the good. One learns to separate the phonies from the friends. One learns that family is the most important gift. One learns to appreciate small, special moments and the really good things in life—like a good laugh, a good cry, a good dog, and a good meal.

Politics is a rough business, with lots of highs and lots of lows. After a long time in politics, I come to understand that the point of it all is helping people. TED STEVENS has helped a lot of people.

We all make mistakes. I have made more of them than I have hair follicles. But thank God we will be judged in the next world by the good we do in this world. TED STEVENS has done a lot of good.

I wish for you, my friend TED STEVENS, many happy years. I know you will never stop working for the people of your beloved State of Alaska. Bless your heart, TED. I love you.

I offer an Irish blessing: May all the roads that you have built, TED, rise up to meet you, and may the wind, TED, be always at your back. May the Sun shine warmly upon your face, TED, and may the rains fall softly upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you, TED, in the hollow of His hand.

Bless your heart, TED. I love you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise now because I look around and I don't think there is any Senator left on the floor who has served longer than I with him. He has had his 40; I have had my 36.

Senator, I just want to say this to you. The Constitution of the United States said that there will be a difference between the Senate and the House. They said the way to get a constitution is to make sure they provide that individually the States would be adequately represented. And they said: We will make sure of that by creating a U.S. Senate where two Senators represent the State.

My friend, I want to say to you, obviously I have traveled a little bit different path in my 36 years, but many times the paths have crossed—you and this Senator. I do want to say that, more than anyone else, you have taught me the meaning of representing my State. You are unabashed about that. That caused me on many occasions to think about what I was doing and whether I was representing my State correctly, to the full extent of my ability, and whether I did that with gusto, knowing that we needed things. For we are comparable in that we are a very poor State. We are among the last that came in, and we have many of the same problems you have.

It has truly been a luxury of my life to work with you, to see how you got things done, and, from time to time, to be able to help you because you asked—you were unabashed in that regard too—to help your State. You would ask any of us to join you in your cause, and most of us did that willingly.

Mr. BYRD. You bet.

Mr. DOMENICI. But, Senator, I wish to say just a word to the people of your State.

We know TED STEVENS as a Senator representing you people. A big event has occurred in the life of TED STEVENS that you people of Alaska quite properly have been involved in. But none of us who have worked with him could let this day pass with anyone not knowing—whether they be in Alaska, a Native of Alaska or resident of Alaska or a Native, true Native—all of you must know of the high respect and great esteem in which we hold your Senator. We are most grateful that you sent him here for 40 years. For some of us, it ends too abruptly, but every ride seems to have an end.

All I hope is, with what you have left in your life, that you will feel this day is a special one, when Senators have put their hearts out here on the Senate floor to tell you who you were to them, what you meant to them. I hope I have done my share in my few moments. Nobody will know how many times we have talked and met, how many times you and I have shared personal things and gone on with our own business, but we were certain to mention our personal problems along with it, things we wanted to share as men. I thank you for every bit of that.

To the extent that some of our prayers and the prayers of some of our relatives whom I asked personally to pray for you—I hope it has had some good. I hope when you were down, you were lifted a bit. I hope that today you are going to be lifted more so that you can stand what is ahead of you with a high head and come out of it with more of the successes of your life right out in front of you for you to feel and touch, as those hard issues still remain.

Thank you for your friendship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, much that has been true and honest has been said by our colleagues this morning to support and pay tribute to the unique, the great and historic service of Senator TED STEVENS to Alaska and to our country. I will come back to that, but I wish to take a moment to speak about TED STEVENS as a friend and a neighbor.

It happened that when I first came to the Senate 20 years ago, our wives, Catherine and Hadassah, became friends. As usual, they led us in the right direction—which is toward each other. In fact, it was Catherine and TED's counsel and urging to Hadassah and me that led us, after 6 years living somewhere else, to the neighborhood we live in now, which is where they used to live. In the last several years, they have come back to that neighborhood.

Maybe, beyond the news that comes out of the Senate in Washington and the politics that dominates the news, a lot of people back home and around the country do not realize we are actually just normal people—we live in neighborhoods here, we have friends, and we get to know our friends.

I speak of TED in that regard. Once years ago somebody said: What can you tell me about TED STEVENS? I can tell you a lot and others can about what he is like as a Senator. I will tell you this, that Hadassah and I talked the other day and we said: Who would we call, of our colleagues in the Senate, if something happened in the family?

Now I think about it, it was said at 3 a.m. in the morning. That was before the commercials in the last campaign. But this was not about a national emergency, this was about something that happened in the family and you needed somebody's help to come over and watch the kids or something such as that. We said we would call TED and Catherine STEVENS. I never had to make that call, but I have no doubt they would have responded.

I have gotten to know TED STEVENS very well. This is a good and honorable man. He is a wise man, reads a lot. And in recent years we have exchanged books, usually adventure novels, with one another. He has a tremendous sense of history, and more than some might appreciate, he has a great sense of humor as well.

So I salute him as a good and honorable man, a man of faith who has served our country with great effect. I want to take a moment before I close to talk about the extraordinary service and supportive leadership TED STEVENS has given to the Armed Forces of the United States and, therefore, to the security of every American, the freedom of every American, and I would say the security and freedom of people in countries all over the world who have benefited from the courage of our military, the skill of our military, and even more directly because of the support TED STEVENS and DAN INOUYE have given to our allies militarily around the world.

The distinguished Republican leader said he could not think of any Senator who had done more for his State in the history of the Senate than TED STEVENS has done for Alaska. I would say something else at this moment. Remember, we have constitutional responsibilities that we swear to uphold when we take the oath of office as Senators. One of the great ones, perhaps the first one, which precedes all others, is to provide for the common defense. I honestly cannot think of two Senators who have done more to protect the security of the United States of America, and therefore our freedom, than TED STEVENS and DAN INOUYE.

You know, we talk a lot around here about partisanship. All of us agree that there has been too much of it, that it gets in the way of us getting things done. I have been privileged in the years I have been on the Homeland Security Committee to have had a wonderful relationship with Senator COLLINS, whether she has been chairman or I have been chairman. But this relationship between TED STEVENS and DAN INOUYE is unique. Regardless of which one was in the majority and which was in the so-called minority, these two were cochairs. They shared staff, they helped each other, because the party affiliation ultimately did not matter.

What did you say your oath was? To hell with politics, I have got to do what is good for Alaska. I am going to say, in so many ways, particularly working with DAN INOUYE, you have said throughout this 40 years, particularly in the years you have worked together on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, to hell with politics, we, DAN INOUYE and I, are going to do what is good for America.

I salute you for that. I thank you for that. I love the fact that you said in your remarks that you are confident God has more work for you to do. I share that confidence and that faith. I wish you and your wonderful family, your beloved wife Catherine and your children, all of God's blessings in the years ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I remember the first time I met TED STEVENS. It was back in 1976 when I was a young candidate for office, citizen candidate, hardly knew where the Senate floor was. I have loved and admired him ever since. We have been in the presence of three great senior lions in the Senate. BOB BYRD, as we all know, has served this Senate many years. And I love these three people.

DAN INOUYE. I admire him so much for the courage, honor, and friendship he has displayed to so many of us. But above all, to TED STEVENS. TED STEVENS is truly one of the greatest Senators who ever sat here. All three of them are. They have been exemplary to all of us, but especially me.

I have watched them. I have learned from them. Hopefully I have not heard the last of my dear friend TED. TED STEVENS personifies a person with real guts, with real ability, that dedication to his State, dedication to every person in his State regardless of politics, religion, or anything else. He has worked his behind off for 40 years, and actually longer than that, in public service—one of the greatest men I have ever met.

I always loved him when he wore the Incredible Hulk tie. I always got a big kick out of it. I even liked his crankiness, because there was always a little smile behind it. He never held a grudge against anybody, and he was always willing to lend a helping hand and give good advice.

Frankly, I admire him so much. TED, I believe this cloud will be lifted from you. It should be. The fact is that you are a great man in a great body here where so few rise to the top level. You really have. You have shown such kindness and graciousness to virtually everybody here, and enough toughness too, when we have needed it. You are a great leader. I for one am going to miss you as a Member of this body. I hope we will not miss you as a friend and colleague in the future, because you will always be my colleague. You will always be somebody I look up to. You will always be somebody who I learn from. You will always be somebody who has stood for things that count: family, home, State, country.

I do not know if I can say anything much better than that. But all I can say is this is a good man. He deserves to be remembered as a great man as well. We all love you. We wish you the best. We hope we continue to see a lot of you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington State.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of many citizens of Washington State who are friends of the Senator from Alaska. On their behalf today, I say thank you for all of the work that you have done for your neighbor to the South.

Obviously, everyone here has listed the many accomplishments of the senior Senator from Alaska in his many decades of service. We are a State that considers Alaska a neighbor. He has been an ally of ours many times over, and throughout his long service in serving his own State, has also helped the citizens I represent. I thank him for that today. I thank him for his years of service on the Appropriations Committee where I watched him as the Chair and ranking member, where though he may be a strong adversary, he also understood that everyone had a right to speak and had a right to offer arguments and respected that. I think that is truly a lesson all of us should remember.

But I want to share a lesson that the Senator from Alaska also taught me that I think is important for this time as well. Several years ago I was privileged to join the Senator from Alaska and the Senator from Hawaii on a delegation trip to China where we met with officials across the country to talk about the important issues facing our country and China.

Senator INOUYE was called away, and I was left as the senior Democrat on the trip. We met with leaders from China across the table from us. Senator STEVENS led many of these meetings but on several occasions turned to me to ask me to lead those. As we were leaving China, I thanked him for that respect he gave me in front of our delegation and in front of theirs. He said to me he thought it was important that the people of China see that even though we have two different parties here with very strong opinions we respect each other and out of that respect are able to lead this country facing the challenges we have in front of us.

He used that as a lesson to China, but it was a lesson to me as well, that we do have two strong parties, but in the end we serve the people of America, and we do it by respecting each other. So I stand today and join my colleagues in thanking the Senator from Alaska for being the leader he has been here, for the work he has done, and wish him the very best in his future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, first impressions are always important. I think many times they are completely false. I was a Member of the House when I first met TED STEVENS. It was at a retreat our party was having, and I sat there wondering what on Earth makes this man tick. Here was the most obstreperous if not outrageous person expressing his opinion, despite any other person who had an objection, who insisted on making his point.

I went away from that meeting and said: That TED STEVENS fellow is one of the most unique people I have ever met. I would just as soon not meet him again. Then I found out that he was running for leadership of the Republican party in this distinguished body against my friend and colleague, mentor, hero, Bob Dole, and came within one vote. There is a story there, but we will not get into that. And so that was the history as I regarded TED Stevens.

I came to the Senate, had the privilege of being elected to the Senate in 1996. I was standing right over there. All of a sudden there was TED STEVENS standing in front of me. That was sort of a frightening experience for a new Senator. But he came up and he jabbed his finger on my chest—TED, you will not remember this—and he said, ''I know who you are.''

I said, ''Well, I sure as hell know who you are.''

He said, ''You allegedly know something about agriculture. Bob Dole told me about you, said you were a stand-up guy.''

I said, ''Thank you. That is a real compliment.''

He said, ''You serve on Armed Services and Intelligence?''

I said, ''Yes, sir, I do.''

He said, ''How would you like to go to the Russian Far East with me?''

I thought to myself: Why on Earth would I want to go to the Russian Far East?

He said, ''We are going to go to Habarodfk. I can assure you, Habarodfk is not one of the places that you would want to go to if you had free time to go anywhere.'' And he said, ''Then we are going to go to Vladivostok. We are going to meet with the admiral of the Russian navy. He is closer to Alaska than he is to Moscow. I know him.''

I thought, this is a man who has unusual relationships with people all around the world.

''And then we are going to go to South Korea to meet one of the many presidents that come and go in South Korea to indicate our strong support. But then we are going to be the first delegation allowed into North Korea.''

Well, that got my attention. He said, ''That is why I would like to have you come along, because if we could arrange a third-party grain sale''—and I guess this is not classified anymore, but at any rate—''arrange a third-party grain sale, and using agriculture as a tool for peace, there are things we can do in North Korea to at least establish a relationship.''

This man has tried to do that all around the world with our adversaries.

People talk about that a lot, that he actually just does it. He does not make any press releases about it, does not talk about it much.

So I said, ''Well, sure, I will sign up.''

And he said, ''I understand that you are a journalist.''

I said, ''Yep, that is an unemployed newsman.''

And he said, ''You could be the scribe in regard to this CODEL.'' I might say that any CODEL you went on with TED STEVENS, you always had a T-shirt saying: ''I survived CODEL STEVENS'' because you would go to the South Pole, you would go to other places, but you didn't go to the water holes where apparently the business executives of our financial institutions go now to think about things.

In any case, we went to Habarovsk where I had a little discussion with Senator INOUYE about where we were staying, our accommodations, and got to know DANNY very well. We went to Vladivostok. We talked to that admiral who felt closer to TED STEVENS than he did the Russian Government at that particular time. We went to Sakhalin Island. There are tremendous oil reserves there. He was trying to work out some kind of arrangement where American oil companies could come in and take advantage of all of the oil reserves. We had to work our way through the saber-toothed tigers; I am not making that up.

Then we went to South Korea because you have to go to South Korea if you are going to go to North Korea. That is just required. Then we went into North Korea. Darnedest experience I have ever had in my life. It was a situation where that is a theocracy. It is a robotic theocracy. If there is a trudging contest in the Olympics, the North Koreans will win without any question. It was the first delegation allowed into North Korea. Senator INOUYE and Senator STEVENS met with the North Koreans. It was Senator COCHRAN who insisted on going to a farm. I say that with a smile. We did that. I will just say from an agricultural standpoint, it was just a field with nothing there except a 1938 Case tractor with a camouflage net over it. That sort of tells you where they are: not a Third World country but, as I said, a theocracy. But back to the story. It was about 11 or 12 midnight. This was a very unusual trip. We left everything on the plane, and we stayed at an alleged VIP headquarters. There wasn't any heat. I won't go into all that.

At any rate, this discussion had gone on and on and on, and there was an interpreter with the two people with whom we were meeting. We had hoped to meet with Kim Jong-il. That was not possible. So he sent two of his puppets down there to meet with us. They were just going back and forth with propaganda and we were serious. We had permission from the Treasury to waive certain requirements so we could arrange for a third party grain sale to assist North Korea which goes through a famine every harvesting year. In response, we could ask for other things.

So you had two World War II veterans who told these two individuals: We are World War II veterans. We want to make Pammunjon a tourist attraction. We want to make real progress about that. Finally, TED had it up to here. He said: Knock off the BS. I know you understand English. Just take the interpreter out of it and let's get to the bottom line.

The bottom line was that they couldn't do anything. They were there to learn what we were about. They really couldn't make any decisions. That was a real lost opportunity at that particular time. I will never forget his leadership.

At any rate, I would just like to say on another CODEL, I don't even know which one it was, we landed at 11 and we got to the hotel about midnight. This man is a great connoisseur of military movies, military history, almost any other movie. He is a great devotee of that great documentary ''Band of Brothers.'' So we were playing ''Band of Brothers'' to virtually staff and to all present. And this is at 12:30 at night. We had reached episode 5; we were going to episode 6. So there we all were. And, of course, it was playing and playing. I looked around. All the staff were asleep. Loyal, they were still there, but they were asleep. Then all the Members who were still there, because you didn't leave in regards to the Stevens entourage and whatever performance he decided that we should see, so consequently, I was having a hard time keeping my eyelids open.

I looked over at him and his eyes were closed. I thought, the great man has his eyes closed. Everybody else is asleep. So I will get up, the scribe of the CODEL, and look around and gently turn off the television and then I can gently wake him up and say: ''Ted, it is pretty late, 1 o'clock. We all ought to go to bed.''

As I reached for the button to turn off the power, he said: ''This next part is the best part.'' He wasn't watching it; he was listening because he had seen it about three times. Well, needless to say, we saw episode 6 in its entirety. Thank the Lord, we didn't go into episode 7. We would have been there all night.

Let me just say, I was present for the ceremonies in Alaska when TED was named the Alaskan of the Century. How can a sitting Senator or a sitting Member of Congress or anybody get citizen approval or approval from his State or accolades from his State at that particular time. But he was Alaskan of the Century. His name was everywhere. I told him the Anchorage Daily News should have been the ''Ted Stevens News.''

But I had the unique privilege of roasting this man, which I enjoyed thoroughly, and then got pretty serious toward the end. At any rate, he flew in on a World War II plane. He had his combat jacket. He came in with Catherine and took his place on two very posh chairs. And I quoted again that saying he has said, and it has been said today by the Senator himself and by others: ''The hell with politics; let's do what is good for Alaska.'' I will add: And the country and our national defense and for every man and woman in uniform; they owe this man a great debt. That is a true thing that he has done in terms of his service.

I am a journalist. I am an old newspaper guy. My great-grandfather founded the second oldest newspaper in the State of Kansas, John Wesley Roberts. He was an abolitionist. I have printer's ink in my blood. The only thing I would say to my fellow colleagues who have now left the galleries because the show is over, or at least up to this point, I would only say to my colleagues that I don't know who sang the song, ''You Don't Know Me.'' Maybe that was Patsy Cline; maybe it was somebody else. I will have to Google it. But at any rate, you don't know him. You really don't know him. This is a man with a very gruff exterior, but he is a teddy bear when you really get to know him. I know that because that is exactly what my daughter labeled him when she worked part-time for him some years ago.

As a matter of fact, she called him the mad penguin. She never called him that to his face. I don't know if you knew that or not, TED. But that was the label.

So under this great, gruff facade—i.e., the mad penguin—there is a compassionate, caring, wise and, yes, a man with a very good sense of humor which I enjoyed immensely.

When you come to this body and you come to public service, you know that you risk your ideas, your thoughts, your hopes, and your dreams before the crowd. Sometimes the crowd says yes, and you have friends who will stand behind you when you are taking the bows. Then when something happens in your life, when it is most unfortunate—and my family has experienced this as well—you wonder where your friends are who will stand beside you when you are taking the boos as opposed to the bows.

I want to tell you that being the Alaskan of the Century and the Alaskan or the Senator who has done so much for the country and my State of Kansas, I stand next to you, TED, and as many have said: You are a dear friend. I love you. God bless.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I so appreciate hearing the many stories that TED STEVENS has generated in this body. He has been a friend to everyone who has served all of the time with him. People say: TED took care of Alaska. TED did take care of Alaska. But from my standpoint, what I saw is that TED made sure that every State was taken care of, that every Senator's priorities were met, if at all possible. He

took care of the military. He took care of upgrading the military bases because, of course, he served in the military. And he wanted more than anything for our military people to have the quality of life they deserved. So I see him as someone who has been what people say is so rare in this city, and that is a true friend.

It has been mentioned a couple of times that he has a gruff exterior. When I see pictures of him in the newspaper and he is looking like this, it is not the TED STEVENS we know. It is not the person who has endeared himself to our colleagues for years and years and years in the Senate. That is his manner, but I always said behind his back: He is all bark and no bite. He is the most loyal friend and the person you could go to when you needed advice, as I know his great colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, has done many times, as have I, but also when you needed help.

I, too, have traveled with TED STEVENS and DANNY INOUYE because I was fortunate enough, with TED's help, to get on the Defense Appropriations Committee. So we went to the garden spots of the world such as Bosnia, when the Serbs had been shooting from the hills, and when we went undercover with flight jackets, undercover of delivering 2,000 pounds of peas to the many refugees who were in Bosnia at the time. We came into the Sarajevo airport with our helmets on and our flight jackets. Of course, it was a war-torn city. We saw later, when we went there, the former Olympic fields that were burial grounds because they had no place else to put the people who had died in these terrible, tragic circumstances in Bosnia.

I went with TED STEVENS and DANNY INOUYE to Saudi Arabia where I was told later that it was actually discouraged that a woman would be in a delegation. But TED STEVENS said: No way was there ever going to be discrimination against a Senator. I was a part of that delegation. I went to our airbase there. I went and met with everyone we met with as a delegation. I spoke in my turn, just as every member of our delegation did, because TED STEVENS was always going to stand up for the right of every Senator to be a part of a foreign delegation.

I went to the farm bureau air show with TED STEVENS. There is nothing more joyous than TED STEVENS when he is in an air museum or at an air show. He is an aviator to his core. He asked all the questions. He knew most of the answers already because he knows airplanes and he knows aviation.

I know what this man has been through for the last few months. I know the toll it takes on himself and his family.

I am proud to stand with TED STEVENS because I value his friendship and all he has done for me in my term in the Senate and what he has done for Texas every time I have needed for Texas to be taken care of.

I will say two things in conclusion about TED STEVENS. His country has never called that he has not answered the call—from the military, to being in the Eisenhower administration, to fighting for Alaska to be a State, and then fighting to make Alaska a great State. It is a great State.

It would not be the State it is without your leadership, TED.

But I want to say the most important thing I think you could say about anyone you know; that is, those who know him best love him most.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for morning business be extended until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

TED STEVENS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to pay honor to Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska. While our country may not realize this, TED has been a great advocate on a number of important issues for our country. Reminding our country of its responsibility to its indigenous people has been one of the major causes that TED STEVENS has pursued and advanced. It has been a delight to work with him to expand opportunities and help our indigenous peoples of the noncontiguous States of Alaska and Hawaii, as well as those across the country.

We have worked well together to improve the lives of Federal employees. We tried hard this Congress to enact meaningful reforms on telework opportunities in the Federal Government and, most importantly, to provide retirement equity to Federal employees in Alaska, Hawaii, and the territories by extending locality pay to those areas. Your leadership on those issues was invaluable to our efforts to move the bills forward. Thank you for your efforts to expand opportunities for Federal employees.

Also, I want to mention something that is probably an unknown part of history, and that is a number of years ago I discovered that since 1965 the model of the Statue of Freedom was in storage at the Smithsonian. I worked to try to bring that statute here to the Capitol, and I was having a hard time with that until TED STEVENS joined me. With his help we were able to move that statue from storage in the Smithsonian to the Capitol.

It was, as you may now know, the model which was erected in the Russell rotunda. I am pleased to say that on December 2, 2008, the new Capitol Visitor Center will be dedicated and that Statue of Freedom will be placed between the two escalators that will lead to the Capitol. For me and for TED STEVENS, this symbolizes that freedom is returning to the Capitol of the United States. And on December 2, 2008, the Center will be open and the Statue of Freedom will be an eminent part of the Visitor Center.

I thank TED STEVENS for all the help that he has given us in Hawaii and other States. He has brought strength and passion to the Senate and has been a constant presence in this institution. And for Millie and me, TED, I want to say aloha, and a warm aloha and mahalo nui loa to you for all the friendship that we have had and continue to have. I want to say God bless you and Catherine and your family in the years ahead.

Mahalo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I think the length of my service is a blink of the eye compared to those who have spoken before. And as I stand here, I cannot tell you whether it is going to be two blinks.

But I was on the CODEL with the Senator from Washington. We were in China with Senator STEVENS, and I would like to offer some insight, if I can, as to the question raised by my colleague from Kansas as to what makes TED STEVENS tick.

When we were in China, Senator STEVENS was treated as a hero. And he is a hero because of his service in World War II. He flew under General Chennault and went over, I think it was, the China-India-Burma bump. He landed in places in China to refurbish supplies, ammunition, I think, bring in intelligence sources, as described to me, where landing fields were cut out. There may have been a foot on one side and a foot on the other side, and this young guy was flying in there because he loved his country.

When we talk about TED STEVENS and his service to our country—so many talk about 40 years in the Senate—as I reflected on who that young guy was, flying in there with absolute fearlessness, with courage, with love of country, he is the same guy. He is the same guy. That is what he has given to this country his entire adult life, and it has been given in great service to this country. I think that is pretty special.

He has the veneer of a tough guy. And TED STEVENS can be tough. There is no question about that. But those of us who know him also see the love, the love that is in his heart, reflected in love of country, but love of family, love for his magnificent wife, love for his daughter. You see the gleam in his eye anytime he talks about her or she is in his presence. We see the love he has for this body, the love he has for his colleagues, even, by the way, for those with whom he disagrees. I have not been on the side of ANWR with my colleague from Alaska. But if you simply

tell him where you are and you give your word and live by that, he is always there with you.

Senator SMITH is not with us today, but few of us will ever forget when he stood on the floor of this Senate after the tragic death of his son and reflected upon the support of his colleagues and took special note of the fact that he was not with TED STEVENS on the most important issue to TED at that time: ANWR. Yet when Senator SMITH suffered tragedy in his life, who was the first person to step up to try to provide support, to try to ensure that cause get there? It was Senator STEVENS.

That is the person we know. He has given his entire adult life to service to this Nation—extraordinary service to this Nation—and he has done it with fearlessness, courage, love, and commitment, as with everything he did as a young man. He has never lost any of those qualities, and we see them today. This Nation has been blessed by his service, and many of us have been blessed by his friendship, and we wish him our very best.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon with tremendously mixed emotions to visit with all of you and with our country about Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska.

Many have said much about this great man. I will not say a great deal, but I will try to express it in an emotional way for a fellow I have known of for 28 years and have known personally for 18 years.

So let me visit for a moment as a westerner, as somebody from a public lands State, where the Federal Government is, in many instances, dominant over the lives of small communities and citizens in a way that most of you from nonpublic lands States wouldn't ever appreciate. I know that passion. I, every day of my life, in working with TED STEVENS, sensed that passion in a way that if you are not from a public lands State, if you do not have an agency or a bureaucrat dictating to you about the lives of your citizens and your people, you would simply never understand.

But TED grasped that early on and without question has been the champion of his State and their citizens in a way that no other Senator has been. I have so tremendously respected that.

I have been in and out of Alaska several times in my tenure as a Senator or as a Congressman. I will close with an expression given to me by a cab driver in Anchorage that says more to me about this man than anything I could possibly say myself.

I was en route from downtown Anchorage, TED, to the TED STEVENS International Airport. We rounded the curve and pulled up. As I exited the cab, I looked up, and there was your name. I said: Oh, my, TED's got an airport. That is neat.

And the cab driver said, ''Do you know Uncle Ted?''

I said, ''Well, yes, I do. I work for him in the Senate.''

He said ''You do?''

I said ''Sure do.''

He said, ''Give him my best when you get back to Washington because, as an Alaskan, I know of no other person who has done more for my State than Uncle Ted.''

Well, TED STEVENS now knows why I call him Uncle TED more often than not. I view that as a much more affectionate term than Senator STEVENS because, as I was flying out of that great State and headed down the coast, looking off to my left at those phenomenal mountains and expanses of wilderness and public lands and resources, I thought: If any one person deserves the credit for taking this phenomenal region of our world and providing reasonable points of life for so many of its citizens, it is Uncle TED STEVENS.

Uncle TED, I am going to miss you. This Senate will miss you. Your State will miss you. And America will miss you.

Thank you for your service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I have had the good fortune of coming to the Congress in 1987 as a Member of the House of Representatives. Therefore, I did not get to mingle and get to know TED STEVENS really well—just in conferences. If you want to get through to the other side of TED STEVENS—not the one we have heard about so much on the floor today—go to a conference with TED STEVENS, and he will defend his issues and his particular beliefs in that conference as good as anyone I know of these 100 people who are in the Senate.

But then, in 1998, I had the good fortune of being elected to the Senate. When you come to the Senate for the first time, and you have had an encounter with TED STEVENS in any manner, it is kind of like: Oh, my God, is he really that tough to deal with all the time or is that a facade we see?

Well, I have gotten to know, over the last 10 years, the true TED STEVENS. If you want someone who represents America representing you in the Senate, it is TED STEVENS—not only for his State, for the defense of our country, for the principles of the United States on which we stand, our Founders embedded in TED STEVENS' mind, but for all the other things this country stands for: the goodness of its people, giving to others, allowing them to get to know you to the point of changing that gruff outside into pure love. I have found TED STEVENS to be the most straightforward, honest Senator I have ever dealt with. He has given me, just by association for the last 10 years, the basis on which I serve here in the Senate. He has given me the example. He has given me the principles and the things that each and every one of us here on the Senate floor should demonstrate daily. Sure, we all look out for our State; he does it better than everyone. Sure, we look out for the United States of America as a whole—and he has done it better than anyone—but for family values or love of family, for love of fellow citizens and fellow Senators, this man is a shining example of what a Senator should be. I will hold his friendship dear until we both die. I thank him for his service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, this is not my desk. I choose to speak from this place because the vantage point is better, because I will also have something to say about the delightful wife of Senator TED STEVENS. I am the junior-most Member of this body. I am here today with the junior Senator from Alaska and two of the longest serving Members of the Senate. It is almost presumptuous for me to even rise to speak at this occasion, but I do so because as the least ranking Member of the Senate, I wish to express my profound respect for Senator TED STEVENS.

The previous speaker, my friend from Kentucky, said one way to get to know Members such as TED STEVENS is to go to a conference with them. As a Member of the House of Representatives, I had occasion to go to conferences sponsored by the Aspen Institute where we would discuss matters of importance to our Nation and to the world. It was at a conference in Istanbul on the subject of political Islam that I learned about the keen intellect of Senator TED STEVENS, and also the fact that a participant in that conference could be less than half Senator STEVENS' age, but he was willing to engage with you, to listen to you, to have the give and take you can have in small group sessions such as that. I appreciate the opportunity I had as a Member then of the House of Representatives in having that sort of interaction with this great man.

There has been expression today about the seemingly gruff exterior or facade of the man we speak of today. I will tell my colleagues who he is gruff about. He is not too happy about people such as Islamic jihadists, about the opponents of freedom around the world. He is a little gruff about anyone around the globe who would wish our country ill, and he makes no bones about that.

I wish to commend Senator STEVENS and to express my admiration to him for the good judgment and good fortune he has had in having as a spouse someone such as Catherine Stevens.

I mention two very small stories that I think tell a lot about both Senator STEVENS and Catherine. We were at this conference and my wife was not able to accompany me. According to the rules, I was able to bring my college-age daughter Caroline. It happened that she needed to take an earlier flight to get back and I would stay with the conference for another day. I

found out later what happened. She said: Daddy, Mrs. Stevens gave me some money before I left. It happened this way: Mrs. Stevens asked Caroline how much money she had to make it through the various airports and Caroline told her and, as usual, her cheapskate dad had shortchanged her. Mrs. Stevens said, That is not enough money, and she pulled out a couple of hundred dollar bills to make sure Caroline got through the airport system safely. Here was the wife of the President pro tempore of the Senate being kind and being careful that a college-age girl was well taken care of. I paid the money back, I wish to assure my colleagues, but I don't know that I will ever be able to pay back the friendship.

I have only been in the Senate some 10 months. Early on I offered an amendment which was important to my State and my region. It was obvious that the amendment did not have the support of a majority. It was going to go down and go down in flames, as it did. I was down close to the front and had already abandoned all hope for the amendment passing. I am sure TED does not even remember this, but he walked by the desk there and cast an aye vote for the Wicker amendment. He was one of the few people to do so. Someone was taking Senator STEVENS to task for voting yes. He did not know I was listening, but I heard him say, ''I did it to help Wicker.'' I am sure that was the only reason he cast that vote. I can tell my colleagues I appreciated that act of kindness, just as I appreciated Catherine Stevens' act of kindness toward my daughter.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said:

> Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time.

Now, the junior Senator from Alaska did a wonderful job of outlining the many footprints our friend TED STEVENS has left for both the United States of America and the people specifically of his beloved State of Alaska. The people of Alaska will long live better, Alaskans yet unborn will live better because of the efforts of TED STEVENS. Americans today and Americans yet unborn will be safer and live freer because of the service and the leadership of TED STEVENS. I am honored down to my bones to be able to stand on the floor of the Senate today and pay tribute to this great man.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have been here to hear most of the comments and remarks of our colleagues about the distinguished career of the Senator from Alaska, TED STEVENS. I haven't had a better friend in the Senate than TED STEVENS and his example and his friendship have been very vital to my service in the Senate, and the people of my State have benefited from the relationship I have had. So I am glad to have this opportunity here today, when so many are saying the things that come to their mind and are in their heart about the impact TED STEVENS has had on the work of this Senate and on individual Senators and their careers.

I am one of those who had the privilege of being by his side as a member of the Appropriations Committee. After 2 years in the Senate, I was able to get on that committee and moved up pretty quickly, because of the retirements of other Senators, to sit by his side and to benefit from his example. I am grateful to have had that opportunity, and I thank him for his generosity, for his time and his efforts to help assure that I was assisted. I tried to be helpful to not only my State but to programs and activities within the Department of Defense that I had strong feelings about and thought were very vital to our national security interests. Missile defense comes to mind as one of those issues that we dealt with in a way that led our country to move forward quickly. Senator INOUYE was very much a part of that as well. I think their experience and the way they worked together served as an example to the rest of us as to how working through the committee system of the Senate benefits our country and how it is important to this institution that traditions be respected and observed. It is not just for procedural standpoint benefits, but it truly does improve the quality of the work and the importance of the influence of the Senate in our government today.

So I can't say enough in terms of praise and expression of appreciation, except that we are going to miss the benefit and the example of TED STEVENS here in this Senate. There is no way around that. We are suffering a loss by his departure from the Senate. We wish him well. We know he is going to be around and we look forward to continuing the friendship and the opportunities to get advice. He may volunteer some advice that he thinks we might need, and I hope he will. I invite him to. We will continue to benefit from his service and the things he has done in his great career to help this institution and our great country.

It is a sad day for me but one that I know he appreciates very much in terms of the people who have spoken and the things that have been said about him. These are words of praise that are very well earned.

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

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, there have been some beautiful tributes made to my colleague, the senior Senator from Alaska today, and I am certain that others will be coming to the floor to speak of their relationship, their experiences, and to speak of the good works of Senator STEVENS. I would encourage them to come to the floor or to certainly submit their written comments for the RECORD so that Senator STEVENS can have the full opportunity of those, and I ask unanimous consent for that.

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, are we in a quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are not.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized to pay a brief tribute to our dear friend, the senior Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS.

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

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to say that when I was elected 4 years ago, a gentleman by the name of Mack Mattingly called me on the telephone, a former Senator from 1981 to 1986, and he said, ''Johnny, when you get to Washington and you get to the Senate, you go meet TED STEVENS. TED STEVENS is the best friend you will ever have.''

I stand here today, 4 years later, telling you he was exactly right. There is not a person in this Chamber you have not been willing to help. There is not an Alaskan you have not helped. You are a steadfast friend, and you are as tough as nails. I wish to tell you how much I appreciate, from the bottom of my heart, what you have done to help me and the citizens of Georgia. Your work on Commerce, your work on Appropriations, your work on Armed Forces, and your work on the military, all of it is important to Georgia. You have been a champion all along. You are a true hero.

The tributes today are well deserved to a great man, a great Alaskan, and a great Senator. God bless you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I wanted to take a moment to say how much I have appreciated the friendship of TED STEVENS. He and his wife are a wonderful team.

Since I was elected a short—to him—12 years ago, it has been truly enjoyable to work with TED on the numerous western issues before this body. Often, those issues correspond to Alaska issues, working for a strong military, missile defense, sound land management practices, energy development. He has been very helpful to Colorado.

I have particularly admired his work for our Nation's military. TED and I worked together, and worked hard, on missile defense. He was an appropriator, I was an authorizer. I should also say, he was a titan of the Senate, I was a freshman Senator. So the workload was a little unfair, in my favor. But we, along with many others, got the missile defense established. I am delighted that after such a rocky fight the system is now a cornerstone of not only our national defense, but of our

NATO relationship as well. European militaries understand the value of what we can do, and what protections we can afford them. TED saw this, he knew what the results would be, and he shouldered the burden, fought the fight, and dragged the system into reality.

I have had the pleasure of helping TED raise money for his conservation efforts on the World Famous Kenai River. I have been fortunate enough to join him on the river. I had the even greater fortune to win his annual tournament a couple times. Some rivers are just lucky for some fisherman, and while I might wish my lucky river is a little closer to home than Kenai, AK, being lucky on a river famous for its prize salmon is not so bad. And what he is doing for that river, his conservation efforts, is remarkable. I have noticed a difference between my first visit and my last.

My wife Joan and I wish TED and his wife Catherine the best. God Bless.

NOMINATION OF ERIC HOLDER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak about some of the things we have seen recently in the press about the President-elect nominating Eric H. Holder, Jr. to be Attorney General.

Eric Holder would make an outstanding and historic nominee if President-elect Obama were to choose to nominate him. Mr. Holder would be the first African American to be nominated and confirmed to serve as Attorney General, the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the country. But far more important than that, he would be as qualified a person as could be found in either party in this country.

Over the last 8 years, political manipulation and influence from partisan political operatives in the White House have undercut the Department of Justice and its mission, severely undermined the morale of its career professionals, and shaken public confidence in our Federal justice system. We need the new Attorney General to be a person not only of integrity and experience, but also somebody who can inspire the thousands of hard-working prosecutors, agents and employees who do their best every day to enforce the law and promote justice without regard to partisan politics. We need an Attorney General in the mode of Robert H. Jackson, and Eric Holder fits that mold.

Investigations by the Judiciary Committees of the Senate and House and by the Department of Justice's own inspector general have substantiated some of our worst fears. As you go around the courts in this country, we now see a corrosive situation in which defendants routinely question whether Federal prosecutions are politically motivated; not whether the law was broken but whether political considerations determined whether the prosecution would be brought. Great damage has been done to the credibility and effectiveness of the Justice Department.

I have known Eric Holder for years. If he is President-elect Obama's selection to be the next Attorney General, he will bring the kind of leadership, temperament, experience, and judgment we need to restore the rule of law and rebuild the reputation of the Department of Justice so it is worthy of its name.

In October, before the results of the current election were known, I wrote with Senator SPECTER about the kind of person who should be appointed the next Attorney General of the United States. Eric H. Holder, Jr., surely fits the bill. The next Attorney General has to understand our moral and legal obligations to protect the fundamental rights of all Americans. The Attorney General must ensure that the Department of Justice is working to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law, not working to circumvent them in order to promote the President's political agenda.

We need an Attorney General who realizes that no one is above the law. The Attorney General is not above the law and no Member of this body, but especially the President of the United States, is above the law.

I know Mr. Holder appreciates and respects the work and commitment of the thousands of men and women who work at the Justice Department in their dedication to enforcing the law and promoting justice. They know him from his days at the Public Integrity Section, from his time as a U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, from his years as the Deputy Attorney General, the second highest ranking official in the Department. I think this choice would be welcomed by career professionals and prosecutors at the Department of Justice. He can do a great deal to restore morale as well as the rule of law.

His career has been one of ''firsts''. It would be fitting for him to become the first African American nominated and confirmed to serve as the Attorney General of the United States.

Shortly after his graduation from Colombia Law School, he joined the Department of Justice as part of the Attorney General's honors program. He was assigned to the newly formed Public Integrity Section in 1976. He worked there for 12 years investigating and prosecuting corruption. While at the Public Integrity Section, Mr. Holder participated in a number of prosecutions and appeals involving such defendants as the State treasurer of Florida, a former Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, a local judge in Philadelphia, and assistant U.S. attorney in New York City, an FBI agent, and a capo in an organized crime family.

After a dozen years as a prosecutor, one of the best there was, President Ronald Reagan nominated him to be an associate judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. When Ronald Reagan nominated him to be a judge, he was easily confirmed, and he served in that position for 5 years. He left the bench—becoming, incidentally again, the first African American U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. That is the largest U.S. Attorney's Office in the country. While in that post, he oversaw prosecution of a powerful Democratic Congressman.

Four years later he was nominated to the important post of Deputy Attorney General. I worked with the then-chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Orrin Hatch to report his nomination favorably to the Senate. I was disturbed that an anonymous Republican hold delayed consideration of his nomination for 3 weeks. But when that hold was lifted and we had a vote—open, in the daylight—all 100 Senators voted to confirm Eric Holder to be the Deputy Attorney General of the United States. He became the first African American in the history of the Department to achieve that high position and later served briefly as the Acting Attorney General.

But, notwithstanding my friendship with Mr. Holder, notwithstanding my friendship with the President-elect, should he be nominated, Mr. Holder should be voted for or against on his merits. His race will be a historic footnote, but that is not what should make the difference.

Whoever is nominated to the position of the chief law enforcement officer of this country should be considered on his or her merits. And what wonderful merits he has. He has prosecuted high-level public officials and organized crime; developed comprehensive programs to combat domestic violence, child abuse, violent crime; revitalized programs to assist crime victims. He has helped guide the Department's efforts in the criminal prosecution of corporations, health care fraud, computer crimes, software piracy, helped develop a community prosecution model. He has served in nearly every level of the Department of Justice he would lead. That is what makes him qualified.

We need an Attorney General, as Robert H. Jackson said 68 years ago about the Federal prosecutor, ''who serves the law, not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility.'' That is the kind of prosecutor Eric Holder always was, and that is the kind of Attorney General he would be.

This is very personal to me. I consider the 8 years I spent as a prosecutor in Vermont after returning from law school one of the best opportunities I ever had to serve the public.

I came close to serving in that area in the Federal Government. The then-Attorney General had invited me in to talk and to encourage me to come to the Department of Justice. He had reviewed my grades, he had reviewed where I was in the Georgetown Law Center, and he talked to me about coming in to the Department. I said to

him, ''Mr. Attorney General, tell me again how the Department of Justice works. Are you free of political influence from the White House?'' I remember him saying, and I can see his eyes today as he looked me straight in the eye and said, ''I have told the President that neither he nor anyone from the White House can interfere with prosecutions. We will make those determinations here in the Department of Justice based on the facts and the law.'' I remember even at that time I thought if I was ever a prosecutor, that is the kind of prosecutor I would want to be. And this Attorney General whom I talked with did exactly that. When a person who was key to the election of the President of the United States had committed a crime, this Attorney General prosecuted that person. This was particularly significant because that Attorney General was Robert F. Kennedy. The President of the United States was his brother, John F. Kennedy. But he said: We will protect the integrity of the Department of Justice.

I want to see that again. I had that in my mind when I was a prosecutor. I believe strongly that we need to enforce the law with neither fear nor favor when. There is no question in my mind that Eric Holder would do that.

I think of the thousands of men and women who work for the Department of Justice, some of the finest people you will ever see anywhere, many I have known for decades. For most of them, I have no idea what their political allegiances are, whether they are Republicans or Democrats or Independents. But I know one thing about every single one of them: they are the best of the best. They deserve, as an Attorney General, the best of the best.

I commend President-elect Obama for considering Eric Holder for this position. He is a public servant who has broad support within the law enforcement community and on both sides of the aisle. I was pleased to see that the initial reactions of Senator HATCH, Senator SESSIONS, and Senator COBURN—all Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee—and many others, were to acknowledge his public service, his integrity, and good qualities. Mr. Holder should have the support of Senators from both sides of the aisle if the President-elect chooses to nominate him. I can assure you if he is nominated that the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold prompt and fair nomination hearings.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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

JOHN SUNUNU

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, a large number of very special and extraordinary individuals will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session, many friends and many people I have admired for a number of years and had the privilege to serve with. I wished to speak specifically to one, and that is my colleague from New Hampshire, JOHN SUNUNU.

JOHN is the youngest Member of the Senate. He came here as the youngest Member, and he is still the youngest Member after 6 years, but he is one of the most accomplished and capable people in the Senate, one of the brightest, as we all know, and also one of the people who brings the most common sense to issues. Time and time again, I would come to the floor, and this was throughout his term but especially during the last few months when he was in a very challenging election, and there would be votes being cast that were very difficult political votes, votes which, when you cast these votes, most people knew they were not going to be understood and, in many instances, they were going to be misinterpreted or subject to misrepresentation but votes which were necessary to cast in order to preserve especially the fiscal responsibility of this Government. JOHN SUNUNU never backed away from any of those votes. He always cast the difficult vote, knowing in many instances that politically it was going to be characterized in a way which might hurt him; votes, the basic purpose of which, in most instances, were to protect the taxpayer, keep the size of Government under control, and be a force for a better country and for more individual rights. He understands as well as anyone in this body the basic values of making Government live within its means, of having a government which people can afford but is still compassionate and accomplishes the goals of delivering adequate services. He has worked very hard in order to pursue those goals.

He also brought to the body a unique sense of humor, New Hampshire humor, quiet, witty, and comfortable with himself but also willing to make fun of himself, and an essential common sense, which I like to think is characteristic of New Hampshire, and also an integrity, a commitment to public service for the purposes of public service—the fact that he was here not to benefit himself in any way but simply to do what he felt was right in order to make our Nation better and make New Hampshire better. He served New Hampshire for 12 years, both in Congress and in the Senate.

As I mentioned, he is the youngest Member of the Senate and his service is hardly completed, I hope. His opportunities are virtually limitless because his abilities are limitless. He has talent and capability, intelligence, drive, the personality to pretty much do whatever he wants as he moves forward.

He also has one other resource which is very special and that is his wife and family. Kitty is an exceptional individual. Kathy and I have come to enjoy not only working with JOHN and Kitty but getting to know them as friends, as fellow travelers. Kathy has been through many years being a political wife, and she has put up with a lot of ups and downs. She and Kitty naturally bonded, as they understood the importance of what we do. Kitty is an individual who brings a smile whenever you see her because she is a person filled with good will to everyone. Their children, Grace and Charlie, John Hayes, great kids, very enthusiastic people, a wonderful family. That family is a tremendous support to JOHN, and he is a tremendous support to them. That unit, as it moves forward, will always be successful.

It is obviously with great regret that I look on JOHN's leaving the Senate. His talent will be lost here, and it will be a loss to the body. He is a special individual who had a special group of skills that uniquely worked for the benefit of New Hampshire and the people of New Hampshire. I hope he will stay engaged.

Kathy and I wish him and Kitty and their children the best of luck as they go forward and that the road always rises to meet them.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended to 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we do not intend to wait until the new Congress convenes in January to begin work on health care reform legislation. The fact is, health care reform was one of the signature changes promised by President-elect Barack Obama during the campaign. This legislation is too important and too urgent to put off until tomorrow, to wait until the new President and the new Congress are sworn in.

I applaud both Senator BAUCUS, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Senator KENNEDY, Chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for plunging right into the ambitious and historic task of creating a comprehensive health care reform bill.

Last week, Senator BAUCUS came forward with a 98-page white paper setting broad parameters for prospective legislation. Earlier this week, Senator KENNEDY brought together members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to kick off the long process of crafting a bill.

At that meeting, Senator KENNEDY designated three working groups to oversee the principal components of the bill. Senator CLINTON was asked to chair the health insurance coverage working group. Senator MIKULSKI will chair the health system quality working group. I will chair the prevention and public health working group.

As I said, the working group I will chair will focus on the wellness, disease prevention, and public health components of this legislation. Again, this has been a longstanding focus of mine. Indeed, in the past, I have already introduced comprehensive wellness legislation. Several elements of that bill, and others, have been enacted into law. Prevention and wellness as a component are absolutely critical to transforming the way we approach health care in the United States.

To be honest about it, we don't have a health care system in America; we have a sick care system in America. Well, think about it. If you get sick, you get care, either through insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, community health centers, charity—one way or the other—but that is the most expensive way to do things. That is sort of trying to patch it up later on. We have spent untold hundreds of billions of dollars a year on pills, on surgery, hospitalization, disability, but we spend peanuts—3 percent—less than 3 percent of our health care money for prevention and wellness.

Again, there are huge untapped opportunities in this area of wellness and prevention. If we think about where we are right now, we will see that we spend a staggering $2 trillion annually on health care—more than any other nation in the world and more than most nations put together. Yet the World Health Organization ranks U.S. health care 37th among the nations of the world—37th. We are 20th of 21 industrialized nations in the quality of health care for children. We are No. 20—20 out of 21 industrialized nations—in terms of the quality of children's health care.

If you want evidence of the failure of our current sick care system, consider these facts: Tens of millions of Americans suffer from preventable diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and, of course, some forms of cancer. In tandem with a childhood obesity epidemic now, we have new guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics advising that some children as young as 8 years old should be put on cholesterol-lowering drugs. That is the American Academy of Pediatrics. We have an epidemic of children with adult-onset diabetes—unheard of until just recently. Unheard of until just recently. We are now seeing young Americans, as young as age 25, getting heart bypass surgery because of clogged arteries. So again, it is almost as though we have lost our capacity to be shocked when we hear these statistics. How much evidence do we need that America's approach to health care or, as I say, sick care is simply not working?

The good news is that President-elect Barack Obama, Senator BAUCUS, Senator KENNEDY, and other key players here in the Senate and in the House kind of get it when it comes to real health care reform. It is not enough to just talk about how to extend insurance coverage or how to pay the bills, as important as those things are. That is not enough. If all we are going to do is figure out a better way to pay the bills, we are sunk. We have to start keeping people healthier and preventing disease in the first place.

Again, I would lay down this marker right now. If we pass a health care reform bill that greatly extends health insurance coverage but does nothing to implement a national prevention and wellness structure and agenda, then we will have failed the American people. It simply makes no sense to legislate broader access to a health care system that costs too much, delivers too little, largely because it neglects wellness and prevention. We need to craft a bill that mobilizes our society to prevent these unnecessary diseases and conditions, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and some forms of cancer. It is time to recognize obesity as a disease that needs to be attacked—not cured but prevented.

A robust emphasis on wellness is about saving lives and saving trips to the hospital and saving money. It is the only way—the only way—we are going to get a grip on these skyrocketing health care costs. As I said, there are a lot of opportunities here in terms of cost savings but also in terms of helping people live healthier, happier, and more productive lives. We want to be more productive in this country. Not all of this is going to come under what we think of as the health care umbrella. Not all will come under what I would say we think of as medicine and doctors and hospitals and things such as that. A lot of this is going to be outside of that sort of health care regimen.

I think of things such as schools. The Presiding Officer and I serve on the Agriculture Committee in the Senate. Next year, we are going to be reauthorizing the child nutrition bill. This is a bill that basically sets up the parameters for school lunch, school breakfast, school snacks, the WIC Program, the Women, Infants and Children Program.

It seems to me this ought to be thought of also as a part of preventive health care. Our kids in school have to start eating better, more wholesome foods, less starches, less fats, less sugars, less sodium. I just mentioned the onset of type 2 diabetes and childhood obesity. We have to get a grip on this. We can't continue to do the things with our school lunch and school breakfast programs as we have been doing in the past.

Obviously, another component of this—it doesn't fall within our Agriculture Committee jurisdiction, I say to the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Colorado—we also have to start making sure that schools that get any sort of Federal funds have exercise programs. Schools are being built in America today without a playground, without a gym, without any kind of exercise equipment for kids. It is nonsense.

I don't know about the Senator from Colorado, but I would wager that when he was in grade school, he had to go outside and run around for a half an hour or so a day. In my grade school, we had 15 minutes in the morning, 15 minutes in the afternoon, and a half hour after lunch. One hour a day we were out running around, sometimes in the snow, and it was pretty cold in the wintertime. We always had exercise. We were always doing something. Of course, we didn't have Game Boys and a lot of TV and things such as that at that time.

My point is that schools—as we attack feeding programs and the vending machines and what goes into vending machines in schools—again, when the Senator from Colorado was in school, I bet they didn't have vending machines. Now we see Pepsi and Coke and candy bars and all sorts of things in vending machines. Why should that be so? School is where you go to learn, to be healthy, not to get stoked up with junk food and sugar and starches and sodium.

So I digress a little, but that is another component of it that we have to be thinking about. It may not be in the health care reform bill as such. I intend to have it in the health care reform bill as guidance directions for other committees that are involved in other things to be able to start looking at wellness and prevention components.

I would go this far: I think we need a direction in this health care reform bill to every committee of Congress that whatever you are working on, you have to think about how it impacts prevention and wellness—does it add to that or does it subtract from that and are there things we ought to be doing in this legislation?

Again, I digress a little bit, but take the recent highway reauthorization bill. That was 3 or 4 years ago, and now we are going to reauthorize it again in 2010. I offered an amendment which didn't succeed, but I think, over the passage of the years, the more I have talked to others about it and we have conferred about it, I hope it has a good chance on the next reauthorization bill. It was simply this: any community or region or State that uses Federal highway monies, the Federal gasoline tax monies for road improvements

and such, if they are building roads, improving them, or building bridges or whatever, they have to incorporate in their planning bike paths and walking paths along with them. I am not saying they have to build those; I am just saying that at least they ought to have them in their plans. Again, thinking about kids going to school, they ought to have sidewalks along their streets going to school so they can walk to school. Many places don't have sidewalks and bike paths and walking paths.

My point is that there are a lot of things outside of the health care environment we normally think of that can be very helpful for prevention and wellness—workplaces, workplace wellness. There are some companies in this country doing a great job with this. They have set up wellness programs, nutrition guidance programs, antismoking programs for employees, and in every case I have ever looked at where you have the incentives and the company really goes to work at this, they find some amazing results. They find their absenteeism goes down, they find workers are much more productive than they had been in the past, and they find their health care costs going down. Now, we need to make this available to every business in this country—small businesses, people who employ 10 people or more. There has to be something including a component of prevention in the workplace.

So I mentioned schools, workplaces, communities. Communities have to be involved. We need to promote community wellness programs.

The Trust for America's Health earlier this year came out with a study they had done on community-based wellness programs and the return on investment. Most times when you talk with people about prevention and wellness, they say: Oh, that is all fine, but you don't get a payback for 20 or 30 years. The Trust for America's Health did a study State by State and they showed that in these cases where the communities had community wellness programs, that actually, in the first year—in the first year—there was almost a 2-to-1 return. For every dollar they invested, they got $2 back the very next year, and it increased every year after that. So we have to think about how we promote community-based wellness programs.

The elderly. I can't think of how many times I have been to senior citizens centers, congregate meal sites, some independent living centers, and those types of places where we see so many elderly on drugs. They are on so many drugs. They can't keep track of the 15 pills they have to take every day. Well, there have been some very good studies done, on the fact that if you give the elderly better nutrition, better exercise, better social ability, you can get them off some of those drugs—maybe not all of them, but you can get them off of half of the drugs or more that they are taking. So there are a lot of things we can do just, as I say, outside.

Within health care, there are a lot of things too. Students are going to medical school today, taking all of these courses on medicine and drugs and pharmacology year after year; very intensive, very hard studies. I think I would not be wrong in saying that most medical school students today, at most they might have one 3-hour credit course at the end of their study where they take something dealing with prevention. It is just not a factor in medical schools. It should be. It should be a factor in nursing schools. Any health care professional, any health care profession should have that component, including physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, and anyone involved in the health professions. So that is another part also.

We need to be thinking about how we can beef up our public health service in this country. When I was a young kid going to public school, we had school nurses, and they came around and made sure we had our vaccinations and things such as that, and that we exercised. We don't do that anymore. We have to restructure our public health service in this country, to think about how we better utilize the public health service.

If you go to medical school now, Medicare is one of the biggest funders of medical schools now, or if you go into the military, the military will put you through medical school and then you pay it back in 8 to 10 years for your medical school training. But what if you wanted to be a public health service officer, you wanted to go to medical school and maybe take one of the courses in public health? Well, that would apply there too. Why not pay their way through college, and then they pay it back for working in the public health service for a number of years.

We think about the several hundred community health centers we have in this country, doing a great job. Why aren't they a part of the Public Health Service Corps in America, and utilize them for prevention and wellness, diagnostics? Quite frankly, people should not have to pay a copay or a cost share to get a colonoscopy, or breast cancer screening or a host of other things for diagnosis. Annual physical checkups; there shouldn't be a copay or cost share for that. That is just keeping people from doing it. When you detect things early and you can intervene early, that is part of prevention also, earlier diagnostics.

Again, this has to be a big part—I think the centerpiece—of health care reform because it is the only way we are going to actually save money. Well, you may save money in a bigger pool and better insurance, that type of thing, yes, but the big bucks we will save and will make our people more productive and healthy is to have prevention and wellness.

Yesterday, I convened a meeting of the key groups that have been active in the wellness and prevention field, including the Trust for America's Health, the Partnerships for Prevention, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the YMCA, the American Medical Association, and many others. This was yesterday. It was an excellent session, with a room full of people who all realize this is the time for bold thinking and real change. In addition, I intend to hold additional hearings in December.

This working group that Senator KENNEDY asked me to chair will reach out broadly. We wish to capture the best ideas, the best practices. Our goal is nothing less than to transform America into a genuine ''wellness society.''

To borrow a phrase, that is change you can believe in. It is also change that is long overdue.

To date, wellness and prevention have been the missing pieces in the national conversation about health care reform. It is time to make them the centerpiece of the conversation—not an asterisk or a footnote but centerpiece of our conversation on health care reform.

As chair of the Prevention and Public Health Working Group, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to solicit ideas and input. Promoting wellness and preventing disease is not about party or ideology; it is about pragmatism and common sense. It is about what works—keeping people healthy and keeping costs down, making people more productive in their daily lives.

We have a big job ahead of us, but I am confident the new President and the new Congress can deliver on health care reform, and we can do it in the next calendar year. Yes, we can greatly expand access to the health care system—or as I call it, the ''sick care'' system. At the same time, if that is all we do, we will have failed. We can and must transform America's sick care system into a true health care system, one that makes preventing illness and staying well every bit as important as curing the illness later on.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6867

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 3 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867; that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, then

all postcloture time be yielded back and the motion to proceed be agreed to; that after the bill is reported, it then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, without further intervening action or debate; that if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed, then a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be considered as entered, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. If the Chair will withhold, I appreciate very much all Senators' thoughtful consideration of what we are trying to accomplish. I especially extend my appreciation to the Republican leader for his stepping out of important meetings to take calls from me and being available to help us work our way through these difficult times.

We are all trying to accomplish the same thing. We have an economy that is in peril, and we want to make sure we do everything we can within reason and keeping with our responsibilities to succeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ALEXANDER. No objection.

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

Mr. REID. This will be the last vote this week.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, morning business is now closed.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, which the clerk will now report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 214 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Akaka	Dorgan	Mikulski
Alexander	Durbin	Murkowski
Allard	Ensign	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Graham	Pryor
Bingaman	Grassley	Reed
Bond	Gregg	Reid
Boxer	Hagel	Roberts
Brown	Harkin	Rockefeller
Brownback	Hutchison	Salazar
Bunning	Inouye	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Byrd	Johnson	Sessions
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shelby
Cardin	Kerry	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Snowe
Casey	Kohl	Specter
Clinton	Kyl	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Stevens
Coleman	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Levin	Vitter
Corker	Lieberman	Voinovich
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Craig	Martinez	Webb
Crapo	McCain	Whitehouse
Dodd	McCaskill	Wicker
Dole	McConnell	Wyden
Domenici	Menendez	

NAYS—6

Barrasso	DeMint	Hatch
Coburn	Enzi	Inhofe

NOT VOTING—4

Biden	Lincoln
Chambliss	Sununu

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 6. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back and the motion to proceed is agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, next week we will celebrate Thanksgiving—a holiday to be with family and to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. But this year, American families gathering around the Thanksgiving table are burdened with serious worries: Are we going to lose our home? Can we afford to retire when our savings have been wiped out? Will we have to choose between sending our children to college and paying our medical bills?

One of the greatest hardships millions of Americans are facing is the loss of their jobs. The current job market is the worst in the past quarter century. Over 1 million people have lost their jobs this year—half a million in September and October alone. Last week, more workers filed for unemployment benefits than at any time since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Economists predict the unemployment rate will continue to climb from its current 14-year high of 6.5 percent to well over 8 percent in the coming year.

Earlier this year, Congress approved additional unemployment benefits for workers. That was an important step, but families need additional support. Unemployment benefits have expired for many workers, and finding a new job is far more difficult as the recession deepens. More than 2 million Americans have been unable to find work for more than 6 months. If Congress fails to extend benefits again this year, nearly 1.2 million Americans will have exhausted their benefits by the end of the year.

That's why this legislation is so essential. It provides 7 additional weeks of unemployment assistance to workers whose benefits have expired, and an additional 13 weeks for jobless workers in high-unemployment states. This bill has already passed the House overwhelmingly, with strong bipartisan support. By acting today, we will deliver immediate aid to many of the neediest Americans who are unable to find work.

Not only does the extension of unemployment benefits provide a lifeline for struggling families, it also serves as a needed and immediate stimulus for the economy—each dollar of unemployment benefits generates $1.64 in economic growth. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical extension of unemployment assistance.

Providing these additional unemployment benefits, however, is not the only step we must take to help working families meet the tough challenges that lie ahead. Jumpstarting our economy and restoring American prosperity will take bolder vision and more decisive action. We need to create good jobs for the millions of Americans who want to work. That means investing in our workers, investing in our infrastructure, and investing in technology for the future. It also means repairing the broken safety nets, so that more families who are being hurt by this downturn can get back on their feet.

I wish we could have done more in this lame-duck, but at least we are taking an important step. I look forward to working with our new President and the new Congress in January

to meet these difficult challenges and to restore the vitality of our economy.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I support H.R. 6867, the Unemployment Compensation Act of 2008. The unemployment level is high, it is increasing, and it is likely that this condition will prevail for many months. Thus, the need for this extension.

According to the Labor Department, claims for unemployment benefits have increased dramatically, last week reaching a 16-year high. The unemployment rate in October was 6.5 percent; last year the rate averaged 4.6 percent. The Federal Reserve also released estimates Wednesday that project the jobless rate will climb to between 7.1 percent and 7.6 percent next year.

As everyone knows, the economy has slowed dramatically. Retail and business spending has decreased. The next several months are projected to be a period of contraction. As long as the economy continues to struggle, the people of Arizona and the rest of our country will face difficult job prospects, given the limited number and types of jobs available.

This dramatic downturn in the economy and surge in unemployment convinced me to support this extension of unemployment coverage. But this step simply treats a symptom of the bad economy; it is not a solution. We must try to take steps to improve the economy and, thus, create new jobs. As I have said in the past, I do not believe an extension or expansion of Federal unemployment benefits stimulates the economy. In fact, most economists believe that continual, temporary extension of unemployment benefits has little effect on the economy, and, in some circumstances, actually lengthens the time individuals remain unemployed because of the incentive to remain on unemployment insurance.

Accordingly, I support this extension with a steadfast commitment to work to pass pro-growth measures that will actually help the economy recover and create new jobs. In the long run, people would rather have a job than have to take unemployment insurance; and, at some point, it will have to end.

What can we do immediately to help Americans get back to work? First, we must maintain existing tax rates. During an economic downturn, the last thing Government should do is take more money out of the economy by increasing taxes. Everyone benefits when lower tax rates enable businesses and entrepreneurs to expand and create more jobs.

When Congress returns to Washington, its first priority should be to reassure taxpayers that taxes will remain low by maintaining existing income-tax rates, marriage penalty relief, current rates on capital gains and dividend income, and relief from the death tax. Under existing law, the tax relief enacted in 2001 and 2003 will expire after 2010. Extending current tax rates now would give individuals and small businesses the certainty they need to plan their family budgets and permit small businesses to make critical long-term investments in our Nation's economy that will increase job growth now and in the future.

Unless the tax relief is extended, 43 million working families with children will face a $2,300 tax increase. Small businesses will see their taxes increase by an average of $4,100. The death tax will rebound from zero in 2010 to a whopping 55 percent. The tax on capital gains will increase 33 percent, and the dividend tax rate will increase an astounding 164 percent, affecting 18 million senior citizens who will see their taxes rise by an average of $2,200. We shouldn't be asking Americans to pay out more of their hard-earned money at a time when they need it most; but if Congress doesn't act, we will be asking exactly that.

The current economic downturn has also affected the Nation's investors, especially seniors who rely on their investments for their income. We need to continue to encourage responsible savings and investment, and one of the things we should do to ensure savings is to allow unlimited contributions to retirement accounts such as 401(k)s and IRAs. We should also raise the age at which holders of tax-deferred retirement savings accounts must begin making minimum required annual withdrawals. I believe that Congress will likely suspend the mandatory withdrawal rules for one year. While that is a positive step, a more permanent measure would provide certainty to seniors.

The United States also needs to improve its competitiveness. We need to encourage trade between our country and others, and we need to enact, as soon as possible, the Colombia, Panama, and South Korea free trade agreements. We also need to stop taxing overseas corporate income and decrease our corporate tax rate—let's not provide additional reasons for valuable companies here in the U.S. to move all their operations overseas.

The United States has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world. We can make the United States more attractive to foreign investment by reducing our own corporate tax rate, perhaps from its current rate of 35 percent to 25 percent.

I will vote for the unemployment extension today. But I am also calling on the President-elect and Congress to quickly pass measures that will actually help the economy to maintain and create jobs. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward such an end in the coming weeks.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, passing an unemployment insurance extension today is urgent. More than a million people have lost their jobs this year alone, and there are 10.1 million unemployed individuals. We must ensure that these individuals who have lost jobs and are looking for work, during a time when industries are cutting jobs and the price of food and other necessities is rising, are not also struggling to put food on their table, pay their utility bills, and provide shelter for their families.

During economic downturns in the past, we have always provided longer periods of unemployment benefits. The bill that I hope we pass today will provide a much needed unemployment insurance extension. This extension would ensure that out of work Americans in high unemployment States like Michigan will receive an additional 20 weeks of insurance, for a total of up to 59 weeks.

In October, Michigan's unemployment rate increased from 8.7 percent to 9.3 percent, the highest unemployment rate since July 1992. The Nation's unemployment rate also increased to 6.5 percent. These are very hard economic times. Unemployment rates are rising dramatically, and since January 2001 we have lost 3.7 million manufacturing jobs nationally and more than 250,000 manufacturing jobs in Michigan. There are currently 429,000 unemployed people in Michigan. Between August 2007 and July 2008, the long-term unemployed—those who have been unemployed and looking for a job for 27 weeks or more—comprise about 27 percent of the total unemployed in Michigan. This is approximately, 100,000 unemployed persons.

The numbers of unemployed are rising all over the country. We must do something now to protect American workers and their families.

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I regret that I will be unable to be present for today's vote on the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, H.R. 6867, due to a hunger awareness event previously scheduled in Arkansas. If I were present for the vote, I would vote to support this important piece of legislation as I did in June when the Senate passed a 13-week unemployment insurance extension as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, Public Law 110–252.•

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on third reading and passage of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 6867) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ADVANCING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 894, S. 3297.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is now pending.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

GORDON SMITH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, at this moment, exactly 13 years ago, I was locked in the toughest political battle of my life against GORDON H. SMITH. I went on to narrowly win that race and continue to hold that Senate seat today. But GORDON SMITH dusted himself off only a few months later and took on yet another very tough battle, and that time he won the Senate seat that had been held for 30 years by our remarkable Senator Mark Hatfield.

At that point, Oregonians did not know what to make of their Senate delegation. They had two Senators, myself and Senator SMITH, who were replacing Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield. Those two individuals were the chairman of the Finance Committee and the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. And, of course, the old story was that Bob Packwood got to raise all of the money because he was chairman of the Finance Committee, and Mark Hatfield got to spend it all because he was chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Of course, I was very much concerned about what was ahead because I thought it was very possibly going to be a long and uncomfortable 6 years serving with the fellow with whom I had just duked it out over many months of a political campaign that, as the two of us like to say, was not exactly for the faint hearted.

One of the great surprises of my career came, however, when I discovered that my new colleague, GORDON SMITH, was as thoughtful and kind and decent outside the political arena as he was tough and competitive inside the political arena. It was that charm and that decency and his desire to meet me halfway on Oregon's interests that got me closer to GORDON over the years and led to an unusually strong working relationship and what became a strong and genuine friendship.

GORDON lost a very tough reelection race a few weeks ago in a State that has changed rapidly from what was a very small Democratic voter edge, back when we ran against each other in 1996, to what has become a significant Democratic voter edge in 2008. GORDON and his skillful campaign team battled hard and tough as they always have. They did everything they could to withstand a formidable political tide and a very strong Democratic challenger, a challenger whom I support. So it is with mixed and conflicting emotions that I come today to pay tribute to my colleague and my friend of 12 years, GORDON H. SMITH.

GORDON and I have had plenty of political differences, enough differences, differences that we knew would be the case, that made us say from our very first meeting, when GORDON won that race to replace Mark Hatfield, that we would be supporting each other's opponents in years ahead.

Political campaigns are important, and each of us was called upon to separate our friendship from our beliefs every 2 years. Yet I will say this afternoon that I have come to genuinely loathe much of what has become of the political process in our country. The relentless and omnipresent negative ads obscure and distort to the point that it can be difficult for the typical citizen to maintain anything resembling a healthy perspective on fundamentally good and decent individuals who seek public office.

Thankfully, the negative ads are now off the air, and I want to make sure Oregonians once again remember the GORDON SMITH I have known for 12 years. GORDON has been a good and decent and selfless public servant.

The fact is, GORDON SMITH did not need to serve another term in the Senate. He and his wife Sharon have built a strong and prosperous business, and they could have done countless things with their time that would have been more glamorous and certainly produced less strain and wear and tear on their personal lives. But GORDON ran because of his belief in the role that he believed he could play in shaping our country's future. That, in my view, is the essence of being a good public servant. No one in this body or in the State of Oregon ought to lose sight of the extraordinary sacrifices that GORDON and his wife Sharon have made over the course of almost two decades of public service.

Among GORDON's many personal triumphs in the Senate, I would like to highlight two that are especially important to our State, to our country, and to me personally. I wanted to remind my colleagues and the people of our country of the very difficult decisions made by GORDON and Sharon to share with the public and the Congress their heartrending struggle on behalf of their son, Garrett. They did this selflessly to further the cause of mental health treatment, and particularly the cause of mental health parity.

If not for GORDON's courage in sharing their family's story, I believe Congress might not have acted on mental health parity this past fall, and thousands of parents might never know that they are not alone in their difficult struggle.

There were other critical tasks that GORDON shouldered and one that I was especially appreciative for his leadership on, and that was being the voice for rural folks, for people whose way of life and quality of life is connected to natural resources that are bountiful in our State.

GORDON spoke for the farmer, and he spoke for the rancher. He spoke for the logger, for the mill worker, and the miner. He spoke for the rural communities they live in, communities that struggle to retain a voice in increasingly urban America.

It was written fairly frequently in Oregon's papers, and was in the New York Times at one point, that there was something in the State of Oregon that people came to say was the Senate's odd couple. In fact, I think the headline in the New York Times when they talked about us was wildly inflationary, and GORDON and I came to laugh about it. I think the headline was, ''Oregon's Odd Couple Makes It Work.'' It was essentially all about how there were two Senators from Oregon; one of them was a Mormon fellow. He was a Republican. He was from somewhere called Pendleton. GORDON and I were never convinced that folks in the New York Times knew exactly where Pendleton was, but that is how GORDON was described.

Then they said, the other Senator was a Jewish guy, and he was from Portland and he was a legal aide lawyer for the senior citizens, and he was an activist with the Gray Panthers. What in the world would these two people ever have in common?

Well, I want people to know that gentle spirit, that Mormon from wheat and pea country taught this Jewish fellow from the city an awful lot about the too often forgotten voices, particularly those in our rural communities.

In his absence, I will do everything I can to remind colleagues, particularly Democratic colleagues on my side of the aisle, of the challenges faced in rural communities, of the people and the issues that GORDON H. SMITH championed every single day in the Senate. I wish GORDON and Sharon well in whatever their future endeavors are. I have already made it clear they will always have my friendship and assistance in any project they pursue in the days ahead. But most importantly, I come to the floor and thank GORDON for his personal friendship to me and his service to our State. I ask my colleagues here and the people of our home State to voice their thanks today to two very special people, Sharon and GORDON H. SMITH.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I have listened to the eloquent comments of the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN. I had planned to insert a statement in the RECORD complementing Senator GORDON SMITH on his tenure, but I would like to add my voice of laudatory comments at the conclusion of the statement of Senator WYDEN. I agree with him that Senator GORDON SMITH has made an enormous contribution to the Senate in his two terms, and he will be sorely missed. He is a member of a small band of moderates on this side of the aisle. I suggest that GORDON SMITH's brand of Republicanism is very much in need in this body. Very frequently, Members on the Democratic side of the aisle seek cosponsors. I have been told on a number of occasions that the ''pickins are slim.'' GORDON's absence will make it more difficult.

GORDON SMITH has been outspoken on many of the very important causes which require bipartisanship. He was one of the few on this side of the aisle to sponsor legislation to fight hate crimes, for example. At the outset, support for Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research was limited. GORDON SMITH was at the forefront of that effort, as I was. GORDON SMITH made a very eloquent speech from his chair a few rows behind me on the Iraq war. He was moved one day to come over and spoke from the heart, something which happens relatively infrequently in this Chamber. Sometimes people in this Chamber speak from the head. Even that has its limited aspects, if we take a close look at the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. But GORDON SMITH was a big plus here.

I would like to associate myself with the remarks of Senator WYDEN. I know GORDON is a young, vigorous man. He has a bright future ahead of him. I think he will live to fight another day on the political wars. Some of us have had an election loss or two. It is a learning experience, not one I recommend, but there are ways to move forward. That can be a lesson which could stand anyone in good stead. I am sure Senator GORDON SMITH has a great future ahead of him.

JOHN SUNUNU

Madam President, I also wish to pay tribute to my friend Senator JOHN SUNUNU for his service to the country and his contributions to the U.S. Senate. Senator SUNUNU's departure from the Senate will be a great loss to this body, as well as to the state of New Hampshire.

I have known Senator SUNUNU since he joined the Senate in 2002. I have always found him to be an intelligent, engaged, and capable legislator who cares deeply for the well-being of his constituents and doing what is right for the Nation, regardless of the political cost.

Senator SUNUNU followed his father and mother into public service, when he ran for public office in 1996 and won the election in New Hampshire's First Congressional District. JOHN served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives where he quickly established a reputation as an innovative legislator. JOHN effectively applied his extensive background in science, engineering, and small business during his six years in the House of Representatives where he rose to become vice-chairman of the Budget Committee and took a leading role in shaping our Nation's annual budget priorities.

In 2002, JOHN joined the Senate after defeating both an incumbent Senator and an incumbent Governor to become the youngest Member of the United States Senate. I have admired JOHN's work on his committees: the Finance Committee, the Commerce Committee, and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. On these committees, SUNUNU played a major role on the lobbying reform legislation, and he got the Bush Administration to make some crucial changes in the Patriot Act before he voted to reauthorize it.

SUNUNU has also gained a reputation as a well respected fiscal conservative.

On a personal note, Senator SUNUNU has been a very good friend to me. When I underwent chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease and lost my hair, Senator SUNUNU showed up one day on the Senate floor with a shaved head. He said that he had shaved his head in a sign of solidarity for what I was going through.

I wish JOHN, his wife Kitty, and his three lovely children the best of luck as they move forward. I have no doubt that Senator SUNUNU has a bright future and will continue to make important contributions to New Hampshire and the entire Nation.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Senator ELIZABETH DOLE is a colleague leaving the U.S. Senate not in defeat but in the wake of a career dedicated to public service and an unwavering commitment to her country. She has had an illustrious career as a two-time cabinet member, President of Red Cross, and U.S. Senator. ELIZABETH is a model for all young women considering a career in government, for in times when the ceiling had but few cracks she bore through the naysayers and showed a woman belongs in the Nation's highest positions.

After graduating from Harvard Law as one of just 29 woman in a class of 550, ''Liddy'' went to work in the White House Office of Consumer Affairs where she worked under both President Johnson and Nixon. Pledging her allegiance to her job and duty to the country, Senator DOLE opted to switch parties in order to continue her stay in the White House. After a stint on the Federal Trade Commission, President Reagan appointed ELIZABETH Secretary of Transportation in 1983. She served valiantly in that position for 4½ years, proving her skill at managing a Federal Department, and became the Secretary of Labor under President George H.W. Bush. With this position, ELIZABETH became the first woman to hold two different cabinet positions under two different administrations.

In 1991 ELIZABETH accepted a different challenge becoming the President of the American Red Cross, dedicating her time to building an institution whose impassioned mission is to aid our Nation's citizens who are in need of emergency assistance. During her tenure with the Red Cross, ELIZABETH took a brief hiatus to stand by her husband, Senator Bob Dole, as he represented our party as the nominee for President in 1996. After a hard-fought race ELIZABETH began looking into the idea of running for our Nation's highest office on her own right. This came to fruition in 1999 as she again led the way for women and became the first official female candidate for President. She exhibited toughness and political tact in a race that history had not been very welcoming to women.

In 2001 ELIZABETH's path to the U.S. Senate took her through her birth home of Salisbury, NC. Using her full career serving our Nation as a foundation, ELIZABETH won her seat to the U.S. Senate and immediately made her presence known. Spending her time on the Armed Services, Banking, Small Business and Aging committees, ELIZABETH worked for North Carolinians with the same passion and dedication she possessed throughout her career. Her achievements were many, but to name a few she successfully opposed potential closings of U.S. military bases, protected delicate wetlands and woodlands in northeastern North Carolina from ruination from an ill-advised Navy landing strip proposal, and also served as the chairwoman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee for the 2004 election cycle.

I wish to thank ELIZABETH for her service, friendship, and for being there for my dear friend Bob throughout the years. Senator DOLE, your contributions to this chamber and our Nation will forever be remembered.

I yield the floor.

TED STEVENS

Madam President, the departure of the senior Senator from Alaska will surely deprive the Senate of an exemplary leader who has made a profound effect on this body. Being the longest serving Republican in Senate history, Senator STEVENS has made countless contributions to this body. His achievements include serving as the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, former chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, and President Pro Tempore.

TED's temper is generally misunderstood except by those who know him best. He doesn't lose it, but he does use it—and effectively. However, it is true that on occasion he makes Vesuvius look mild. I recollect one all-night session during Senator Howard Baker's tenure as majority leader when TED expressed himself in an unusually emphatic way. As I recall it, the debate arose over Senator Proxmire's comments about submitting vouchers for travel expense in Wisconsin on his contention that Washington, DC, was his home base. That prompted a reaction from TED, who was aghast at the thought of Washington, DC, being any Senator's home when he had the majestic Alaska to claim as his home.

Senator STEVENS' service during WWII in the U.S. Army Air Corps has given him a special understanding of defense matters. He is a distinguished veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, having flown support missions for the Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force during World War II, for which he was awarded numerous medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. Upon his arrival in the U.S. Senate in 1968 it became evident TED would become a leader on military and defense issues. His hard work as the chairman of the

Defense Appropriations Subcommittee earned him high praise from President Bush for his management of $87 billion supplemental appropriations bill in 2003.

Recently, Senator STEVENS has found himself in the midst of the debate on energy policy and finding innovative approaches to our dependency on oil. He labored intensely over these matters which he believed so strongly to be best not only for the country in particular but especially for Alaska. TED's work ethic and tenacity always made this Chamber a better place. His passion for serving his State and country will forever be remembered. Thank you, TED, for everything you have done for the United States and Alaska.

AUTO INDUSTRY BAILOUT

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, earlier today, Senators LEVIN, BOND, VOINOVICH, STABENOW, BROWN, and I announced a legislative proposal to deal with the crisis being faced by the automobile manufacturers. For a protracted period of time, Congress has wrestled with this issue. There have been many conflicting points of view as to what ought to be done. There has been little public sympathy for the plight of the auto manufacturers because they have been on notice for a long while of the need to reorganize and to approach the manufacture of automobiles differently in order to compete with foreign cars. There have been repeated efforts in the Congress to impose mileage standards. Finally, that was done last year. Now, with the severe economic problems facing the country, the automobile manufacturers find themselves in dire straits. The chief executive officers of General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford have been on Capitol Hill with very gloomy predictions as to the future of their companies if they do not get economic aid.

It is a difficult matter to provide economic aid to all those who are in need. It is true the Federal Government has provided economic assistance to Bear Sterns and AIG, turned them down with Lehman Brothers. We are well aware of the fact that there could be very serious repercussions for the economy as a whole if the auto manufacturers fail. There has been considerable talk that they could go into a reorganization and bankruptcy and could emerge. That may well be true. But that could be risky as to what would happen.

The Congress authorized some $700 billion to assist on an economic recovery. That legislation has not been warmly received by the American people. During the month of October, I traveled broadly in Pennsylvania and found very strong public sentiment in opposition. The Congress acted in the face of having our backs to the wall or a gun at our heads or any other metaphor of a critical nature that one would choose.

On September 29, the House of Representatives failed to pass an economic recovery program. Senators were notified to be in the Chamber at 7:30 on Wednesday evening to vote. Regrettably, that legislative process did not follow regular order. It started off with a bill with papers from the Treasury Department. It wasn't a bill. It was a 4-page memorandum, later expanded to more than 100 pages, ultimately to more than 400 pages. But when regular order is not followed, the consequence is likely to be not so good. Regular order requires a bill that one can read and study. It requires hearings before a committee where people are proponents and opponents. There is examination and cross-examination to get at the facts. Then the committee—in this case, the Banking Committee—would sit down and have what is called a markup to go through the bill line by line.

I explain this in some detail so there might be some understanding, if anybody is listening on C–SPAN this afternoon. Certainly, the Chamber is customarily barren, as is frequently the case. Senators are busy with other matters. Then after the markup, the committee files a report. Then it comes to the floor. There is debate, discussion, amendments. Then the Senate works its will. On the House side across the Rotunda, down the hall, the House of Representatives goes through a similar process. Then representatives of the two bodies meet for a conference. Then that is presented to the President. So there is a great deal of refining.

That didn't happen with the $700 billion economic aid proposal. It turned out there was a lot of pork in the final draft that no one had a chance to strike, to offer amendments. It was embarrassing to have to defend that kind of a bill as I traveled my State in October to explain it. So there is great skepticism, fairly stated, among the American people as to the wisdom of the Congress in putting up $700 billion.

Now, with the automakers coming in asking for economic aid, the question arises, who next? Last Friday, I wrote to our leaders urging that we not rush to judgment. I made a similar request, made an extensive floor statement earlier this week on Monday. That letter and others are in the RECORD, and I will not encumber the RECORD further because they are available for anyone who cares to look at them.

Secretary of the Treasury Paulson has been unwilling to use the $700 billion to assist the automakers. He may be right about that or he may be wrong about that. But that is the position the Treasury Department has taken, saying that money is for the economy generally.

Then the idea has been proposed—and has been embodied in what Senators LEVIN, STABENOW, VOINOVICH, BOND, BROWN, and I announced earlier today—to use funds up to $25 billion from the 2007 appropriations which had been designated to meet the mileage requirements but not a blank check. Before any of those funds could be utilized at the direction of the Secretary of Commerce, there would have to be a plan. There would have to be a factual statement as to what the condition of the automobile manufacturers is, what would be done with the additional funds, what would be undertaken to guarantee that the moneys would not be used for increased executive pay or corporate jets or golden parachutes. There would have to be some hard, concrete facts laid out.

Last Friday, as I put in the RECORD this week, I wrote a letter to the chief executive officers of the three companies. I got no response from General Motors. I got no response from Ford. Frankly, I'm a little surprised that when an inquiry is made in that context, there is not an effort to respond, not to reach out but to respond. But executives from Chrysler came to see me, and I raised the questions as to what their condition was, how much cash they had on hand, how much cash they needed, what they would do with an infusion of economic aid, and what were the prospects for a recovery.

That matter has now been put over by the leaders until December 8. So we now have 2 weeks, next week and the week after. Presumably, on the week of December 1, there will be hearings. The automobile manufacturers are going to have a fairly heavy burden of demonstrating that there is a plan which will be viable, which would have a realistic likelihood of success.

I understand the concern of the environmentalists. My record for environmental protection is very strong. But those in the environmental community have raised the concern that the $25 billion ought not to be directed away from changes on gas mileage. We are talking about a bridge loan. The concern is, if action is not taken now before a new administration, that there could be a disastrous result. As Senator VOINOVICH pointed out, the recession or economic problems could be even more serious. The expression he used, which I think is not inappropriate, it could go over the cliff. Nobody knows. But that is a risk, if we are going to wait until January 20. It may even be a risk in waiting until mid-December, but that is the course which we are on now. Of course, Secretary Paulson has the discretion, as he has conceded, to act with the funds which are now available. But in any event, I believe the legislation which was announced today by the six Senators,—three Democrats, three Republicans, on a bipartisan basis—is a useful approach for the future. This is very important. This is not an extra appropriation. We are not putting up more money. It is a different use of moneys already put up. The environmental issues could be safeguarded after January 20. With the Democrats in control of both Houses and the White House, they could write their own ticket to replenish that fund, if they choose to do so. But at least we are on a course now in the reasonably

near future to provide a legislative approach if—and it is a big ''if''—the auto manufacturers can come forward with a hard statement of facts as to where they are, a hard statement of facts of what they could do with these funds to show their viability.

So we will await those hearings, and we will await what they do. But I would emphasize they will have to persuade the Congress to vote for the plan. But in order to persuade the Congress, they are going to have to persuade the American people over the course of the next 2 weeks with something a lot more specific than they came to town with over the course of the past several days and a lot more responsive than two of the companies not even responding to my request for a statement as to their case, as to how they propose to remain viable with the economic aid.

I thank the Chair, and, in the absence of any other Senator on the floor, 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. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

GORDON SMITH

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, today may mark the last day of this session, although I shall not try to make that prediction. However, I would not want this day to pass without availing myself of the opportunity and the privilege to come to this floor and say a few words on behalf of the very dear and valued friends whom I have served with in this Chamber as they depart and go on the road of life to, I expect, in each case great challenges.

GORDON SMITH and I have become friends for ever so many reasons. One, we both love the outdoors. He and his devoted wife Sharon and my wife, we have all been close friends through these years. As I look back, I will always remember GORDON. I remember when I was chairman of the Armed Services Committee and entrusted with the extraordinary responsibilities—along with other committee members, as well as, indeed, every Member of this Chamber—entrusted with those decisions relating to this Nation's Armed Forces who were fighting so valiantly then, today, and for the foreseeable future—I hope the short future—in Iraq.

GORDON and I had many very quiet and private conversations about his deep concerns and convictions. His convictions emanated from the depths of his heart. Politics played no role in his approach to the conflict in Iraq. He was gravely concerned about the loss of life and limb, the image of this Nation, and, indeed, the families of the loved ones who are fighting in that conflict. So I say: GORDON, we had our differences, but I respected your stance. I can see him standing back there as erect as he always was, standing and voting against me and voting against others, but again, drawing on his own deeply held personal convictions. Time will tell and history will tell if I was right or if I was wrong, but I found his counsel, his willingness to listen, his willingness to share with me his most inner thoughts about that conflict a very valuable asset as I and others in leadership positions carried the heavy burden of that conflict. So I am grateful to him. He is a very sensitive man, and he showed that sensitivity every so often as he plunged into the complex issues with regard to health care, the almost insoluble problems—problems that he recognized have to be solved, particularly so that people of lesser means can achieve a measure of health care equivalent to those who have the means can receive for themselves. It is a hallmark of how this man proudly walked his way through life, with a loving wife by his side and the family whom he loves so dearly, and always thinking about those who perhaps have not had the opportunities that he and I and others have had, particularly as it relates to health care.

He also loves the outdoors. A great golfer, we played together from time to time. His skill is far superior to mine in every way. He is a lover of art. We shared our interest in paintings, particularly paintings that had come from Scotland. To have had the friendship of GORDON SMITH is to have shared the life of a wonderful human being, and I thank GORDON for all that he has done for me and for this great Nation, and for his beloved State. I wish him well in his next venture, and I look forward to meeting him along the way.

ELIZABETH DOLE

I have known her for quite a few years. We had a wonderful evening last night where the leadership of the Republican Party—indeed, almost all of the Members of the Republican caucus—came to say not farewell, but to listen to the words of those of us who are moving on and will not be a part of the next Congress. ELIZABETH got up, and she is such a very forceful speaker. She truly speaks from the heart. She has a remarkable memory. She recalled how when both of us were bachelor and spinster, we danced together. My lovely wife, who is a dear friend of hers, kind of looked at me and I winked and said, She was the best. It is just one of her marvelous traits. Talk about glass ceilings: She shattered her share. She has taken on many challenges in the private and public sector, some of which only men have ever had, and performed her duties with great distinction, and always with a quiet sense of what we call southern humility. She is very proud of her roots and her family. How often she has referred to her mother.

She is a Phi Beta Kappa from Duke University and went on to Harvard for a master's degree and a law degree. Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Labor. Few women have had that much stamina, conviction, self-confidence to achieve those goals; and then, of course, to have become a U.S. Senator. That was a special challenge because she was fortunate to have as a husband Robert Dole, the Republican leader of the U.S. Senate, if I can say with a deep sense of humility, one of the best friends I ever had in this institution.

I remember talking to him one time, of course, concerning the events of that particular period, and I said he ought to think about running for leader of the Senate. Oh, no, no. No, I don't think they will ever elect me. Well, this conversation went on for some period of weeks, months, it may have been, I don't recall. Finally, I said: I have so much faith that you can win that election that I would be happy to appoint myself as one of your managers of the campaign to get it. So I took that, along with several other very fine colleagues, both of whom moved on years ago from this Chamber. And he won. He was amazed that he had won. I wasn't. I always recognized the leadership in him. He did a wonderful job as our Republican leader. His portrait proudly hangs right here in the corridor off of our Chamber. I never walk by that I don't just quietly give him a hand salute, because I was a part of the World War II generation, but a very small part, serving only in the final year of the war and always in a training command, ready as a 17-, 18-year-old kid to become a replacement for those serving abroad. Bob Dole was truly one of those who earned the accolade of the ''greatest generation.'' He fought in Europe. He was a young lieutenant and in leading his men in the toughest of battles in Italy, he received what for others I think would have been mortal and fatal wounds.

Because he had such an internal strength and constitution, he survived those wounds and came on to have a distinguished career. As I look back on his Senate days—and they pass so quickly, as did my 30 years—I remember taking trips with him. We went to Russia together, which was the Soviet Union at that time. He was a staunch believer that one day Russia would become just Russia once again and those people would have some measure of a voice in their Government. That did come to pass, and that was an extraordinary trip.

What I best remember is the time of the D-day anniversary. He was asked to speak in Italy, where he had fought. And then, together, we traveled to the Normandy beaches to join the President and others. In the course of that trip, we went back to the very ground on which he was wounded. He walked over to the stone wall that is still there—he remembers it ever so well—where he dragged his badly wounded body to give him a measure of protection until help could come, after which

he began that very long, arduous, challenging period of his life. It took years to rebuild that body, but the mind was always there fully intact. But he would once again have an important role serving America as a public servant in the Senate.

I don't know of a husband and wife team who any admire with a greater level of affection than we do Bob and ELIZABETH Dole. So I wish them both very well. She was on our Armed Services Committee. She was a strong advocate for the men and women in the Armed Forces. She had a place in her heart for all who served at Fort Bragg and the Marines' Camp Lejeune, and Pope Air Force Base. But that is further evidence of the deep affection she has for her husband Bob.

JOHN SUNUNU

Lastly, I turn to JOHN SUNUNU. I confess not to have known him very well. I had met him when he came from the House of Representatives to the Senate. I suppose all of us who have been here for a period of time, having been given that marvelous accolade of an old bull, presume we can judge others quickly. I saw in JOHN SUNUNU a man who would take charge from the day he came, and that he did. From the very moment he walked on the floor of the Senate, he was possessed of his own self-confidence, his own driving, almost a fierce desire to be a leader—a leader in the sense of advocating as a true fighter, advocating for those issues in which he had a belief in the principles that were dear to his heart.

The field of economics is quite a challenge, and with little provocation he would give you a tutorial on the most complex issues as they relate to economics. Indeed, in the weeks before the election, as this body was coming to a close and we voted on such measures as the rescue package and so forth, he frequently stood. When he spoke, our caucus and those around him listened very carefully. I mention this because he exhibited real academic strength at both MIT and Harvard. He did a lot of interesting things in his short life before he came to the Senate, not the least of which was being in the House of Representatives.

JOHN also had a special niche for his interest in education. He wanted to make sure people less fortunate than we would have an opportunity to get an education and that those in the system and struggling are given any help possible to succeed in their own goals of educating themselves. He also held—very unusual—a special regard for the families of law enforcement officers, men or women in uniform, and particularly those families who lost a spouse or loved one in the line of duty.

He is an extraordinary man, JOHN SUNUNU—very sensitive, very thoughtful, a man who loves his State, particularly the rivers of his State. He commended me for leading the charge in my State to remove an old dam that, for 80 years, blocked the migration of a fish from the Atlantic Ocean to the Blue Ridge Mountains. He was challenged to try to remedy a similar situation that existed in his State. I will miss JOHN, his wife Kitty, and his lovely family. Kitty and my wife shared a few words on our departure last night from the dinner.

I am not one who makes many predictions, but I predict this man continues to not walk but run down that road of life, one who makes those twists and turns, climbs those mountains, and crosses those rivers. He will leave his mark on many successful ventures. We will hear from this man not once, not twice but many times again. I wish him well.

Lastly, I simply say to my State two words: Thank you. I thank all those Virginians who have supported me these 30 years. It was a humble challenge for me. I accepted it and I look back on it with the deepest of respect for the trust and confidence you gave me—all Virginians—over these 30 years.

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. LEVIN. 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 Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. LEVIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3715 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

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

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

AUTHORITY TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills today, November 20.

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

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

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

THE ECONOMY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today there has been much discussion once again here on the floor of the Senate and certainly in the news and in various other venues, I am sure at the Secretary of the Treasury's office, about the economy and what is happening in this country.

One only has to look at the stock market—today it moved down very quickly and very aggressively once again; it has happened many times in recent days. There are very serious problems. But it is not just the stock market that reflects those problems. It is perhaps if you were sitting in a home tonight or last night or last week or last month to hear someone come home from work to stay to the spouse: Honey, I have lost my job. And 1.2 million people did that in the last 10 months, half of them in the last quarter. There were 240,000 last month who came home and said: I have lost my job.

No, not because they are bad workers; because people are being laid off. This economy is in a recession. It appears to be a very deep recession, with a great deal of trouble coming from a range of activities that went way beyond the pale.

The subprime loan scandal, an almost unbelievable economy that was providing substantial additional benefits and salaries and bonuses to people at the top of the economic ladder. It is almost unbelievable what has happened with the reckless behavior with respect to some of the financial firms in this country. The result is that the amount of leverage and the development of a house of cards built on an illusion of assets has caused a collapse, and it is affecting virtually every corner of this country.

Tonight there are people who will ask the question: What has happened to my retirement account? What about my 401(k) account? What about my individual retirement account? How far has it gone down? How much have I lost? What will it mean to my retirement? How much longer will I have to work?

I have been on this floor plenty of times talking about what has caused all of this. If you do not think about it and talk about it and take steps to correct it, it will happen again.

The only way the American people will have confidence about the future is if they believe we are taking steps to correct that which caused this problem. I have talked about the companies that started this mess, the brokers, the mortgage companies, the folks who buy and sell securities, the hedge funds, those who trade in derivatives such as credit default swaps. I have talked about all of them. All of them made massive amounts of money. Do you know the highest income earner in the country last year earned $3.7 billion? One person. That is $10 million a day. If the spouse said: How did it go today? That person had to say, pretty well, I

made $10 million. That day and every day.

That is unbelievable to me. It is an example of what has been happening at the top. Massive bonuses and salaries; everybody making money hand over fist by creating this financial house of cards. It collapses and injures everybody in this country, and a whole lot of folks are thrown out of work.

The source? Subprime loans, companies saying to people: Hey, how about a loan? You do not have to pay even the principal at all. You do not have to pay all of the interest. You have bad credit, you cannot get any credit, you have been bankrupt, you are a slow payer, you do not pay your bills, but it does not matter. Come to us.

That was the advertising. Is it any wonder that all of this collapsed? And as they put all of those bad loans together, they securitized them and chopped them all and sold them as securities. They securitize everything these days. They sold them as securities and moved them around the country and around the world.

All of a sudden we have a bunch of firms that decided, hey, these are pretty good-paying securities. They have a big return. We are going to buy some of these. So they bought them all up. And now guess what. They have got all of these rotten assets in their portfolio, and it is pulling them all under and causing a massive problem.

So here we sit with a collapse of a financial system, names that are household names, the biggest firms in the country going belly up, getting bailed out.

The Treasury Secretary comes to us and says: I need $700 billion on an emergency basis in 3 days, and if not, the sky is going to fall in. So the Secretary does not get it in 3 days or with a 3-page bill, but he gets it in a couple of weeks.

Now he has $700 billion, but he does not know what he wants to do it with it. He said: I need it and I need it urgently right now because I want to buy toxic assets and I want to get these toxic assets off the balance sheets of these companies.

Well, he got the money. Then he said: You know what, that is not right either. I do not want to buy toxic assets. What I want to do is provide money, capital, to big banks. He takes $125 billion and aimed it at nine banks, some of whom did not want it. The problem was, it was the biggest gift in the world. There were no strings attached. Can you imagine taking $125 billion and saying to nine big banks: You take this money, and, by the way, I will not require you to expand your lending. That is the reason I am giving it to you, but I will not require it. I will have no prohibition on you using it for bonuses. Go right ahead. And, by the way, my agency is also going to encourage you to merge because we like bigger banks; merging will be beneficial, we are told. Is it any wonder people do not have confidence? Is it any wonder people are not inspired by this? This is not a consistent, well-managed approach to deal with a crisis, in my judgment. I know it is easy to be critical, but it is hard not to be critical of something that seems so random in terms of policy.

Now, I sat with a banker in North Dakota recently at a table. I said to him, a small town banker: Do you have money to lend? I said: They say the credit markets are frozen. Do you have money to lend?

Oh, yes, he said. He said: If somebody comes in, I have got money to lend them, because he did business the old-fashioned way. He said: I take deposits and I make loans. But when I make loans, I make sure those to whom I lend the money are going to have a reasonable opportunity and are able to repay the money.

That is business the old-fashioned way. He said: I did not get involved in all of those reckless practices. I did not buy those securitized notes with subprime loans. I did not do all of that.

Well, the biggest financial companies in this country did. They were like hogs in a corn crib, buying and selling, making lots of money, everybody is wading in cash. Now they are up to their necks in trouble, and the Treasury Secretary says if we do not bail them out, the whole economy is going to collapse. So this bailout occurs without any conditions at all.

Did anybody say, with these hundreds of billions of dollars—and by the way, it is not really hundreds of billions. If you take a look at what Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board have done, it is somewhere between $2 and $3 trillion that has been pledged to those big firms. Not many people know that. And you cannot get all of the details. But the Federal Reserve Board opened up its window, first time in history, to say: We will do direct lending with investment banks whose assets are not insured by the Federal Government. First time in history. So we have around $2 to $3 trillion out there extended on behalf of the American people with some of these companies that were engaged in unbelievably reckless practices and behavior.

The issue, it seems to me, is what did the Treasury Secretary require of these companies that got this massive amount of money? What did the Federal Reserve Board require of these companies? The answer is nothing. No restrictions. No restrictions on bonuses. We now read that somewhere around $20 to $30 billion of bonuses will be paid in the next month or two. Any restrictions on parking the corporate jets? No. Any restrictions on income at all? No. No restrictions at all. No strings attached.

Now, there is a great discussion here on the floor of the Senate and in this town about bailing out the automobile industry. That proposal is $25 billion, about 4 percent of the $700 billion. As far as I am concerned, the automobile industry has plenty to answer for. But if we are talking about a potential loss of 3 to 5 million additional jobs if that industry goes belly up, at a time when this economy is in such desperate condition, putting 3 to 5 million additional people out of work would, I think, be devastating to this economy.

So that is a very important consideration. But I am not about to propose bailing out anybody unless there are tough restrictions and conditions. I know those executives from Detroit got a pretty tough time, and should have, yesterday. They flew here in their private jets, making about $20 million a year, saying: We need help from the American taxpayer.

Look, if we are going to lose 3 to 5 million jobs, I want to help for a couple of reasons. No. 1, I don't want millions more people out of work that would further jeopardize this economy. No. 2, I want to retain a strong manufacturing base. Part of that is the automobile industry. You don't long remain a strong world economic power unless you have a strong manufacturing base. But I am not about to support a bailout for anybody unless there are strong, tough, and rigorous conditions. Park those corporate jets, 24 roundtrip flights from Detroit to Washington, DC, and they flew in corporate jets, making $20 million a year, saying: Give us a little help. Where is the self-sacrifice?

I am not just talking on the part of that industry. They were singled out yesterday, and I am not excusing them. They got what they deserved in the House hearing. But did anybody ask the question, when the Treasury Secretary was ladling money around by the hundreds of billions of dollars or the Federal Reserve Board was ladling money around to the point of $2 to $3 trillion, did anybody say to those biggest financial firms: By the way, here are some restrictions. Maybe you ought to park your airplanes. Maybe you ought to be concerned about these unbelievable incomes. Talk about $20 million a year for people running an automobile company, we are not talking about $20 million when we talk about some of these hedge funds. We are talking about an average of the top 25 hedge funds, somewhere around $700 million a year. Did anybody impose conditions on them? No. Should they have? You darn right they should have. If the automobile industry wants help from the American people and this Congress to preserve 3 to 5 million jobs, then they are going to have to be responsible to adhere to significant restrictions.

Those restrictions ought to be rigorous and tough. There must be independent oversight on anything that is given to that industry, or other industries for that matter. They ought to agree to a prohibition on dividend payments so that money going to those companies isn't going to go out in dividends. That would make no sense. There ought to be prohibited golden parachutes for executives as well as executive bonuses during the duration of

the loan. Again, I say park those corporate jets. How about announcing that you are willing to take $1 a year for the sake of trying to repair what is wrong with your company and trying to put that company back on track?

I understand it wasn't their fault that sales dropped 30 percent. They are victims, as are all Americans, of this economic crisis. It is not their fault that sales dropped 30 percent. So if they need some help to save 3 to 5 million jobs, I think most Americans would say: Let's save those jobs. But most Americans would also ask the question: Where is the self-sacrifice on the part of those folks who are running these companies? Let's see a little and let's hear a little self-sacrifice from people who say: I will own up to this. I will put something significant on the table in terms of trying to turn this economy and these companies we run around.

Let me finally say, there are a whole lot of folks across the country who are doing business the right way, Main Street businesses, community banks. They come to work in the morning. They turn the key. They open the lock on that door. They are at risk. They are just trying to make a living. Yet they, too, are victims, not because they got engaged in the kind of behavior in which some of the biggest companies in this country were engaged. Some of the biggest financial companies were engaged in reckless behavior. When the Financial Modernization Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate nine years ago, an act that was a devastating piece of legislation that led us down this path to a financial collapse, I said back then when I voted against it—and I was one of eight Senators to vote no—I said: If you want to gamble, go to Las Vegas. No, instead they were allowed to gamble by creating holding companies and merging bank enterprises with securities and with real estate and other risks.

We knew you shouldn't do that. We learned it in the Great Depression. It caused the closure of massive numbers of banks. Some of my colleagues brought a bill to the Congress and got almost everybody to agree to it that said: These lessons are old-fashioned. Let's let these financial institutions merge and fuse together risky things with banking, securities, and real estate. What an unbelievably ignorant thing to do. We had learned that lesson before and forgot it.

Guess what. From that day on we began to see the kind of inherent risk established in financial enterprises that someday most of us believed would create the house of cards that would collapse. And it has. Now the question is, how do we put this back together?

Let me say this: If I didn't have great hope for the future of this country, I would hardly be able to get up and go to work, but I think this is a resilient, wonderful place. We have made very big mistakes. A lot of people have made very big mistakes, perhaps all of us. But this country is a great place. Think about what America has been through: the Civil War, the Great Depression, beating back the forces of fascism and nazism. We have done so much in this country to prevail. This generation of Americans is not about to lose. This generation of Americans, too, will prevail. But it is going to require all of the effort of every one of us.

This isn't about politics. It is certainly not about Republicans and Democrats. It is about creating good public policy that gives the American people confidence and hope in the future. That is what will get us out of this rut. Those who caused the financial wreckage, who drove this economy into the ditch, are not going to get us out. It is good public policy by thoughtful people that will begin mirroring what happens on Main Streets and community banks all across the country, doing business the right way. When that happens, we will put this country back on track. I hope that is sooner rather than later. I hope the American people do not lose hope because we believe, all of us believe, in the great promise of this country.

It is true that we face great challenges, but we are turning a page. We will have a new Congress. We will have a new President and a new determination to try to fix what is wrong and put this country on a better path.

I yield the floor.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased that the President has proclaimed November as National American Indian Heritage Month and the Congress has designated November 28, 2008, as Native American Heritage Day.

This is the time when our country traditionally offers thanks for the bounty and protections we enjoy. This year, Congress and the President have chosen to specifically acknowledge and be thankful for the contributions and achievements of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Together, we have called on Federal, State, and local governments, tribal governments, and others to come together to celebrate and share with one another the cultures, traditions, and languages of more than 500 tribes.

In my home State of Nevada, our tribes represent three distinct cultures and languages Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe. Throughout my career, I have promoted programs and education efforts to preserve these native languages and others and expand cultural programs for children, young adults and elders. Nevada's tribal leaders and youth tell me this cultural exchange with tribal members and with those in their school and local communities bridges differences and leads to individual successes. Nevadans can be proud of our State's diversity.

And while Nevada's 26 tribes are distinct, they share goals common to nearly all sovereigns—to care for their people, to keep them safe, to help them prosper, to protect and use their resources wisely, to engage in the larger world while being mindful of their histories.

During this session, the Senate worked with tribal leaders and advocates and our colleagues in the House to help tribes achieve these goals. Working together, we reauthorized the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act, reauthorized the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, and amended laws to strengthen families and improve the care and development of children in foster care. We passed legislation that helps tribes develop their natural resources, expand their commercial activities, and encourage investment in Indian Country. During this time of war, we made it a priority to help our Native American veterans and their families—who continue a long history of serving in our Armed Forces—by expanding benefits and services under the G.I. bill. Under the leadership of Chairman BYRON DORGAN and Vice Chairperson LISA MURKOWSKI of the Indian Affairs Committee, the Congress has worked to honor our first Americans and fulfill our promises to them.

During this month especially, we recognize the leadership and efforts of tribes and others to improve the lives of Native Americans. But our work is not finished and we will not rest on the accomplishments of the 110th Congress. As majority leader, I am committed to work with my colleagues to reform health care and reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. I hope that the Senate will be able to again consider a package similar to one the Senate passed earlier this year.

As we approach the end of this Congress, I am pleased that we take a moment to recognize and celebrate the gifts Native Americans and Alaska Natives share with all of us daily.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, each November we celebrate American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month to honor the first inhabitants of this land and recognize the relationship this country has with American Indian people. In that same spirit, I would also like to specifically recognize the nine treaty tribes that I am honored to represent in South Dakota.

American Indians are unique among other groups in this country because of the government-to-government relationship established through countless treaties—documents affirmed in article VI of our Constitution as the supreme law of the land. This special status and the strength of these age-old contracts have enabled American Indians to shape this country's history in profound ways, as tribal history is deeply entwined with America's. The continued fulfillment of our treaty and trust obligations along with a respect for the

tenets of tribal sovereignty are thus essential responsibilities of this country.

South Dakota's tribes have a special place in this history due to their proactive leadership in the Federal-tribal relationship. For example, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie was entered into by Indian tribes in South Dakota that desired a peaceful relationship with the United States and a mutual recognition of sovereignty. In this treaty, like many others, the United States entered an agreement to end hostilities and for the cession of land, in return entering into a contract to provide assistance with education, health care, farming and other necessities; these responsibilities continue today. During this month of recognition and remembrance it is only appropriate to recognize the special status of the treaty tribes.

In addition to this unique governmental relationship, American Indians actively enrich the fabric of our Nation's character in many ways. Tribal members have courageously served to protect America in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, and they have served at the highest rate of any group in the country. Tribal educational models are rapidly gaining respect for an approach that stresses the importance of history and culture as well as the skills necessary for students to prosper in an increasingly global world.

American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month falls in the same month as Thanksgiving and I hope this affords us with the time to give thanks for the sacrifices of the first Americans. Once reduced to a population of less than 50,000, the American Indian population is now some 4.5 million strong. Their story, like that of the country as a whole, is a proud, resilient history and I am committed to supporting tribes as they continue to build a strong future. Observance of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month honors the unique heritage of this country's first inhabitants, and most importantly reaffirms our responsibility to honor Indian treaties.

RETIREMENT OF MARGO CONNOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Margo Connor, who has retired after 33 years of service to the Senate community. During the past three decades, Margo Connor has assisted in providing catering for Senate functions on Capitol Hill. In a fast-paced environment with a high turnover rate, she remained dedicated and personal, with a keen ability to establish close relationships.

Margo spent 17 years in the special functions office for the former Dirksen Senate Dining Room. She compiled menus and prepared the former Senate Dining Room for functions. Meeting and interacting with many different people were her favorite aspects of her service; she was on a first-name basis with former Senators such as David Pryor, Thomas Eagleton, Gary Hart, and Jennings Randolph. Margo's commitment to providing a pleasant, comfortable, and professional environment for Senate functions resulted in close friendships. Senator Randolph would often call her at home, making requests for a special bread with nuts on it. After returning from their honeymoon, Senator JOE BIDEN and his wife shared their pictures with her. Instead of calling it the Senate Dining Room, Senator PRYOR referred to the Senate Dining Room as simply ''Margo's Room.''

After working in the Senate Dining Room, Margo took a position in the accounting office processing bids for the Senate Restaurant. Several years later, she moved to the Capitol Senator's Dining Room where she was a hostess. After working as a hostess, she worked in the Senate catering office, where she has been for the last 13 years.

In her years on Capitol Hill, Margo has seen a great variety of events. She hosted functions with the NFL, the Dalai Lama, and a number of other notable people. Among others, she met Paul Newman, whose suitcase she watched in the kitchen as he spoke at an event. During annual events at Union Station commemorating Columbus Day, Dr. David R. Curfman, president of the National Columbus Celebration Association, told her that she was the only one who understood what he needed.

Margo will miss the people she works with, whom she considers to be like family. In turn, I know she will be missed greatly by those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her. In fact, Margo has been such a presence in the Senate, and has befriended so many over the years, that it is difficult to express how much she will be missed. I am pleased to join the entire Senate community in thanking Margo for her years of service and wishing her a happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JIM SHANE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to salute the service of a distinguished Kentuckian. This gentleman recently ended a long career devoted to the service of his country and our commonwealth.

His name is Jim Shane, and I am proud to say Jim is a friend of mine. Jim recently stepped down as executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs, a post he held since 1997. During his tenure, Jim can point to many accomplishments, but he was particularly instrumental in preparing Kentucky for the rigors of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure—BRAC—process. The commonwealth, in particular Fort Knox, was a big winner in the BRAC process, and no one was more instrumental in this success than Jim.

Jim had a vision for Fort Knox, one in which the installation would again be a home to combat troops and to a number of major Army commands. He then worked tirelessly with Federal and State officials, the BRAC Commission and the Department of Defense to make that conception of Fort Knox a reality. The result was that Fort Knox emerged revitalized from the BRAC process. Consequently, central Kentucky stands to gain immeasurably from the economic benefits stemming from the installation's enhancement, and our armed forces will be the better for Fort Knox's improved stature.

Prior to his service for Kentucky, Jim served his country with great distinction. He spent 27 years of commissioned service in the Army, rising to the rank of brigadier general. His career highlights include service as Deputy Commanding General, United States Recruiting Command, in which he was responsible for manning the Army's all-volunteer force.

Jim also received numerous medals, awards and decorations for his efforts in the Army including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification badge.

I am proud to say that Jim is also a fellow alumnus of the University of Louisville.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this fine Kentucky patriot for his long and notable career of public service.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN LEE MCELROY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is never too late to honor great heroism and sacrifice. That is why I am proud to say that after 40 years, a brave Kentuckian lost in battle will finally return home with honor to American soil.

On May 12, 1968, MAJ John Lee McElroy of the U.S. Air Force undertook what would be his final mission. Stationed in the Quang Tin province of the Republic of Vietnam, he was the navigator on a C–130 Hercules aircraft when his plane was struck by intense enemy fire and crashed. There were no survivors.

''On this particular day [Major McElroy] was flying a most important mission of aerial evacuation for American and allied personnel,'' wrote COL Marion F. Garuthers, the major's commander, in a letter to his parents. ''His example of Christian living significantly influenced all persons with whom he associated.''

Sadly, while the family of Major McElroy knew his final fate, they did not get to say their final goodbyes. For four decades, his remains went unrecovered. His wife, Regina M. McElroy, and his parents, Oscar L. and Gladys V. McElroy, passed away never knowing if

their loved one's remains would be found and brought back to the United States.

Now, thanks to the work of some dedicated men and women in the Department of Defense, Major McElroy's remains have been identified. Along with the rest of his flight crew, Major McElroy will return from Vietnam and join the honored few who rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Born in Eminence, KY, in 1932, Major McElroy served his country in the Armed Forces for 12 years. Several months after his tragic death, he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart for his valor in uniform.

At that medal ceremony were Major McElroy's three children—Russell Lee McElroy, Mary McElroy Tucker, and Linda Anne McElroy Starnes. Russell, the oldest, was just 14 years old at the time.

Now every one of them is older than their father ever was. And now it's their turn to take care of the father who cared for them, by seeing him laid to rest this December 18 in a hero's grave.

Our Nation and the Commonwealth of Kentucky cannot be grateful enough for MAJ John Lee McElroy's service and immense sacrifice. We owe the McElroy family a debt that cannot be repaid, because he died defending all of us and our freedoms.

I know the entire U.S. Senate joins me in expressing comfort and pride that this courageous airman has finally returned home. It is never too late to honor our heroes. And it is never too late for one Kentucky family to say their farewells and see a hero rest in peace.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, another 4 months have passed, and more American troops have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to memorialize their service and sacrifice by including their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Since I last included the names of our fallen troops on July 15, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 162 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten and today I submit their names into the RECORD:

CPL Aaron M. Allen, of Buellton, CA;
CWO Christian P. Humphreys, of Fallon, NV;
CWO Donald V. Clark, of Memphis, TN;
SGT Jonnie L. Stiles, of Highlands Ranch, CO;
SGT James M. Clay, of Mountain Home, AR;
SPC Corey M. Shea, of Mansfield, MA;
SGT Jose Regalado, of Los Angeles, CA;
SPC Armando A. De La Paz, of Riverside, CA;
SSG Timothy H. Walker, of Franklin, TN;
PFC Theron V. Hobbs, of Albany, GA;
SPC Adam M. Wenger, of Waterford, MI;
SGT Daniel W. Wallace, of Dry Ridge, KY;
PFC Bradley S. Coleman, of Martinsville, VA;
SSG Scott J. Metcalf, of Framingham, MA;
1LT Trevor J. Yurista, of Pleasant Valley, NY;
SSG Kevin D. Grieco, of Bartlett, IL;
SGT Nicholas A. Casey, of Canton, OH;
PFC Cody J. Eggleston, of Eugene, OR;
LCpl San Sim, of Santa Ana, CA;
CPL Adrian Robles, of Scottsbluff, NE;
SSgt Brian P. Hause, of Stoystown, PA;
SGT Deon L. Taylor, of Bronx, NY;
LCpl Stacy A. Dryden, of North Canton, OH;
MAJ Robert D. Lindenau, of Camano Island, WA;
SPC Heath K. Pickard, of Palestine, TX;
SPC Justin A. Saint, of Albertville, AL;
SGT Federico G. Borjas, of San Diego, CA;
SGT John M. Penich, of Beach Park, IL;
SPC Cory J. Bertrand, of Center, TX;
SPC Stephen R. Fortunato, of Danvers, MA;
SGT Preston R. Medley, of Baker, FL;
SPC Christopher A. McCraw, of Columbia, MS;
CPL Scott G. Dimond, of Franklin, NH;
SGT Michael K. Clark, of Sacramento, CA;
SPC Geoffrey G. Johnson, of Lubbock, TX;
SGT Reuben M. Fernandez III, of Abilene, TX;
CPL Jason A. Karella, of Anchorage, AK;
COL Michael R. Stahlman, of Chevy Chase, MD;
SGT William P. Rudd, of Madisonville, KY;
SPC Jason E. von Zerneck, of Charlotte, NC;
PFC Tavarus D. Setzler, of Jacksonville, FL;
SPC Christopher A. Bartkiewicz, of Dunfermline, IL;
CPT Richard G. Cliff Jr., of Mount Pleasant, SC;
SFC Jamie S. Nicholas, of Maysel, WV;
SFC Gary J. Vasquez, of Round Lake, IL;
SPC Christopher T. Fox, of Memphis, TN;
PFC Jamel A. Bryant, of Belleville, IL;
SGT William E. Hasenflu, of Bradenton, FL;
CPT Michael J. Medders, of Ohio;
SSG Ronald Phillips Jr., of Conway, SC;
1LT Thomas J. Brown, of Burke, VA;
CH COL Sidney J. Marceaux Jr., of Beaumont, TX;
CPT Bruno G. Desolenni, of Crescent City, CA;
SSG Matthew J. Taylor, of Charleston, SC;
PO3 Matthew J. O'Bryant, of Duluth, GA;
SSG Nathan M. Cox, of Walcott, IA;
PVT Joseph F. Gonzales, of Tucson, AZ;
SGT Jerome C. Bell Jr., of Auburn, NY;
SSG Brandon W. Farley, of Grand Prairie, TX;
SSG Jason A. Vazquez, of Chicago, IL;
1LT Mohsin A. Naqvi, of Newburgh, NY;
CPT Bruce E. Hays, of Cheyenne, WY;
SGT Joshua W. Harris, of Romeoville, IL;
MAJ Rodolfo I. Rodriguez, of El Paso, TX;
1LT Robert Vallejo II, of Richland Hills, TX;
CPL Michael E. Thompson, of Harrah, OK;
CWO Brady J. Rudolf, of Oklahoma City, OK;
SGM Julio C. Ordonez, of San Antonio, TX;
SSG Anthony L. Mason, of Springtown, TX;
SGT Daniel M. Eshbaugh, of Norman, OK;
CWO Corry A. Edwards, of Kennedale, TX;
LTC James L. Wiley, of North Bend, OR;
CPT Darrick D. Wright, of Nashville, TN;
PFC Leonard J. Gulczynski I, of Carol Stream, IL;
HM3 Eichmann A. Strickland, of Arlington, WA;
LTC Ralph J. Marino, of Houston, PA;
PVT Michael W. Murdock, of Chocowinity, NC;
SGT Wesley R. Durbin, of Hurst, TX;
SSG Darris J. Dawson, of Pensacola, FL;
CWO Michael Slebodnik, of Gibsonia, PA;
SFC Daniel R. Sexton, of Wentzville, MO;
SPC Marques I. Knight, of San Juan Capistrano, CA;
CPO Jason Richard Freiwald, of Armada, MI;
SCPO John Wayne Marcum, of Flushing, MI;
CPT Jesse Melton III, of Randallstown, MD;
1LT Nicholas A. Madrazo, of Bothell, WA;
PVT Vincent C. Winston Jr., of St. Louis, MO;
PVT Michael R. Dinterman, of Littlestown, PA;
PVT Jordan P. P. Thibeault, of South Jordan, UT;
PFC Bryan R. Thomas, of Battle Creek, MI;
SSG Kenneth W. Mayne, of Fort Benning, GA;

SFC Gregory A. Rodriguez, of Weidman, MI;
PFC Patrick W. May, of Jamestown, NY;
PO1 Joshua Harris, of Lexington, NC;
SPC Steven J. Fitzmorris, of Columbia, MO;
SPC Jorge L. Feliz Nieve, of Queens Village, NY;
SPC Carlo E. Alfonso, of Spokane, WA;
SPC Michael L. Gonzalez, of Spotswood, NJ;
SGT David K. Cooper, of Williamsburg, KY;
PFC Tan Q. Ngo, of Beaverton, OR;
SSG Brian E. Studer, of Ramsey, MN;
SSG David L. Paquet, of Rising Sun, MD;
SFC David J. Todd Jr., of Marrero, LA;
SFC George Stanciel, of Greenwood, MS;
SGT Nickolas Lee Hopper, of Montrose, IL;
LCpl Travis M. Stottlemyer, of Hatfield, PA;
PFC Jonathon L. Luscher, of Scranton, PA;
1LT Donald C. Carwile, of Oxford, MS;
PFC Paul E. Conlon Jr., of Somerville, MA;
PVT Janelle F. King, of Merced, CA;
SSG Kristopher D. Rodgers, of Sturgis, MI;
CPL Anthony G. Mihalo, of Naperville, IL;
LCpl Juan Lopez-Castaneda, of Mesa, AZ;
LCpl Jacob J. Toves, of Grover Beach, CA;
PFC Daniel A. C. McGuire, of Mashpee, MA;
CPL James M. Hale, of Naperville, IL;
SGT Michael H. Ferschke Jr., of Maryville, TN;
CPL Adam T. McKiski, of Cherry Valley, IL;
CPL Stewart S. Trejo, of Whitefish, MT;
PFC John A. Mattox, of Daingerfield, TX;
SGT Kenneth B. Gibson, of Christiansburg, VA;
SGT Jose E. Ulloa, of New York, NY;
PO2 Anthony M. Carbullido, of Agat, GU;
MSG Danny E. Maybin, of Columbia, SC;
SGT Errol M. James, of St. Croix, VI;
SPC Ronald A. Schmidt, of Newton, KS;
PVT Timothy J. Hutton, of Dillon, MT;
CAPT Garrett T. Lawton, of Charleston, WV;
SGT Gary M. Henry, of Indianapolis, IN;
SPC Jonathan D. Menke, of Madison, IN;
SGT Jaime Gonzalez Jr., of Austin, TX;
SSG Brian K. Miller, of Pendleton, IN;
SGT Ryan P. Baumann, of Great Mills, MD;
PFC Jennifer L. Cole, of American Canyon, CA;
SPC Andre D. Mitchell, of Elmont, NY;
SPC David J. Badie, of Rockford, IL;
2LT Michael R. Girdano, of Pennsylvania;
SPC William J. Mulvihill, of Leavenworth, KS;
PVT Jair De Jesus Garcia, of Chatsworth, CA;
SPC Kevin R. Dickson, of Steelville, MO;
SGT James A. McHale, of Fairfield, MT;
SSGT Faoa L. Apineru, of Yorba Linda, CA;
SPC Seteria L. Brown, of Orlando, FL;
PFC Ivan I. Wilson, of Clearlake, CA;
1LT Nick A. Dewhirst, of Onalaska, WI;
SSGT Danny P. Dupre, of Lockport, LA;
BM3 Daniel R. Verbeke, of Exton, PA;
PFC Willington M. Rhoads, of Las Vegas, NV;
1LT Jason D. Mann, of Woodlynne, NJ;
TSgt Jackie L. Larsen, of Tacoma, WA;
LCpl Jeffery S. Stevenson, of Newton, NJ;
SSG David W. Textor, of Roanoke, VA;
SSG Jeremy D. Vrooman, of Sioux Falls, SD;
1LT Jonathan P. Brostrom, of Hawaii;
SGT Israel Garcia, of Long Beach, CA;
CPL Jonathan R. Ayers, of Snellville, GA;
CPL Jason M. Bogar, of Seattle, WA;
CPL Jason D. Hovater, of Clinton, TN;
CPL Matthew B. Phillips, of Jasper, GA;
CPL Pruitt A. Rainey, of Haw River, NC;
CPL Gunnar W. Zwilling, of Florissant, MO;
SPC Sergio S. Abad, of Morganfield, KY.

We cannot forget these men and women and their sacrifice. These brave souls left behind parents and children, siblings, and friends. We want them to know the country pledges to preserve the memory of our lost soldiers who gave their lives for our country.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 28 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since April 16. This brings to 859 the number of service members either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 20 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

PO1 Cherie L. Morton, 40, died April 20 in Galali, Muharraq, Bahrain. Petty Officer 1st Class Morton was assigned to Naval Security Force, Naval Support Activity Bahrain. She was from Bakersfield, CA.

SGT Guadalupe Cervantes Ramirez, 26, died on April 23, 2008, in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, of injuries suffered in a vehicle incident. Sergeant Cervantes Ramirez was assigned to the 2nd Transportation Company, National Training Center Support Brigade, Fort Irwin, CA. He was from Fort Irwin, CA.

SPC William T. Dix, 32, died April 27 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, of injuries suffered in a noncombat related incident. Specialist Dix was assigned to the 14th Engineer Battalion, 555th Engineer Brigade, I Corps, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Culver City, CA.

SGT Merlin German, 22, died April 11 at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX, from wounds he suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq, on February 22, 2005. Sergeant German was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA, while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant German's parent unit was the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was medically retired September 28, 2007, as a result of his injuries.

SSG Bryan E. Bolander, 26, died April 29 in Baghdad from wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Staff Sergeant Bolander was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from Bakersfield, CA.

SGT Glen E. Martinez, 31, died May 2 in Al Anbar province, Iraq, supporting combat operations. Sergeant Martinez was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

LCpl James F. Kimple, 21, died May 2 in Al Anbar province, Iraq, supporting combat operations. Lance Corporal Kimple was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

CPL Miguel A. Guzman, 21, died May 2 in Al Anbar province, Iraq, supporting combat operations. Corporal Guzman was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Norwalk, CA.

LCpl Casey L. Casanova, 22, died May 2 in Al Anbar province, Iraq, supporting combat operations. Lance Corporal Casanova was assigned to the Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

PFC Aaron J. Ward, 19, died May 6 in Al Anbar, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit came under small arms fire while conducting cordon and search operations. Private First Class Ward was assigned to the 170th Military Police Company, 504th Military

Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from San Jacinto, CA.

SPC Mary J. Jaenichen, 20, died May 9 in Iskandariyah, Iraq, of a noncombat related injury. Specialist Jaenichen was assigned to the Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. She was from Temecula, CA.

SSG Frank J. Gasper, 25, died May 25 in Najaf, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. Staff Sergeant Gasper was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Merced, CA.

SGT Cody R. Legg, 23, died June 4 in Tikrit, Iraq, of wounds suffered in Sharqat, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire and hand grenades. Sergeant Legg was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Light Infantry, Fort Drum, NY. He was from Escondido, CA.

SGT John D. Aragon, 22, died June 12 in Kadamiyah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. Sergeant Aragon was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from Antioch, CA.

SSG Du Hai Tran, 30, died June 20 in Baqubah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit while on patrol during combat operations. Staff Sergeant Tran was assigned to the Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany. He was from Reseda, CA.

SGT Alejandro A. Dominguez, 24, died June 25 in Mosul, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device on June 24. Sergeant Dominguez was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Diego, CA.

LCpl Jeffery S. Stevenson, 20, died July 13 from a nonhostile incident in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Stevenson was assigned to the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SSG Faoa L. Apineru, 31, died July 2, 2007, from wounds sustained while supporting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Apineru was assigned to Headquarters Company, 23rd Marines, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve. He was wounded on May 15, 2005. After his death on July 2, 2007, the initial medical examiner concluded that Staff Sergeant Apineru did not die from injuries sustained during his deployment, but a subsequent opinion by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology indicated that his death was a result of his injuries sustained in Iraq. He was from Yorba Linda, CA.

PFC Jennifer L. Cole, 34, died August 2 in Bayji, Iraq, of injuries suffered in a noncombat related incident. Private First Class Cole was assigned to the 426th Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY. She was from American Canyon, CA.

CPL Adam T. McKiski, 21, died August 7 while supporting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. Corporal McKiski was assigned to the 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

CPL Stewart S. Trejo, 25, died August 7 while supporting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. Corporal Trejo was assigned to the 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

PVT Janelle F. King, 23, died August 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries suffered in a non-combat related incident. Private King was assigned to the 115th Combat Support Hospital, Fort Polk, LA. She was from Merced, CA.

COL Michael R. Stahlman, 45, died October 5 from injuries sustained in a July 31 nonhostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. Colonel Stahlman was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Michael K. Clark, 24, died October 7 in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered when he encountered small arms fire while on dismounted patrol. Sergeant Clark was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Sacramento, CA.

LCpl Stacy A. Dryden, 22, died October 19 from injuries sustained in a nonhostile incident in Anbar province, Iraq. Lance Corporal Dryden was assigned to 1st Supply Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Armando A. De La Paz, 21, died November 13 in Baghdad, of injuries sustained during a vehicle rollover. Specialist De La Paz was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. He was from Riverside, CA.

SGT Jose Regalado, 23, died November 12 in Mosul, Iraq, when an Iraqi Army soldier wearing a uniform approached him and opened fire. Sergeant Regalado was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

CPL Aaron M. Allen, 24, died November 14 while supporting combat operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. Corporal Allen was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Buellton, CA.

I would also like to pay tribute to the 29 soldiers from California who have died while serving our country in Operation Enduring Freedom since April 16.

Senior Airman Jonathan A.V. Yelner, 24, died April 29 near Bagram, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. Senior Airman Yelner was assigned to the 28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota. He was from Lafayette, CA.

SFC David L. McDowell, 30, died on April 29, in Bastion, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when he received small arms fire. Sergeant First Class McDowell was assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Ramona, CA.

SPC Christopher Gathercole, 21, died May 26 in Ghazni, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations. Specialist Gathercole was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Santa Rosa, CA.

PFC Chad M. Trimble, 29, died May 28, near Gardez, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. Private First Class Trimble was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, Fort Campbell, KY. He was from West Covina, CA.

SFC David Nunez, 27, died May 29 in Shewan, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when he encountered small arms fire while conducting combat operations. Sergeant First Class Nunez was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Los Angeles, CA.

PFC Michael Robert Patton, 19, died June 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Private First Class Patton was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

PFC Dawid Pietrek, 24, died June 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Private First Class Pietrek was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

LCpl Layton Bradly Crass, 22, died June 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Crass was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Michael Toussiant-Hyle Washington, 20, died June 14 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Washington was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Hospitalman Marc A. Retmier, 19, died June 18 as a result of wounds suffered from an enemy rocket attack in northern Paktika Province, Afghanistan. Hospitalman Retmier was assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Sharana in Afghanistan. He was from Hemet, CA.

LCpl Andrew Francis Whitacre, 21, died June 19 while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Whitacre was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

CPT Eric Daniel Terhune, 34, died June 19 while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Captain Terhune was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

Hospitalman Dustin Kelby Burnett, 19, died June 20 while conducting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Hospitalman Burnett was assigned to First Marine Division Detachment, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Matthew E. Mendoza, 24, died June 20 while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Mendoza was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Ryan J. Connolly, 24, died June 24 in Khogyani, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck a suspected landmine. Sergeant Connolly was assigned to the 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Bamberg, Germany. He was from Vacaville, CA.

SSGT Christopher D. Strickland, 25, died June 25, while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Strickland was assigned to 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT James M. Treber, 24, died June 29 in Khosrow-E Sofla, Afghanistan, from injuries sustained when his vehicle rolled into a canal. Sergeant Treber was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Airborne, Fort Bragg, NC. He was from Imperial Beach, CA.

SGT Israel Garcia, 24, died July 13 in Wanat, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his outpost was attacked by small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades from enemy forces. Sergeant Garcia was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, Airborne, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy. He was from Long Beach, CA.

PFC Ivan I. Wilson, 22, died July 21 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Private First Class Wilson was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Clearlake, CA.

PFC Jair De Jesus Garcia, 29, died August 1 in Chowkay Valley, Afghanistan, from wounds sustained when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. Private First Class Garcia was assigned to the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from Chatsworth, CA.

LCpl Jacob J. Toves, 27, died August 14 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Toves was assigned to the 3rd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan. He was from Grover Beach, CA.

SPC Marques I. Knight, 24, died September 6 in Aliabad, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when he received small arms fire while on dismounted patrol. Specialist Knight was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Hood, TX. He was from San Juan Capistrano, CA.

SGT Jerome C. Bell Jr., 29, died September 19 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Sergeant Bell was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

CPT Bruno G. Desolenni, 32, died September 20 in Kandahar, Afghanistan, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Captain Desolenni was assigned to the Joint Forces Headquarters, Element Training Team, Oregon Army National Guard. He was from Crescent City, CA.

Cpl Jason A. Karella, 20, died October 9 while supporting combat operations in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Corporal Karella was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

SGT Federico G. Borjas, 33, died October 16 in Bermel District Center, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered from small arms fire during a dismounted patrol. Sergeant Borjas was assigned to 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, 351st Civil Affairs Command, San Diego, CA. He was from San Diego, CA.

LCpl San Sim, 23, died October 22 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Lance Corporal Sim was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA. He was from Santa Ana, CA.

Cpl Adrian Robles, 21, died October 22 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Corporal Robles was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, CA.

1LT Trevor J. Yurista, 32, died October 27 while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. First Lieutenant Yurista was assigned to 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

STAFF SERGEANT TIMOTHY H. WALKER

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of SSG Timothy H. Walker. Staff Sergeant Walker, a member of the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, was killed in Sadr City, Iraq on November 8, 2008, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was 38 years old.

A native of Tennessee, Staff Sergeant Walker joined the Army in 1990. He served in Bosnia from 1999 to 2000, Kuwait in 2001, and also served two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During his most recent deployment, Staff Sergeant Walker, a combat medic himself, was actively involved in training Iraqis to treat combat wounds on the battlefield, and he served as the medical material coordinator for the Iraqi Security Forces logistics coordination team, which teaches Iraqi police officers and soldiers how to track and receive medical supplies.

Throughout his 18 years of service, and in every capacity, Staff Sergeant Walker distinguished himself through his courage, his dedication to duty, and his willingness to take on any challenge—no matter how dangerous, no matter how big or small. His extraordinary bravery and talent earned him more than 20 awards and medals, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Staff Sergeant Walker is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional and friend who they could turn to in times of need, and who they could always count on to raise their spirits in times of sadness. They recall his knack for giving people nicknames, and the infectiousness of his laughter. And, most of all, they remember his devotion to his wife and children, and to his country.

The Greek historian Thucydides wrote that ''the bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.'' Throughout our Nation's history, the bravest have gone out to meet every danger that has imperiled our way of life. They stormed the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima facing long odds, and now, in 2008, they traverse the mountains of Afghanistan and navigate the cities of Iraq under constant threat of insurgent attacks. The bravest have kept us safe and strong. They will always make us proud.

Staff Sergeant Walker's service was in keeping with this American tradition. At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout the world to attend to the injuries of his men. And though their fate on the battlefield was uncertain, his men knew that, in Staff Sergeant Walker, they were in good hands. For the lives he saved, and for the lives he touched, Staff Sergeant Walker will be forever remembered as one of the bravest.

To Staff Sergeant Walker's mother Barbara, his father Wayne, his wife Dawn, his children Gregory and Madison, his sister Shelly, and all his friends and family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss is

assuaged by your pride in Tim's service to his country and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

SERGEANT JON L. STILES

Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Sergeant Jon L. Stiles. Sergeant Stiles, assigned to the 927th Engineer Company, 769th Engineer Battalion, was killed on November 13, 2008, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol in Shubhuyan, Afghanistan. He was 38 years old.

Sergeant Stiles grew up in Highlands Ranch, CO, and after graduating from high school, spent nearly 13 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 2 years in the Army. Two years following his discharge, he moved back to Colorado, joined the Colorado National Guard, and was deployed to Afghanistan, where he worked to clear transportation routes of IEDs and insurgents in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

This past October, Sergeant Stiles saved the lives of three fellow soldiers when he rescued them from underneath a burning vehicle that was struck by a suicide bomber, an act of incredible bravery that earned him the Bronze Star. He suffered serious damage to his lungs and vocal chords as a result of this incident, but instead of taking medical leave, he insisted on returning to battle. He believed strongly in our mission in Afghanistan, cared deeply for his men, and wanted to make a difference.

Sergeant Stiles' friends and family remember him as a soldier's soldier with a passion for military service in his DNA. He was an avid outdoorsman known to brave sub-zero temperatures to get in a day of fishing. He was generous with hugs and incredibly loyal to his friends. He was a loving husband who wanted to live peacefully with his wife in the mountains of Colorado. And he was a proud American willing to sacrifice everything in defense of the country he held dear.

Adlai Stevenson once asked, ''what do we mean by patriotism in the context of our times? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility . . . a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.'' Sergeant Stiles felt this sense of responsibility at a young age and served with the steady dedication that reminds us of what it is to be a true patriot. In his memory, and with his inspiration, may we all continue to work to make our union more perfect, and our world safer for all.

To Sergeant Stiles' mother Linda, his father Lynn, his wife Launa, his sister Natalie, his brother Charles, his grandparents Maxine and Kenney, and all his friends and family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss is assuaged by your pride in Jon's service to his country and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

SPECIALIST JAMES CLAY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, Arkansas is grieving for a young hero, a courageous soldier who was serving in Iraq as a member of the 224th Maintenance Company. This team keeps our troops safe and their equipment and vehicles running. It is a mission paramount to our soldiers' success.

A member of the National Guard for almost 7 years, SPC James Clay of Mountain Home, AR, showed great commitment and patriotism throughout his assignment with the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Brigade Combat team. Of his service, MG William Wofford, adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard recalls, ''He was called to serve, and he answered that call with valiant service. He was a true patriot and will not soon be forgotten.''

Specialist Clay's untimely death has brought me to the Senate floor today, but I want to take a minute to honor his life. He overcame major obstacles in his personal life, including the death of both his parents, yet he graduated from Cotter High School in 2002 where teachers describe him as outstanding, considerate, and spirited. Friends remember Specialist Clay as a role model who persevered with dignity and humanity. Everyone who knew this young hero recalled his great smile and his compassion for others. It is no surprise that he died fighting for the peace and security of others.

My prayers go out to Specialist Clay's family and friends, particularly his high school sweetheart and wife, Mellissa Clay. During his second Inaugural Address, Abraham Lincoln pledged, ''to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphans.'' Mrs. Clay, we will never forget the sacrifice of your loved one, and we work to honor his memory, courage, and service to our great Nation.

CORPORAL ADRIAN ROBLES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marine Cpl Adrian Robles, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on October 22, 2008.

Corporal Robles, who was a native of Scottsbluff, NE, was assigned to the Second Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Twentynine Palms, CA. He had worked his whole life to become a marine. At age 16, Corporal Robles told his parents about his plans to enlist and, at 17, asked that they sign forms which would allow him to join before his 18th birthday. His parents told him to wait, so he finished high school and then enlisted immediately.

Corporal Robles had previously served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006, and was on a tour serving in Afghanistan at the time of his death. Corporal Robles received three good conduct medals—an unusual achievement for such a young marine—as well as medals for his service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He served as a rifleman, the backbone of the Marine Corps. Originally deployed to help train Afghan Army recruits, his unit's mission changed as the security situation deteriorated; and Corporal. Robles was ''in the fight'' right to the end.

Fully aware of the dangers he faced, Corporal Robles made the courageous choice to serve his country and help the people of Iraq and Afghanistan achieve peace and security. He made the ultimate sacrifice so that others might enjoy the freedoms he had known all his life.

Corporal Robles represents all that we have to be proud of in our Armed Forces. I commend his bravery and selflessness while offering my deepest condolences to the family members he left behind. It is small comfort for those who must now go on without one they loved so dearly, but they know that Corporal Robles gave his life for a noble goal. I join all Nebraskans—indeed, all Americans—in mourning the loss of such a fine young man.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

GORDON SMITH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President. I thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a very special man, caring husband and father, and great Senator GORDON SMITH.

Sadly, he will be leaving this august body soon and returning to private life. The United States Senate will be losing a great leader, a man of high integrity, and a true statesman.

GORDON joined the United States Senate in January 1997, after winning an election as a rural conservative in a State defined by a more liberal landscape. After his election, Senator SMITH quickly made his mark as someone both sides of the aisle could work with for the good of his State and our Nation. He displayed the characteristics of what I believe makes a truly great Senator—someone who is willing to roll up his sleeves and battle for what he believes is right.

His commitment to Oregon was exemplary. He focused on issues that were critical to the citizens of his State including education, health care, natural resources, and bridging the rural-urban divide. Along the way he displayed a true independent streak, bucking his party when he believed he needed to go a different direction for the good of those he represented.

Senator SMITH's leadership and abilities were greatly appreciated by the committee members he served with, and the positions he was asked to assume. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging he presided over critical issues facing our Nation's aging population. In addition, he made tremendous contributions to four additional committees: Commerce, Science,

and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Indian Affairs; and the Finance Committee.

He was also selected four times by the leadership of our party to become the Deputy Whip, an important position we could all look to for guidance and support.

I had the distinct pleasure of traveling with Senator SMITH on two occasions to Iraq to assess the situation first-hand, visit with the troops, and become more intimately familiar with the challenges facing our country overseas. We shared a genuine interest and concern in the events taking place in that country, and I will forever be grateful to Senator SMITH for taking that journey with me.

Before joining the Senate, GORDON made his mark in the business world—assuming the helm of his family's frozen vegetable processing company. His strength and commitment steered this company to new success, and established himself as a business leader with qualities to emulate.

You can't talk about GORDON SMITH without talking about the love he has for people, especially his wonderful family. GORDON and his wife Sharon have raised three wonderful children: Brittany, Garrett, and Morgan. Even while meeting the demands of his job, you always knew his thoughts and actions centered on home.

During his second term in office, GORDON and Sharon had to face a tragedy almost impossible to bear. Their son, Garrett, lost his battle with depression and grief. As I watched this deeply grieving father, I was so powerfully reminded that life isn't always about what happens in the walls of the United States Capitol but it is about our families, our friends, and the love we share with those closest to our souls.

Senator SMITH didn't just let his grief consume him—he took action. Perhaps his proudest accomplishment in Senate service would be the passing of a suicide prevention law, named after his son. This law passed unanimously and has made a real difference in programs across the country that are designed to help those in critical emotional need.

I am truly grateful that I have had the opportunity to serve with this great man for 12 years. In a town where true friendships can be rare, I have been blessed to find a true friend in GORDON SMITH. Although we didn't always agree, our deepest fundamental beliefs were shaped in the same bedrock of less government, opportunities for all, and integrity in public service.

I always knew that whether in times of trouble or success, I had found a true comrade in service, someone I could trust to do what is right and hold fast to the notion of public service for the people.

Robert Louis Stevenson stated, ''We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best we can find in our travels is an honest friend.'' GORDON has been just that friend to me.

I will miss working alongside this great Senator, and true American. However, I know that throughout his life he will continue to work for the good of others in whatever endeavors he chooses to follow. I want to wish GORDON and his wife Sharon and their children many years of continued success, happiness and peace as they travel life's path together. Thank you for the opportunity to honor this extraordinary man.

JOHN WARNER

Mr. President, I wish to speak today in honor of my good friend, the senior Senator from Virginia. As you know, Senator WARNER is retiring at the conclusion of this the 110th Congress, and I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for his friendship and his years of public service.

Senator WARNER's retirement marks the end of a career in the service of the United States that has spanned more than 6 decades. JOHN, having been born in 1927 and raised right here in Washington, DC, enlisted in the Navy during World War II in January 1945. After the conclusion of the war, he left the military to pursue a legal education at the University of Virginia, only to rejoin the Navy, this time with the Marines, to serve in the Korean War.

In 1953, he finished his legal studies while still serving in the Marine Corps Reserves and spent the next 7 years as a government attorney, first as a clerk for a U.S. appeals court judge, then as an assistant U.S. attorney. Senator WARNER left the public sector in 1960 to pursue a career in private legal practice, though it would not be long until he was called into service again.

In 1969, he was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve as the Under Secretary of the Navy. Just over 3 years later, he succeeded John H. Chafee as the Secretary of the Navy. This, of course, was a unique era in the history of U.S. diplomacy and, as Naval Secretary, JOHN was involved in a number of diplomatic efforts involving the Soviet Union, most notably the Sea Executive Agreement.

JOHN's political career began in 1978 when he was elected to represent the State of Virginia in the Senate. He is the second longest serving Senator in Virginia's history and, by a margin of many years, the longest serving Republican from the State. Of course, JOHN and I have crossed paths many times during our years in the Senate. We served together on the HELP Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence. But, for me, one of the most memorable times I shared with JOHN took place outside the Halls of the Senate.

During the August recess of 1985, my son Jess and I were joined by JOHN and his son on a fishing and boating trip in Utah. During one day of the trip, after returning from a hike, I was surprised to see a ghostly-looking creature sitting in our campsite. As it turned out, JOHN and some of the others had formed a mud hole down near the river, and he had been diving in and out of it. By the time I had returned to the campsite, JOHN was covered head to toe in pumice mud. Apparently, the mud was good for the skin, but at the time I was unaware of this fact.

On the last day of the trip, JOHN and I were fishing on Lake Powell and I was lucky enough to catch an 8 pound 60 striped bass. He was impressed with my catch and he asked if he could keep it, apparently he wanted it as a trophy. That evening, we flew up north to an event in Deer Valley, UT, but because we didn't have time to change after the flight, we showed up in our fishing clothes. JOHN strode into the fancy ski lodge to meet the shirt-and-tied crowd sporting his jeans and carrying my fish around with him! Though I can't be certain, it sure seemed like he was proud of it.

But, seriously, Mr. President, Senator WARNER will always be remembered for his even-tempered nature and for his work on behalf of our men and women in the military. He has never been one to follow the crowd for partisanship's sake, always choosing to follow his own conscience. I must admit that, over the years, JOHN and I have found ourselves in disagreement over issues that I believed to be of vital importance. But he was always one to respect the views of his colleagues in either party, even if he went a different way in the end.

I wish JOHN and his wife Jeanne the best of luck in all their future endeavors. I think I speak for all my Senate colleagues when I say that the Senate will be a lesser place without JOHN in it.

ELIZABETH DOLE

Mr. President, I wish to speak today regarding Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, who will be departing from the United States Senate. I have known Senator DOLE well and I am sure I am joined by many of my colleagues in saying that she will be missed.

Senator DOLE has shown her enthusiasm and commitment firsthand through her vast contributions over the last 6 years. Her true courage is the powerful force behind her remarkable public service career. Most important, Senator DOLE can conceive and articulate goals that lift people and unite them in the pursuit of objectives worthy of their best efforts.

As we look back on the challenges of our economy, Senator DOLE has become a robust leader in helping our country focus on creating jobs, strengthening national security, improving education, and making quality health care more affordable and accessible. Her initial determination was demonstrated as she graduated from Duke University and Harvard Law School, then entering her public career by serving under multiple U.S. Presidents, including Ronald Regan and George H.W. Bush. Throughout her career, she served as Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Labor, and head of the American Red Cross. She

continued her public service by bringing her zeal to the Senate as the first female U.S. Senator from North Carolina.

As a fellow Senator, ELIZABETH displays qualities of a true southern belle. She is a powerful role model. Her efforts to make North Carolina and America safer, stronger, and healthier have not gone unnoticed. Most importantly, she has played a key role in serving on the Senate Armed Services, Banking, Small Business and Aging Committees.

Mr. President, I extend my deepest gratitude to Senator DOLE. I can say, without reservation, that she is a dedicated public servant and friend.

JOHN SUNUNU

Mr. President, I rise to speak today regarding the departure of my esteemed colleague from New Hampshire, Senator JOHN SUNUNU. I have known Senator SUNUNU and his family for many years now, and I have worked closely with Senator SUNUNU since he first joined Congress in 1996 in the House of Representatives and then in the Senate since 2002. Today, I am sure that I am joined by many of my colleagues in saying that his service, his thoughtfulness, and his friendship in this institution will be missed.

Often referred to as one of the smartest people in Congress, Senator SUNUNU earned bachelor of science and master of science degrees in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Setting the bar even higher, he also went on to earn a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University. Armed with that kind of education, it would have been easy for Senator SUNUNU to spend the rest of his days on a career track that would have compensated him and his family in ways that most of us only dream about. Instead, after only a few short years in the private sector, Senator SUNUNU chose to put his mind to work in Congress at solving some of the most pressing problems and issues of our day. It is for that dedication of service to his country to which I pay tribute today.

In addition to being one of the smartest people in Congress, Senator SUNUNU also holds the well-known title of being the youngest Senator currently serving in our legislative body. While that feat alone is impressive in its own right, I also like to think of Senator SUNUNU as one of the most thoughtful Senators currently serving in the Senate. Specifically, Mr. President, I mention Senator SUNUNU's act of friendship and solidarity in 2005 when he shaved his own hair and stood alongside our mutual friend, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, as he underwent chemotherapy treatment. A simple act, indeed, but it is one that has not gone unnoticed and it is one that illustrates the thoughtfulness of a man and a Senator who stood by his colleague in a time of great need. It is that compassionate thoughtfulness of which we will all miss.

From his thoughtful work on energy and climate change legislation to his valued friendship while working together on the Finance Committee, Senator SUNUNU has done a tremendous job for the people of New Hampshire and our nation. As a colleague, I appreciate his instrumental support of the Flag Desecration Amendment in 2006. As a friend, I convey my highest admiration and respect for what he has been able to accomplish while here in the Senate. It is that spirit of friendship of which all of us could always gain a little something from.

I wish Senator SUNUNU and his lovely family the best and thank them for the years of service Senator SUNUNU has been able to provide to this body as a result of their sacrifice. Senator SUNUNU's journey in the U.S. Senate would not be complete without their support, and I am sure that they will all be happy to have their loving husband and father around the house a little more often. Without hesitation, Mr. President, I can say that our loss is their gain. To Senator SUNUNU and his family, I extend my deepest gratitude for the countless hours of service, the simple acts of thoughtfulness, and the years of friendship they have extended to me, my colleagues, and the people of the United States. Given Senator SUNUNU's track record, I am certain that we will be hearing more about him for many years to come.

WAYNE ALLARD

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, when the final gavel brings an end to the current session of Congress, my good friend WAYNE ALLARD has chosen to retire from the U.S. Senate. I know we will all miss him and the strong and powerful voice he has been for Colorado and the West. His eye for detail and focus on the issues that are of such great importance to his constituents and mine will be very difficult to replace.

WAYNE is quite a remarkable guy. He knew at a very young age that he wanted to be a veterinarian and so he directed all his efforts to pursuing that calling. He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in veterinary medicine and opened a veterinary practice in Loveland, CO, with his wife Joan.

As he worked at the profession he loved he got to know the people of the area and the problems they faced every day. He wanted to do more than just take care of their animals and livestock, so he started to branch out to a career in politics. He knew he could find the time for both his practice and for politics and the challenge of learning something new interested him.

WAYNE had one great advantage as he began—his family's deep Colorado roots. WAYNE's great-great-grandfather was a trapper and an explorer and he was one of the first permanent settlers of northern Colorado. His family was among the first to move into the area and establish a home there.

WAYNE grew up on the family ranch. He learned at an early age the importance of a hard day's work and of always doing your best. His days were spent baling hay and helping out with whatever needed to be done around the ranch from dawn to dusk. Life on the ranch taught him a lot and instilled in him the values and principles that have served him well throughout his life and his political career.

WAYNE is a strong believer in the idea of a citizen-politician. He believes that the more experience we have in the workforce, the better we are able to find legislative solutions to address the problems faced by families across the Nation.

That philosophy guided WAYNE's efforts in the House and helped him win his present seat in the Senate in 1997. That was the same year that I came to Washington and WAYNE was one of the first people I met. Our shared commitment to the people of the West made us natural allies.

It was soon after we were sworn in as freshman Senators that WAYNE told me about his plans to hold an annual conference to get his constituents more involved in the day-to-day operations of the Government. His dream took shape as the Allard Capital Conference. This annual event gives those who attend an opportunity to learn more about how their Government works, and to share their good ideas about how to change things. When it is over, it sends all those who attend back home to Colorado with a hefty dose of encouragement to continue the dialogue they began here. It has been a great success and WAYNE has been able to attract many of Washington's leaders to participate along with an impressive list of Senators from both sides of the aisle.

History will show that WAYNE has been so successful in the Senate because he is committed to getting things done—and not in making sure he gets the credit. It is another philosophy we share. You can get just about anything done if you don't care who gets the credit for it. WAYNE has been a workhorse more than a showhorse and that has always pleased his constituents.

Over the years, WAYNE's commitment to fiscal sanity has been so strong and so compelling that it drove him to give up his seats on the Armed Services and Environmental and Public Works Committees to join the Appropriations Committee. From there he took the reins of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee and began the difficult and demanding task of overseeing the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center. Up till then, the project had been the center of a lot of attention because there were so many cost overruns, delays in its construction, and questions about how the project was being managed. WAYNE brought some sanity to the process. He started checking in on the work being done on a regular basis and his oversight brought a much needed sense of accountability to the project which is now about to open its doors to the people who come to visit our Nation's Capitol every year. In the

years to come, the Capitol Visitor Center will be part of the legacy of WAYNE's service to the people of our Nation.

There is another area of achievement that WAYNE is probably more proud of—and that is his work on the Great Sand Dunes National Park, his successful effort to convert Rocky Flats, which was formerly a nuclear weapons facility, to a national wildlife refuge, and his determination to protect and preserve the area around the Rio Grande River. All these projects were important to him because they enabled him to make a difference back home in Colorado.

Now that his Washington years are drawing to a close, WAYNE would be the first to give a lion's share of the credit for all he has accomplished to his wife Joan. She was there from the start, working alongside him in his veterinary clinic and she is still by his side, the most important part of his work in the Senate. They have long been a remarkable team and it can truly be said that he and I both overmarried. Joan has been his best friend, his most trusted adviser, and his wisest political adviser and counselor.

Now they will return to Colorado and to the life that they love. I don't know what WAYNE's plans are for the future, but I hope and expect I will continue to hear from him whenever he thinks that we just aren't getting it right when it comes to the budget, the environment, or any of the other issues that have driven him during his service in the Senate. Whatever he decides to do, I know we will continue to hear from him and that is something that can only continue to serve us all well. WAYNE is a special guy who loves Colorado and his country and he has dedicated his life to making them better places for us and for future generations to live. He can retire secure in the knowledge that he has succeeded because he cared enough to serve.

Thank you, WAYNE, for your heartfelt commitment to Colorado and the Nation, for your willingness to serve the people in the Senate and most of all, thank you for your friendship. Diana joins in sending all the best for a continued rich and rewarding life to you and Joan. And WAYNE, for me, please keep track of and share the good fishing spots. I know most of them will be in Wyoming.

LARRY CRAIG

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to wish LARRY CRAIG all the best as he retires and returns home to his beloved Idaho. I have enjoyed having a chance to work with him on issues of concern to the people of our States. He has been an important part of the work we have done on many of the issues that have come to the floor of the Senate and he will be difficult to replace.

Ever since he first arrived in the Senate, LARRY has been a champion for the West and a strong and powerful voice on the issues that concern the people of Wyoming and Idaho. His dedication to making his home State a better place to live and his determination to make a difference in the Nation through his service in the Senate has made him a force to be reckoned with for many years.

LARRY has long Idaho roots that date back to his family's arrival in Idaho more than a century ago. He was born on the family ranch that his grandfather had homesteaded back in 1899. The ranch has been the proud home of the Craig family ever since.

Sometime during the days when LARRY was a young man growing up in Idaho, he was bitten by the political bug. It got him started on the path toward what would be a career of public service. Then, in 1974, LARRY was elected to the Idaho State Senate. It set him on a path that would take him to the United States Senate.

Because of his background as a rancher and a farmer, LARRY knows the importance of the land and the need for us to be good stewards of all the resources under our control. After all, as we have heard so very often, when it comes to the land, they aren't making any more of it. That is why LARRY has always been determined to ensure that Idaho's natural treasures were well taken care of. It is not an exaggeration to say that LARRY has been the guardian at the gate to ensure the Federal Government didn't overstep its boundaries and overregulate the land in Idaho during his watch.

His commitment to the land and to the people of Idaho who rely on it for their livelihood particularly showed itself during his service on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He took full advantage of the opportunity to work against any effort that would adversely affect the ability of the people of Idaho to make good use of their State's land. Also on his agenda was the Endangered Species Act and the problems that had come with its application. It was a fight LARRY was determined to win and he did more than just express his concern. He rolled up his sleeves and got to work. The new law he helped to write is not only more effective, but it is also designed to minimize its impact on property rights, employment and our State and local economies.

In the years to come I will most remember LARRY for his ability to present his case with power and emotion whenever he would speak in committee or on the floor. LARRY's speaking and his debating skills are second to none. He has been called one of the most influential of all the western Senators and his conservative style has proven to be one of his greatest strengths.

LARRY is probably best known for his work on immigration and his support for the ability of seasonal workers to come to the United States to work on our farms. He knows the importance of developing solutions to tough problems like immigration that do not hurt State economies or make life harder for our family farms and ranches.

The habits that he learned on the family ranch have been with him his entire life and that is why you will usually find him hard at work in his garden. It is his favorite activity when he is away from his office and it is one he can share with his grandchildren. As the grandfather of three children myself, I can identify with his interest and the time he sets aside to be with his eight grandchildren.

Speaking of his favorite hobby, he once said, ''My wife knows she's not a golf widow or a skiing or a hunting widow. She's a gardening widow.'' LARRY is also a tremendous artist. His ''works'' are widely prized and collected.

LARRY, I will be sorry to see you and Suzanne leave, saddlebags flapping in the wind as you ride off into the sunset. Now there will be time for all the things you have been putting off for some day, for now there will be plenty of some days for you to share with Suzanne. Diana and I wish you all the best in whatever you choose to do in the coming years. As we have found, the end of one great adventure is only the beginning of the next. So it will be for you. Good luck and God bless.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. President, it is always a bittersweet moment in time for me when we come to the close of a session of Congress. As the clock counts down the final hours of our legislative activities, it also signals the day when several of our colleagues will be retiring and ending their service in the United States Senate. When the current session ends, one of my good friends and great allies in the Senate will be returning home to his beloved New Mexico. He is Senator PETE DOMENICI and I know we will all miss him and his powerful presence in the Senate.

In the months to come, PETE may no longer be serving with us, but he will not be forgotten. He has left his mark on the Senate and on us all in too many ways for us not to remember him and how hard he has been working for the people of New Mexico, the West, and the Nation over the years. Every day he came to the Senate he was focused on what he could do today to make our tomorrows better for us all. The leadership he provided on so many issues will be very difficult to replace.

PETE began his career right out of college when he was deemed to be a good enough pitcher to be signed by a Brooklyn Dodgers farm team. It was a good life, but it wasn't the one for PETE. He decided after the season was over that baseball wasn't what he wanted to do and so he decided instead to do a different kind of pitching—to the people of the city he lived in. That pitch helped launch him on his true life's work—serving the people of his State and helping to make New Mexico a better place to live.

When PETE decided to get involved in politics his friends told him he was

making a big mistake. They warned him that it was a tough way to make a living and that it would be a rough life. Politics is a harsh affair, they told him, and they warned him that people would attack him and his reputation. They wondered why a guy who had such great gifts wanted to take on what would be a very difficult challenge.

We are very fortunate that PETE didn't take their advice. Instead, he decided to run for the Senate and to bring his case to the people. To no one's surprise they liked what they heard and PETE came to Washington after the 1972 elections. They have been sending him back here with enthusiasm ever since.

It is not an easy thing to sum up a career in the Senate that has spanned four decades. That is the mark of an individual who has dared to try to achieve great things—and succeeded. He came to the Senate with a great awareness of what needed to be done and with a combination of his own brand of style and substance he has been part of a great effort to make those goals a reality.

Looking over his record in the Senate, it shows that PETE has been a key player in our work to achieve energy independence. Together with his New Mexico colleague, JEFF BINGAMAN, PETE worked to bring a national energy bill that seemed doomed to be stalled forever to the floor for a vote and on to the President's desk for his signature. PETE was always willing to work with any Member, no matter their place on the political spectrum, if it meant making progress on a key issue. That is why I would sum up PETE's career in one word—success. PETE has a knack of finding a way to make things happen and we have all benefited from his abilities.

For my part, I also worked with him on the Mental Health Parity bill. For too long the provisions of our health care system provided unequally for physical health and mental health problems. PETE knew that was unfair, and he was determined to do something about it. Working together with me and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, PETE was able to help bring a bill to the floor that required health insurance plans that offer mental health coverage to provide it on an equal level with that afforded to physical illnesses. It is a major change in health care coverage that will make life better for millions and millions of Americans. It is a major accomplishment and it will serve as a special part of his legacy of achievements in the Senate.

In the months to come we will also miss PETE's leadership and his wise counsel as we continue to work on the economic problems facing the Nation. PETE is an expert on budget issues and he has served as our Budget Committee chairman. As I have served alongside him over the years, I have appreciated having the opportunity to observe him in action and work with him on measures of concern to us both. He has been a tireless worker in the effort to bring the Nation's expense account to a biennial budget. He has also fought long and hard to try to put a rein on runaway Federal spending. He was willing to do whatever was necessary to reach an agreement that would balance the budget. He got that done by once again working with Members of both sides of the aisle and a Democrat administration. That was just like him. If there was a way to get something done, PETE usually found it, and the new way he helped develop usually got the bill passed and signed into law.

For me and for most of us, what I will most remember is PETE's personality and his great warmth. He is a genuine good guy who is very down to Earth. He is a gentle man and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He is a man of great faith who believes that public service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on God's green Earth. Simply put, he is the kind of person you would want to have for a friend. That is why so many of us treasure his friendship. He is loyal and close to other Members and to all his staff. He treats his staff like Members of his extended family and not like staff. I think that is why they work so hard for him. They love him like a father because he treats them, as he treats everyone he knows, with kindness and respect.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention his wife, Nancy. She has been a pillar of strength and a source of great support and encouragement to him in his life. I like to say that PETE and I both overmarried. She has been an essential member of his team since they met and I know he would say that whatever success has come to him in his life he owes in great degree to her influence. She is his greatest friend, his wisest counselor and his closest confidante. Together they have done a tremendous job for the people of New Mexico and the influence they have had on it can be seen from one corner of the State to the other. She has been a partner in the fight for mental health parity.

The story is told that when PETE was accepted into law school his father made him a deal. I will finance your law school education, he told him, but only if you agree to my terms. If you do well, I will be proud to pay your way. If you bring home an ''F'' I will expect to be repaid.

Well, my friend, as you return home, your father would be very proud of the report card you will take with you from the Senate and from the people of New Mexico. You have done a great job and everything you have done in your life and in your career you have done very well. You take with us our great praise and an ''A'' from us all for effort, for the work you have done and for the results you have achieved. God bless and be with you, PETE and Nancy. I know we will all miss you and think of you often. Make sure you leave your number with us for I know we will be reaching out to you for your advice and thoughtful suggestions in the days to come. That is one thing that will never change.

JOHN WARNER

Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to join with my colleagues in wishing JOHN WARNER all the best as he retires from the United States Senate after 30 years of service to the people of Virginia. JOHN has had a long and distinguished career and he will be greatly missed.

Like so many of us, JOHN's early years had a great influence on his life and helped to shape his character and mold his destiny. JOHN's father was a surgeon and he saw to it that JOHN's education began at an early age and included samples of just about everything there was to learn. JOHN was soon picking up on a course of study that included math, music, science, Latin and much, much more.

During those early years, JOHN felt the call to serve his country, so he joined the Navy when he was 17 years old so he could be part of our Nation's heroic effort in World War II. He then joined the Marines in 1950 to be part of our forces fighting the Korean war.

JOHN's service in our Armed Forces and his tenure as our Secretary of the Navy has made him one of the Senate's strongest and most knowledgeable voices on the use of our Nation's military. He has been one of the Congress' most respected and most sought after experts on our actions in Iraq, the war against terrorism, and our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. His experience has also made him a leader in the Senate's oversight on defense spending.

Through the years, JOHN has been an important part of the debate on global warming. His concern about the issue and the future of our Nation led him to ask us for our good ideas and common sense proposals, regardless of our party affiliation, in an effort to reach a consensus on the issue that would ultimately lead us to a workable solution.

There are two important reasons why JOHN has been such a tireless worker on this and other similar issues. JOHN shares my love of the great outdoors and all that it has to offer. He enjoys taking time from his busy schedule to hunt and fish with his grandchildren. He remembers the days he spent with his father taking part in those great activities and he wants to give his grandchildren the same gift. So do I. I think that shows JOHN WARNER has a streak of Wyoming in him and has fished there.

In the years that I have served with JOHN I have always been impressed with his unique style and his ability to present his positions on the issues with great power and force. JOHN has always been one to reach out to members on both sides of the aisle, and his ability to bring us together on the issues has helped us to develop answers to problems that seemed to elude us. I don't

think anyone has a better grasp of the importance of finding a third way to do things than JOHN. He knows that there are always three ways of beginning our work on the issues. The first two lead to gridlock as they are the extreme positions on the issue. The third way is closer to the middle and has elements in it that everyone can agree on. That is usually what gets things done.

That has always been JOHN's measure of success. He has never been one who was concerned about making points, he has always been interested in making progress.

JOHN will always be remembered for the leadership he brought to the Senate on a number of issues that concerned him. As he worked on them all he showed his independence and his willingness to consider all viewpoints to find the one that he thought stood the best chance of succeeding, on the floor and in the field. JOHN would be an excellent diplomat because he knows how to disagree without being disagreeable. He has forged good working relationships with us all and that is why he has so many friends in the Senate.

JOHN has been a great public servant and his career shows the results he has been able to achieve in every area of his life. I am proud of his service in the Senate on behalf of the people of Virginia, his service in our Armed Forces, and especially, I am proud to call him my friend.

It is always difficult at the end of the session to say goodbye to our colleagues who are retiring. We have worked together for so many years that we will miss their thoughtful suggestions, their well chosen words and their commitment to the issues we have worked on together.

For JOHN, the good part of goodbye is the knowledge that we will meet again and, I am sure, we will work together again, laugh again, and continue to enjoy all that life has to offer again. This is not a time to say goodbye, just a reminder to be well until we see each other again.

Diana joins in sending our best wishes to you, JOHN and to Jeanne. You deserve nothing but the best life has to offer and you shall have it. I look forward to the days ahead and a time when we can get out our fishing poles and explore some of Virginia's best rivers and streams. Good luck and God bless.

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, soon the last remaining items of business on the legislative calendar will be taken up and the current session of Congress will draw to a close. When it does, several of our colleagues will be returning home and leaving public service. We will miss them, their good ideas and the touch of creativity they brought to our work in the Senate during their years of service to the people of their home States.

When I am asked about the members with whom I have had the privilege to serve during my Senate career, CHUCK HAGEL will certainly come to mind. I don't think anyone has a more interesting life story to tell than CHUCK and certainly few have achieved the level of success he has been able to attain in his public life and in the business world.

CHUCK grew up in a small Nebraska town where he learned the value of a day's work at an earlier than usual age. CHUCK found his first job when he was only nine and he's been hard at work ever since. When he lost his father at the age of 16 it fell to him, as the oldest child, to help raise the younger ones of his family.

That was also about the time that CHUCK made his first run for office. When he was in high school he decided to run for Student Council President. He knew he would have to do something different in his campaign to separate himself from the others who were running, so he tied a chicken to the hood of his car and drove around the school announcing the reasons why he was in the race. No one had ever seen anything quite like that before and he won quite easily I am sure.

After his high school years, CHUCK heard the call to serve his country and he and his brother joined the Army and served in Vietnam. He was seriously wounded twice and received two Purple Hearts during his military service. During one of his missions, he and his brother were trapped in their armored personnel carrier when an enemy mine exploded beneath them. CHUCK pulled his unconscious brother to safety and probably saved his life. It took 10 years for him to fully heal from the effects of the injuries he suffered that day.

When he graduated from the University of Nebraska he began his political career in earnest. He joined the staff of a Republican congressman from Nebraska and impressed him and his staff so much that he steadily rose in responsibility to be his top aide.

Equally impressive has been CHUCK's success as a businessman. He sold almost all he had to begin a cellular phone company with two partners. His hard work and determination to succeed paid off and his investment was multiplied many times over.

That kind of success would have been enough for most people, but not for CHUCK. CHUCK felt the call to bigger things and he set his sights on going to Washington to make life a little better for the people back home in Nebraska.

That was his platform when CHUCK ran for the Senate in 1996. The experts thought he was a long shot and a lot of people said he didn't stand a chance. Once again, CHUCK defied the odds and relied on the judgment of the people of Nebraska instead of the predictions of the experts. The people of Nebraska knew a good thing when they saw it and CHUCK was sent to the Senate to represent them.

CHUCK and I were part of the same freshman class and when we arrived we both looked forward to being named to the committees on which we would serve so we could make a difference for our States and the Nation. CHUCK was very pleased and proud when Senator LUGAR offered him an invitation to join the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

CHUCK took full advantage of the opportunity and made it the focus of his efforts in the Senate. He made a point of visiting other countries and meeting with foreign leaders to increase his expertise on foreign policy. Working closely with Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN, he has been a voice on the committee that is sought after for his perspective on the issues that involve our relations with other countries.

Over the years I have enjoyed serving with CHUCK and working with him on two of his top priorities, cutting Federal spending and making our tax system more workable and more responsive to the needs of our national economy. He can be very proud of all he has achieved, especially his support of fast track authority so the President could negotiate trade deals that cannot be changed by the Congress. His work in the area of international trade has made a great difference throughout the United States and helped improve our relationship with our trading partners.

Now CHUCK's Washington years are coming to a close and he will be moving on together with Lilibet to something new and different in their lives. Diana and I have always found that when one great adventure ends another one takes its place. That is our wish for you. Whatever the future holds for you and Lilibet we wish you all the best. The only good part about saying goodbye is the knowledge that you will keep in touch with us and continue to offer your good advice and the unique brand of common sense that you learned from your service in Washington, your success in your business, and your years growing up in Nebraska, Wyoming's neighbor to the East.

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 70

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, pursuant to section 223 of S. Con. Res. 70, I previously filed adjustments to the 2009 budget resolution for H.R. 2095, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Those adjustments reflected the Congressional Budget Office's estimate at that time of the budgetary effects of H.R. 2095.

CBO has since revised that estimate, increasing the amount of net savings over both 5 and 10 years. As such, H.R. 2095 still meets the conditions required for the release of the reserve fund under section 223, including being fully paid for over both the 6- and 11-year time periods.

Consequently, I am revising the adjustments made on September 29 pursuant to section 223 to reflect CBO's updated estimate. This adjustment affects both the budgetary aggregates

and the allocation provided to the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	1,875.401
FY 2009	2,029.667
FY 2010	2,204.701
FY 2011	2,413.291
FY 2012	2,506.069
FY 2013	2,626.577
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	−3.999
FY 2009	−67.732
FY 2010	21.303
FY 2011	−14.779
FY 2012	−151.526
FY 2013	−123.642
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2008	2,564.237
FY 2009	2,538.268
FY 2010	2,566.829
FY 2011	2,692.492
FY 2012	2,734.106
FY 2013	2,858.848
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2008	2,466.678
FY 2009	2,573.280
FY 2010	2,625.754
FY 2011	2,711.453
FY 2012	2,719.533
FY 2013	2,851.944

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70; FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 223 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority 13,964.	
FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,435
FY 2009 Outlays	10,253
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	75,947
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	49,989
Adjustments:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2009 Budget Authority	0
FY 2009 Outlays	0
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	−8
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	−8
Revised Allocation to Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee:	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	13,964
FY 2008 Outlays	9,363
FY 2009 Budget Authority	14,435
FY 2009 Outlays	10,253
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	75,939
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	49,981

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus.

Would the distinguished gentlemen from North Dakota and Idaho engage in a colloquy with me on this topic?

Mr. DORGAN. I would be pleased to engage in such a colloquy.

Mr. CRAPO. I would also like to join my colleagues in a colloquy on this matter.

Mr. ALLARD. I thank my colleagues. The need for a strong renewable energy policy has never been more timely. This is something I have worked on for many years. As a member of the House of Representatives I was a member of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, and when I was elected to the Senate, discovered that no such similar caucus existed here. So I, along with Senators JEFF BINGAMAN, TIM JOHNSON, JIM JEFFORDS, and BOB KERRY, founded the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus.

The caucus is still going strong today with leadership from Senator BYRON DORGAN, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, and myself. It is a nonpartisan group that strives to increase awareness of the various forms of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in the United States.

I have been honored to serve as the Republican cochair since the inception of the Senate caucus, during this time we have seen the caucus membership grow and today more than a third of the Senate is a member. The caucus has hosted numerous events and briefings and helped hundreds of renewable energy groups display their ideas and technologies. It has also been a forum for sharing thousands of news articles relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

As many of you know, I am retiring from the Senate at the end of this term and will no longer serve as cochair of the caucus. I am proud of the work that the caucus has done, and I am confident it will continue to do great work in the future.

I know it will do great work in the future because it will have strong leadership. I greatly appreciate the work of the other cochairs, Senators DORGAN and LIEBERMAN. They have a remarkable dedication to renewable energy. With the addition of the new Republican cochair, I have no doubt that the caucus will be as strong as ever.

The man replacing me on the caucus is an ardent advocate for renewable energy, Senator MIKE CRAPO. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator CRAPO has helped craft successful legislation to provide tax credits for production and investment in renewable energy such as wind, solar, and geothermal, and as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he supported expanded usage of renewable biofuels.

Senator CRAPO also represents a State that is passionate about renewable energy and energy efficiency. The State of Idaho has received awards for its dedication to renewable energy and cutting edge research is taking place every day at the fine colleges and universities in Idaho.

Mr ALLARD. Senator DORGAN, you have helped me cochair the caucus for several years, and your efforts have been invaluable. Do you share my estimation that Senator CRAPO will make a strong co-chair?

Mr. DORGAN. Yes.

Mr. ALLARD. Senator CRAPO you have been a strong advocate for renewable energy for years, and I am sure are looking forward to cochairing the caucus. Do you have any comments?

Mr. CRAPO. Yes. I have long admired the work of Senator ALLARD in forming and developing the caucus over the years. I am honored to be chosen as the next cochair of the caucus and am eager to build on the work he has accomplished thus far.

As you mentioned, my home State of Idaho is one of the Nation's leaders in renewable energy. Idaho has significant and developed hydropower, wind, and geothermal energy resources, which has led us to have one of the five lowest per capita and total emissions profiles of any State. The research being done on these technologies, as well as energy efficiency, biofuels, and alternative energy resources such as nuclear power at the Idaho National Laboratory, University of Idaho, Boise State and Idaho State Universities, is remarkable and nationally recognized.

Energy issues have arrived at center stage in the public eye and energy supply, prices, and environmental effects are at the forefront of concern. All of us here, regardless of political affiliation, can agree that developing a sound domestic energy plan that provides an adequate supply of clean and affordable energy is a benefit to our Nation. I look forward, along with Senators DORGAN and LIEBERMAN, to educating members and promoting renewable energy and efficiency measures in the upcoming Congress to achieve that goal.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, in July, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship passed S. 3362, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2008, by a unanimous 19–0 vote. Since then, Senator SNOWE, myself, and others have worked diligently to address concerns that have been expressed to us by our colleagues and the administration, and we reached an agreement with the administration on the terms of the bill. Unfortunately, at the last minute, a colleague had objections and we cannot pass the bill.

As the title suggests, the purpose of S. 3362 was to reauthorize the Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, otherwise known as SBIR and STTR. The bill makes improvements to these programs that will allow them to work better for small businesses, while contributing to our economy, fulfilling the priority research needs of the nation, and expanding and diversifying our military's supply base.

Small businesses continue to receive only about 4 percent of Federal research and development dollars despite

the fact that they employ nearly 40 percent of America's scientists and engineers, produce more than 14 times more patents than large businesses and universities, and produce patents that are of higher quality and are more than twice as likely to be cited. Unlike large businesses, which tend to focus more on improving existing product lines, and university research, which leans toward education and publications, America's small businesses and entrepreneurs are the ones willing to take on the high-risk, high-reward research that truly drives innovation.

The SBIR and STTR programs are two of the very few Federal programs that tap into the scientific and technical community found in America's small businesses. These programs foster government-industry partnerships by making competitive awards to firms with the best scientific proposals in response to the research needs of our agencies and by helping to move technologies from the lab to the marketplace or from the lab to insertion in a government program or system.

Since the inception of the SBIR program in 1982, recipients of SBIR and STTR awards have gone on to produce more than 84,000 patents and to generate millions of well-paying jobs across all 50 States. Both programs have garnered high praise from well-respected sources, including from the National Academy of Sciences, which completed its comprehensive assessment of SBIR last year. Governments around the world are increasingly adopting SBIR-type programs to encourage innovation in their countries.

Among the technologies pioneered by SBIR-funded small businesses are a machine that uses lasers and computer cameras to sort and inspect bullets at a much finer level than the human eye can manage, the technology that creates the ''invisible'' condensation trail of the B–2 bomber, a therapeutic drug to treat chronic inflammatory disease, and a nerve gas protection system. With regard to the bullet sorting technology, developed by CyberNet Systems, a small, women-owned business located in Ann Arbor, MI, and currently in use in Iraq and Afghanistan, that SBIR technology is estimated to have saved taxpayers more than $300 million. Those are real cost savings and tangible technological improvements and we could have more such technologies if we increased the SBIR and STTR allocations, as the legislation that passed Committee proposed to do.

S. 3362 is the result of much deliberation and compromise and reflects a truly bipartisan effort to strengthen and improve the SBIR and STTR programs. I am proud that Senator SNOWE, Senator BOND, myself, and others were able to come together to reach agreement on a number of very difficult issues, including on the involvement of firms majority-owned and controlled by multiple venture capital companies in the SBIR program, and that we unanimously passed this legislation out of committee. And as I said at the start of my remarks, I am also proud that we were able to resolve our differences with the administration to craft a bill that would keep these programs going strong.

It is truly a shame that one Republican in this Chamber has blocked this bill from passing, and that all of the effort and all of the compromises that went into getting the legislation to this point will be lost. I ask my colleagues to be aware that the SBIR program is temporarily authorized through March 20, 2009, that the STTR program expires on September 30, 2009, and that we should act fast in the new year to extend or comprehensively authorize these programs to help keep our country ahead in technology.

INTEREST ON LAWYERS' TRUST ACCOUNT PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. Presdient, last week, I joined Senator CARDIN and Senators SPECTER, and others in sending a letter to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, in an effort to preserve the viability of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account program, IOLTA. We have asked the FDIC to ensure that the Transaction Account Guarantee Program, TGLP, through which the FDIC guarantees funds in bank accounts, will also cover lawyer trust accounts. The IOLTA program, which distributes interest on client funds held in lawyer trust accounts to legal aid programs, has been an enormous success in securing legal representation for lower-income Americans. All 50 States have IOLTA programs, and many States mandate participation by practicing attorneys. This program provides funding to important legal aid programs and helps ensure that no person goes without legal representation because of a lack of resources.

Our concern stems from the fact that the TGLP Interim Rule concerning account insurance issued on October 23 would not extend unlimited FDIC insurance to interest bearing lawyer trust accounts, ultimately hurting the public benefit generated by these accounts. According to the FDIC's proposed rules for the TGLP, noninterest-bearing accounts would be insured to protect an unlimited amount of funds. But the insurance for interest-bearing accounts would be limited to $250,000. The lack of an exception for lawyer trust accounts threatens the IOLTA program because it poses a potential conflict for attorneys. Many lawyer trust accounts contain pooled client funds, often in excess of $250,000. As a result of the FDIC's proposed rules, there is legitimate concern that attorneys would move client funds in excess of $250,000 to noninterest-bearing accounts in order to gain the insurance protection, and in an effort to manage client funds as responsibly as possible. This potential ethical dilemma could be prevented by a modification of the proposed rules.

Senator CARDIN, Senator SPECTER, and I have suggested to the FDIC that it modify its proposed rules to make an exception for lawyer trust accounts and provide unlimited insurance on interest bearing accounts containing client funds. This would be an important step towards preserving the success of the IOLTA program, and would remove any potential ethical dilemma for attorneys. Such a modification would ensure that the interest generated by IOLTA accounts continues to be distributed through local nonprofit organizations in each State to fund invaluable legal aid services for low-income families.

I am hopeful that the FDIC will recognize the national importance and success of this program, and will create the exception we have proposed. I would like to particularly thank the Vermont Bar Association for its advocacy in this regard, as well as the American Bar Association for its attention to this issue. Legal representation for everyone is an imperative for a fair and effective judicial system. The IOLTA program has been successful in helping to ensure legal representation for more Americans, and where these goals can be accomplished without the use of tax dollars, such a program should be preserved.

REMEMBERING COLONEL JOHN W. RIPLEY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I regret to have to inform the Senate of the passing of a truly great American: John W. Ripley, a retired Marine Corps colonel and hero of the Vietnam war.

Colonel Ripley will be best known for his achievements and self-sacrifice during the Vietnam war—particularly on April 2, 1972, when he singlehandedly blew up the Dong Ha bridge. That bridge over the Cua Viet River was a major thoroughfare for an invasion force from North Vietnam. Colonel Ripley, serving with a marine unit from South Vietnam, moved around the bridge like it was a trapeze and hung charges that would blow it up and prevent the enemy's advance.

That story is the subject of innumerable books and articles. It is an absolutely incredible feat, showing us how an act of individual bravery can have a large strategic impact that affects an entire force. Indeed, the removal of that bridge created a bottleneck that allowed allied forces to apply overwhelming air power and blunt that invasion.

After Vietnam, Colonel Ripley had a distinguished career that included going through some of the most challenging training programs among the world's militaries, including U.S. Army Ranger School. In his willingness to undergo the ardors of combat and training, he emerged a marine's marine, a steely and strong individual always ready to put his country and his fellow marines before himself.

John Ripley is a symbol for the vibrancy of the Marine Corps, one of the most storied military forces in the globe's history, and a testament to how—amid the enormity and vast confusion of war—a single person can make a difference.

I will miss seeing him at various events, including those of the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation. We will continue to honor his service through support of the Marine Corps and of all of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

I ask unanimous consent that an obituary on Colonel Ripley, which appeared in the November 4 edition of the New York Times, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Nov. 4, 2008]

COL. JOHN W. RIPLEY, MARINE WHO HALTED VIETNAMESE ATTACK, DIES AT 69

(By Dennis Hevesi)

John W. Ripley, a highly decorated former colonel who entered Marine Corps lore when he single-handedly blunted a major North Vietnamese offensive during the Vietnam War by blowing up a strategically placed bridge, died Oct. 28 at his home in Annapolis, Md. He was 69.

The cause has not been determined, his son Stephen said.

Colonel Ripley, who at the time was a captain and a military adviser to a South Vietnamese Marine unit, blew up the southern end of the Dong Ha Bridge over the Cua Viet River on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1972. On the north side of the bridge, which was several miles south of the demilitarized zone, some 20,000 North Vietnamese troops and 200 tanks were poised to sweep into Quang Tri Province, which was sparsely defended.

Going back and forth for three hours while under fire, Captain Ripley swung hand over hand along the steel I-beams beneath the bridge, securing himself between girders and placing crates holding a total of 500 pounds of TNT in a diagonal line from one side of the structure to the other. The I-beam wings were just wide enough to form pathways along which he could slide the boxes.

When the boxes were in place on the bridge, Captain Ripley attached blasting caps to detonate the TNT, then connected them with a timed-fuse cord that eventually extended hundreds of feet.

''He had to bite down on the blasting caps to attach them to the fuses,'' John Grider Miller, author of ''The Bridge at Dong Ha,'' said on Monday. ''If he bit too low on the blasting cap, it could come loose; if he bit too high, it could blow his head apart.''

Captain Ripley bit safely, and the timed-fuse cord gave him about half an hour to clamber off the bridge. Moments later, his work paid off with a shock wave that tossed him into the air but otherwise left him unharmed.

By placing the crates diagonally along the bridge, Mr. Miller said, Captain Ripley had created ''a twisting motion that ripped the bridge apart from its moorings so it couldn't fall back in place, but collapsed into the river.''

There were about 600 South Vietnamese marines near the south end of the bridge. ''South Vietnam would have been in big trouble,'' said Fred Schultz, senior editor of Naval History Magazine, a publication of the United States Naval Institute. ''The force numbers defending on that side could not have held against that North Vietnamese force.''

The destruction of the bridge created a bottleneck for the North Vietnamese, allowing American bombers to blunt what became known as the Easter offensive.

Captain Ripley was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions at the bridge. He served two tours in Vietnam and remained on active duty until 1992, eventually rising to colonel. Among other decorations, he received the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

John Walter Ripley was born on June 29, 1939, and grew up in Radford, Va., the son of Bud and Verna Holt Ripley. He enlisted in the Marines out of high school in 1956, and a year later received approval from the secretary of the Navy to attend a preparatory school leading to his appointment to the Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1962.

Besides his son Stephen, Colonel Ripley is survived by his wife of 44 years, the former Moline Blaylock; a sister, Susan Goodykoontz; two other sons, Thomas and John; a daughter, Mary Ripley; and eight grandchildren.

''Colonel Ripley is well known in marine circles,'' Mr. Schultz said, ''but he's the most revered war hero no one's ever heard of.''

''This was 1972,'' he added, ''and people didn't pay too much attention to war heroes at that time.''

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have long been a champion of the intellectual property rights enshrined in the Constitution, and have sponsored much of the significant legislation in that realm over the decades I have served in the Senate. On October 24, 2008, Judge Richard Linn of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the court entrusted exclusively with Federal appeals involving patent issues, gave the keynote address before the American Intellectual Property Law Association's annual meeting. In that address, Judge Linn discusses the challenges facing the intellectual property system in the coming years, offers advice on moving forward as a nation to meet those challenges, and provides food for thought for anyone interested in this important part of our national economy.

I ask unanimous consent that the statement of Judge Richard Linn from October 24, 2008, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CHALLENGES AHEAD

I would like to thank the AIPLA for the invitation to speak before you today. I am truly honored to speak before the AIPLA, an organization I have belonged to since the late 60's. I see in the audience many of my friends and former colleagues of the patent bar. I feel very much at home here, and it is nice to be asked to speak before this distinguished group.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to personally recognize someone who has played a unique role in the progress of the U.S. patent system for over 40 years, someone who has led this organization for the past decade and a half, someone who has been a special friend to so many of us, and someone who is now moving on to a well deserved retirement—Mike Kirk. Please join me in a round of applause to show our appreciation for Mike and all that he has done.

We all know that Mike has done some very special things for the AIPLA. But the best thing he did was to bring his wife, Mary Catherine, into our AIPLA family. I think she, too, deserves to be recognized for all she has done.

One measure of a leader is the caliber of the person selected to replace him. And here again, the AIPLA has risen to the challenge of Mike Kirk's departure in selecting one of the few members of our profession who has the character, knowledge, and recognized leadership skills to honor Mike's legacy of accomplishment. That person is, of course, Q. Todd Dickenson, and I think he deserves a vote of confidence with a round of applause.

The program lists my topic as ''Challenges Ahead.'' I selected that topic intentionally to give me lots of latitude in what I might say. If that phrase was a limitation in a patent claim, the meaning would be hard to discern with specificity and no doubt would generate considerable litigation. In a way, it's the perfect topic. So, what is it that I am going to talk about?

John Whealan yesterday focused on recent history and ended with a few comments on the future. Instead, I will focus on some of the challenges I see for the future and will begin with a few comments on the changes of the recent past.

We hear a lot about change these days. Change in our economy, global climate change, and of course, change in our government. Change has been in the air for some time. It seems like the only thing we have heard, or seen, or read in the media for the past 20 months or so has been about change. And intellectual property law has been no stranger to it in the past few years. While one can debate the extent of the changes and the reasons underlying them, there is no question that the rights of patentees have been impacted in one way or the other by a number of recent decisions. And while the pace of change may slow down at least for a while, the fallout of all of this change will directly impact all of us. This is evident, for example, from an examination of three key decisions: KSR v. Teleflex, dealing with the test for obviousness; eBay v. MercExchange, dealing with the test for injunctive relief; and In re Seagate, dealing with the standard applicable to prove willful infringement. There have been others, such as MedImmune v. Genentech, which made it easier to challenge patents in declaratory judgment actions, and DSU v. JMS, requiring proof of specific intent for induced infringement, but I will limit my remarks to the holdings and possible implications of KSR, eBay, and Seagate.

In KSR, the Supreme Court reviewed the test for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Supreme Court began by emphasizing that its 1966 decision in Graham v. John Deere informed the obviousness inquiry. It went on to reject what it perceived to be a rigid approach taken by our court in applying the teaching, suggestion and motivation test. The Supreme Court observed that ''when it first established the requirement of demonstrating a teaching, suggestion, or motivation to combine known elements in order to show that the combination is obvious, the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals captured a helpful insight.'' It then noted, however, that helpful insights need not become rigid and mandatory formulas, and ''when a court transforms a general principle into a rigid rule that limits the obviousness inquiry, as the Court of Appeals did here, it errs.''

The Supreme Court summed up its position on obviousness in observing that what is important is to use common sense and to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does. It added that any need or problem known in the field of endeavor at the time of invention and addressed by the patent can provide a reason for combining the elements in the manner claimed.

The court also made some interesting observations on the propriety of summary judgment on issues of obviousness. The court said that ''where, as here, the content of the prior art, the scope of the patent claim, and the level of ordinary skill in the art are not in material dispute, and the obviousness of the claim is apparent in light of these factors, summary judgment is appropriate.'' ''The obviousness of the claim is apparent in light of these factors?'' What does that mean? Does this mean obviousness is sort of like obscenity—you know it when you see it? I'm not sure what it means, but I am sure someone is going to ask me for an answer to that question in a brief in the not too distant future.

The net result of KSR is that defendants may have a renewed interest in raising and pressing obviousness contentions, despite the high ''clear and convincing'' standard that applies to validity challenges. They can now argue that ''reasons'' and common sense support a conclusion that the claimed invention doesn't pass muster even when application of a teaching, suggestion, and motivation test might otherwise have failed. It also means that patentees will have to be more prepared to gather up evidence to show secondary considerations as a way to overcome expected challenges from accused infringers. Finally, the Supreme Court's comments about summary judgment will mean that patentees will have to start thinking about how to assist courts in answering questions about what the Supreme Court's comments on summary judgment meant as to the way obviousness issues should be presented to juries, if at all. For example, is it still proper for a district court to present the ultimate question of obviousness to the jury or is the district court required to decide obviousness as a matter of law in every case, leaving only the factual underpinnings for the jury? No matter how all this is sorted out, KSR makes evident that patentees are likely to face more challenges based on section 103. We are already seeing this in recent cases filed with our court.

In eBay, the Supreme Court rejected the categorical grant of injunctive relief in patent cases and held that in those cases, just as in other cases, a plaintiff seeking a permanent injunction must demonstrate that it has suffered irreparable injury; that remedies available at law are inadequate; that the balance of hardships warrants injunctive relief; and that the public interest would not be disserved by a permanent injunction. What the Supreme Court did not tell us is what happens after infringement is found and a court determines that the equitable remedy of a permanent injunction is not warranted. This is already presenting patentees and the courts with interesting new challenges. eBay also leaves open the question of whether there remains a rebuttable presumption of irreparable harm in patent cases. The bottom line for patentees is that they, like all other plaintiffs, will have to tow the line and be prepared to make a convincing showing on each of the four equitable factors. This will present new challenges, particularly to non-practicing patentees and alters some of the leverage patentees assumed they enjoyed before the eBay decision.

In re Seagate presented our court with the opportunity to pick up where Knorr-Bremse left off and to reconsider the question of the duty of due care owed to patentees and the standard for determining when infringement is willful and subject to treble damages. The case came to us on a motion for a writ of mandamus seeking to overturn an order from a district court that would have given the patentee's counsel virtually unfettered access to all attorney-client communications and work-product of the accused infringer. That order stemmed from the patentee's assertion of willful infringement and the accused infringer's good faith reliance on the advice of counsel. Because of the abuses we perceived in the routine allegation of willful infringement and the tension it produced between assertion by the accused infringer of the attorney-client privilege and reliance on the advice of counsel, we overruled the duty of due care standard set out in Underwater Devices and held that proof of willful infringement, permitting enhanced damages, requires at least a showing of objective recklessness. Because we abandoned the affirmative duty of due care, we also remarked that in the context of willful infringement, there is no affirmative obligation to obtain an opinion of counsel.

Following Seagate, it can be anticipated that there will be continuing debate over application of the objectively reckless standard and the parameters of willful infringement. The one thing that is no longer in debate, however, is that patentees can no longer bank on a determination of willfulness and enhanced damages merely because infringement was found against an accused who had prior notice of the patent.

The net result of all of these decisions is that patentees are likely to have to confront more obviousness challenges, patentees are less likely to obtain enhanced damage awards based on willfulness, and patentees will be more challenged to obtain injunctive relief than just a few years ago. These cases thus will cause patentees to reassess their strategies and to revalue their patent portfolios.

But patentees are not only struggling to cope with recent decisions of the Supreme Court and the Federal Circuit. Patentees continue to suffer needlessly from self-inflicted wounds. These are the walking wounded, who regularly report to the MASH units-the district courts-for help. And if they don't get the help they need at the district court MASH unit, they come to the general hospital-the Federal Circuit, to cure all that ails them.

What self-inflicted wounds am I talking about? There are two in particular that I want to highlight. The first relates to the continuing propensity of patentees, particularly in the electrical and mechanical arts, to disclose in their applications only one embodiment of the invention, while arguing that the claims cover something broader than the one disclosed embodiment might suggest. I have no idea why so many patentees continue to limit the number of embodiments disclosed when, in so many cases we hear, the entire controversy is about the scope of a claim supported only by a single disclosed embodiment. Patentees who desire broad coverage and only disclose a single embodiment are shooting themselves in the foot.

Scientists and engineers are familiar with the concept that an area cannot be defined by a single point or even two points. To define an area requires at least three points. It is surprising, then, that patent attorneys, who are trained both in the law and in science or engineering, often forget this three-point concept in drafting patent applications. Careful prosecutors follow a general rule and include in patent specifications not merely one embodiment of an invention, but multiple embodiments to better illustrate the full area of the discovery embraced by the claims. This is a sound practice that helps to inform the public of the proper scope of the claims and avoids uncertainty and interpretive disputes. The uncertainty of single embodiment specifications has brought us a steady stream of cases, and I urge all of you not to shoot yourselves or your clients in the foot by disclosing only one embodiment, particularly in mechanical and electrical cases.

The second example of a self-inflicted wound is the continuing practice of adding terminology to claims, particularly after an interview, to place the claims in condition for allowance without explaining the reason for the change or pointing out where in the specification support for the added language can be found. Again, in case after case before our court, we are called upon to construe the scope of claim language which appears nowhere else but in the claims. Without any support in the written description, we are left to infer meaning from parts of the specification that often do not directly relate to the limitation in question or from the prosecution history of events leading up to the amendment. These are often poor guides for interpretation and frequently lead to protracted and costly litigation, not to mention unpredictable outcomes. Here again, the wound is self-inflicted and patentees are well advised to avoid shooting themselves in the foot by leaving the meaning of critical limitations to unguided inference.

The message for those who regularly write and prosecute patent applications for clients is that while the swinging of the patent pendulum of court decisions is largely beyond any patentee's ability to alter, there are things that are entirely within your control, such as including multiple embodiments in patent applications to make broad construction of claim terms more likely and providing support or an explanation for claim terms added during prosecution. Those things you can control. And they will help your client avoid going through life as a walking wounded patentee.

I would like to turn now to some challenges I see for the PTO. With a new administration soon to occupy the White House, a change in leadership at the PTO can be expected within the next year. The new leaders at the PTO will face many difficult challenges. The past leadership has much to be proud of. Director Dudas successfully oversaw the completion of a modern new facility and the end to fee diversion. He and his colleagues have upgraded technology resources for examiners, have ramped up hiring, and have instituted comprehensive training programs, to name just a few of their many accomplishments. All of that is commendable.

But it seems to me that what is needed now goes beyond facilities or finances to the heart of the PTO's mission to thoroughly, carefully, and promptly examine the applications of those who seek the protection of patents and who rely on the effective operation of our patent system. With the solid foundation of the achievements of the current Director, the PTO now needs the leadership of those with intimate knowledge of patents and patent law. People who understand first-hand the problems faced by users of the system and who have the ability to comprehensively relate to the practicing bar. That leadership is best found in the ranks of experienced practitioners, many of whom are in this very room.

The next group of leaders at the PTO will need to be creative in finding new ways to improve not only productivity but quality as

well. The number of new applications that are projected over the next several years is staggering. Technology will continue to get more complicated. And the demands of managing such a sizable organization will be rigorous. To keep pace will take bold new measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of almost every aspect of PTO operations. That may entail cooperative efforts with other patent offices around the world to find ways to share search results. It may entail establishing a program of deferred examination to give applicants an opportunity to fully evaluate the need for patent protection before the office is called upon to conduct any examination. My point here is not to suggest specific initiatives. It is not my place to tell the PTO how it should operate. I only cite these as examples of the kinds of things the new leadership of the PTO will need to seek out if it is to avoid getting buried in the avalanche of new applications looming on the horizon.

I know the PTO has engaged in a vigorous effort to hire and train new examiners. I have been privileged to speak at a graduation ceremony for an impressive class of new examiners from the PTO's new patent academy. But that's only half of the equation. It serves no real purpose to hire new examiners if an equal number of examiners—especially experienced examiners—resign. The PTO will need to go back to basics and creatively apply a new version of the Three R's we all learned as kids. The rule for how to treat examiners couldn't be simpler: Respect, Reward, and Retain. In this regard, it may be time for the PTO to develop new standards of examiner performance that mirror the standards of attorney performance used by law firms and corporate law departments. Just as attorney performance is not measured by billable hours alone, examiner performance measured principally by the number of disposals may not be the best approach. Counting disposals may be a raw indicator of performance but does not recognize the judgment, thoroughness, and legal skills provided by first-rate examiners and expected by the public.

Other patent offices around the world are involved not only in giving birth to patents but in assessing questions of validity raised over the life of a patent. That may explain why examiners in many countries are treated differently than U.S. examiners. It is not that U.S. examiners are less competent or any less dedicated. Far from it. But if the primary role of an examiner is limited to ex parte matters that end on the day the patent issues, there will understandably be a different interest on the part of the public in what examiners do and who they are than if they played an essential role in the determination of validity challenges throughout the life of the patent. One way U.S. examiners would have a greater opportunity to be recognized in much the same way as their counterparts in other countries is if the new leadership at the PTO decides to energize the current reexamination system to make it the attractive alternative to litigation it was originally intended to be. This would require a much expanded corps of experienced reexamination examiners and the implementation of streamlined procedures to accelerate the processing of all reexamination applications.

While it is evident that the PTO will face unprecedented challenges in the years ahead, the leaders and examiners I know are capable, dedicated, and clearly up to the task. I have every confidence that the PTO will meet the challenges ahead and will continue to be a model for the rest of the world.

Many have said that this is the golden age of intellectual property. In the years to come, we can expect to see significant advances in energy technology, green technology, nanotechnology, and a host of other things. The need for effective protection for the discoveries of tomorrow's scientists, engineers, and researchers will be greater than ever before. And the changing legal landscape and the pace of technological progress will present us all with new and difficult challenges. The challenges ahead are many, but we are all fortunate to have the chance to enjoy the opportunities and to confront the challenges the golden age of IP offers to each of us.

I have enjoyed being with you and thank you for your attention.

VERMONT'S 12TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I would like to share with my friends in the Senate a great story of personal triumph and success as told by Vermont Supreme Court Associate Justice Marilyn Skoglund, the keynote speaker for Vermont's 12th Annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference.

Marilyn forged her own remarkable path to success. She received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Southern Illinois University, and after moving to Vermont, passed the bar exam on her first try all while raising her 7-year-old daughter. Marilyn continued to rise through the ranks of the Vermont Office of the Attorney General where she served as both chief of the civil law division and chief of the public protection division before her appointment in 1994 to the district court, and subsequently the Vermont Supreme Court in 1997. In addition to her accomplishments, Marcelle and I admired Marilyn's candidness as she walked us through her journey. She offered more than 300 Vermont women a very honest and inspirational perspective on the realities of balancing both a career and a family.

Marcelle and I have hosted the Vermont Women's Economic Opportunity Conference for 12 years, and we look forward to attending each year because we consider it one of the most important events in which we take part. Though our economy may be facing difficult challenges, this year's conference, and Marilyn's story, showed that adversity can be overcome and met with great success—especially by motivated and talented women of all ages.

Vermont's economic future depends on the countless talented women who drive it. According to the Vermont Center for Women's Business Studies, women-owned firms generate an impressive $1.5 billion annually and currently employ more than 35,000 Vermonters. In 2006, approximately 39 percent of all Vermont businesses were owned, or partially owned, by women. Even though the number of Vermont women-owned businesses is on the rise, we must continue working to encourage greater growth.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Justice Skoglund's speech, written for Vermont's 12th annual Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, detailing her journey to success, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATOR LEAHY'S 12TH WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE

I begin with a disclaimer. In Senator Leahy's letter, asking me to be the keynote speaker, he wrote as follows: ''We invite you to share your compelling personal experiences of how you molded your successful career path to the Vermont Supreme Court, all the while raising two daughters as a single mother.''

I was of course so excited to learn that Senator Leahy knew my name. And, that he thought I had done a good job of balancing a career and a family. But, after skipping around the kitchen a bit, I settled down. Sen. Leahy did not really know what those compelling personal experiences were. Perhaps he was lured into inviting me because a staff member had heard rumors that my ''successful career path'' was pretty funny. Someday I will be old enough to know better than to discuss my past in public just because I was so flattered someone of Sen. Leahy's stature asked, but, here I am. Ready to reveal. I accept Sen. Leahy's invitation to share my compelling, maybe, but more accurately, my ridiculous, oddball, clueless, experiences of how I managed to crawl my way into the best job on the planet, all the while dragging two innocent, courageous daughters along in my wake. The journey through the thicket of experiences was not always pleasant, and mistakes were made. Truth is; I may have nothing to offer to this audience. This is an economic conference. I am not an economist. I am not a psychologist. So, if you all just want to go get coffee and skip the gory details, I will understand.

To begin, how does one grade ''success'' in balancing work and family? I am a justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. I have a good reputation as a jurist. I was a very good lawyer. I have no arrest record. So far so good. I raised one daughter, let's call her Martha, who is an ObGyn doctor delivering babies in New Hampshire. She seems very content and satisfied with her life. She just got married to a wonderful man on August 30th. Most important indicia of success: She loves me. I raised another daughter; I will call her Ruby, who is working on a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. She is currently very annoyed at how hard life is, but feels good about her work. She loves me. This sounds great! By the way, I have changed their names to protect their privacy. They each bear their father's last names, as do I, so hopefully, I have shielded them from any further embarrassment from their mother, at least for today.

Because, while they may be well adjusted women, the truth is, they adjusted to what their mother put them through. And, if ''successfully balancing'' includes a solid marriage, I am not your girl. Two creative, interesting, unique men, neither ever bored me. I love them to this day, I danced with each at Martha's wedding, but it did not work out.

In addition to my inadequacies standing up here before you, I would also point out that everyone in this audience is clearly way ahead of where I was when I wandered into adulthood. Obviously, you are all women with a high degree of confidence in yourselves and your ideas, ambitions, and goals. You are at an economic conference, for heaven's sake. You have given some thought to your life. At the beginning of my meandering

road to the Supreme Court, I had little concept of who I was and had not considered who I wanted to be.

To begin, my parents were the Swedish equivalent of Ozzie and Harriet. I was raised in a nice middle class home in a nice midwestern suburb. There literally was a white picket fence around the yard. And, a little dog. My mother wore a dress every day of her life, so she did her house work looking like Donna Reed. By the time I came along, my father was working in a steel plant and Mom had stopped being a hair dresser to raise two kids. There were no drugs in my school. My father's biggest complaint about me was that my bangs were too long. It was an idyllic childhood. Just like on T.V. So I assumed everyone pretty much lived like I did. Father made enough so I could go to college. Back in those olden days, in-state tuition at SIU was $97 a semester. And, I had part time jobs to help pay my expenses. After four years, I got married, continued going to school and working part time, because it was cheap and it was fun. Finally, after seven years in college, I decided to graduate, mainly because I was pregnant and did not know how long it would be until I could get back to going to classes. That should give you some idea of how totally clueless I was about the changes a child brings to a life.

The baby was great, but then things quickly stopped being cheap and fun. There is something about the arrival of a child, and one parent not working, that causes money problems. My husband was working, but not getting paid much. I was not working (day care didn't exist in southern Illinois). And, there came a time when I had to apply for food stamps. Three months of food stamps. We were two middle class kids and we thought this was shameful, so of course, we never told our folks and we couldn't ask them for money for the same reason. But, of course, we weren't middle class kids anymore—we were young parents with very little money, renting a grimy little house with giant slugs in the basement.

I'll cut this gruesome chapter short. In 1973 we moved to Vermont, my husband got laid off and then, after eleven years of marriage, he left. The reasons are not important. By now my daughter was in first grade. and I was working a part-time job for very little money. Those seven years in college? I walked out with a degree in fine arts—sculpture. See, I didn't go to college with an actual career in mind. I expected to become my mom, making lunches, and ironing in my pearls. My father always said, if a woman has to work outside the home, it should be in one of the helping professions: teaching or nursing. Things were not working out. What would Donna Reed do? I pondered.

I decided to be a lawyer. Now, I do admit to having a selective memory about some things. I do not remember my first husband asking me to marry him and I have no recollection of why I thought I could become a lawyer. Law school wasn't an option—there was no money for tuition and besides, I had to work.

I got a job working as a paralegal, law clerk at the attorney general's office and participating in that marvelous Vermont jewel, the four year reading clerkship. This path to the bar required me to apprentice myself for four years to a lawyer, and if I passed the bar exam, I was a real lawyer. I began work in the AG's office at a salary of $7,000 a year, which quickly went up to $12,000. Here's an interesting fact: I had to borrow a dress for the job interview at the attorney general's office. Now, at the time I knew I didn't have any money, but I never thought I was poor. I was doing all right.

But if you ask my daughter, Martha, you'd get a different picture. While I was working all day every day in Montpelier, she was walking half a mile home from the school bus stop to the adorable tiny three-room, uninsulated cottage in the country with the only source of heat being a wood burning furnace in the cellar. Walking home to a cold, empty house. But, the good news was that I rented this cottage from Walter Smith. I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to my very own personal version of welfare: Walter Smith. Walter was a beloved dairy farmer in Plainfield, about 68 years old when I met him, who was my landlord for eleven years and my friend for twenty. He died several years back. I loved him.

So, at the age of eight, Martha was expected to stoke the furnace when she got home. Sometimes, Walter would come over to help her. But most times he could not. And, you know, I did not agonize over this. Donna Reed and June Cleaver would be horrified, but I had to work. It was that simple. Walter, who by then had become my surrogate father, had the hired hands bring over truck loads of free split wood—an early version of ''fuel assistance.'' I could dip raw milk from the bulk tank for free. My very own WIC program. He'd give me meat when he butchered a cow whose milking days were over. Very, very chewy, but free. Free eggs if I fought the hens for them, and maple syrup. He would give me bushels of tomatoes and I would put them up and give him half. If my cupboard was really bare, Martha and I could always wander over to the farm house where Walter had cases and cases of chicken noodle soup, which he ate every day with mayonnaise sandwiches. He was my food shelf. Once, when Martha was about ten, I sent her to school with a coconut and a hammer for snack as I hadn't had time to grocery shop. Walter had given me the coconut as a joke, asking me what kind of turkey I thought had laid the brown hairy thing? The teacher sent a note home thanking me for providing an interesting project for the class. I thought that was nice.

See, I was not poor. I had Walter. And, there was a certain satisfaction about supporting myself and my child.

But, I was also in love. Madly and passionately in love with the law. The law is amazing. It is the infrastructure of society. Sensible, mostly. Logical, usually. Enduring. It adapts to changing mores and technologies, but only slightly faster than the movement of the earth's tectonic plates. How did the founding father's accept the constitution to deal with the development of cyber-space and artificial insemination? Heavy stuff. I love it. I had decided to go into law thinking I liked writing, words, and arguing. I hadn't expected to discover that it felt like ginger ale poured over my brain. This is how I can describe the joy, excitement, and the thrill of learning and understanding the basis of the rules that manage our civilized life.

If you have a passion, if you find your passion, you are a very lucky person. And, I had found my passion while Martha was stoking the furnace.

But, here is an amazing fact: children have their own memories, and their own perceptions about life. When she was in high school, unbeknownst to me, Martha applied for a Horatio Alger Scholarship, given to kids who have endured hardship and managed to be successful students in spite of it. And, she got one. When she told me about this wonderful thing, I was so proud and delighted. Eventually it dawned on me to ask in perfect ignorance: ''What was your hardship?''

''You,'' she answered. She had written about those days when she came home to an empty cold house and had to face the cellar and the furnace alone and cold. I have never read her winning essay. I am not that strong.

So, eventually, I connected again with an interesting, creative, blah, blah, blah man and Ruby came along. At this time I am a lawyer in the civil law division of the AG office. Yes, I had passed the bar. Ruby started day care at six months of age. And, having found what I was supposed to be doing with my life, I wanted to keep working. Oh the guilt. Her father was on the road most of the time, and 2½ years after Ruby was born, that road did not pass by our house any more.

One day, the call came from the day care that Ruby was sick and I needed to pick her up. Naturally, I was scheduled to prosecute a physician before the Board of Medical Practice that day. I had prepared the case for months. Witnesses had answered subpoenas to appear. No other attorney in the office knew the case. What I knew was that just outside the hearing room in the Secretary of State's office was a couch. So, I went and got Ruby, swung by the house for a blanket and pillow and a juice box, and put her to bed in the hall of the Secretary of State's office.

I know that bundling up a sick little girl in a hallway will not win me any parenting awards. But, helpful, understanding people working at the office kept an eye on Ruby while she slept. Ruby, too, adjusted to me.

But, being a mom with a profession that really requires adherence to a schedule also had benefits. My first oral argument before the Vermont Supreme Court was scheduled. I was a nervous wreck. ''Got to get plenty of sleep the night before so I'm sharp.''

Instead Martha got the flu and we spent most of the night with me holding her hair while she drove the porcelain bus. As soon as Walter was done milking, I trundled Martha over to his house, told him I would be back in two hours, and went to Montpelier to the hearing. Being worried about Martha put the argument into a manageable perspective—I just did the job then ran home to be a mom.

Eventually, after 17 years at the Attorney General's office, I applied to be a trial judge. I made it past the Judicial Nominating board and my name was sent to Governor Dean for consideration. Then, I got worried. Martha was 21 by then, but Ruby was only 8 and I knew I'd be away from home for long hours every day. I was scared so I withdrew my name from consideration. When I told my daughters what I had done, the outcry was loud. Ruby was really insulted and said she'd be fine. Martha said she would help out. They convinced me it could work. I called back the Governor's office and said I had changed my mind. When I had my interview with the Governor, I explained how my concerns for my children had caused me to chicken out. He understood and appointed me as a judge.

And, it was hard. On me, and on Ruby. I got home late and left early. I was at least an hour away if she got sick or hurt. There was one year when I was family court judge in Washington county—where we live. Ruby was in sixth grade when a big eighth grade boy approached and asked, ''Is your mom a judge?''

She admitted I was.

''She sent me to juvenile hall,'' he said.

''I'm sorry,'' said little Ruby nervously.

''Oh, that's all right, I screwed up.'' He reassured her. ''She's the one with black nail polish, right?''

Finding herself in the familiar territory of mortification by her mother's behavior, Ruby admitted, ''Yeah, that's her.''

I used to wear something odd on juvenile day to relax the kids, and this boy noticed. Of course Ruby was pretty much always embarrassed by me. Now I am on the Supreme Court, but what did Ruby say when she heard about the appointment at the age of twelve?

''Oh no, now you'll be home all the time!''

What did I learn that I can offer to you? I tried to think of an inspirational saying or

two, but could not. I do get a lot of catalogs. One particularly annoying one is chock full of heart warming sayings like, ''Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain.'' Oh please. Storms are scary, rain is cold and wet, and one can get muddy. Let's get real. Life is hard, get over it.

Number 1: Take help that is offered. Would I have survived without Walter Smith's care and kindness? I do not know. And I am glad I did not have to find out.

Number 2: If you do not have a snack, send a coconut. In other words, be flexible. When it came time to study for the bar examination, I was on my own. I made little 3x5 filing cards on all the subjects and set them around the house so that whatever I was doing, I could incorporate a little study. Some areas of law are governed by certain factors that you just have to remember. Over the kitchen sink I placed the filing card that listed the elements of a secured transaction. Next to the toilet I posted the card that laid out the parts of a bulk sale. I read them over and over and over. And, poor Martha endured one pizza after another because I did not cook much while I studied.

Number 3: Pity parties are a waste of time, and a breeding ground for excuses. In other words, if your circumstances are not the most conducive to success, try anyway.

Would I have liked to go to law school? Of course. Could I? No. So what! Here's my favorite true example of making due with what you have available. I watch the Canadian television coverage of the summer Olympic games because it is so much better than that of the U.S. coverage. They celebrate individual athletes' ''personal bests'' rather than the medal counts. And, they covered really weird events that I had never heard of, like dory racing. I thought it was very cool. They did a background piece on Jerad Connaghten, an athlete training for the 200 meters in track and field. He was from somewhere in Canada that had no running track. So he and his coach improvised. To train for strength they did sand starts taking off in deep sand on the sea shore. They set up their own practice course. At the end of a dirt road was a little cottage and that cottage marked 200 meters. The little mulberry tree was 50 meters out and the larger mulberry tree was the 150 meters mark. Competing against the world's best, Jerad made it through the preliminary heats to the finals of the 200 meter event. I was so impressed. Work with what you've got. Excuses weigh you down.

Number 4: Do not insult your children by thinking life is too hard for them. In other words, children are resilient. What might appear to have been my heartless expectation of little Martha's abilities to care for herself at a very young age may have been influenced by my maternal grandmother, Olga. All four of my grandparents were born in Sweden. Olga was the daughter of a farm family the Dahlbergs—with too many children to feed. First the Dahlbergs sent their oldest daughter Margaret over to live with relatives in Chicago, the Larsons. Margaret died within months of her arrival of diphtheria. Then the Dahlbergs put there next daughter, my grandma Olga, on the boat all alone at the age of 12 and sent her to live with the Dahlbergs. Throughout my life, whenever I thought life was too hard and I was scared, I thought of my grandma traveling alone across the ocean to the family where her older sister had died. How did she do that? What were her nightmares? My grandmother was sweet, and kind, and patient, and loving. Her early years did no apparent damage. I know I could have done better by Martha. I wish I could have done better by Martha. I did the best I could and that is my only consolation.

Number 5: Play dough is far more important than doing the dishes. Get your priorities straight. I was blessed with a job I loved, and then had the added joy of coming home, forgetting about the law, and playing with my daughters. Next confession: My housekeeping would not win any awards either. Sometimes the food in the refrigerator grew little sweaters. What housecleaning I did happened when the children were in bed. And, they had clean clothes and decent food and, most importantly, they knew their mom loved playing with them. Legos, play dough, Barbies, puzzles. Whatever activity that allowed the analytical part of my mind to go into sleep cycle was welcomed by me. So, don't get so busy making a living that you forget to make colorful messes and memories.

Number 6: Never, ever coast. After a few years at the Attorney General's office, the AG asked me to become chief of the civil division. I was one of two women in the division and all the men had more years of experience than I as lawyers. Here's a John Wayne quote: ''Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway.'' Well, I moseyed on into the AG's office and said, ''Yes, I would be pleased to be chief of the division. But, I would like a bigger badge.''

To maintain respect and to get the members of the division to be their best, I had to set an example. I worked as hard or harder than anyone else. I gave them no reason to complain about the AG's choice. So if you're running your own business or supervising employees, it is more important to the bottom line the quality of work to set a positive example than to offer token prizes to the employee of the month who actually manages to get to work on time five days in a row. I expected the attorneys to be terrific and so they were.

To conclude, what do I know? My children have forgiven me for most of my blunders, they are fiercely independent, and can think on their own. I'm proud of my work and even more proud of my daughters. And, I am grateful for the chances I have been given and the courage to take them. My main message to you is: Work hard. Then work harder. And then, work harder still.

But, I will leave you with another of those pithy homey sayings from the annoying catalog, and one that makes no sense to me at all.

''May the light always find you on a dreary day. When you need to be home may you find a way. May you always have courage to take a chance and never find frogs in your underpants.''

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARDWICK, VT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight an emerging rural economic model that some say serves as the perfect example of how rural America can survive and thrive in today's global markets.

My good friend Marian Burros recently wrote an article in the New York Times highlighting the sustainable agricultural economy of Hardwick, VT, and Hardwick's surrounding communities. These Northeast Kingdom communities have begun attracting the attention of local, regional and national media after the area began attracting some unique characters with great ideas. From a community-owned restaurant to renowned cheese makers, Hardwick and its surrounding towns are at the center of an experiment in social agricultural entrepreneurship.

I ask unanuimous consent that the text of Marian Burros October 8, 2008, New York Times article entitled ''Uniting Around Food to Save an Ailing Town'' be printed in the RECORD to allow my colleagues an opportunity to hear about the future of Vermont.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITING AROUND FOOD TO SAVE AN AILING TOWN

HARDWICK, VT—This town's granite companies shut down years ago and even the rowdy bars and porno theater that once inspired the nickname ''Little Chicago'' have gone.

Facing a Main Street dotted with vacant stores, residents of this hardscrabble community of 3,000 are reaching into its past to secure its future, betting on farming to make Hardwick the town that was saved by food.

With the fervor of Internet pioneers, young artisans and agricultural entrepreneurs are expanding aggressively, reaching out to investors and working together to create a collective strength never before seen in this seedbed of Yankee individualism.

Rob Lewis, the town manager, said these enterprises have added 75 to 100 jobs to the area in the past few years.

Rian Fried, an owner of Clean Yield Asset Management in nearby Greensboro, which has invested with local agricultural entrepreneurs, said he's never seen such cooperative effort.

''Across the country a lot of people are doing it individually but it's rare when you see the kind of collective they are pursuing,'' said Mr. Fried, whose firm considers social and environmental issues when investing. ''The bottom line is they are providing jobs and making it possible for others to have their own business.''

In January, Andrew Meyer's company, Vermont Soy, was selling tofu from locally grown beans to five customers; today he has 350. Jasper Hill Farm has built a $3.2-million aging cave to finish not only its own cheeses but also those from other cheesemakers.

Pete Johnson, owner of Pete's Greens, is working with 30 local farmers to market their goods in an evolving community supported agriculture program.

''We have something unique here: a strong sense of community, connections to the working landscape and a great work ethic,'' said Mr. Meyer, who was instrumental in moving many of these efforts forward.

He helped start the Center for an Agricultural Economy, a nonprofit operation that is planning an industrial park for agricultural businesses.

Next year the Vermont Food Venture Center, where producers can rent kitchen space and get business advice for adding value to raw ingredients, is moving to Hardwick from Fairfax, 40 miles west, because, Mr. Meyer said, ''it sees the benefit of being part of the healthy food system.'' He expects it to assist 15 to 20 entrepreneurs next year.

''All of us have realized that by working together we will be more successful as businesses,'' said Tom Stearns, owner of High Mowing Organic Seeds. ''At the same time we will advance our mission to help rebuild the food system, conserve farmland and make it economically viable to farm in a sustainable way.''

Cooperation takes many forms. Vermont Soy stores and cleans its beans at High Mowing, which also lends tractors to High Fields, a local compositing company. Byproducts of High Mowing's operation—pumpkins and squash that have been smashed to extract seeds—are now being purchased by Pete's

Greens and turned into soup. Along with 40,000 pounds of squash and pumpkin, Pete's bought 2,000 pounds of High Mowing's cucumbers this year and turned them into pickles.

For the past two years, many of these farmers and businessmen have met informally once a month to share experiences for business planning and marketing or pass on information about, say, a graphic designer who did good work on promotional materials or government officials who've been particularly helpful. They promote one another's products at trade fairs and buy equipment at auctions that they know their colleagues need.

More important, they share capital. They've lent each other about $300,000 in short-term loans. When investors visited Mr. Stearns over the summer, he took them on a tour of his neighbors' farms and businesses.

To expand these enterprises further, the Center for an Agricultural Economy recently bought a 15-acre property to start a center for agricultural education. There will also be a year-round farmers' market (from what began about 20 years ago as one farmer selling from the trunk of his car on Main Street) and a community garden, which started with one plot and now has 22, with a greenhouse and a paid gardening specialist.

Last month the center signed an agreement with the University of Vermont for faculty and students to work with farmers and food producers on marketing, research, even transportation problems. Already, Mr. Meyer has licensed a university patent to make his Vermont Natural Coatings, an environmentally friendly wood finish, from whey, a byproduct of cheesemaking.

These entrepreneurs, mostly well educated children of baby boomers who have added business acumen to the idealism of the area's long established hippies and homesteaders, are in the right place at the right time. The growing local-food movement, with its concerns about energy usage, food safety and support for neighbors, was already strong in Vermont, a state that the National Organic Farmers' Association said had more certified organic acreage per capita than any other.

Mr. Meyer grew up on a dairy farm in Hardwick and worked in Washington as an agricultural aide to former Senator Jim Jeffords of Vermont. ''From my time in Washington,'' Mr. Meyer said, ''I recognize that if Vermont is going to have a future in agriculture we need to look at what works in Vermont, and that is not commodity agriculture.''

The brothers Mateo and Andy Kehler have found something that works quite well at their Jasper Hill Farm in nearby Greensboro. At first they aged their award-winning cheeses in a basement. Then they began aging for other cheesemakers. Earlier this month they opened their new caves, with space for 2 million pounds of cheese, which they buy young from other producers.

The Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese at the University of Vermont is helping producers develop safety and quality programs, with costs split by Jasper Hill and the producers. ''Suddenly being a cheesemaker in Vermont becomes viable,'' Mateo Kehler said.

Pete Johnson began a garden when he was a boy on his family's land. Now his company, Pete's Greens, grows organic crops on 50 acres in Craftsbury, about 10 miles north of here. He has four moveable greenhouses, extending the growing season to nine months, and he has installed a commercial kitchen that can make everything from frozen prepared foods and soup stocks to baked goods and sausages. In addition he has enlarged the concept of the C.S.A. by including 30 farmers and food producers rather than just a single farm.

''We have 200 C.S.A. participants so we've become a fairly substantial customer of some of these businesses,'' he said. ''The local beef supplier got an order for $700 this week; that's pretty significant around here. We've encouraged the apple producer who makes apple pies to use local flour, local butter, local eggs, maple sugar as well as the apples so now we have a locavore apple pie.''

''Twelve years ago the market for local food was lukewarm,'' Mr. Johnson added. ''Now this state is primed for anything that is local. It's a way to preserve our villages and rebuild them.''

Like Mr. Johnson, Mr. Stearns of High Mowing Organic Seeds in Wolcott, who is president of the Center, knew he wanted to get into agriculture when he was a boy. His company, which grew from his hobby of collecting seeds, began in 2000 with a two-page catalog that generated $36,000 in sales. Today he has a million-dollar business, selling seeds all over the United States.

Woody Tasch, chairman of Investors Circle, a nonprofit network of investors and foundations dedicated to sustainability, said: ''What the Hardwick guys are doing is the first wave of what could be a major social transformation, the swinging back of the pendulum from industrialization and globalization.''

Mr. Tasch is having a meeting in nearby Grafton next month with investors, entrepreneurs, nonprofit groups, philanthropists and officials to discuss investing in Vermont agriculture.

Here in Hardwick, Claire's restaurant, sort of a clubhouse for farmers, began with investments from its neighbors. It is a Community Supported Restaurant. Fifty investors who put in $1,000 each will have the money repaid through discounted meals at the restaurant over four years.

''Local ingredients, open to the world,'' is the motto on restaurant's floor-to-ceiling windows. ''There's Charlie who made the bread tonight,'' Kristina Michelsen, one of four partners, said in a running commentary one night, identifying farmers and producers at various tables. ''That's Pete from Pete's Greens. You're eating his tomatoes.''

Rosy as it all seems, some worry that as businesses grow larger the owners will be tempted to sell out to companies that would not have Hardwick's best interests at heart.

But the participants have reason to be optimistic: Mr. Stearns said that within one week six businesses wanted to meet with him to talk about moving to the Hardwick area.

''Things that seemed totally impossible not so long ago are now going to happen,'' said Mr. Kehler. ''In the next few years a new wave of businesses will come in behind us. So many things are possible with collaboration.''

TRIBUTE TO PETER CHERNIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I yield to no one in my support of the freedoms set out in the first amendment to the Constitution, and I have devoted considerable time and energy to their protection and preservation. On October 21, 2008, I enjoyed a very special evening honoring Peter Chernin, the CEO of Fox News, and a man who shares my belief in the need to vigorously defend the first amendment. That night, I congratulated Peter on receiving the Media Institute's First Amendment Award, an award that he richly deserved for his stand against rigid and unyielding application of so-called indecency rules at the Federal Communications Commission. I believe that his words in defense of the first amendment should be heard and heeded by all Americans, not just by those who were fortunate enough to attend that event.

I ask unanimous consent that the statement of Peter Chernin from October 21, 2008, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

POLITICS, INDECENCY, AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Thank you so much for that introduction, Senator Leahy. Your strong and unambiguous support for the First Amendment is legendary on Capitol Hill, and I could not be more pleased to have you, a former recipient of this award, as my presenter tonight. And thank you to the Media Institute for bestowing this honor on me. As the head of a media company, I am at times painfully aware of how important the First Amendment is to our ability to create thought-provoking and controversial content. And as a citizen of this country, I am thankful every day for the freedoms that we too often take for granted: the freedom to speak freely, the freedom to pursue our religious beliefs without persecution, and the freedom of the press to criticize our government.

We live in a pluralistic society. One where diversity rules, where disagreement is a constant, and where there is more than one right answer for every question. It's messy. And for creators of content, if we're doing our jobs right, we sometimes offend people. It's that simple. And, believe me, we wrestle with that fact. We struggle with complex issues every day. Are we guilty of contributing to the vulgarization of our society or simply of mirroring it? Is it our responsibility to be the arbiters of good taste, or is it our duty to push boundaries? Is it even possible to create innovative programming for a mass audience that is diverse on every level—from age, to religious affiliation, to ethnicity?

We don't take these issues lightly. We are constantly thinking about the important role we play in shaping our culture. Whether we're creating television shows, making films, or working at a newspaper or publishing house. Certainly, we must entertain, we must inform and we must provoke. But, at the same time, we must take very seriously the power we have to affect millions through our work. That's why we stress the importance of individual editorial responsibility across all of our businesses. But, yes, sometimes we do make mistakes. Everyone does. The alternative? Well, it's chilling. If the media is ruled by fear of crossing an ambiguous line, our product will be less vital and more homogenous. Our ability to create news and entertainment that is thoughtful, provocative, and accurately reflects our society will be compromised. And Americans will have far fewer choices. That's why it's so critical that we don't chip away at the First Amendment until it becomes toothless. It must remain absolute in its protections.

Two weeks from today the U.S. Supreme Court is hearing arguments in FCC v. Fox Television Stations, the first indecency case it has heard since the ''7 Dirty Words'' case was decided in 1978. At issue is whether Fox violated the indecency law when it aired two live award programs in which actresses blurted out one or two so-called ''fleeting expletives.'' While a case with Cher and Nicole Richie at its center is probably not one we would have chosen to argue before the Supreme Court, the truth is, we don't get to

pick our cases. In fact, if anyone had told me that my company would be before the U.S. Supreme Court defending inane comments by Cher and Nicole Ritchie, I would have said you're crazy. But I would contend that the nature of this speech, and who said it, makes absolutely no difference. Because at the core of this case is an absolute threat to the First Amendment. It hinges on utterances that were unscripted on live television. If we are found in violation, just think about the radical ramifications for live programming—from news, to politics, to sports. In fact, to every live broadcast television event. The effect would be appalling.

There is a certain symmetry to the fact that the oral argument in this case and the election of the 44th President of the United States are taking place on the same day: The Fox case, if successful, is an affirmation of the First Amendment. The election is an affirmation of our democratic process. And the two are inextricably intertwined. The First Amendment is central to our democratic process because it ensures a full and open dialogue about the candidates for office. Without the First Amendment, our democracy could not be sustained.

But the truth is, people don't think about defending broadcasters' right to utter expletives in the same way they think about defending one's right to speak critically of our government. But they should. The First Amendment is at stake in both cases. As a media company, we have not just a right but a responsibility to stand up to the government when it crosses that First Amendment line in the sand—even if the content we are defending is in bad taste. And in the indecency context, that line has not only been crossed, it has been obliterated. That is why Fox is fighting the FCC in this and several other indecency cases.

I'll admit: some of the content we are defending is not particularly tasteful: the expletives, the brief nudity, the carefully placed whipped cream and, of course, the pixels. I would not have allowed my own children, when they were younger, to watch some of these shows. But, I vow to fight to the end for our ability to put occasionally controversial, offensive, and even tasteless content on the air.

Why? Because, if the government gets its foot in the censorship door with respect to unpopular entertainment content, it is the beginning of the steep slide toward censoring unpopular political content. And we have seen the beginnings of this downward slide in a recent case where the FCC initially found indecent content in a news program. If we allow our government to intrude into the creative process to censor the ''bad words'' at issue in the Fox case, I am afraid we will soon reach the bottom of the slide—to America's detriment.

Groups that claim to be interested in ''protecting children'' are helping the government along in its attempts to censor television. While I don't agree with these groups, I do fully support their right to criticize what's on television. But the job of protecting children is far too important to leave to government bureaucrats or so-called public interest groups. The job of protecting children lies with parents. The job of the government is to resist the views of interest groups with particular agendas and instead to enforce the law in a way that is consistent, fair, and constitutional. So I don't blame these groups for the degradation of the First Amendment. I blame our government, which has succumbed to the views of a particularly vocal minority.

Look, I am not insensitive to the fact that young children need to be protected. And that's difficult in an era of single parent, or two working parent households. But the protection of children must be considered in a Twenty-First Century light. Nearly every TV set sold today includes a V-Chip, which allows parents to block content they think may be inappropriate for their children. Cable, satellite, and telco video providers have finely-tuned, comprehensive parental controls. And let's not forget the most powerful technology available to parents: the on-off switch. These tools allow adults to protect their kids while still being able to access shows they love.

We as media companies also have a responsibility: to rate shows accurately and consistently so the V-Chip works as it should. And, as I said earlier, we need to be responsible with our creative output. This is something we do on a daily basis through our Standards and Practices departments, not only by exercising editorial judgment but by constantly fine-tuning and improving our internal controls.

Let's step back for a minute and get some perspective on this issue. The indecency law applies only to broadcast TV: that's a handful of channels. Over 85 percent of the country receives their broadcast channels through a cable, telco line, or satellite signal. Sitting right next to the broadcast channels on these multichannel systems are hundreds of other channels that are not subject to the indecency law.

And those other channels are just a click away on the remote control. Nor does the indecency law apply to video-on-demand, pay per view, DVDs, or the mother of all content providers: the Internet. Does it really make sense to continue government censorship of the occasional bad word, brief nudity, or sexual innuendo on a handful of broadcast channels when we live in an environment of infinitely unregulated choices? In the media-rich world we live in, singling out a few channels for indecency enforcement is not legally sustainable.

Quite simply, it is time for the government to get out of the business of regulating ''indecent'' speech on broadcast TV. The threat it poses to core First Amendment values cannot be justified in our technologically diverse world. Parents have the tools to decide what is appropriate for their children. Let's let parents do their job and fire the government from the job of censoring speech. The First Amendment is too important to our democratic society—in this and future elections—to allow any encroachments to threaten our country's critical freedoms.

Thank you.

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 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:

We are glad to hear that at least one of our politicians is concerned about how the gasoline prices are affecting the middle class. Most of us feel that our government is extremely out of touch with the majority of the country.

We are retired on a fixed income and we worked hard all our lives and saved to get a motor home for vacations, but unfortunately we now cannot use it because of the price of gasoline and it just sits there. We try to go out shopping for groceries and any other necessities just once a week, making a list of items and stores, color coding so we do not forget anything. The cost of energy also has increased the price of groceries tremendously, so basic foods and produce are the norm—doing away with any treats. We have never seen the price of gasoline increase day by day and a nickel to a dime at a time.

We desperately need to have alternate sources of energy, such as coal, windmills, solar and nuclear. We should have been building new refineries and recovering oil off all of our coasts since the 1970s when this same problem came up at that time, but, to our shame, we did not.

Automobiles should get a lot more than the 35 mpg that we have heard mentioned for future vehicles. It should be at the very least 60 mpg, and there is no reason in this world with our technology that this could not be a reality. Something should be done to increase the mileage on all of the vehicles that are already on the road. This is never mentioned. We cannot just go out and buy a hybrid or other fuel efficient vehicle at the drop of a hat to help the situation. We drive our 2002 Honda 4 cylinder between 55 and 60 mph on the highway to increase our fuel efficiency and you should see the bad looks we get. Highway mileage should be lowered to 55 mph like in the 70s to help conserve.

We do hope that our government does something quickly to improve this situation and that it is not handled like it was in the 70s—all talk and no action. We need to be dependent on no one but ourselves for our energy needs. No one is going to take care of the USA and its citizens but the USA itself.

We need some action now—Please.

ROBERT AND ROBERTA, *Idaho Falls*.

Thanks for the opportunity to respond to your e-letter regarding energy costs and gasoline prices. I agree that we in the US are far too dependent on petroleum for energy. But I think it is a selfish and short-sighted view to defeat the climate change legislation. Our focus should be, as you mentioned, on using less petroleum, not searching for petroleum everywhere we can, no matter the ecological cost. It is true; we do not have good mass transit in Idaho and especially in the more densely populated Treasure Valley. I think tax dollars would be well spent to improve the mass transit situation in the Valley.

We need to give tax incentives to clean, renewable energy sources and rescind the tax breaks given to the huge oil companies who have been reaping record profits at the expense of all Americans. The answer is in conservation which includes improved mass transit and in alternative transportation where there would be improved avenues for bicycling and walking.

It is true. I will not be driving as far for vacation this year, though I would like to explore areas in Idaho I have not yet seen. It

now becomes an expensive venture just to get to the Sawtooths or White Clouds.

TIM, *Boise*.

I am contacting my Congressman about energy just as you have encouraged your constituents to do. I am in dismay, however, at the continued opportunism and political grandstanding. That is, the only answer I see from many is to drill more oil. Every credible energy scientist and economist knows that this will do little or nothing to curb our foreign oil imports and zero to reduce the cost of fuel. Yet, despite this ever-predictable call for more domestic oil production, you flatly concede that ''speculation [is] now driving up the cost of oil.'' So I ask: why are you and your colleagues still calling for more drilling when you know what it is you can do now to reduce fuel costs? Why are you not regulating ''the speculation now driving up the cost of oil''? Commodities speculators are at the heart of extreme oil prices, not supply and demand imbalances. We do not want to hear any red herring arguments about the average Joe's retirement portfolio owning the bulk of oil company shares. The issue is speculation; the answer is regulation of speculation.

JASON, *Moscow*.

Last week I heard on the news that you have received many letters and e-mails related to high gas prices. Hence, I have decided to write in and give you my two cents on the matter.

I believe that the primary culprit that is causing high gas prices is globalization; particularly in the emerging economies of China and India. The rapid growth of their economies has drastically increased their demand for petroleum.

Along with developing a comprehensive energy policy, the executive and legislative branches of our federal government need to re-examine our economic policies, particularly in areas of foreign trade. During the past two decades, the American middle class has gotten the short end of the straw when it has come to previous trade policies. One does not have to look farther than our orchard industry in the Treasure Valley. These trade policies have really only benefitted the very wealthy in our country. When I was in college ten years ago, we talked about globalization in one of my classes and how if China copied the U.S.'s consumption then we would be paying a premium for gas. This is now reality.

In conclusion, too often our government fails to look long-term. It is time for a change. We need to do in-depth independent analysis on our trade policies to determine what the long term effect will be on the average American. Government policies need to benefit society as a whole rather than a few. Our society is too self-centered on the ''me'' rather than on the collective ''community''. We also need to have a comprehensive energy policy. This policy needs to be long term and address conservation, efficiency, alternative and renewable sources of energy, and possibly take into consideration additional domestic production of oil with stringent environmental safeguards and firm consequences for those companies that fail to comply with those safeguards.

BRENT DANIELSON, *Boise*.

I am a single father of two sons, 3 years and 13 months old. I am a truck driver. I make decent money and have good benefits. But these fuel prices have gone too far for our society! I am lucky I work at a place where I can get a free bag of potatoes every once in a while because I cannot go grocery shopping because it is all too expensive! Wages have not changed a bit. I am sick of it and I am losing almost all of my faith in our government and the people representing the common people like me. One of my best friends who was an owner-operator had to quit because diesel got too high for him to profit much at all. Now it is been three weeks and they just got their phone shut off two days ago and their power shut off today. My stimulus money has gone to my power bill, gas bill, rent etc. Sure you do not like to fill up your gas tank but does it cripple you financially like it does many, many people?! I think not. I have always stuck up for our local and federal government on many issues and criticized them on other issues, but this time I as well as many people are fed up. Seriously this time, I am to the point now where I am struggling to make ends meet. I have spent over $60 in the last three days in gas just to get to work and back—that is it! And I am close to empty again and I have to get diapers for my son before I go to work tomorrow. The diaper money is coming out of the power bill money I had put back. You need to sound off and be heard. At least make it known to us that you are voicing our concerns!

CAMERON, *Boise*.

My husband and I are retired, he is military retired and we recently purchased a small travel trailer since he can no longer ride his motorcycle and our maiden voyage with it cost $300 in gas to go 200 miles round trip! Between gas and food prices, we cannot afford to go anywhere, much less eat out. We have changed our daily living dramatically, and it is not a happy way to be in your retirement years.

We urge you and all of Congress to start drilling in our nation and bring back more nuclear power plants. We must relieve ourselves of dependence on foreign oil ASAP. Lord only knows what our grandchildren have to look forward to at this insane rate!

ANGELO, *Hayden Lake*.

I will get right to the point—my wife and I are out of money. Our incomes have not changed and our incomes used to pay our bills with money to spare. We have a 91 Honda wagon and a 99 minivan, we pay $50 and $70 to fill them up. Grocery prices are up 100% in the last couple years because gas prices are killing the trucking industry. Expensive gas has made almost everything else expensive. Today, after filling both our cars with gas and grocery shopping, (with a list, mind you), we ran out of money. For the first time ever, we put groceries on a credit card. We are not credit card people, so this is anathema to us.

When I turn on the TV or radio I hear some politician telling us that drilling will not make a difference for ten years. As an engineering student, I cannot stomach that level of [deception]. First of all, I do not believe that is true and second, if it were true, then we sure better get started. What if every time an education bill were introduced, we responded by saying that we would not see the results for 12 years so let us not do it. What if I told my child not to go to college because they would not see a payoff for at least four years so do not bother. We are financially dying and our so-called leaders are regurgitating some of the stupidest things I have ever heard.

The bottom line is this: This planet does not exist for its own sake, it exists for ours. We are not here by some cosmic accident; we are here by design and our designer gave us the tools we need to live and prosper. The failure to drill for new oil and create new refineries is the result of environmental philosophies, which are based on evolutionary thinking. To the environmentalist, our purpose here is no more significant than that of any other animal, and we, by accident of evolution, happen to have the power to sustain or destroy this environment. Without a cosmic caretaker, the earth itself becomes our only god and the environmentalist shows his worship by reducing or eliminating human impact upon it and by treating humans as vermin. It is an old religion and I am tired of suffering at the hands of it is misguided priests.

Please do your best to release energy, specifically nuclear and oil, to the free market system. Irrational environmental policy and regulation have prohibited natural market forces from creating more supply and oil-pricing based on speculation has prevented the market from determining price. Imagine going to Wal-Mart to buy a t-shirt and finding that they now cost $100; and when you ask the owner why this was so, he replies that speculators determined that cotton crops would fail next year, so in preparation they have raised prices early. As you know, this is not how prices are determined. The cotton producer charges as much as he can based on his costs and competitors prices and Wal-Mart charges a markup. If cotton crops indeed fail next year, then the buyer pays more for the rare product and they pass the increase to the consumer. When oil speculators set price, we pay increases at the pumps whether those speculations came true or not. There is no real connection to supply. Please work to make this kind of price setting illegal and please work to release drilling and refinement. The further we remove a commodity from the free market grid by socialist controls and uneducated environmental policy the more the people, you claim to represent, are hurt. Make the American dream possible by making it affordable.

JASON, *Boise*.

The rising cost of fuel has a tremendous effect on my household consisting of my husband and myself. I am sole support for our family. Senator, as you know, wages in Idaho fall behind many other states. The cost of gas is outrageous and I blame the Congress for a lot of it. Why are we not drilling in Alaska? Why are we not building refineries away from coasts where hurricanes have a tendency to hit? Why are not all of our refineries running full bore?

There was a Democratic senator from the South who retired, I forget his name but he wrote a book, ''A Grand Party No More''. Before he retired, he went to see for himself where we would drill in Alaska. He said there would be no harm to anyone or anything, it is so far out in no man's land. He said if there was a leak it would be of no consequence as it would freeze the minute it hit the ground. It is time we push the environmentalists to the wall and out of the way. I believe in saving trees and wildlife, but there is no danger to any of these where we would drill. I recognize that we need to become independent of so much oil but how do we do that. I drive a '95 Forerunner and it is paid for. Not the best gas mileage but it is paid for. I cannot afford any kind of a car payment for one of those new hybrids. Rebates are nothing, $2,000 in exchange for $26,000? The cost of a new car buys an awful lot of gas. My income does not allow for any car payment.

Everything is going crazy! A loaf of bread that cost $2.89 last year is now $4.29. Anything with corn or wheat is gone out of sight. We pay farmers not to grow wheat and now I hear we have to import it? How sad for America. America has sold its soul to China, Mexico, Japan. If we were ever to go into another world war, we could not even build what we would need to fight it. Is there a steel mill left in America? Is there a textile mill left in America? You would be pretty

hard pressed to find one, a sad statement on us.

As to what I do? No trips during the week except to work and back. If I can do any errand on the way, great, otherwise, it waits till the weekend. I plan one trip, one circle. If something is missed, too bad, it is missed. The real clincher is this, I tithe to my church, I give the Lord 10% of my gross income. It costs me almost as much, $10 less, to keep my car in gasoline between paychecks. Now I think it is pretty awful when I have to give the gas company as much as I give the Lord. He gives me everything I have, the gas company gives me nothing except anger when I hear of the profits they make. And I think that pretty well sums it up, 10% to the Lord vs. almost as much to the gas company!

DIANNE, *Hayden Lake.*

I am a taxi driver here in Boise. In a year's time, the cost to fill my tank has increased nearly 100% but my average fare has remained static. If it were not for my military retirement, I would no longer make enough to cover basic costs and make a profit. I am 61 years old and am not practiced in a marketable skill so the prospect of making a move to another occupation is nil. My only reasonable hope is that Boise will increase our per mile fees in the near future; it is unlikely that fuel prices will decrease in the near future.

I have been watching your position on domestic drilling with interest. Though alternative energy sources are imperative for the future of America, I am pleased to see that you share my position that energy self-reliance is the immediate solution to our present crisis. I applaud you and urge you to continue your good work and prosecute this agenda with rigor.

EARLE, *Boise.*

Not only is the fuel much too high but I cannot find employment. I am over 60, have experience, but it seems I am ''over-qualified'' or I need more ''experience''. What a lot of rubbish! I call it age discrimination, but that is difficult to prove. With the fuel prices so high, if I do find employment, it will take a huge chunk of my pay just to get back and forth to work. Are unemployment benefits going to be extended for Idaho residents? My benefits ended this week, no hope of a job in sight and my husband can not work due to medical reasons. What is a person to do?

Getting Desperate.

JANET, *Emmett.*

As Director of Gritman Adult Day Health which provides day health care for elders who want to remain in their own home in Moscow and Latah County, I am including an article from the NY Times which talks about the cost of gas and how it affects rural elderly. It is very sad that these folks who often aren't able to drive are so affected by the cost of gas. Please do everything you can to remedy this: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121263496261947543.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

BARB, *Moscow.*

Gasoline prices are now far too high for the average family, and causing increasing rises in the cost of living in many other areas. For instance, every time one goes to the grocery store, an increase in pricing is noted on items, and thus causing many to have to go without needed supplies. Saving a percentage of income has become just a dream for many, and others cannot make ends meet without going into further debt.

BEVERLY, *Parma.*

Yes, gas has gotten way out of hand. Do what you can to decrease the costs and return to a life with some normalcy.

DIANA, *Kootenai.*

Thank you for at least noticing that we have a problem with the cost. I do not believe, however, that anything can be done with out us paying somewhere else. I make a good living working for the military here in Boise but am still unable to put any money aside. It is funny that every time we receive a pay raise that the price of fuel goes up and our health care premiums grow as well, so you never see any savings. Thanks again; good luck with this effort.

CLINTON, *Emmett.*

RETIREMENT OF WAYNE RIDDLE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to Wayne Riddle, who is retiring at the end of this year from the Congressional Research Service. Wayne is the model of a dedicated and talented public servant. He has spent his career working out of the public eye for the greater good, providing excellent assistance to all of us in Congress for over three decades, and also taking time to mentor younger staffers.

Wayne is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He earned a master's degree in economics from George Washington University while working at the Congressional Research Service, where he has spent the past 36 years serving as a key analyst on elementary and secondary education, and twice as head of the Education and Labor Section at CRS.

Throughout that time, Congress has given high priority to strengthening the Nation's schools, and Wayne has been helping us immensely every step of the way. He began not long after the passage of the original Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—the Federal Government's major program to improve educational opportunities for low-income students. Wayne has been indispensable in our work on every subsequent reauthorization of the act and on all our other efforts on elementary and secondary education, including the Goals 2000 Act during the Clinton administration and the No Child Left Behind Act during the current Bush administration. His guidance, support and knowledge on issues big and small have been invaluable to us time and again.

As Wayne retires to devote more time to his family, I know that his colleagues at CRS will miss him, and so will we. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement. He certainly deserves it, because he has served our country well, and made a very real difference in the lives of countless children who have benefited in their education because of his expertise and dedication.

REMEMBERING TONY DEAN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the passing of a very close friend of mine, Tony Dean. As one of this Nation's foremost conservationists, one would be hard put to find someone who cared more about wildlife and the environment. Tony passed away on October 19.

I had known Tony for years with his radio and television broadcasting, but I was fortunate enough to get to know him much better in my 2002 Senate campaign. He told me that he was willing to do whatever I needed him to do, and he was honest to his word. With his natural and effective connection to television viewers, Tony starred in two commercials that were critical to the success of my 2002 campaign. I have no doubt that Tony's support was crucial, though it resulted in many tests to his courage. Even amidst the backlash of his supporting my campaign, he said, ''Tim, I know I did the right thing, and I'd do it again in a second.'' Tony stared down the people who threatened him, and he refused to blink.

During Senator TED KENNEDY's eulogy of his brother Robert, Senator KENNEDY stated that, ''Few are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change.'' Tony had all those qualities, though most importantly, moral courage. And Tony Dean had moral courage in spades.

It was my pleasure to have worked with Tony and I would like to offer my condolences to his family, friends, and fellow advocates. They have much to be proud of, and it is my hope that their memories will be rich with the great many accomplishments he achieved during his career. Those of us who loved him pray that what he was to us and what he wished for others will someday come to pass for the world. We will miss you, Tony. More than any of us can say.

FORT POLK BARRACKS PRIVATIZATION PILOT PROGRAM

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, on September 27, the Senate passed the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which the President signed into law on October 14. The legislation includes critical provisions that will directly improve the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, support needed reforms in the operations of the Department of Defense and provide our soldiers, sailors, Air Force personnel and marines with the tools they need to defend our freedom. I thank and commend Senator LEVIN and our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for the thorough work on this detailed legislation and their perseverance in crafting the legislation in a difficult and at times uncertain process.

There were a number of filed floor amendments to the bill that were not

able to be considered because of the procedural situation on the floor in September. The managers of the bill, Senator LEVIN and Senator WARNER, stated that they had prepared a set of over 90 cleared amendments in a managers' package for which they believed they had unanimous consent to include in the bill. It is my understanding that one of those amendments was the provision I had filed to expand the existing pilot authority in section 2881a of title 10, to authorize the Army to carry out a pilot program using the private sector for the acquisition or construction of military unaccompanied housing for all ranks in an arrangement similar to what we have carried successfully with the privatization of family housing and senior unaccompanied soldiers. While I was very disappointed that the amendment could not be adopted because of the procedural situation, I want to thank Senator LEVIN and the other members of the committee for their willingness to support inclusion of the public-private sector partnership approach for ensuring improved housing for all ranks of our single soldiers.

The Army already has five similar privatization projects underway for senior unaccompanied enlisted personnel or officers. The business case for these projects shows that they are not only less costly than traditional government-funded construction and sustainment, but more importantly, the living conditions are vastly improved as soldiers have access to larger, modern apartments on post. The living conditions for these soldiers and officers will be enhanced to the same level as that of military members with families.

Given our Nation's current financial crisis, defense spending is likely to come under great stress over the next few years. Historically the Army and the other services have had great challenges in maintaining even minimum levels of housing sustainment and revitalization funding to keep our barracks fit for our soldiers. I can speak from personal experience about the serious deficiencies in the barracks at Fort Polk in Leesville. Despite the recent increase in Army funding for barracks revitalization there, I worry that needed long-term funding will be difficult to secure under the traditional model to prevent deterioration in the longer run. Improved quality of life, including housing, is critical to the retention of our enlisted soldiers, and critical to keeping our All Volunteer force strong. Partnerships between the Army and the private sector for this segment of our military housing will be needed as a fundamental long-term solution to providing the best housing for our soldiers.

Despite the procedural setback in September, I appreciate the support we received for our amendment and am committed to continue working with the Armed Services Committee to advance this issue in 2009. We are also hopeful that the Army will use its existing authorities to begin extending the successful privatization model to construction and revitalization of Barracks for all of our soldiers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. XIAOMING TIAN

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of Dr. Xiaoming Tian. For many years, Dr. Tian has been recognized as a leading practitioner of Chinese medicine, acupuncture and alternative medicine in the United States. I am very pleased that Dr. Tian's recognition was extended worldwide when he received the prestigious World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, WFCMS, world award for distinguished physician earlier this year.

This award is the highest honor the WFCMS can bestow, and it is only presented to a handful of physicians each year. This year, only 10 clinical physicians worldwide were honored and Dr. Tian received the distinction of the only recipient in the United States.

The World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies was founded in 2003 and is headquartered in Beijing. Currently, the federation is chaired by Dr. She Jing, Vice-Minister of Health and Director of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China. The WFCMS includes 174 Chinese medical associations from 55 countries and is the highest global organization of Chinese medicine.

In honoring Dr. Tian, the WFCMS reports, ''Dr. Xiaoming Tian's great contributions include many different areas such as clinical medicine, research, new Chinese herbal medicine development, education and health care policy. Dr. Tian is highly respected by medical professionals and patients in the United States.''

As the WFCMS noted, in May of 1991 Dr. Tian established the first Chinese acupuncture clinic at the National Institute of Health, NIH, Clinical Center. This clinic represented the first time that the NIH had formally recognized acupuncture as a routine treatment and had developed a procedure code for it. Dr. Tian became the first clinical consultant on acupuncture within NIH's medical staff.

In addition to his work at NIH, Dr. Tian has taken part in a variety of different research endeavors including an intramural study on the efforts of using acupuncture to treat cancer patients from 1992–1993 and an appointment by President Clinton as one of 20 members of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy set up to report on policy changes that would ensure the potential benefits of complementary and alternative medicine from 2000–2002.

More recently, as a co-investigator, Dr. Tian participated in a Georgetown University Medical Center study of using acupuncture to treat fibromyalgia. The study, conducted under the auspices of an NIH grant, was a pioneer study in rheumatism research. Dr. Tian has also served as an adjunct professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and Rheumatology at Georgetown University Medical School. He has been the Director of the Wildwood Acupuncture Center and Academy of Acupuncture and Clinical Medicine since 1986 and, with Professor Shangaing Chen, Dr. Tian established an osteoporosis and osteoarthritis research center at Beijing Medical University in China. Finally, in 2006, Dr. Tian was appointed to a four-year term on the Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine Editorial Board of the National Cancer Institute's Physician Data Query, PDQ, system, the comprehensive cancer database.

It is fitting that we pay tribute to the achievements of Dr. Xioming Tian, who has done so much to help patients with his groundbreaking research and treatment in the emerging field of complementary and alternative medicine. I congratulate Dr. Tian on his distinguished award and ask that he continue his fine work.•

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES TEGNELIA

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dr. James Tegnelia who will be retiring from his position as the Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, DTRA, in February 2009 and returning to New Mexico.

The DTRA is charged with safeguarding the United States and its allies from the threat of weapons of mass destruction, WMD, and consists of a 2,000 member team. Dr. Tegnelia has been the Director of this prestigious Agency since February of 2005 and has been an integral part of its many accomplishments.

Prior to his appointment as the Director of the DTRA, Dr. Tegnelia was the vice president, Department of Defense Programs, at Sandia National Laboratory in Albuquerque, NM, starting in 1998. He has been involved in defense-related fields since 1971 and has a long and distinguished career in championing innovative causes. From increasing the DTRA's efforts in science and technology investment in nuclear detection, nuclear forensics and advanced energetic capabilities, to working on the global stage in the international effort to counter WMD—in part through the establishment of regional and global nonproliferation partnerships—Dr. Tegnelia has been a true leader in protecting our great Nation.

In addition to his leadership in securing our country and its allies from the threat of WMD, Dr. Tegnelia has worked to strengthen the capabilities of the DTRA, transforming the Agency into a combat support-focused, technically agile and operationally relevant organization.

Dr. Tegnelia has been a great asset to the DTRA and to the protection of our Nation. My wife Nancy and I wish Dr. Tegnelia and his family the best in his retirement and subsequent return to our great State of New Mexico.●

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, in Iowa and across the United States, a new school year is well underway. As you know, Iowa public schools have an excellent reputation nationwide, and Iowa students' test scores are among the highest in the Nation.

I would like to take just a few minutes today to salute several dedicated public servants at the Iowa Department of Education, and to report on their successful involvement in a unique Federal partnership to repair and modernize school facilities.

This fall marks the 10th year of the Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program. That is its formal name, but it is better known among educators in Iowa as the program of Harkin grants for Iowa public schools. Since 1998, I have been fortunate to secure a total of $121 million for the Iowa Department of Education, which selects worthy school districts to receive these grants for a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools or renovating existing facilities. In many cases, this Federal funding is used to leverage public and/or private local funding, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect in a local school district.

The Federal funding has made a real difference for the 304 Iowa school districts that have received Harkin grants over the past decade. The grants have helped school districts from Waukon to Glenwood and from Keokuk to Rock Rapids build new schools, add new classrooms, renovate facilities and bring buildings up to fire codes.

The progress we have witnessed is due, in large part, to the hard work and leadership of the Iowa Department of Education. When this program began, the department did not have experience in administering a grant program of this kind, but key personnel stepped up to plate to create and implement the successful program we have today.

In the last 10 years, department staff have received, reviewed, processed and scored 1,370 grant applications which resulted in 820 grant awards and completion of 773 projects. The department processed thousands of payment requests for project costs, conducted more than 300 site visits to monitor the program and provided the professional administration that taxpayers deserve.

I salute the entire staff, administration, and governance of the Iowa Department of Education for their excellent work. In particular, I would like to recognize C. Milton Wilson, Leland Tack, Ann McCarthy and Ted Stilwill for their leadership in helping create the program in 1998. They provided a strong foundation that was built on by their highly capable successors—Gary Schwartz, Janice Evans, Jeff Berger, Jim Addy and Judy Jeffrey.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the individuals who have served on the School Budget Review Committee—Cynthia Eisenhauer, Michael Tramontina, Charlie Krogmeier, Clark Yeager, Wayne Drexler, Marilyn Perkins, Connie Cook, Su McCurdy, Don Hansen, and Jane Babcock—for their skilled oversight of the program and to the Iowa State Board of Education for their leadership and support.

As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Harkin school grant program in Iowa, I am obliged to point out that many thousands of school buildings and facilities across the United States are in dire need of renovation or replacement. In my State of Iowa alone, according to a recent study, some 79 percent of public schools need to be upgraded or repaired. The harsh reality is that the average age of school buildings in the United States is nearly 50 years.

Too often, our children visit ultra modern shopping malls and gleaming sports arenas on weekends, but during the week go to school in rundown or antiquated facilities. This sends exactly the wrong message to our young people about our priorities. We have to do better.

That is why I am deeply grateful to the professionals at the Iowa Department of Education. There is no question that a quality public education for every child is a top priority in our state. I salute them and wish them well.●

CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON PAVILION OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I honor the board of directors and dedicated staff at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in Sioux Falls, SD, on their accreditation by the American Associate of Museums. Since its creation in 1999, the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science has provided education and inspiration to those of all ages in the Sioux Falls region.

The Washington Pavilion has three main program areas, all designed to make art and science a part of everyday life. The Kirby Science Discovery Center introduces visitors to things like hands-on archeology, weather, and space shuttles. The Wells Fargo CineDome Theatre allows viewers to travel the universe or witness nature in vivid detail. Lastly, the Visual Arts Center brings art to all generations with its six galleries and changing exhibits.

I wish to congratulate the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science on reaching this milestone in their mission, and for their service to the community. Once again, I commend the individuals involved in this enterprise and am pleased to see them publicly honored with accreditation by the American Association of Museums.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. WAGONER

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to commend William D. Wagoner of Royal Oak, MI, who last week retired from a long and distinguished career in public service. For the past 35 years, Dr. Wagoner dedicated his career to the public good, working to establish innovative and sustainable practices in urban planning, emergency management, and teaching the next generation of planners and emergency responders. His extraordinary career spanned the entire spectrum of government service, from the local level to the Federal level.

Dr. Wagoner began his career in service by teaching history and political science at a public high school in Clarkston, MI. He went on to earn his master's degree in urban planning and his doctorate in public administration.

For 18 productive years, he served as assistant city manager in Berkley, MI, a large suburb of Detroit, and for the past 16 years has been director of planning and community development for Livingston County, the fastest growing county in Michigan. Dr. Wagoner has written several books on urban planning and emergency response, and has served for decades as an instructor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

President Kennedy asked a generation of Americans to give of themselves for our country and for its future. Dr. Wagoner answered President Kennedy's call and has inspired countless others, who have worked with him or who have been his students, to do the same. I congratulate Dr. Wagoner for his remarkable public service, and I wish him a long and healthy and happy retirement. He has served America well.●

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY E. REED

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and recognize over 25 years of service by Stanley E. Reed to our great State of Arkansas. A third-generation cotton farmer from Marianna, AR, Stanley has served the Arkansas agriculture community with steady leadership for over 20 years as a member of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation board, including the last five as president. At the upcoming Farm Bureau State Convention on December 4, Stanley will hand over the gavel as president, and I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize his many contributions to our State.

Born in Marianna in 1951, Stanley attended the University of Arkansas where he graduated in 1973 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and was awarded Highest Honors. Although Stanley was a tremendous student, he also displayed his leadership skills

early on, serving as President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, President of the Inter Fraternity Council, and President of the Cardinal XX Honorary Society. Upon graduation, Stanley attended the University of Arkansas School of Law were he received his Juris Doctorate in 1976 and was also awarded Highest Honors. Upon taking the Arkansas Bar Exam that year, Stanley scored the highest grade in the State.

Although licensed as an attorney, Stanley returned to the family farm, producing cotton in Lee and St. Francis Counties. He soon became active within the agricultural community and served as president of the Lee County Farm Bureau from 1982–1984. Soon after, he joined the board of directors of the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation in 1988, later serving as secretary-treasurer for 6 years, vice president for 4 years, and, as I mentioned before, president for the past 6 years. He has also served on the American Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 2004.

His involvement in the Arkansas agriculture community has led him on trade missions to Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Brazil, South Korea, and Peru. In addition, I had the good fortune to be joined by Stanley and other Arkansas farmers on a trade mission to Cuba in 2000 to discuss the opening of the Cuban market to Arkansas goods.

What makes Stanley so unique, though, is that his service to Arkansas extends beyond the agriculture world. Education has always been a priority for him. He served for 4 years on the Lee Academy School Board, where his children attended, and he just recently completed a 10-year term on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, where he served as chairman for 2 years. He is a member of the Arkansas Academy for Agriculture Engineers and has been honored as Distinguished Alumni of the College of Engineering. Additionally, he has served on the board of directors for Baptist Health and as a board member of Simmons First National Bank.

Faith is an important part of Stanley's life. A member of the First Baptist Church in Marianna, Stanley has served as a Deacon in the church and taught youth and adult Sunday School classes for over 20 years. More importantly, he has been involved in prison ministries locally and oversaw the fundraising and construction of the prison chapel at an Arkansas Department of Corrections facility.

And last but certainly not least, Stanley's family—his wife Charlene and three children, Haley Davis, Nathan, and Anna—has been a tremendous source of pride and inspiration for him. In fact, Nathan is carrying on the family farming tradition and works with Stanley on the farm. Stanley is also the proud grandfather to Anna Kate, Jack, and Haven Davis.

As you can see, Stanley Reed is Arkansas through and through. So as he steps down as president of the Arkansas Farm Bureau, I want to thank him for all that he has done for Arkansas and in particularly, the Arkansas agriculture community. Stanley, although you are ending your tenure, I know you will not be far away. I look forward to working with you and know you will continue to make your impact felt in your community and in the State you love so much.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLES E. LEA

● Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the life of a truly outstanding Missourian. On October 7, 2008, this nation lost a son, a soldier, and a community servant when Dr. Charles E. Lea of Lexington, MO, passed away. While we mourn his passing, we are extraordinarily grateful for all that he gave to his community, his State, and his country during his lifetime.

I believe that Dr. Lea is a wonderful example and reminder of the brave men and women who have served our country in the past and continue to serve it today in this time of great need.

In 1957, Dr. Lea graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and after putting himself through medical school at the University of Missouri, volunteered for service in Vietnam. Widely regarded and recognized as a humble servant, Dr. Lea was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's Medal, four Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Parachutist Badge for his service.

While awards and commendations obviously show a great deal about a person, I am a believer that the strength of a person's character is revealed in his or her daily actions. Those who knew Dr. Lea best shared an anecdote with me regarding his time in Vietnam. Dr. Lea was featured in newspapers and on television here at home for his efforts during the war to save a village elephant that had been shot. Seemingly insignificant at the time, those efforts placed the United States, and our servicemen and women, in high regard in the eyes of the Vietnamese village. This small effort, not part of his duty or orders, but undertaken by a man trying to make a difference, had an extensive impact.

Following his military service, Dr. Lea became a general practice family physician and served countless families in Oklahoma and Missouri throughout his medical career.

As I reflect on Dr. Lea's life today, I am reminded not only of the value of his personal service and sacrifice, but of the committed service and selfless sacrifice of all the men and women who have served this country in uniform. America owes a large debt to all of the remarkable men and women who have served this great nation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Lea and his family, and in remembrance of his life and his service, my utmost gratitude goes to all those who have served.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD DAVIS

● Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I honor a truly great man and a good friend, Dr. Ronald Davis, who died on November 6, 2008 at his home near East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Davis was an outstanding physician, a great leader, and an effective, impassioned advocate for the uninsured. As President of the American Medical Association, Ron helped focus our attention on making sure health care was available and affordable for all Americans.

We worked together earlier this year on the Farm Bill—an unusual issue for physicians to get involved in—but Ron and I were committed to making sure our Federal farm policy promoted health and nutrition. With his help, we passed a truly groundbreaking farm bill that increased the Federal commitment to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Last February, Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This cancer, which affects over 37,000 Americans each year, is unfortunately one of the hardest to treat. But Ron didn't see it that way. He told his fellow doctors, ''Never take away someone's hope,'' and he lived by those words.

Even while undergoing painful and difficult cancer treatments, Ron was on the front lines, educating the public about support Web sites for cancer patients that allow families to stay informed while building a support network for the patient.

A champion for preventative medicine and public health, Dr. Davis was a leading advocate for healthier lifestyles. He traveled the country urging Americans to quit smoking, exercise more, and eat better.

He also led the effort for the historic apology by the AMA to African-American doctors for the organization's past exclusion of Black physicians. He believed that ''by confronting the past we can embrace the future,'' and pushed to increase enrollments by minorities in medical schools and health professions.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Nadine and his three sons, Jared, Evan, and Connor. America has lost a great doctor, and his family has lost a great man. Ron's extraordinary record of community service, dedication, and courage should serve as an inspiration to us all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2009: Mr. Michael Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia.

At 5:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–343), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Minority Leader appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Oversight Panel: Mr. HENSARLING of Texas.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 602. An act to develop the next generation of parental control technology.

S. 1193. 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.

H.R. 5714. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the Colonial period to today.

H.R. 6867. An act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

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–8736. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–08–0054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8737. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Organic Program (NOP), Sunset Review (2008)'' (RIN0581–AC76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8738. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cotton Program Changes for Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, Upland Cotton, and Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton'' (RIN0560–AH81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8739. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Third United States Army, U.S. Army Central Command, and has been assigned case number 05–17; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–8740. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of the Treasury in the Direct Loan Financing Account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–8741. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Special Working Group on Reserve Component Members Returning from Deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8742. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Long-Term Operational Missions Performed by Reserve Component Members Providing Operational Support Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 115(b)''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8743. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled, ''Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8744. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen G. Wood, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8745. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notification of the decision to cancel the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 public-private competition for the Commander, Navy Installations Command Emergency Management Dispatch Support Services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8746. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8747. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 on November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8748. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8749. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8750. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Ireland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8751. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to The Netherlands; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8752. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Iranian Transactions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8753. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pet Ownership for the Elderly and Persons With Disabilities'' (RIN2501-AD31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8754. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Design and Construction Requirements; Compliance With ANSI A117.1 Standards'' (RIN2529–AA92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8755. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations'' (Docket No. FEMA–B–1011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8756. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67)(73 FR 63647)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8757. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility'' (Docket No. FEMA–8047) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8758. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Conforming Changes to Certain End-User/End-Use Based Controls in the EAR; Clarification of the Term ''Transfer'' and Related Terms as Used in the EAR'' (RIN0694–AD59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8759. A communication from the Director, Office of Legal Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Deposit Insurance Regulations; Temporary Increase in Standard Coverage Amount; Mortgage Servicing Accounts'' (RIN3064–AD36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8760. A communication from the Special Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition on Funding of Unlawful Internet Gambling'' (RIN1505–AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8761. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Department of Commerce, and the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting jointly, the 2007 Biennial Report on Striped Bass Populations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8762. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fourth annual report on ethanol market concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8763. A communication from the Acting 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 Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit for Fishing Year 2009'' (RIN0648–XJ86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8764. 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 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'' (RIN0648–XK40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8765. 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; 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'' (RIN0648–XK85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8766. 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; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XK86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8767. A communication from the Acting 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; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648-XK79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8768. A communication from the Acting 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 Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Commercial Period 2 Quota Harvested'' (RIN0648-XL29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8769. A communication from the Acting 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; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648-XL42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8770. A communication from the Acting 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; Reallocation of Yellowfin Sole in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648-XL44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8771. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments'' (RIN0648-AX30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8772. A communication from the Acting 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; Pacific Cod by Vessels Subject to Amendment 80 Sideboard Limits in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648-XK96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8773. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered And Threatened Species; Endangered Status for the Cook Inlet Beluga Whale'' (RIN0648-XL30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8774. 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 ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, 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'' (RIN0648-AT13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8775. 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 ''Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Subsistence Fishing; Correction'' (RIN0648-AU14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8776. 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 ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Reporting Requirements and Conservation Measures'' (RIN0648-AX31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8777. A communication from the Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in the Insular Possessions Watch, Watch Movement and Jewelry Programs 2008'' (RIN0625-AA80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8778. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification to the Norton Sound Low, Woody Island Low, Control 1234L and Control 1487L offshore Airspace Areas; AK'' ((Docket No. FAA-2007-28391)(Airspace Docket No. 07-AAL-10)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8779. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kwethluk, AK'' ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0453)(Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-12)) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8780. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30635)(Amendment No. 477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8781. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30633)(Amendment No. 3292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8782. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30634)(Amendment No. 3293)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8783. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company (Type Certificate previously held by Columbia Aircraft Manufacturing) Models LC40-550FG, LC41-550FG, and LC42-550FG Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-27628)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8784. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -200C, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1147)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8785. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0151)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8786. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747SP Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0585)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8787. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0849)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8788. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200, A330-300, and A340-300 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0667)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8789. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200 and 757-300 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-28160)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8790. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1166)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8791. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-535E4-37, RB211-535E4-B-37, and RB211-535E4-B-75 Series Turbofan'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-29343)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8792. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS332, C, L, L1 and L2 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8793. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700, 701, and 702), CL-600-2D15 (Regional Jet Series 705), and CL-600-2D24 (Regional Jet Series 900) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0623)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8794. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0848)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8795. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Mystere-Falcon 900, Falcon 900EX, and Falcon 2000 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0729)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8796. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls Royce plc RB211 Trent 553-61, 553A2-61, 556-61, 556A2-61, 556B-61, 556B2-61, 560-61, and 560A2-61 Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1063)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8797. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0342)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8798. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 Airplanes, and Model EMB-145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0483)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8799. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-27011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8800. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Allied Ag Cat Productions, Inc. Model G-164 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0854)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8801. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Falcon 2000EX Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0830)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8802. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Stemme GmbH & Co. KG Models S10 and S10-V Gliders'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1161)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8803. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; DG Flugzeugbau GmbH Models DG-1000S and DG-1000T Gliders'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0989)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8804. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Model PC-6 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0990)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8805. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company 150 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0790)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8806. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2C10 (Regional Jet Series 700 & 701) Series Airplanes and Model CL-600-2D24 (Regional Jet Series 900) Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0555)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8807. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0643)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8808. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CT58 Series Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0808)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8809. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model 390 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-1127)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8810. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6-80C2 Series and CF6-80E1 Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-28367)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8811. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Maryland Air Industries, Inc., Model Fairchild F-27 and FH-227 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2008-0734)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8812. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Standards; Propellers; Correction'' (RIN2120-AI95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8813. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Special Awareness Training for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area; OMB Approval of Information Collection'' (RIN2120-AI63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8814. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Congestion Management Rule for LaGuardia Airport; Correction'' (RIN2120-AI70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8815. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Congestion Management Rule for LaGuardia Airport; Correction'' (RIN2120-AI70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8816. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Congestion Management Rule for LaGuardia Airport; Clarification of Final Rule'' (RIN2120-AI70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8817. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Congestion Management Rule for John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport; Correction'' (RIN2120-AJ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8818. 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 17, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8819. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Hendersonville, Tennessee'' (MB Docket No. 08-128) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8820. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; Linden, Tennessee'' (MB Docket No. 07-280) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8821. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; La Grande, Oregon'' (MB Docket No. 08–121) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8822. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Honolulu and Waimanalo, Hawaii'' (MB Docket No. 08–98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8823. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Flexible Use of the 896–901 MHz and 935–940 MHz Band Allotted to the Business and Industrial Land Transportation Pool'' (WT Docket No. 05–62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8824. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; La Grande and Prairie City, Oregon'' (MB Docket No. 08–67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8825. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2000 Biennial Regulatory Review—Streamlining and Other Revisions of Part 25 of the Commission's Rules Governing the Licensing of, and Spectrum Usage by, Satellite Network Earth Stations and Space Stations; Streamlining the Commission's Rules and Regulations for Satellite Applications and Licensing Procedures'' ((IB Docket No. 00–248)(IB Docket No. 95–117)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8826. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hours of Service of Drivers'' (RIN2126–AB14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8827. A communication from the Acting 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; Atka Mackerel in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (Docket No. 071106673–8011–02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–8828. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8829. 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 19, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–8830. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NAC–UMS Revision 5'' (RIN3150–AI48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8831. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Control of Stationary Combustion Turbine Electric Generating Unit Emissions'' ((EPA–R03–OAR–2008–0068)(FRL–8738–3)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8832. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; CILCO (AmerenEnergy) Edwards'' ((EPA–R05–OAR–2004–IL–0003)(FRL–8730–4)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8833. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; PM–10; Revision of Designation; Redesignation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin PM–10 Nonattainment Area to Attainment; Approval of PM–10 Maintenance Plan for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin; Approval of Commitments for the East Kern PM–10 Nonattainment Area'' ((EPA–R09–OAR–2008–0306)(FRL–8724–7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8834. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation; Clark County'' ((EPA–R09–OAR–2008–0728)(FRL–8729–1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8835. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings'' ((EPA–HQ–OAR–2006–0971)(FRL–8738–7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8836. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Regulation and Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Response to the Waterkeeper Decision'' ((EPA–HQ–OW–2005–0037)(FRL–8738–9)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8837. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' ((EPA–HQ–OPPT–2008–0251)(FRL–8371–3)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8838. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Silane, trimethoxy[3–(oxiranylmethoxy)propyl]–, hydrolysis products with silica; Tolerance Exemption'' ((EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0571)(FRL–8386–1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8839. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Withdrawal of the Federal Water Quality Standards Use Designations for Soda Creek and Portions of Canyon Creek, South Fork Coeur d'Alene River, and Blackfoot River in Idaho'' ((EPA–HQ–OW–2008–0495)(FRL–8737–9)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8840. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; 2002 Base Year Inventory for the Pittsburgh–Beaver Valley 8–Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area'' ((EPA–R03–OAR–2007–0453)(FRL–8741–5)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8841. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Approval of Revisions to the Knox County Portion of the Tennessee State Implementation Plan – ''Permit by Rule'' Provision'' ((EPA–R04–OAR–2008–0052–200803(a))(FRL–8743–8)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8842. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or Superfund, Section 128(a); Notice of Grant Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs'' (FRL–8742–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8843. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ipconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' ((EPA–HQ–OPP–2007–0226)(FRL–8389–1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8844. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Polyoxin D Zinc Salt; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' ((EPA–HQ–OPP–2008–0417)(FRL–8389–5)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8845. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Test Methods'' (RIN2060–AP17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8846. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District'' ((EPA–R09–OAR–2008–0590)(FRL–8732–4)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8847. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''The Treatment of Data Influence by Exceptional Events (Exceptional Event Rule): Revised Exceptional Event Data Flagging Submittal and Documentation Schedule for Monitoring Data Used in Designations for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS'' (RIN2060-AP28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–8848. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Demonstration of Coverage of Chiropractic Services under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8849. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Evaluation of Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plans''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8850. 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 ''Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2008–105) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8851. 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 Section 43 Inflation Adjustment'' (Notice 2008–72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8852. 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 relative to real estate investment trusts (Rev. Proc. 2008–69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8853. 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 for Discharges of Indebtedness'' (RIN1545–BH99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–8854. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8855. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad with Italy and Germany; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8856. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of defense articles or defense services in the amount of $100,000,000 or more to Denmark, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, and Portugal; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8857. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List sold commercially under contract in the amount of $1,000,000 or more to Ecuador; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8858. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the status of family reunions between U.S. citizens and their relatives in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8859. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008–192—2008-202); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8860. A communication from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Executive Vice President, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–8861. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a petition to add workers from the Connecticut Aircraft Nuclear Engine Laboratory, to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8862. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's financial report for fiscal year 2007 relative to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8863. A communication from the Senior Regulatory Officer of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993'' (RIN1215–AB35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8864. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of English Language Acquisition, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as Amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8865. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program'' (RIN1840-AC94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8866. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary, Office of Communications and Outreach, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–8867. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Performance Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8868. A communication from the Attorney General, 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–8869. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8870. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8871. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Reports for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8872. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8873. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Labor, 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–8874. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government - Fiscal Year 2007''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8875. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Quarterly Report for October 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8876. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''OCFO's Policy Regarding Background Checks on Specific OCFO Employees Who Handle Cash and/or Cash Equivalents''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8877. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the two audit reports issued during fiscal year 2008 relative to the Agency and the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8878. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to disciplinary best practices and advisory guidelines; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8879. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the inventory of activities for fiscal year 2008 under the FAIR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8880. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of notification of availability of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8881. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-278, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8882. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Pay Administration Rules for General Schedule Employees'' (RIN3206-AK88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8883. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Time-in-Grade Rule Eliminated'' (RIN3206-AL18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8884. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suitability'' (RIN3206-AL38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8885. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Survey from Fiscal Year to Calendar Year'' (RIN3206-AL63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8886. A communication from the Acting Director, Center for Pay and Leave Administration, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Emergency Leave Transfer Program'' (RIN3206-AL26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8887. A communication from the Acting Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Santa Clara, California, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area'' (RIN3206-AL74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–8888. A communication from the National Treasurer, Navy Wives Clubs of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the latest audit of the organization; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8889. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fiscal Year 2009 Changes to Patent Cooperation Treaty Transmittal and Search Fees'' (RIN0651-AC28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8890. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Rules of Practice'' (RIN0651-AB89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8891. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes to Representation of Others before the United States Patent and Trademark Office'' (RIN0651-AB55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–8892. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Board of Veterans Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Board of Veterans' Appeals: Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative - Pilot Program'' (RIN2900-AM77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8893. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty and Other Miscellaneous Issues'' (RIN2900-AM45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8894. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Elimination of Co-payment for Weight Management Counseling'' (RIN2900-AM59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8895. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA): Expansion of Benefit Coverage for Prostheses and Enuretic (Bed-wetting) Devices; Miscellaneous Provisions'' (RIN2900-AM22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8896. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Disclosure of Information to Organ, Tissue and Eye Procurement Organizations'' (RIN2900-AM65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8897. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule for Rating Disabilities; Eye'' (RIN2900-AH43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–8898. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's financial report for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8899. A communication from the Senior Counsel of Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tarp Capital Purchase Program'' (31 CFR Part 30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8900. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibition on Funding of Unlawful Internet Gambling'' (RIN1505-AB78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8901. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA): Rule To Simplify and Improve the Process of Obtaining Mortgages and Reduce Consumer Settlement Costs'' (RIN2502-AI61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. David J. Scott, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. James N. Stewart, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John C. Koziol, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Stephen L. Hoog, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Loren M. Reno, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. James K. McLaughlin, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. John M. Mateczun, to be Vice Admiral.

Army nomination of Brigadier General Gina S. Farrisee, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Scott C. Black, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. James H. Pillsbury, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. David N. Blackorby, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. James E. Rogers, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Margaret W. Boor, to be Brigadier General.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the Records on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Darryl D. Bybee and ending with Marco V. Galvez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Air Force nominations beginning with Richard Brinker and ending with Nadia C. Shockley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Air Force nomination of Kathleen V. Reder, to be Major.

Air Force nominations beginning with Samantha S. Bousigues and ending with John J. Linnett, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Air Force nominations beginning with John M. Beene II and ending with Mark E. Sanborn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Air Force nomination of Richard W. Jost, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Clevis T. Parker, to be Major.

Army nomination of Britt B. Hill, to be Major.

Army nomination of Kenneth Carlson, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Raymond L. Capps and ending with Shane Russelljenkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Anthony H. Savage and ending with Karl F. Woodmansey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Grace Lacara and ending with Chesley D. Overby, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nomination of John F. Kasel, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Max L. Divine and ending with Norma Torres, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Michael L. Nippert and ending with Robert C. Turner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Laurence W. Gebler and ending with Viseth Ngauy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 26, 2008.

Army nomination of Gregg A. Bliss, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Stuart A. Mellon, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Robert S. Gatewood, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Steven P. Jahner, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of William H. Smithson, to be Major.

Army nomination of James O. McLinnaham, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Gregory R. Ebner, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Paul E. Webb, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Randy R. Cote and ending with Michael P. Steely, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Erol Agi and ending with Patrick C. Sean, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Richard S. Glass and ending with Victor F. Wallace, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Jerzey J. Chachaj and ending with John E. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Malissa A. Hill and ending with Soma R. Webb, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Dwight Y. Shen and ending with Jeffrey R. Long, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Michael C. Ahn and ending with Richard P. Martin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Charles K. Aris and ending with John R. Worster, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Eric C. Bush and ending with Jon A. Jensen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Edward J. Briand and ending with John C. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Melanie J. Craig and ending with Paul D. Stoneman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Cynthia J. Abbadini and ending with Justin A. Woodhouse, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Derrick F. Arincorayan and ending with D060674, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with William J. Adams and ending with D060291, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Richard K. Addo and ending with D060598, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Kenneth P. Adgie and ending with D070487, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Army nomination of Lynn F. Abrams, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Catherine A. Oliver, to be Major.

Army nomination of Timothy S. Allisonaipa, to be Major.

Army nomination of Daniel A. Strode, to be Major.

Army nomination of Joseph S. Selken, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas A. Bryant and ending with James P. Mcginnis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 19, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with James A. Griggs and ending with Paul R. Hunt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 19, 2008.

Army nominations beginning with Peter H. Guevara and ending with Walter W. Shratz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 19, 2008.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Christopher M. Brannen and ending with Erich H. Wagner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Navy nomination of John E. Murrain, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Dana Stombaugh, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Paul J. Foster, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Deborah A. Hinkley, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Mark C. Holley, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael C. Collins, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Channing J. Thomas, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Evan B. Williams, to be Lieutenant.

Navy nominations beginning with Gerald C. Lowe and ending with Victor D. Oliver, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Navy nominations beginning with Edward J. Arrison and ending with Clevis T. Parker, Sr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

Navy nominations beginning with Gregory R. Adams and ending with Donovan B. Wortham, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2008.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARTINEZ:

S. 13. A bill to temporarily extend increases in certain home loan limits; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 16. A bill to provide for certain land to be held in trust for the Burns Paiute Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 17. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to choose either lump sum payments over four years totaling $5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 18. A bill to improve the authority of the Special Inspector General charged with overseeing the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 19. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 20. A bill to prohibit the implementation or enforcement of certain regulations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3709. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the Rural Energy for America Program to include schools in rural areas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3710. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide access to Medicare benefits for individuals ages 55 to 65, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable and advanceable credit against income tax for payment of such premiums, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3711. A bill to authorize a cost of living adjustment for the Federal judiciary; considered and passed.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 3712. A bill to make a technical correction in the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008; considered and passed.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 3713. A bill to provide for the integration of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and the Great Lakes Naval Health Clinic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 3714. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ensure that all agreements,

contracts, and transactions with respect to commodities are carried out on a regulated exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. BOND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3715. A bill to provide for emergency bridge loan assistance to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. 3716. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional personnel, audit, and investigation authorities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3717. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow reimbursement from flexible spending accounts for certain dental products; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BAYH):

S. Res. 710. A resolution designating the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. Res. 711. A resolution condemning the tragic and senseless death by stoning of a 13-year-old girl from Somalia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. Res. 712. A resolution congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOND, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. Res. 713. A resolution calling on all parties to the escalating violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire and work with the support of the international community toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to the crisis; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 714. A resolution honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 715. A resolution extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. Res. 716. A resolution acknowledging the accomplishments and goals of the Youth Impact Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 717. A resolution designating December 13, 2008, as ''Wreaths Across America Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 718. A resolution designating November 30, 2008, as ''Drive Safer Sunday''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 719. A resolution recognizing National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. Res. 720. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. Con. Res. 106. A concurrent resolution commending the Government of Switzerland for ongoing assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, urging the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to intensify cooperation with the Government of Switzerland and the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the case of Robert Levinson, and expressing sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2743

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of financial security accounts for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2756

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2756, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 3361

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3361, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act.

S. 3672

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3672, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve economic opportunity and development in rural States through highway investment, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3672, supra.

S. 3673

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3673, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve highway transportation in the United States, including rural and metropolitan areas.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3673, supra.

S. 3683

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) 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. 3698

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. RES. 640

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 640, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that there should be an increased Federal commitment to public health and the prevention of diseases and injuries for all people in the United States.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 16. A bill to provide for certain land to be held in trust for the Burns Paiute Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, the purpose of introducing this bill today is to start the process of granting the Burns-Paiute Tribe of Eastern Oregon land in trust. This is an opportunity to allow this tribe to become self-sufficient by producing a viable gaming operation. The project would be designed to have a minimal component tied to gaming with a much larger share of the development related to entertainment and tourism. One of the goals would be to develop activities and bring in components that enhance the overall Treasure Valley and southwest Idaho economic environment. The goal is to create new reasons for people to travel to the region and to work with local businesses to generate ongoing supply and support ongoing business opportunities. This legislation, should it be implemented, will create new jobs and provide an economic boost for eastern Oregon and western Idaho.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 18. A bill to improve the authority of the Special Inspector General charged with overseeing the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with the size and complexity of the Treasury Department's efforts to administer the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP, which is unprecedented in recent U.S. history, it is essential to have a Special Inspector General, IG, who is focused exclusively on conducting effective oversight. When Congress passed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, I was proud to join Senator BAUCUS, as well as 31 of my other colleagues, to insist that the legislation direct the Treasury Secretary to appoint a Special IG as soon as possible. Notably, we tasked the Special IG with ensuring program transparency by collecting data on the Treasury's actions and reporting regularly to Congress. One might say that the Special IG is the cop on the beat dedicated to protecting taxpayers' interests.

Many would argue that the Treasury's current authority is almost completely unrestrained. There is a saying about what absolute power does to people and organizations, namely that absolute power corrupts absolutely. We must not allow unrestrained power to corrupt the Treasury Department's authority or mission. It is essential that proper oversight exists so that the Treasury Department is held accountable for how it expends taxpayer dollars.

A strong IG is even more critical now that the Treasury Department is directly injecting capital into banks, as well as potentially aiding other entities that provide consumer credit. The oversight requirements originally designed by Congress to scrutinize the purchase of toxic assets do not accurately or adequately describe the Treasury's equity investments and, therefore, do not provide the strong taxpayer protections Congress requires.

With the Treasury Department changing the plan day-by-day, there is growing market uncertainty about how best to address the economic crisis. The Treasury needs to inspire confidence. It must not follow Wall Street's example and play fast and loose on the public's dime. The bottom line is we must ensure the government respects the public's money more than Wall Street ever did. That will be the Special Inspector General's job. It is imperative then that the Special IG be adequately equipped with authority and resources to carry out this mission.

On Monday, the Finance Committee held a hearing to consider the nomination of Neil Barofsky to be the Special IG for TARP. Mr. Barofsky has had a distinguished career as a Federal prosecutor investigating white-collar crimes, but regardless of how impressive his resume might be, he cannot succeed at his job if his hands are tied with inadequate authority and resources. At this hearing, I noted a number of concerns that I have with the authority, or lack thereof, given to the Special IG, and for this reason, I rise today, to offer legislation, the Troubled Asset Relief Program Inspector General Improvement Act, that will give the Special IG the teeth that he needs to provide the oversight that taxpayers deserve with their precious tax dollars at stake.

Time is of the essence with the Treasury already having committed $290 billion without the Special IG's oversight. We cannot afford any further delay in the office of the Special IG becoming operational. Accordingly, because the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA) did not specify the timing the Treasury Department must observe to transfer $50 million to the Special IG to set up his office, my legislation would direct the Treasury Secretary to provide the TARP IG with $50 million within three days after he is confirmed by the Senate. In addition, because the TARP IG must hire personnel to get up and running, my bill includes a proposal to waive applicable civil service rules that could delay that process. I am concerned that without this change, it may be summer before the TARP IG's office is sufficiently staffed to discharge its responsibilities.

Notably, EESA requires the TARP to address deficiencies that the Comptroller General identifies, or to certify to the appropriate committees of Congress that no action is necessary, but it places no similar requirement on the TARP regarding audit findings by the Special IG. My bill would place the same requirements on the TARP to address recommendations by the Special IG as are required by the findings of the Comptroller General.

Additionally, now that the Treasury Department has changed course and decided to inject capital directly into financial institutions rather than purchase toxic and illiquid assets as originally contemplated, Congress must be sure that the Special IG has the authority to fully investigate any other type of transaction undertaken by TARP. Although many contend that the underlying statute provides the Special IG with the ability to investigate equity injections, with Treasury Secretary Paulson hinting that TARP may be expanded to benefit credit card, student loan, and car loan companies, and with the possibility that the incoming administration might enlarge the program further still in ways that we are not fully able to anticipate, it is imperative that the Special IG have the ability to conduct oversight over whatever way funds are ultimately expended. My legislation mandates that the Special IG can go wherever necessary to protect taxpayers.

Last but not least, as there is tremendous concern in many quarters that financial institutions will use the $250 billion in equity injections they have been allocated pursuant to TARP to either purchase their weaker competitors or simply pay dividends to shareholders, I believe it is absolutely critical that the public understand exactly how these funds are being committed. Although I hope the funds will be used to promote lending, which is so critical to restoring economic growth and job creation, we must be sure that such lending occurs. Accordingly, my bill would require the TARP IG to prepare by July 1, 2009, an analysis for Congress of what exactly banks did with the $250 billion they have received.

Finally, Mr. President, I would be remiss not to acknowledge similar legislation introduced yesterday by my colleagues Senators MCCASKILL, GRASSLEY, COLLINS, and LIEBERMAN. Although their legislation would speed the hiring process to allow the TARP IG to quickly begin operations, as well as allow the IG to investigate any initiative created as part of the program, it would not make some of the other changes I believe are absolutely vital. All that said, I hope that we can work together on a consensus, bipartisan package that can expeditiously clear the Senate.

Mr. Prsident, 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. 18

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 ''Troubled Asset Relief Program Inspector General Improvement Act''.

SEC. 2. FUNDING OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL.

Section 121(g)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '',

not later than 3 days after the date on which the nomination of the Special Inspector General is first confirmed by the Senate''.

SEC. 3. OBLIGATION TO RESPOND TO AUDITS.

Section 121 of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) CORRECTIVE RESPONSES TO AUDIT PROBLEMS.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) take action to address deficiencies identified by the Special Inspector General or other auditor engaged by the TARP; or

''(2) certify to appropriate committees of Congress that no action is necessary or appropriate.''.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS.

Section 121(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) is amended by striking ''purchase, management'' and all that follows through ''including'' and inserting ''activities of the Secretary in the expenditure or obligation of funds under this title, including''.

SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

Section 121(g) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343), as so designated by this Act, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

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

''(2) Not later than July 1, 2009, the Special Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report analyzing the use of any funds received by a financial institution under the TARP.''.

SEC. 6. PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.

Section 121(e)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–343) is amended—

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

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the Special Inspector General may exercise the employment authorities of subsections (b) through (i) of section 3161 of title 5, United States Code (without regard to subsection (a) of that section).

''(ii) In exercising the employment authorities under subsection (b) of section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, (as provided under clause (i)) the Special Inspector General may not make any appointment on or after the date occurring 1 year after the date of the first confirmation of a nomination for the Special Inspector General.''.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 20. A bill to prohibit the implementation 'or enforcement of certain regulations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, as this session comes rapidly to a close, my colleague Senator MURRAY and I are introducing critical legislation to suspend the Bush administration's latest attempt to put ideology before women's health. The rule being proposed by the administration would limit patients' access to basic reproductive health care services and information.

The Protecting Patients and Health Care Act would prevent HHS from implementing this ill-conceived, midnight regulation.

As you know, Senator MURRAY and I have been speaking out against this rule since July. The rule, as it was then proposed in August by the Department of Health and Human Services, is a serious threat to patients' access to information and care.

Then in September, Senator MURRAY and I had a very frank conversation with Secretary Leavitt about how this rule could create a slippery slope leading to patients being denied access to contraception and other important information or care. However, despite the important concerns we raised to the Secretary, the New York Times reported this past Monday that in the coming days, HHS plans to release a final regulation that would undermine women's health.

I am hopeful that my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle will join me today in supporting this important piece of legislation to protect patients' rights and health care.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3709. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the Rural Energy for America Program to include schools in rural areas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation, along with my colleague Senator HARKIN, to create opportunities for schools, located in rural communities across this country, to compete for grants and loans to purchase energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements.

The recently passed Farm Bill authorized roughly $1 billion in mandatory spending for renewable energy programs. One of those programs is The Rural Energy for America Program, REAP. This program provides loans, loan guarantees, and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to invest in energy saving improvements to their current energy systems or to purchase renewable energy systems. Examples include purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficiency units, such as lighting or insulation, or the wholesale installment of energy projects that produce energy from wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and hydrogen-based sources to produce any form of energy including, heat, electricity, or fuel.

My legislation would authorize an additional $100 million over 5 years for these grants and in effect expand the scope of the program, allowing it to better meet the needs of rural communities and creating important incentives for institutions to invest in renewable technology. It is my hope that Congress will support this legislation and its goal of helping rural communities play a key role in our Nation's energy future.

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. 3709

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

SECTION 1. RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and rural small businesses'' each place it appears and inserting '', rural small businesses, and rural schools''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(6) and (c)(3)(A), by striking ''or rural small business'' each place it appears and insert '', rural small business, or rural school''.

(b) DEFINITION OF RURAL SCHOOL.—Section 9007(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(2) by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(1) DEFINITION OF RURAL SCHOOL.—In this section, the term 'rural school' means a school in a rural area (as defined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))).

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary''.

(c) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Section 9007(g)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107(g)(1) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) by striking ''Of the funds'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) FUNDING FOR RURAL SCHOOLS.—In addition to amounts made available under subparagraph (A), of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to provide assistance to rural schools under this section, $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013, to remain available until expended.''.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I am proud to cosponsor this legislation to expand the Rural Energy for America Program, REAP, to include schools in rural areas. This amendment to the program will encourage our rural schools to carry out energy efficiency projects and install renewable energy systems, thus reducing their dependence on fossil energy and reducing future energy costs. I am proud to join my colleague, Senator REID of Nevada, as a cosponsor of this bill.

The Rural Energy for America Program, enacted in the 2008 farm bill—the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008—is an expansion of the very successful section 9006 program which was established by the 2002 farm bill. The program has supported over 2,000 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects for farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses since its enactment. Most impressive is the fact that the Federal investments in these projects were matched by almost 10 times as much in funding from the developers of the projects and other sources. This truly is a hallmark of a

successful Federal program, exactly the kind of program that deserves expansion, especially because it supports rural economic development while helping to provide us with cleaner and more sustainable energy systems. Expanding this program to rural schools just makes sense—they foster rural economic development and should be able to take part in this transition to better energy systems and to realize the associated environmental and economic benefits.

I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 3711. A bill to authorize a cost of living adjustment for the Federal judiciary; considered and passed.

Mr. REID. 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 placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3711

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

SECTION 1. COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.

Pursuant to section 140 of Public Law 97–92, justices and judges of the United States are authorized during fiscal year 2009 to receive a salary adjustment in accordance with section 461 of title 28, United States Code.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 3713: A bill to provide for the integration of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center and the Great Lakes Naval Health Clinic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DURBIN. 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 placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3713

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 ''Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY.

(a) TRANSFER.—

(1) TRANSFER AUTHORIZED.—Upon the conclusion of a resource-sharing agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs providing for the joint use by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs of a facility and supporting facilities in North Chicago, Illinois, and Great Lakes, Illinois, and for joint use of related medical personal property and equipment, the Secretary of Defense may transfer, without reimbursement, to the Department of Veterans Affairs the Navy ambulatory care center (on which construction commenced in July 2008), parking structure, and supporting facilities, and related medical personal property and equipment, located in Great Lakes, Illinois.

(2) DESIGNATION OF JOINT USE FACILITY.—The facility and supporting facilities subject to joint use under the agreement and transfer under this subsection shall be designated as known as the ''Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center''.

(b) REVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any of the real and related personal property transferred pursuant to subsection (a) is subsequently used for purposes other than the purposes specified in the joint use specified in the resource-sharing agreement described in that subsection or otherwise determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be excess to the needs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall offer to transfer such property, without reimbursement, to the Secretary of Defense. Any such transfer shall be completed not later than one year after the acceptance of the offer of transfer.

(2) REVERSION IN EVENT OF LACK OF FACILITIES INTEGRATION.—

(A) WITHIN INITIAL PERIOD.—During the 5-year period beginning on the date of the transfer of the real and related personal property described in subsection (a), if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense jointly determine that the integration of the facilities described in that subsection should not continue, the real and related personal property of the Navy ambulatory care center, parking structure, and support facilities described in that subsection shall be transferred, without reimbursement, to the Secretary of Defense. Such transfer shall occur not later than 180 days after the date of such determination by the Secretaries.

(B) AFTER INITIAL PERIOD.—After the end of the 5-year period described in subparagraph (A), if either the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Defense determines that the integration of the facilities described in subsection (a) should not continue, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transfer, without reimbursement, to the Secretary of Defense the real and related personal property described in paragraph (1). Such transfer shall occur not later than one year after the date of the determination by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may transfer to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may accept from the Department of Defense, functions necessary for the effective operation of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

(2) TREATMENT OF TRANSFERS.—Any transfer of functions under this subsection is a transfer of functions within the meaning of section 3503 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) TERMS OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) RESOURCE-SHARING AGREEMENT.—Any transfer of functions under subsection (a) shall be effectuated in a resource-sharing agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including but not limited to any provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to transfers of function or reductions-in-force, the agreement described in paragraph (1) shall be controlling and may make provision for—

(A) the transfer of civilian employee positions of the Department of Defense identified in the agreement to the Department of Veterans Affairs and of the incumbent civilian employees in such positions;

(B) the transition of transferred employees to pay, benefits, and personnel systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs in a manner which will not result in any reduction of pay, grade, or employment progression of any employee or any change in employment status for employees who have already successfully completed or are in the process of completing a one-year probationary period under title 5, United States Code;

(C) the establishment of integrated seniority lists and other personnel management provisions that recognize an employee's experience and training so as to provide comparable recognition of employees previously with the Department of Veterans Affairs and employees newly transferred to such Department; and

(D) such other matters relating to civilian personnel management as the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider appropriate.

(c) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting the authority of the Secretary of Defense to establish civilian employee positions in the Department of Defense and utilize all civilian personnel authorities otherwise available to the Secretary if the Secretary determines that such actions are necessary and appropriate to meet mission requirements of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF JOINT INCENTIVE FUND.

(a) TEN-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT INCENTIVES PROGRAM.—Paragraph (3) of section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2020''.

(b) FUNDING OF MAINTENANCE AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION FROM THE JOINT INCENTIVE FUND.—Paragraph (2) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ''Such purposes shall include real property maintenance and minor construction projects that are not required to be specifically authorized by law under section 8104 of this title and section 2805 of title 10.''.

SEC. 5. HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES AT THE CAPTAIN JAMES A. LOVELL FEDERAL HEALTH CARE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of eligibility for health care under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center authorized by this Act may be deemed to be a facility of the uniformed services to the extent provided in an agreement between the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subsection (b).

(b) ELEMENTS OF AGREEMENT.—Subsection (a) may be implemented through an agreement between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense. The agreement may—

(1) establish an integrated priority list for access to available care at the facility described in subsection (a), integrating the respective priority lists of the Secretaries, taking into account categories of beneficiaries, enrollment program status, and such other factors as the Secretaries determine appropriate;

(2) incorporate any resource-related limitations for access to care at that facility established by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of administering space-available eligibility for care in facilities of the uniformed services under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code;

(3) allocate financial responsibility for care provided at that facility for individuals who are eligible for care under both title 38, United States Code, and chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code; and

(4) waive the applicability to that facility of any provision of section 8111(e) of title 38, United States Code, as specified by the Secretaries.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 3714. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ensure that all agreements, contracts, and transactions with respect to commodities are carried out on a regulated exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing legislation—the Derivatives Trading Integrity Act—which calls for establishing stronger standards of openness, transparency and integrity in the trading of financial swaps and other over-the-counter derivatives as a critical step toward rebuilding and restoring confidence in the financial system. With the total face value of swaps reaching a high of some $531 trillion at the middle of this year—8-and-a-half times the world GDP of $62 trillion—it is long past time for accountability in these markets. Over the years, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and Congress have responded to concerns of the the swaps industry by allowing instruments that are in form and function futures contracts to be privately negotiated without the safeguards provided through exchange trading.

The economic downturn in this country is forcing us to examine all contributing factors to the crisis in our financial markets. By restoring reasonable safeguards and regulation of swaps, including credit default swaps, along with all other futures contracts, this legislation will go a long way to restore confidence in the markets and reestablish soundness and integrity in the financial system. My bill will end the unregulated ''casino capitalism'' that has engendered great risks in swaps trading. And it will bring these transactions out into the sunlight where they can be monitored and appropriately and responsibly regulated. This legislation will establish authority and safeguards to ensure that parties can meet their obligations to manage and reduce danger and risk to the entire financial system and economy.

Virtually all contracts now commonly referred to as swaps fall under the definition of futures contracts and function basically in the same manner as futures contracts. This bill amends the Commodity Exchange Act to eliminate the distinction in futures contracts among ''excluded'' and ''exempt'' commodities and regulated, exchange-traded commodities; futures contracts for all commodities would be treated the same.

In addition, the bill eliminates the statutory exclusion of swap transactions from regulation, and it ends the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's authority to exempt such transactions from the general requirement that a contract for the purchase or sale of a commodity for future delivery can only trade on a regulated board of trade. In effect, this means that all futures contracts must trade on a designated contract market or a derivatives transaction execution facility.

Last month, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry heard dramatic testimony about the impact of unregulated financial derivatives on the U.S. economy. We have seen large negative consequences from the lack of price transparency and the failure to properly measure and collateralize the risk in trading over-the-counter derivatives. The problems have not been in the trading of financial futures on regulated futures markets, subject to the oversight of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

This legislation I am introducing will establish the standards that all futures contracts trade on regulated exchange. The regulated exchanges will work with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to ensure that trading on the exchange is fair and equitable and not subject to abuses. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has the experience and expertise to oversee these matters.

Bringing necessary openness, transparency, soundness, and integrity to trading in contracts which are now unregulated over-the-counter swaps and related derivatives is a key element in restoring trust and confidence in the financial system so that we can rebuild our economy on a solid foundation.

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. 3714

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 ''Derivatives Trading Integrity Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. REGULATION OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND TRANSACTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (10), (11), (13), (14), and (33); and

(2) by redesignating—

(A) paragraph (12) as paragraph (10);

(B) paragraphs (15) through (32) as paragraphs (11) through (28), respectively; and

(C) paragraph (34) as paragraph (29).

(b) EXCLUSIONS.—Section 2 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (d), (e), (g), (h), and (i); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (d).

(c) RESTRICTION OF FUTURES TRADING TO CONTRACT MARKETS OR DERIVATIVES TRANSACTION EXECUTION FACILITIES.—Section 4 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Unless exempted by the Commission pursuant to subsection (c), it shall'' and inserting ''It shall'';

(2) by striking subsection (c); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) EXEMPT BOARDS OF TRADE.—Section 5d of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a–3) is repealed.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a) (as amended by section 2(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10)(A)(x), by striking ''(other than an electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract)'';

(2) in paragraph (25)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (E); and

(3) in paragraph (27), by striking ''section 2(c), 2(d), 2(f), or 2(g) of this Act'' and inserting ''subsection (c) or (d) of section 2''.

(b) Section 2(c) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''5d,''; and

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''in an excluded commodity''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II)—

(A) in item (cc), by striking ''section 1a(20) of this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 1a(16)''; and

(B) in item (dd), by striking ''section 1a(12)(A)(ii) of this Act'' and inserting ''section 1a(10)(A)(ii)''.

(c) Section 4a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''or on electronic trading facilities with respect to a significant price discovery contract''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''or on an electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract,'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding the proviso, by striking ''or electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract''; and

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) in the matter preceding the proviso—

(I) by striking ''or by any electronic trading facility'';

(II) by striking ''or on an electronic trading facility''; and

(III) by striking ''or electronic trading facility''; and

(ii) in the proviso, by striking ''or electronic trading facility''; and

(B) in the second sentence, in the matter preceding the proviso, by striking ''or electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract''.

(d) Section 4g(a) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6g(a)) is amended by striking ''and in any significant price discovery contract traded or executed on an electronic trading facility or''.

(e) Section 4i of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 6i) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''or any significant price discovery contract traded or executed on an electronic trading facility''; and

(2) in the matter following paragraph (2), by striking ''or electronic trading facility''.

(f) Section 5a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (F); and

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''ELECTION TO TRADE EXCLUDED AND EXEMPT COMMODITIES'' and inserting ''EXCLUDED SECURITIES''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''excluded or exempt commodities other than'' and inserting ''commodities other than an agricultural commodity enumerated in section 1a(4) or''; and

(ii) by striking '', 2(d), or 2(g) of this Act, or exempt under section 2(h) of this Act''.

(g) Section 5b of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''section 2(a)(1)(C)(i), 2(c), 2(d), 2(f), or 2(g) of this Act or title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, or exempted under section 2(h) or 4(c) of this Act'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1)(C)(i), (c), or (d) of section 2 or title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A457)''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''section 2(c), 2(d), 2(f), or 2(g) of this Act or title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, or exempted under section 2(h) or 4(c) of this Act'' and inserting ''subsection (c) or (d) of section 2 or title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A457)''.

(h) Section 5c of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7a–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''and section 2(h)(7) with respect to significant price discovery contracts,'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking '', derivatives transaction execution facility, or electronic trading facility with respect to a significant price discovery contract'' and inserting ''or derivatives transaction execution facility''; and

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by striking '', derivatives transaction execution facility, or electronic trading facility'' each place it appears and inserting ''or derivatives transaction execution facility''; and

(3) in subsection (d)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''or 2(h)(7)(C) with respect to a significant price discovery contract traded or executed on an electronic trading facility,''.

(i) Section 5e of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7b) is amended by striking ''or revocation of the right of an electronic trading facility to rely on the exemption set forth in section 2(h)(3) with respect to a significant price discovery contract,''.

(j) Section 5f(b)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 7b–1(b)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''section 5f'' and inserting ''this section''.

(k) Section 6(b) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 8(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''or to revoke the right of an electronic trading facility to rely on the exemption set forth in section 2(h)(3) with respect to a significant price discovery contract,''; and

(B) by striking ''or electronic trading facility''; and

(2) in the second sentence, in the matter preceding the proviso, by striking ''or electronic trading facility''.

(l) Section 12(e) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 16(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) EFFECT.—This Act supersedes and preempts the application of any State or local law that prohibits or regulates gaming or the operation of bucket shops (other than antifraud provisions of general applicability) in the case of an agreement, contract, or transaction that is excluded from this Act under—

''(A) subsection (c) or (d) of section 2; or

''(B) title IV of the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–554; 114 Stat. 2763A457).''.

(m) Section 15(b) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 19(b)) is amended by striking ''4(c) or''.

(n) Section 22(b)(1)(A) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 25(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking ''by section 2(h)(7) or sections 5 through 5c'' and inserting ''under sections 5 through 5c''.

(o) Section 13106(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2 note; Public Law 110–246) is amended by striking ''section 1a(32)'' and inserting ''section 1a''.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. BOND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3715. A bill to provide for emergency bridge loan assistance to automobile manufacturers and component suppliers; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues the Auto Industry Emergency Bridge Loan Act.

This legislation is the product of a bipartisan effort to provide bridge loans of up to $25 billion to the auto industry. Auto industries around the world, including China and Europe, are requesting loans from their governments because of the dramatic decline of the global economy and the drastic reduction in car purchases and the availability of credit.

Our proposition is not only bipartisan. It is a hybrid proposal combining provisions from many sources.

We incorporate Leader REID's provisions on strong taxpayer protections, including stock warrants for the government, provisions restricting executive compensation, including bonuses and golden parachutes, and provisions requiring long term plans for financial viability. Suppliers are also made eligible for the loans.

The language of Chairman BARNEY FRANK, of the House Financial Services Committee, was heavily utilized including retention of Section 136's environmental standards, such as 25 percent improvement in fuel economy and Tier II emissions standards. His oversight board membership approach is also included.

The White House opposed the use of any of the $700 billion, already-appropriated stabilization fund, and the Majority Leader said yesterday that there were not enough votes in the Senate to pass an amendment using those funds. We cannot allow the issue of which source of already appropriated funds will be used for the essential purpose of preventing the economy from sliding into a depression, which is a real possibility if one or more of the domestic auto companies goes under, given the impact of the auto industry on millions of jobs, on suppliers that are in most of our States and on all of our communities which have Big 3 auto dealers.

So we agreed that the only alternative which can prevent those disastrous results is for the funding stream for the loans to come from the so-called Section 136 appropriation that we provided earlier this year in the consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009. However, the structure of Section 136 is preserved in permanent law for the balance of its appropriation not utilized for loans, and the environmental standards of section 136, including strengthened fuel economy and emissions standards, are preserved. Also, loan repayments will be used to replenish Section 136, along with any proceeds from the sale of company stock owned by the government.

Under our proposal, this emergency bridge loan program would be administered by the Secretary of Commerce.

The time for Congress to act on this pressing issue is growing short. People in communities across this country are anxiously watching to see what we are going to do. They are sick with worry. Not acting on a solution will provoke anger and frustration in hundreds of communities which supply components or have auto dealers. This is a Main Street issue—a direct jobs issue for millions of families.

I know there is frustration with the past actions of the U.S. auto companies. Some blame them for the quality problems of the 1970s, or for paying their executives and their workers too much, or for not moving aggressively enough to produce advanced technology, fuel efficient cars. But we can't throw millions of jobs, a vital segment of our industrial base and our economy overboard just because of this frustration.

President Bush, President-elect Obama, and the leadership and probably a majority of the Congress all agree that we needed to provide bridge loans to support the U.S. auto industry, and I am pleased that the leadership of the Congress has said that we will address this issue beginning December 8.

The stakes for our future economic security and well-being are enormous. One way or another, we must provide the bridge loans for the domestic auto industry—for the sake of millions of workers and their future and to keep our economy from being pushed into a depression.

I want to thank the cosponsors of this legislation, Senator BOND, Senator STABENOW, Senator VOINOVICH, Senator BROWN, Senator SPECTER and Senator CASEY for their assistance in preparing this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3715

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 ''Auto Industry Emergency Bridge Loan Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURER OR COMPONENT SUPPLIER.—The term ''automobile manufacturer or component supplier'' means an automobile manufacturer or component supplier or any successor thereto.

(2) GOLDEN PARACHUTE PAYMENT.—The term ''golden parachute payment'' means any payment to a senior executive officer for departure from a company for any reason.

(3) FINANCIAL VIABILITY.—The term ''financial viability'' means, using generally acceptable accounting principles, that there is a reasonable prospect that the applicant will be able to make payments of principal and interest on the loan as and when such payments become due under the terms of the loan documents, and that the applicant has a net present value that is positive.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(5) SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—The term ''senior executive officer'' means an individual who is 1 of the top 5 most highly paid executives of a public company, whose compensation is required to be disclosed pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and any regulations issued thereunder, and nonpublic company counterparts.

SEC. 3. AUTO INDUSTRY EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN PROGRAM.

On or before March 31, 2009, the Secretary shall make loans from funds provided under this section to automobile manufacturers or component suppliers that have—

(1) operations in the United States, the failure of which would have a systemic adverse effect on the overall United States economy or a significant loss of United States jobs, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) operated a manufacturing facility for the purposes of producing automobiles or automobile components in the United States throughout the 20-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(3) submitted a complete application for a loan under this section pursuant to section 4(a), which has been determined eligible under section 4(b).

SEC. 4. PLAN TO ENSURE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF BORROWER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the time of application for a loan under this Act, an automobile manufacturer or component supplier shall submit to the Secretary a detailed plan that describes how the requested Government funds—

(1) would be utilized to ensure the financial viability of the manufacturer or supplier; and

(2) would stimulate automobile production in the United States; and

(3) would improve the capacity of the manufacturer or supplier to pursue the timely and aggressive production of energy-efficient advanced technology vehicles.

(b) PLAN CONTENTS.—A plan submitted under this section shall detail cost control measures and performance goals and milestones.

SEC. 5. APPLICATIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND DISBURSEMENTS.

(a) APPLICATIONS.—On and after the date that is 3 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall accept applications for loans under this Act.

(b) DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a complete application for a loan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after consultation with other Executive Branch officials, determine whether—

(1) the applicant meets the requirements described in sections 3 and 4;

(2) the disbursement of funds and the successful implementation of the required plan would ensure the financial viability of the applicant; and

(3) the applicant is therefore eligible to receive a loan under this Act.

(c) DISBURSEMENT.—The Secretary shall begin disbursement of the proceeds of a loan under this Act to an eligible applicant not later than 7 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a disbursal request from the applicant.

(d) WARRANTS AND DEBT INSTRUMENTS.—The Secretary may not make a loan under this Act unless the Secretary receives from the automobile manufacturer or component supplier a warrant or senior debt instrument from the manufacturer made in accordance with the requirements for a warrant or senior debt instrument by a financial institution under section 113(d) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110–343).

SEC. 6. REPLENISHMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLE MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) EQUITY SALES.—

(1) SALES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may sell, exercise, or surrender any equity instrument received under this Act.

(2) TURNAROUND PROFITS TO RESTORE ADVANCED VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—Proceeds received from a sale, exercise, or surrender under paragraph (1) may be credited to the appropriate Government financing account made available to fulfill the advanced technology vehicle manufacturing incentive purpose under section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 42 U.S.C. 17013) until the amount loaned under this Act has been repaid.

(3) REDUCTION OF PUBLIC DEBT.—Proceeds received from a sale, exercise, or surrender under paragraph (1) that takes place after the amount loaned under this Act has been repaid in accordance with paragraph (2) may be used to reduce the public debt.

(b) REPAID LOAN FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Loan amounts repaid under this Act may be credited to the appropriate Government financing account made available to fulfill the advanced technology vehicle manufacturing incentive purpose of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 until the amount loaned under this Act is repaid.

(2) REDUCTION OF PUBLIC DEBT.—Loan amounts repaid under this Act after the amount loaned under this Act has been repaid may be used to reduce the public debt.

SEC. 7. LIMITS ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION.

(a) STANDARDS REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require any recipient of a loan under this Act to meet appropriate standards for executive compensation and corporate governance.

(b) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The standards established under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Limits on compensation that exclude incentives for senior executive officers of a recipient of a loan under this Act to take unnecessary and excessive risks that threaten the value of such recipient during the period that the loan is outstanding.

(2) A provision for the recovery by such recipient of any bonus or incentive compensation paid to a senior executive officer based on statements of earnings, gains, or other criteria that are later found to be materially inaccurate.

(3) A prohibition on such recipient making any golden parachute payment to a senior executive officer during the period that the loan under this Act is outstanding.

(4) A prohibition on such recipient paying or accruing any bonus or incentive compensation during the period that the loan under this Act is outstanding to any executive whose annual base compensation exceeds $250,000 (which amount shall be adjusted by the Secretary for inflation).

(5) A prohibition on any compensation plan that could encourage manipulation of the reported earnings of the recipient to enhance compensation of any of its employees.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF LOAN PROCEEDS FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a loan under this Act may not use such funds for any lobbying expenditures or political contributions.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LOBBYING EXPENDITURES.—The term ''lobbying expenditures'' has the meaning given the term in section 4911(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The term ''political contribution'' means any contribution on behalf of a political candidate or to a separate segregated fund described in section 316(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 441b(b)(2)(C)).

SEC. 9. PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS.

No common stock dividends may be paid by any recipient of a loan under this Act for the duration of the loan.

SEC. 10. AUTO INDUSTRY EMERGENCY BRIDGE LOAN OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Auto Industry Emergency Bridge Loan Oversight Board (in this section referred to as the ''Board''), which shall be responsible for reviewing and providing advice concerning the exercise of authority under this Act, including—

(1) the progress of the applicant in meeting the performance goals and milestones under its financial viability plan required under section 4;

(2) recommending changes, as necessary and appropriate, to the Secretary in meeting the goals and milestones under the financial viability plan, and senior management and board of directors to the automobile manufacturers and component suppliers assisted under this Act; and

(3) reporting any suspected fraud, misrepresentation, or malfeasance to the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce or the Attorney General of the United States, consistent with section 535(b) of title 28, United States Code.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be comprised of—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce;

(2) the Secretary of Energy;

(3) the Secretary of Transportation;

(4) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(5) the Secretary of Labor; and

(6) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(c) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the Board shall be the Secretary of Commerce.

(d) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet—

(1) not later than 14 days after the first disbursement of funds provided under this Act; and

(2) not less frequently than monthly thereafter.

(e) REPORTS.—The Board shall report to the appropriate committees of Congress, not less frequently than quarterly, on the matters described under this section.

(f) OVERSIGHT OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION.—

(1) DUTY TO INFORM.—During the period in which any loan extended under this Act remains outstanding, the recipient of such

loan shall promptly inform the Secretary and the Board of—

(A) any asset sale, investment, or commitment for any asset sale or investment proposed to be entered into by such recipient that has a value in excess of $25,000,000; and

(B) any other material change in the financial condition of such recipient.

(2) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—During the period in which any loan extended under this Act remains outstanding, the Secretary, in consultation with the Board, may—

(A) promptly review any asset sale or investment described in paragraph (1) or any commitment for such asset sale or investment; and

(B) direct the recipient of the loan that it should not consummate such proposed sale or investment or commitment for such sale or investment.

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Board may establish, by regulation, procedures for conducting any review under this subsection.

(g) TERMINATION.—The Board, and its authority under this section, shall terminate not later than 6 months after the date on which the last loan amounts under this section are repaid.

SEC. 11. PRIORITIZATION OF LOAN ALLOCATIONS.

In allocating loan amounts under this Act, the Secretary shall consider the magnitude of the impact of the manufacturing operations of the applicant in the United States on the overall economy of the United States and other segments of the automobile industry, including the impact on levels of employment, domestic manufacturing of automobiles and automobile components, and automobile dealerships.

SEC. 12. RATE OF INTEREST.

The annual rate of interest for a loan under this Act shall be—

(a) 5 percent during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary disburses the loan; and

(b) 9 percent after the end of the period described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 13. NO PREPAYMENT PENALTY.

A loan made under this Act shall be prepayable without penalty at any time.

SEC. 14. DISCHARGE.

A discharge under title 11, United States Code, shall not discharge the borrower from any debt for funds authorized to be disbursed under this Act.

SEC. 15. FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may charge and collect fees for disbursements under this Act in amounts that the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover applicable administrative expenses.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Fees collected under this section—

(1) shall be deposited by the Secretary into the Treasury of the United States;

(2) shall be used by the Secretary to pay administrative expenses of making awards and loans under this Act; and

(3) shall remain available until expended, without further appropriation.

SEC. 16. JUDICIAL REVIEW AND RELATED MATTERS.

(a) STANDARDS.—Actions by the Secretary pursuant to the authority of this Act shall be subject to chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, including that such final actions shall be held unlawful and set aside if found to be arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or not in accordance with law.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON EQUITABLE RELIEF.—

(1) INJUNCTION.—No injunction or other form of equitable relief shall be issued against the Secretary for actions pursuant to this Act, other than to remedy a violation of the Constitution.

(2) TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER.—Any request for a temporary restraining order against the Secretary for actions pursuant to this Act shall be considered and granted or denied by the court within 3 days of the date of the request.

(3) PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.—Any request for a preliminary injunction against the Secretary for actions pursuant to this Act shall be considered and granted or denied by the court on an expedited basis consistent with the provisions of rule 65(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or any successor to such rule.

(4) PERMANENT INJUNCTION.—Any request for a permanent injunction against the Secretary for actions pursuant to this Act shall be considered and granted or denied by the court on an expedited basis. Whenever possible, the court shall consolidate trial on the merits with any hearing on a request for a preliminary injunction, consistent with the provisions of rule 65(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or any successor to such rule.

(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS BY PARTICIPATING COMPANIES.—No action or claims may be brought against the Secretary by any person that divests its assets with respect to its participation in a program under this Act, except as provided in paragraph (1), other than as expressly provided in a written contract with the Secretary.

(6) STAYS.—Any injunction or other form of equitable relief issued against the Secretary for actions pursuant to this Act shall be automatically stayed. The stay shall be lifted, unless the Secretary seeks a stay from a higher court within 3 calendar days after the date on which the relief is issued.

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Any exercise of the authority of the Secretary pursuant to this section shall not impair the claims or defenses that would otherwise apply with respect to persons other than the Secretary.

SEC. 17. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The $7,500,000,000 appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for direct loans under section 129 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (division A of Public Law 110–329) is rescinded.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS.—There is appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $7,500,000,000 to the ''Department of Commerce – Emergency Bridge Loan Program Account'' for the cost of direct loans authorized under this Act, which shall remain available until expended. Commitments for direct loans using such amount shall not exceed $25,000,000,000 in total loan principal. The cost of such direct loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be calculated in accordance with section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a).

(c) TRANSFERS FOR DIRECT LOANS.—Following the receipt of a notice from the Secretary of Energy certifying the approval of a loan under the program authorized under section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 42 U.S.C. 17013), the Secretary may transfer amounts made available under this Act to the Secretary of Energy, in an amount sufficient for the cost of the direct loans if such transfer would not cause the Secretary to exceed the total appropriation and total commitment level authorized under subsection (b). Any amounts so transferred shall be available to the Secretary of Energy without fiscal year limitation and subject to the terms and conditions described in section 129 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

(d) USE OF REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (b) which remain available after March 31, 2009, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Energy and shall be used to carry out section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, subject to the terms and conditions described in section 129 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

SEC. 18. COORDINATION WITH OTHER LAWS REGARDING PROMOTION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLE MANUFACTURING.

Nothing in the Act may be construed as altering, affecting, or superseding the provisions of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, relating to the technology requirements for energy efficient vehicles.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. 3716. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional personnel, audit, and investigation authorities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, seven weeks ago Congress faced an extremely difficult decision of whether or not to pass an unprecedented $700 billion economic stabilization bill to help our Nation's economy and financial markets. The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, the Act, passed by Congress and signed into law by the President, was designed to provide new, expanded authority to the Department of the Treasury to take immediate action to stabilize our financial markets by purchasing troubled assets through a program called the Troubled Asset Relief Program or TARP. This new authority was designed to stop the continued declines in the financial services industry and the credit markets.

Like many of the thousands of constituents from Iowa I've heard from, I shared their concerns that the stabilization plan put hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars at risk. During the debate on this legislation I made it clear that I would only support this package if it included significant checks on the spending through various oversight mechanisms. I wanted to make sure the legislation wasn't a blank check for Government bureaucrats to spend taxpayer dollars with impunity. I'm glad that Congress listened to my concerns and I'm glad that specific oversight reforms I recommended were included in the final package. For instance, the creation of a Special Inspector General for the Troubled Assets Relief Program (Inspector General) was something I worked to include in the final legislation to ensure that an independent watchdog would be looking out for taxpayer funds allocated to the TARP.

The legislation also has a number of additional oversight provisions such as the creation of a Financial Stability Oversight Board that is responsible for reviewing the exercise of the program to ensure the Treasury is operating as

envisioned. Additionally, the legislation included provisions requiring regular reports from the Treasury to Congress, Tranche reports outlining any assets Treasury chooses to purchase, and reports from the Comptroller General at the Government Accountability Office. The Act also places controls on executive compensation and corporate governance at participating entities. Taken together, these provisions were aimed to provide a sturdy foundation for ensuring the program is properly overseen.

However, despite these controls, many of these oversight provisions have been slowly implemented or outright ignored until recently. To date, the Senate has only held hearings on the nomination for the Special Inspector General and it is unclear when the nomination will be approved. Until then, the Inspector General at the Department of the Treasury has devoted some resources to overseeing the TARP, but we need to act expeditiously to approve the Special Inspector General to ensure someone is watching over all these taxpayer funds.

I do believe once we confirm a nominee to be the Special Inspector General that this office will face an uphill battle to work quickly to hire staff and to get operations moving to find out where all the billions of dollars are and how they were spent. This isn't an impossible task, but it is one that will take serious effort and great leadership to accomplish.

One concern I have with the Special Inspector General is the lack of authority that office will have to oversee the TARP and new, evolving programs under the TARP such as the Capital Purchase Plan, or CPP. The Secretary of the Treasury has indicated publicly that he intends to continue utilizing his authority under the Act to use the TARP and the CPP to continue to provide taxpayer funds via equity injections and stock warrant purchases to banks, financial institutions, and other entities, as opposed to purchasing distressed assets as the TARP was originally envisioned. While the Secretary is acting within his authority, this change was not necessarily envisioned from the oversight perspective when the Special Inspector General authorization was drafted. Instead, the current Act could be construed to only give the Special Inspector General the authority to review purchases of distressed assets and not the purchases and equity injections currently ongoing under the CPP. As a result, the Special Inspector General could be limited in authority to review the TARP before he takes office.

To rectify this, Senator MCCASKILL and I are here today to introduce a simple legislative fix to this provision that would amend the Act to allow the Special Inspector General to review all actions taken under the TARP, including those of the CPP. This is a straight forward solution to ensure that the Special Inspector General has all the authority necessary to oversee the taxpayer dollars that are being used to stabilize the financial industry.

This legislation makes one other change to the Act that will help the Special Inspector General hit the ground running once the Senate confirms the nomination. Looking back to the last Special Inspector General Congress created, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, SIGIR, we noted that Congress provided SIGIR the authority to utilize special hiring authority to fill these important jobs quickly and not have them tied up in bureaucratic red tape. This section of our bill simply states that the Special Inspector General may utilize special expedited hiring authority authorized under 5 U.S.C. §3161 for the first six months after the date of enactment to get the office up and running. Further, the section also removes statutory limits for how long these special appointments may serve because we do not want to limit the length of time these employees can work for the Special Inspector General given we don't know how long they will be needed to oversee this program.

Taken together, these two simple provisions are necessary to ensure that the Special Inspector General is the aggressive, independent watchdog we envisioned when we passed the Act and not just a paper tiger. As a long time supporter of Inspectors General, I believe this legislation is necessary to ensure the success of the Special Inspector General. I urge my colleagues to support this urgent legislative fix to help ensure that American taxpayer dollars are not lost to fraud, waste, or abuse because of a simple oversight in the drafting of the original legislation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3717. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow reimbursement from flexible spending accounts for certain dental products; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Ms. STABENOW, in introducing the Dental Health Promotion Act of 2008. This bill would make expenditures on dental products used to prevent or treat diseases of the mouth to be considered ''qualified'' medical expenses eligible for reimbursement from a flexible spending arrangement, FSA. It is identical to H.R. 3109, which was introduced in the House of Representatives in July 2007.

FSAs are vehicles that allow individuals to use pretax dollars to pay for ''qualified'' medical and dental expenses that are not reimbursed by other sources, such as a health insurance plan. Qualified medical and dental expenses are defined in Section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and its accompanying regulations and include prescription and over-the-counter products. For example, an individual can use FSA dollars to pay for items such as cold medicine, Band-Aids, or pain relievers. In addition, some dental expenses are currently reimbursable, such as a crown or a regular dental checkup. But the money spent on dental products such as fluoride toothpaste, a spin toothbrush, or dental floss is not currently reimbursable, even though they help prevent tooth decay. In fact, toothpaste is specifically excluded from the definition of a qualified expense.

I believe this is an inequity in our tax law that needs to be corrected. More and more medical research is demonstrating the link between good oral health and overall health. For example, research shows that pregnant women with poor oral health tend to deliver lower birth rate babies. Unfortunately, the definition of dental expenses has not kept up with medical research.

The legislation Senator STABENOW and I are introducing today would update the rules governing FSAs to ensure that funds spent on dental products used to treat or prevent oral disease are treated the same as other over-the-counter medical expenses. For those concerned about abuse, this bill makes it clear that money spent on cosmetic products would not be considered a qualified expense that can be reimbursed by an FSA.

Mr. President, it makes sense to invest in disease prevention on the front end. Allowing individuals to set aside money in their FSA to pay for dental products that can help prevent cavity or periodontal disease will help to reduce future expenditures on more costly treatments.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 710—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH FEBRUARY 6, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK''

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 710

Whereas 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence;

Whereas dating violence occurs more frequently among black students (13.9 percent) than among Hispanic (9.3 percent) or white (7 percent) students;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 30 percent of teenagers in a dating relationship have been text messaged 10, 20, or 30 times per hour by a partner attempting to find out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with;

Whereas 40 percent of the youngest ''tweens'', those between the ages of 11 and

12, report that their friends are victims of verbal abuse in dating relationships;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 tweens say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger;

Whereas 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said that they have been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want;

Whereas 69 percent of all teenagers who had sex by age 14 said they have experienced 1 or more types of abuse in a dating relationship;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers (20 percent) between the ages of 13 and 14 say their friends are victims of dating violence;

Whereas in 2003, in a national survey of over 14,000 high school students conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just over 8 percent of boys and girls reported physical dating violence victimization and were more likely to engage in risky behaviors including sexual intercourse, attempted suicide, episodic heavy drinking, and physical fighting;

Whereas Native American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other population group;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence;

Whereas more than 3 times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the tweens' dating relationships;

Whereas a majority of parents surveyed either believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

Whereas the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socio-economic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as ''National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week''; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States, high schools, law enforcement, State and local officials, and interested groups to observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 711—CONDEMNING THE TRAGIC AND SENSELESS DEATH BY STONING OF A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM SOMALIA

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which ws considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 711

Whereas a child from Somalia, identified as Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow, was raped by 3 men, and when her family reported the rape to authorities of the al-Shabaab militia that control the city of Kismayu, Somalia, she was accused of adultery and ordered to be stoned;

Whereas, in October 2008, Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow was stoned to death by 50 militant men before 1,000 witnesses in a public stadium;

Whereas al-Shabaab, some of whose members are affiliated with al Qaeda, is a violent and brutal extremist group that has used intimidation and committed human rights violations to undermine the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and threaten activists in civil society working to bring about peace through political dialogue and reconciliation;

Whereas, on February 29, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice designated al-Shabaab as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and placed the organization on the list of specially designated global terrorists established under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and initiated under Executive Order 13224;

Whereas the 2007 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Somalia, released on March 11, 2007, by the Department of State, cited the ''poor human rights situation'' in Somalia, including ''unlawful and politically motivated killings, official impunity, and discrimination and violence against women'';

Whereas stoning is a grave and serious violation of human rights law, in which the victim is killed in an especially brutal way;

Whereas stoning is practiced particularly on girls and women accused of adultery;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has condemned the death of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow and called on the United States Government to join other states in speaking out decisively in international fora against such grave human rights abuses; and

Whereas the United States Government continues to support the efforts of those working to transform the troubled region of Somalia through commitment to sound human rights practices, democratic and representative government, economic recovery, and lasting peace and reconciliation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the tragic and senseless death by stoning of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow;

(2) urges the international community to join the Senate in speaking out against this brutal act; and

(3) urges the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia—

(A) to undertake robust efforts to protect women and children and to prevent acts of institutionalized violence against women in Somalia;

(B) to work to strengthen the rule of law as part of the effort by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to establish its authority;

(C) to promote equal and fair treatment of women; and

(D) to end the culture of impunity in Somalia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 712—CONGRATULATING THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES ON WINNING THE 2008 WORLD SERIES

MR. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which ws considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 712

Whereas, on October 29, 2008, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series;

Whereas the 4 to 3 Phillies victory in Game 5 of the Fall Classic secured for Philadelphia a World Series title for the first time since 1980, and for the second time in team history;

Whereas the Tampa Bay Rays deserve congratulations for a stellar 2008 season, in which, after 10 consecutive losing seasons, they posted a regular season record of 97–65 and won the American League Championship Series;

Whereas Tampa Bay Rays Manager and Hazelton, Pennsylvania-native Joe Maddon established himself as among the premier managers in Major League Baseball during the 2008 season, and aptly was named American League Manager of the Year;

Whereas Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for, and devotion to, Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship;

Whereas, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel has guided the young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball;

Whereas recently-retired General Manager Pat Gillick, who joined the Phillies in 2006, played an integral role in assembling the World Series-winning team;

Whereas 24-year old pitcher Cole Hamels was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and the World Series, with a 4–0 record and 1.80 Earned Run Average in the post-season;

Whereas starting pitchers Cole Hamels, Brett Myers, Joe Blanton, and Souderton, Pennsylvania-native Jamie Moyer delivered outstanding performances throughout the post-season;

Whereas the Phillies' bullpen distinguished itself as among the greatest in Major League Baseball, particularly closer Brad Lidge, who finished the 2008 season with 48 out of 48 save opportunities, including the final game of the World Series;

Whereas the Phillies were led by a talented and tough group of players including: 2006 MVP Ryan Howard; All-Star Chase Utley; 2007 MVP and 2007 and 2008 Gold Glove winner Jimmy Rollins; third baseman Pedro Feliz; veteran outfielder Pat Burrell; 2008 Gold Glove winner, the ''Flyin' Hawaiian'', Shane Victorino; outfielder Jayson Werth; and catcher Carlos Ruiz;

Whereas numerous reserve players made significant contributions to the Phillies' World Series title run, including Geoff Jenkins, Chris Coste, Eric Bruntlett, Greg Dobbs, and Matt Stairs; and

Whereas more than 1,000,000 fans packed the streets of Philadelphia on October 31, 2008 for a parade along Market and Broad Streets ending at Citizens Bank Park;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Philadelphia Phillies for winning the 2008 World Series;

(B) the Phillies manager, coaches, and support staff, whose commitment to the Phillies franchise has sustained this proud organization and allowed the team to reach the pinnacle of success in 2008;

(C) all Phillies fans, whose tenacity, perseverance, and enthusiasm are matched only by that of the team to which the fans are dedicated; and

(D) the Tampa Bay Rays on an outstanding 2008 season; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Phillies manager Charlie Manuel;

(B) Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro, Jr.;

(E) Phillies advisor Pat Gillick.

SENATE RESOLUTION 713—CALLING ON ALL PARTIES TO THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO TO IMPLEMENT AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AND WORK WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOND, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 713

Whereas the Democratic Republic of Congo was devastated by civil wars lasting from 1996 to 1997 and 1998 to 2003, spawning some of the world's worst human rights violations and involving at least 6 neighboring countries;

Whereas, despite the signing of a peace agreement and subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces in 2003, eastern Congo has continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, insecurity, and absent or inadequate institutions, allowing armed and criminal groups to operate freely;

Whereas continuing abuses committed by the national military against civilians in Congo and apparent ties between the military and armed groups in the region have tainted attempts to restore the rule of law in the eastern region of the country;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Rescue Committee released in January 2008, the conflict and related humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo have taken the lives of an estimated 5,400,000 people since 1998 and continue to cause as many as 45,000 deaths each month;

Whereas sexual violence and rape remain a pervasive tool of warfare used by all parties in eastern Congo to terrorize communities, affecting hundreds of thousands of women and girls and frequently resulting in traumatic fistula and other severe genital injuries;

Whereas the continued plunder and trade of eastern Congo's rich mineral base, notably cassiterite, coltan, and gold, by armed groups and members of the national military make war profitable and undermine peace efforts;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda signed the Nairobi Communiqué in November 2007, committing to work together to address the continued activity of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and other armed groups operating in their shared border region;

Whereas, on January 23, 2008, with the active support of the international community, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 22 armed groups in the eastern region signed the Goma accord, committing to an immediate ceasefire and buffer zones for troop disengagement and ultimately disarmament;

Whereas these agreements together provided the first working framework in years for peace and lasting stability in eastern Congo, but a continued culture of impunity and suspicion has impeded their implementation;

Whereas the United Nations reported more than 200 violations of these agreements between January and July of 2008, as well as 2,000 cases of rape and hundreds of people killed;

Whereas hate speech inciting ethnic violence by local and national leaders in Congo continued during this period, feeding the concerns and perceived insecurity of minority Tutsi communities;

Whereas, since August 28, 2008, fighting has resumed in North Kivu Province between the national military and the forces of General Laurent Nkunda, known as the National Congress for the Defense of the People, the latter of which has taken control of several government military bases and major towns around the city of Goma;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 250,000 people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of this renewed fighting in eastern Congo, often without access to shelter, water, food, and medicine, and adding to the over 1,000,000 people already displaced from North and South Kivu;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing resentment and protests by local communities;

Whereas allegations of troops from Angola, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe crossing into eastern Congo have strained existing regional tensions and increased fears of a wider war that could draw other countries from the region into the fighting, as happened in 1998;

Whereas the United Nations' Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Alan Doss, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have called for more troops and better capabilities for MONUC to stop the rebel offensive and protect civilians;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7, 2008, and convened a summit of regional leaders, including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which led to a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of humanitarian corridors; and

Whereas, in 2006, Congress passed the Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 22, 2006 (Public Law 109–456), stating that it is the policy of the United States to work for peace and security throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo by supporting efforts to protect civilians, to disarm illegal armed groups, and to hold accountable individuals, entities, and countries working to destabilize the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the continuing violence, forcible recruitment of children as soldiers, and abuses against civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo;

(2) calls on the national military in Congo, the National Congress for the Defense of the People, and all armed groups operating in eastern Congo to cease hostilities, end all human rights abuses, and respect an immediate ceasefire based on the principles of the Goma agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet its obligations under the Lusaka Agreement of 1999, the Pretoria Agreement of 2002, and the Nairobi Communiqué of 2007 to take action to end the threat posed by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda;

(4) calls on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda—

(A) to fully restore bilateral relations;

(B) to work together to mitigate escalating tensions in the region; and

(C) to break any ties that still exist between them and illegal armed groups in eastern Congo;

(5) calls on all governments in the Great Lakes region of Africa and those of the Southern African Development Community to support a peaceful resolution to the crisis while ensuring that the volatile situation does not spark a wider regional war;

(6) supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, his newly appointed United Nations Special Envoy, former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, and the international facilitation team to bring all parties to the negotiating table and establish a clear roadmap to implement the signed peace agreements;

(7) encourages the international community to take immediate measures to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in Congo to protect civilians, specifically through increased troops and additional capabilities as requested by the Secretary-General;

(8) urges the President to sustain high-level diplomatic engagement together with the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations to avert a wider regional war and revive a comprehensive peace process in eastern Congo;

(9) urges the United States and the international community to develop and support monitoring and verification mechanisms that can hold the parties in Congo accountable to the signed peace agreements, investigate alleged ceasefire violations, and ultimately challenge the continued culture of impunity in Congo; and

(10) urges the President and the international community to adopt measures to help the regional governments to identify and ultimately address the factors underlying the conflict in eastern Congo, especially weak governance and the exploitation of the region's lucrative minerals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 714—HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY WORKERS WHO COURAGEOUSLY FOUGHT FIRES IN CALIFORNIA IN 2008

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 714

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning strikes burned approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California's recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;

Whereas many firefighters were injured and 14 firefighters tragically lost their lives in California in 2008;

Whereas 25,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel from California, 41 other

States, and other nations worked side-by-side to fight the wildfires;

Whereas members of the National Guard from California and other States provided essential support to the firefighting effort; and

Whereas the people of California and the United States recognize the steadfast dedication of the firefighters throughout the ongoing fire suppression and subsequent repair and rebuilding efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the firefighters and emergency workers from California, 41 other States, and other nations for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires in California;

(2) supports the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public lands, and private property from further damage;

(3) praises the people of California for their great courage in the face of the fires; and

(4) extends heartfelt sympathy to the people who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in the wildfires.

SENATE RESOLUTION 715—EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY FOR THE SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 715

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 105 of the One Hundred First Congress, 1st session (agreed to on April 13, 1989), as amended by Senate Resolution 149 of the One Hundred Third Congress, 1st session (agreed to on October 5, 1993), as further amended by Senate Resolution 75 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 1st session (agreed to on March 25, 1999), as further amended by Senate Resolution 383 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 2d session (agreed to on October 27, 2000), as further amended by Senate Resolution 355 of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, 2d session (agreed to on November 13, 2002), as further amended by Senate Resolution 480 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, 2d session (agreed to November 20, 2004), and as further amended by Senate Resolution 625 of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, 2d Session (agreed to on December 6, 2006), is further amended in section 4 by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2010''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 716—ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS OF THE YOUTH IMPACT PROGRAM

Mr. VITTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 716

Whereas many at-risk young men in the inner cities of the United States face a challenging and uncertain future;

Whereas the future success of at-risk young men can be greatly enhanced through sustained mentorship;

Whereas effective working partnerships between and within the public and private sectors can have a lasting and positive impact on the future of at-risk young men;

Whereas participation in organized sports has provided a creative and disciplined outlet and a path to a better life for many at-risk young men;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program combines the disciplines of football, mentoring, and academics in partnerships between local National Football League franchises and universities to promote discipline, learning, and positive values;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program is a community-based program that has proven its value over the past 2 years in raising the outlook and aspirations of at-risk young men and has provided at-risk young men greater exposure to academics, core values, and life skills;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program provides year-round mentoring to its participants, a proven formula for building success;

Whereas the National Football League, the National Football League Players Association, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University have provided critical support to the Youth Impact Program;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program will be expanded to 3 additional cities in partnership with local National Football League franchises and universities;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program seeks to establish a presence in each city with a local National Football League franchise; and

Whereas under the vision and leadership of Mr. Riki Ellison, the founder of the Youth Impact Program, a 10-year veteran of the National Football League, a 3-time Super Bowl champion, and a University of Southern California alumnus, the Youth Impact Program has expanded from a regional program to a program with a growing national presence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Mr. Riki Ellison for his leadership and vision in founding the Youth Impact Program;

(2) recognizes the ongoing and significant contributions of the National Football League, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University to the Youth Impact Program; and

(3) encourages the expansion of the Youth Impact Program to inner cities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 717—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 13, 2008, AS ''WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY''

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Comittee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 717

Whereas, more than 15 years ago, the Worcester Wreath Company, a for-profit business in Harrington, Maine, began a tradition of donating, transporting, and overseeing the placement of Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery each December;

Whereas, since the Worcester Wreath Company began that tradition, through the hard work and generosity of the people involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to more than 200 national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in all 50 states;

Whereas, in December 2008, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group dedicated to patriotic events, with more than 65,000 members nationally, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer full of donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas hundreds of volunteers participate in the escort each December;

Whereas Morrill Worcester, President of Worcester Wreath Company, has been nominated for, and received, several awards for his humble service and exemplary patriotism to our Nation through this project; and

Whereas Wreaths Across America will continue this proud legacy on December 13, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2008, as ''Wreaths Across America Day'';

(2) honors Wreaths Across America, the Worcester Wreath Company, Morrill Worcester, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all other companies and individuals involved in this worthy legacy; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans and service members and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 718—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 30, 2008, AS ''DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY''

Ms. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Comittee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 718

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas everyone driving on the roads and highways needs to do so more safely to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saved 15,434 lives in 2004, 15,632 lives in 2005, and 15,383 lives in 2006;

Whereas Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters has urged all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and has encouraged motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but each time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to drive safely;

(B) national trucking firms to alert truck drivers to focus on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day using Citizen's Band (''CB'') radios and truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergy to remind members to travel safely en route to religious services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 30, 2008, as ''Drive Safer Sunday''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 719—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. RES. 719

Whereas from November 1, 2008, through November 30, 2008, the United States celebrates National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States Census Bureau reported that there were more than 4,000,000 people in the United States of American Indian and Alaska Native descent;

Whereas, on December 2, 1989, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate held a hearing exploring the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of speech, the separation of governmental powers, and checks and balances among the branches of government;

Whereas the Senate has reaffirmed that a major national goal of the United States is to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable Indian Tribes and tribal members to obtain the quantity and quality of health care services and opportunities that will eliminate the health disparities between American Indians and the general population of the United States;

Whereas Congress recently reaffirmed its trust responsibility to improve the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing affordable homes in a safe and healthy environment;

Whereas, throughout its course of dealing with Indian Tribes, the United States Government has engaged in a government-to-government relationship with Tribes;

Whereas the United States Government owes a trust obligation to Tribes, acknowledged in treaties, statutes, and decisions of the Supreme Court, to protect the interests and welfare of tribal governments and their members;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have consistently served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States, some as early as the Revolutionary War, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives speak and preserve indigenous languages and have contributed hundreds of words to the English language, including the names of people and locations in the United States;

Whereas Congress has recognized Native American code talkers who served with honor and distinction in World War I and World War II, using indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless American lives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are deeply rooted in tradition and culture, which drives their strength of community; and

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives of all ages celebrate the great achievements of their ancestors and heroes and continue to share their stories with future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month during the month of November 2008;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on October 30, 2008, President Bush issued a proclamation designating November 2008 as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The President follows a tradition of Presidents since 1990 of issuing proclamations making November the month for recognizing the significant contributions of tribal governments and individual Native Americans to our Nation's history and development.

Congress also has traditionally recognized the contributions of Native Americans to the United States in the form of resolutions, findings, coins and medals. The resolution, which I am sending to the desk to ask for its immediate consideration, continues in that tradition.

This resolution recognizes some of the many contributions that Native Americans have made to help build our great Nation as well as the continued contributions of Native Americans to the growth of the United States. From contributions to the United States and the world in the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art to influencing the founding documents of our Federal Government to the use of native languages to develop an unbreakable military code that helped defeat the Axis powers in World War II, Indian Tribes and individual Native Americans have shaped our Nation's history in remarkable ways.

Through this resolution, we celebrate these and many other contributions of tribal governments and Native Americans during the month of November. I urge all citizens, and local, State, tribal and Federal Governments and agencies to take time this month to learn more about the many facets of Native American history, traditions, and their important contributions to the formation of the United States.

This year, the United States Senate and the Congress as a whole acted on two important pieces of legislation that seek to meet our Nation's legal, treaty and trust obligations to promote health care and housing for the residents of Indian Country.

S. 1200, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2008, passed the Senate in February of this year with a margin of 83–10. As Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, this legislation has been the priority for the Committee in the 110th Congress. The Indian health care act was last authorized in 1992, and this bill would help bring Indian health care into to 21st century. I am proud to report that we were able to pass this legislation out of the Senate for the first time in almost a decade. A number of Senators were instrumental moving this legislation forward in the Senate. Unfortunately, our work was not completed. The House was unable to pass the legislation and it remains unauthorized as the health care needs of Native Americans remain sorely under-funded and services remain outdated. Indian health care will continue to remain a priority for the committee and every effort will be made to reauthorize this legislation as soon as possible.

In addition to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Senate approved a $1 billion authorization for additional funding for the Indian Health Service as a part of the Senate Budget Resolution. Congress also passed a $250 million authorization for Indian health care through an amendment to the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

In September of this year, Congress succeeded in enacting the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2008. This bill makes long needed improvements to Native housing programs, and authorizes the flexible use of funding to strengthen Native communities through economic and community development.

While health care and housing are critically important to Indian Country and represent significant steps forward in fulfilling the trust obligation between Congress and the First Americans, it is important to acknowledge several other achievements in the 110th Congress.

Congress passed into law the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 which provides well-deserved Congressional gold medals to each tribe that had members who were Code Talkers in any foreign conflict. Each next of kin to the valiant Code Talker who served their country will receive a silver duplicate.

The Higher Education Reauthorization Act was passed into law, which reauthorized the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act, increasing the amount of money per student in tribal colleges and universities. A study has been requested of the General Accountability Office which will allow for an evaluation of public schools on Indian lands to assist Congress in meeting its obligations to Indian education.

Congress also passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act allowing Tribes for the

first time to directly administer foster care and adoption programs offered by the Federal government, allowing tribes to continue strengthening their communities by ensuring safe and caring homes for their Native children.

Congress passed the Native American $1 Coin Act, which recognizes the contributions of Native Americans to the development of the United States through an annually changing image on the reverse of the Sakakawea $1 coin that is now in circulation.

Congress also passed into law a joint resolution designating November 28, 2008 as Native American Heritage Day, honoring the contributions and achievements of our First Americans.

The Treaty of Fort Laramie and other treaties acknowledged the specific obligations that the United States owes to the Tribes located in my State of North Dakota. Much has been done this Congress to begin to fulfill this legal responsibility and the more general trust responsibility that Congress owes to all Indian Tribes.

However, as is evident with Congress' failure to pass the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 2008, much still remains to be done. The resolution before the Senate today would simply honor the hard work, traditions, culture, and contribution of the First Americans.

I ask that this resolution be adopted quickly and that it act as an encouragement to all people of the United States to observe the month of November as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 720—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 720

Whereas approximately 37,680 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States;

Whereas pancreatic cancer is the 4th most common cause of cancer death in the United States;

Whereas Randolph (''Randy'') Frederick Pausch, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2006, delivered his ''Last Lecture'' on September 18, 2007, which gave a voice to victims of pancreatic cancer, and inspired people to live life to the fullest;

Whereas the lecture by and advocacy of Randy Pausch have brought, and will continue to bring, renewed advocacy and commitment to the field of pancreatic cancer research and treatment;

Whereas the lecture by and advocacy of Randy Pausch have touched countless people throughout the United States and the world and encouraged them to change their lives for the better;

Whereas 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and only 5 percent survive more than 5 years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;

Whereas there has been no significant improvement in survival rates in the last 30 years and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages;

Whereas there are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer;

Whereas when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is generally too late for an optimistic prognosis, and the average survival rate of those diagnosed with metastasis of the disease is only 3 to 6 months;

Whereas the incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in African Americans than in other ethnic groups; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month to educate communities across the Nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and treatment programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 106—COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND FOR ONGOING ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, URING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SWITZERLAND AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ON THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, AND EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF ROBERT LEVINSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 106

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a resident of Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas, after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, he disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas neither his family nor the United States Government has received further information on his fate or whereabouts;

Whereas March 9, 2009, marks the second anniversary of the disappearance of Robert Levinson;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, which has served as Protecting Power for the United States in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the absence of diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the Government of Iran since 1980, has continuously pressed the Government of Iran on the case of Robert Levinson and lent vital assistance and support to the Levinson family during their December 2007 visit to Iran;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007; and

Whereas the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated during an interview with NBC News broadcast on July 28, 2008, that officials of the Government of Iran were willing to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for Robert Levinson: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and the Government of Switzerland for the ongoing assistance to the United States Government and to the family of Robert Levinson, particularly during the visit by Christine Levinson and other relatives to Iran in December 2007;

(2) expresses appreciation for efforts by Iranian officials to ensure the safety of the family of Robert Levinson during their December 2007 visit to Iran, as well as for the promise of continued assistance;

(3) urges the Government of Iran, as a humanitarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the case of Robert Levinson with the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(4) urges the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious disagreements the United States Government has had with the Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including human rights, the nuclear program of Iran, the Middle East peace process, regional stability, and international terrorism; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson during this trying period.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I am introducing a resolution in the Senate that touches on one of the tragic cases of a Floridian, Bob Levinson, who has been missing in Iran since he visited Kish Island off the coast of Iran in the Persian Gulf in early 2007. I have spoken on this issue ad infinitum before to call the attention of the Congress to the plight of Mr. Levinson as well as to the difficulties that are faced by his wife Christine and their seven children.

Bob Levinson, a businessman and a former FBI agent, vanished after checking out of his hotel on the resort island of Kish on March 9, 2007. It is no doubt the wish of everyone who knows this man that Bob Levinson be reunited with his loved ones. It has been very difficult to get information out of the Government of Iran. The State Department has delivered a number of requests for information and cooperation to the Iranian Government through our diplomatic intermediary, which is the Government of Switzerland. Unfortunately, Iran continues to claim it has no information on the fate of Bob Levinson.

Mrs. Levinson and her eldest son, Daniel, and her sister, Ms. Halpin, traveled to Tehran and Kish Island in December of last year in the hopes of finding information about Bob Levinson's disappearance. The Iranian authorities, to their credit, extended courtesies to her and they promised her at the time they would help in the case, but those promises have not been fulfilled.

This resolution I am introducing urges Iranian officials to fulfill their promises of assistance to the Levinsons. It calls for Iranian investigators to meet with the FBI to discuss the Levinson case. It calls for the U.S. Government and our allies to

press Iran on this case at every opportunity and at every level—something I think the U.S. Government is beginning to do. Also, this resolution thanks the Swiss for their continued assistance in the case. It furthermore expresses appreciation for the efforts of Iranian officials who have ensured the safety of the family during their visit of December of last year. This resolution also expresses sympathy to the Levinson family during this trying period. This is a wife and seven children of a missing former FBI agent in the country of Iran, missing now since the early part of 2007.

In this year, on July 28, the President of Iran stated during an interview with NBC that Iranian officials were willing to cooperate with the FBI on this case. Why is the FBI involved? The FBI is involved because he is a former FBI agent. This resolution calls upon the Tehran government to make this meeting happen as soon as possible to discuss the evidence the Iranians have uncovered about Mr. Levinson's disappearance.

Now, I wish to underscore that because on July 28 of this year the President of Iran stated in an NBC interview that Iranian officials were willing to cooperate with the FBI on this case. They have not.

I wish to be blunt. We obviously have serious disagreements with Iran on its nuclear program and a whole range of other issues. I haven't hesitated over the years, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to express my opposition to a number of Tehran's policies—and I will continue to press for change in Iran's positions and activities—but I am calling on the Government of Iran out of human compassion and humanitarian assistance to a family of a wife and seven children to come forth and cooperate in trying to find and get evidence of the whereabouts of Bob Levinson.

We want to see an Iran where individuals are respected, not locked up in Evin Prison—we want to see an Iran that is respected—for signing a petition calling for women's rights. We want to see an Iran that champions the Middle East peace process rather than supporting terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah. We want to see an Iran whose leaders do not make despicable threats to ''wipe Israel off the map.''

We clearly have our differences with Iran, and those differences, especially under a new administration, can start to be bridged with Iran stepping forth with discussions regarding the safe return of an American citizen whose family desperately wishes to be reunited with him, that American citizen being former FBI agent Bob Levinson.

So this resolution calls upon the U.S. Government and our friends and allies to engage with Iranian officials to raise Mr. Levinson's case at every opportunity and at every level. I understand many of our allies already have raised Mr. Levinson's case on our behalf, and I wish to encourage them to continue to do so. This Senator has done it as well, both publicly and privately, and I will continue to do so.

The resolution I have filed additionally commends the Swiss for their ongoing assistance to the U.S. Government and to the family of the Levinsons. The assistance of the Swiss Ambassador and his staff at the American Interests Section in Tehran was essential during Mrs. Levinson's visits in the past, and will be, I think, to her visits in the future.

I wish to express—the word ''sympathy'' does not conjure up what I am trying to express to Christine Levinson and to her family. No one should have to experience what they have been through. I have met with her on a number of occasions. She is a loving mother. She is clearly an eloquent advocate. She is a tough fighter on behalf of her husband. She is relentless. She is not going to give up, nor should she. I deem it a great privilege that I may in some little way try to assist her and her family.

I want to bring more of our colleagues into this issue of trying to find Bob Levinson in Iran and get the world's attention focused on this missing American. I am going to ask Mrs. Levinson to come back in January when we reconvene, and I want some of our colleagues to meet her.

Remember, Senators, that as representatives of the American people, that means we have to help individual American citizens in distress. This is clearly a family who is in distress. We cannot—and I believe I can speak for the Senate—we are not going to forget Bob Levinson and his family.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5696. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6867, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5697. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6867, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5698. Mr. DORGAN (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. DORGAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3663, 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5696. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6867, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF LOAN LIMIT INCREASE.

(a) FANNIE MAE AND FREDDIE MAC.—Section 201(a) of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–185, 122 Stat. 619) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2008'' and inserting ''December 31, 2009''.

(b) FHA LOANS.—Section 202(a) of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-185, 122 Stat. 620) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2008'' and inserting ''December 31, 2009''.

SA 5697. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6867, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. MANDATORY LOAN GUARANTEES AND CREDIT ENHANCEMENT EFFORTS.

Section 109(a) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) is amended—

(1) by striking the last sentence;

(2) by striking ''To the extent'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LOAN GUARANTEES AND CREDIT ENHANCEMENTS REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to actions required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, designate the Corporation, on a reimbursable basis, to design and carry out a plan to use loan guarantees or credit enhancements to facilitate loan modifications to prevent avoidable foreclosures.

''(B) AGGREGATE AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall make and fund guarantees and credit enhancements developed under this paragraph in amounts of—

''(i) $10,000,000,000 in aggregate estimated subsidy costs, and amounts specified under paragraph (2) of section 115(a) shall be reduced by the subsidy cost of any guarantees or credit enhancements funded by the Secretary under this clause; and

''(ii) an additional $15,000,000,000, in aggregate estimated subsidy costs, and amounts specified under paragraph (3) of section 115(a) shall be reduced by the subsidy cost of any guarantees or credit enhancements funded by the Secretary under this clause.

''(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Corporation may use its contracting authority under section 9 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.''.

SA 5698. Mr. DORGAN (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. DORGAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3663, 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.; as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act''.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Communications Commission shall, not later than January 15, 2009, develop and implement a program to encourage and permit, to the extent technically feasible and subject to such limitations as the Commission finds to be consistent with the public interest and the requirements of this Act, the broadcasting in the analog television service of only the public safety information and digital transition information specified in subsection (b) during the 30-day period beginning on the day after the date established by law under section 3002(b) of the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 for termination of all licenses for full-power television stations in the analog television service and the cessation of broadcasting by full-power stations in the analog television service.

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The program required by subsection (a) shall provide for the broadcast of—

(1) emergency information, including critical details regarding the emergency, as broadcast or required to be broadcast by full-power stations in the digital television service;

(2) information, in both English and Spanish, and accessible to persons with disabilities, concerning—

(A) the digital television transition, including the fact that a transition has taken place and that additional action is required to continue receiving television service, including emergency notifications; and

(B) the steps required to enable viewers to receive such emergency information via the digital television service and to convert to receiving digital television service, including a phone number and Internet address by which help with such transition may be obtained in both English and Spanish; and

(3) such other information related to consumer education about the digital television transition or public health and safety or emergencies as the Commission may find to be consistent with the public interest.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS.

In designing the program required by this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) take into account market-by-market needs, based upon factors such as channel and transmitter availability;

(2) ensure that broadcasting of the program specified in section 2(b) will not cause harmful interference with signals in the digital television service;

(3) not require the analog television service signals broadcast under this Act to be retransmitted or otherwise carried pursuant to section 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615);

(4) take into consideration broadcasters' digital power levels and transition and coordination plans that already have been adopted with respect to cable systems and satellite carriers' systems;

(5) prohibit any broadcast of analog television service signals under section 2(b) on any spectrum that is approved or pending approval by the Commission to be used for public safety radio services, including television channels 14-20; and

(6) not include the analog spectrum between channels 52 and 69, inclusive (between frequencies 698 and 806 megahertz, inclusive) reclaimed from analog television broadcasting pursuant to section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the term ''emergency information'' has the meaning such term has under part 79 of the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. part 79).

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Stephanie Mercier:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,975.00						2,975.00
United States	Dollar				7,514.00				7,514.00
Hayden Milberg:									
Switzerland	Franc		6,840.00						6,840.00
United States	Dollar				7,519.63				7,519.63
Total			9,815.00		15,033.63				24,848.63

SENATOR TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Sept. 26, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Katherine Eltrich:									
China	Yuan		290.00						290.00
Korea, North	Dollar		1,284.00						1,284.00
Mongolia	Tugrik		309.00						309.00
Korea, South	Won		340.00						340.00
Japan	Yen		860.00						860.00
United States	Dollar				12,597.38				12,597.38
Paul Grove:									
China	Yuan		290.00						290.00
Korea, North	Dollar		1,284.00						1,284.00
Mongolia	Tugrik		309.00						309.00
Korea, South	Won		340.00						340.00
Japan	Yen		860.00						860.00
United States	Dollar				12,567.38				12,567.38
Michele Wymer:									
China	Yuan		290.00						290.00
Korea, North	Dollar		1,284.00						1,284.00
Mongolia	Tugrik		309.00						309.00
Korea, South	Won		340.00						340.00
United States	Dollar				10,107.34				10,107.34
Senator Judd Gregg:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Brian Potts:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Bruce Evans:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Anne Caldwell:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Laura Friedel:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Dr. John Eisold:									
United Kingdom	Pound		5,561.60						5,561.60
Howard Sutton:									
Denmark	Krone		1,524.00						1,524.00
Estonia	Kroon		1,324.00						1,324.00
Poland	Zloty		1,420.00						1,420.00
United States	Dollar				8,497.77				8,497.77
Erin Corcoran:									
Denmark	Krone		1,524.00						1,524.00
Estonia	Kroon		1,324.00						1,324.00
Poland	Zloty		1,420.00						1,420.00
United States	Dollar				8,497.77				8,497.77
Colleen Gaydos:									
Denmark	Krone		1,524.00						1,524.00
Estonia	Kroon		1,324.00						1,324.00
Poland	Zloty		1,420.00						1,420.00
United States	Dollar				8,497.77				8,497.77
Arthur E. Cameron, Jr.:									
Denmark	Krone		1,524.00						1,524.00
United States	Dollar				6,711.63				6,711.63
Nikole M. Manatt:									
Peru	Dollar		758.00						758.00
Ecuador	Dollar		295.00						295.00
United States	Dollar				3,281.00				3,281.00
Charles Houy:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		789.78						789.78
Poland	Zloty		580.67						580.67
Hungary	Forint		468.06						468.06
United States	Dollar				6,528.35				6,528.35
Elizabeth Schmid:									
Czech Republic	Koruna		789.78						789.78
Poland	Zloty		517.48						517.48
Hungary	Forint		568.00						568.00
United States	Dollar				6,528.35				6,528.35
Katherine M. Kaufer:									
Germany	Euro		382.00						382.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,604.00						1,604.00
United States	Dollar				14,702.79				14,702.79
Sara Kathleen Hagan:									
Germany	Euro		382.00						382.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,604.00						1,604.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		332.00						332.00
Djibouti	Franc		286.00						286.00
United States	Dollar				18,152.00				18,152.00
Erik K. Raven:									
Germany	Euro		382.00						382.00
Kenya	Shilling		1,604.00						1,604.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		332.00						332.00
Djibouti	Franc		286.00						286.00
United States	Dollar				18,152.00				18,152.00
Sudip Parikh:									
Germany	Euro		1,046.95						1,046.95
United States	Dollar				1,427.64				1,427.64
Jeff Kratz:									
Germany	Euro		918.53						918.53
United States	Dollar				1,427.64				1,427.64
Delegation Expenses [1]									
United States	Dollar						484.11		484.11
Mary C. Fitzpatrick:									
El Salvador	Dollar		663.00						663.00
Colombia	Peso		1,230.00						1,230.00
United States	Dollar				3,174.00				3,174.00
Tim Rieser:									
Colombia	Dollar		445.00						445.00
United States	Dollar				982.00				982.00
Paul Grove:									
Portugal	Euro		504.00						504.00
Spain	Euro		215.00						215.00
United States	Dollar				6,675.66				6,675.66
Senator Judd Gregg:									
Portugal	Euro		336.00						336.00
United States	Dollar				6,501.44				6,501.44
Sid Ashworth:									
Norway	Krone		450.00						450.00
Turkey	Lira		734.00						734.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		832.00						832.00
United States	Dollar				11,812.05				11,812.05
Alycia Farrell:									
Norway	Krone		450.00						450.00
Turkey	Lira		734.00						734.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		832.00						832.00
United States	Dollar				11,812.05				11,812.05
Brian Potts:									
Norway	Krone		450.00						450.00
Turkey	Lira		734.00						734.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		832.00						832.00
United States	Dollar				11,812.05				11,812.05
Brian T. Wilson:									
Norway	Krone		450.00						450.00
Turkey	Lira		734.00						734.00
Czech Republic	Koruna		832.00						832.00
United States	Dollar				11,812.05				11,812.05
Thomas L. Gonzales:									
Kuwait	Dollar		1,027.47						1,027.47
Iraq	Dollar		29.00						29.00
United States	Dollar				13,406.30				13,406.30
Howard Sutton:									
Colombia	Peso		1,230.00						1,230.00
United States	Dollar				1,833.30				1,833.30
Total			89,317.92		217,497.71		484.11		307,299.74

[1] Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements by the Department of State under the authority of Section 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of Pub. L. 95–384, and expenses paid pursuant to S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Nov. 14, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Tim Rieser:									
Ireland	Dollar		190.00						190.00
United States	Dollar				803.00				803.00
Total			190.00		803.00				993.00

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Nov. 14, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
James J. Tuite III:									
Kuwait	Dollar		1,027.47						1,027.47
Iraq	Dollar		29.00						29.00
United States	Dollar				9,673.29				9,673.29
Total			1,056.47		9,673.29				10,729.76

SENATOR ROBERT BYRD,
President Pro Tempore, Nov. 14, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Gregory T. Kiley:									
United States	Dollar				8,040.65				8,040.65
Belgium	Euro		420.00						420.00
Germany	Euro		500.00						500.00
Italy	Euro		650.00		94.00				744.00
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
United Kingdom	Pound		417.00		87.00				504.00
Anthony Lazarski:									
United Kingdom	Pound		191.00		39.00				230.00
Madelyn R. Creedon:									
Belgium	Euro		229.46						229.46
Germany	Euro		590.00				55.00		645.00
United States	Dollar				6,672.00				6,672.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Ukraine	Dollar		325.26						325.26
Georgia	Dollar		83.50						83.50
Poland	Dollar		204.82						204.82
Senator Mark Pryor:									
Italy	Dollar				50.00		126.00		176.00
Senator Jack Reed:									
Kuwait	Dollar		112.00						112.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		18.00						18.00
Jordan	Dollar		120.00				24.00		144.00
Elizabeth King:									
Kuwait	Dollar		127.00						127.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		18.00						18.00
Jordan	Dollar		115.00				10.00		125.00
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		335.67						335.67
Poland	Zloty		336.58						336.58
Vance Serchuk:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		319.84						319.84
Poland	Zloty		204.82						204.82
Matt Rimkunas:									
Ukraine	Hryvnia		319.00						319.00
Poland	Zloty		204.00						204.00
Total			5,840.95		14,982.65		215.00		21,038.60

SENATOR CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Sept. 30, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Peggy Kuhn:									
Belgium	Euro		1,265.10				150.00		1,415.10
Germany	Euro		461.00				50.00		511.00
France	Euro		1,650.00				150.00		1,800.00
France	Euro		822.00				100.00		922.00
United States	Dollar				7,735.25				7,735.25
Aaron Klein:									
Belgium	Euro		1,265.10				150.00		1,415.10
Germany	Euro		461.00				50.00		511.00
France	Euro		1,650.00				150.00		1,800.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Euro		822.00				100.00		922.00
United States	Dollar				7,735.25				7,735.25
Senator Richard Shelby:									
New Zealand	Dollar						528.00		528.00
Australia	Dollar		2,303.15						2,303.15
Vietnam	Dollar		540.00				444.00		984.00
Singapore	Dollar		542.00				384.00		926.00
United States	Dollar				20,383.45				20,383.45
William D. Duhnke III:									
New Zealand	Dollar						528.00		528.00
Australia	Dollar		2,303.15						2,303.15
Vietnam	Dollar		540.00				444.00		984.00
Singapore	Dollar		542.00				384.00		926.00
United States	Dollar				20,383.45				20,383.45
Mike Buttry:									
Panama	Dollar		142.00						142.00
Colombia	Peso		340.00						340.00
Brazil	Real		249.00						249.00
United States	Dollar				4,244.00				4,244.00
Total			15,897.50		60,481.40		3,612.00		79,990.90

SENATOR CHRIS DODD,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
Oct. 30, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Dabney Hegg:									
United States	Dollar				1,241.11				1,241.11
Great Britain	Pound		1,053.67						1,053.67
Netherlands	Euro		542.00						542.00
France	Euro		1,187.25						1,187.25
Total			2,782.92		1,241.11				4,024.03

SENATOR DANIEL INOUYE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Nov. 14, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
David Johanson:									
Switzerland	Franc		4,136.85						4,136.85
United States	Dollar				1,258.76				1,258.76
Ted Serafini:									
Switzerland	Franc		4,194.51						4,194.51
United States	Dollar				1,106.63				1,106.63
Darci Vetter:									
Switzerland	Franc		2,592.51						2,592.51
United States	Dollar				1,106.63				1,106.63
Claudia Poteet:									
United Kingdom	Pound		754.47						754.47
Netherlands	Euro		314.55						314.55
France	Euro		345.84						345.84
United States	Dollar				1,155.37				1,155.37
Joshua Odintz:									
Belgium	Euro		653.38						653.38
France	Euro		744.53						744.53
United States	Dollar				913.38				913.38
Nancy McCarthy:									
Belgium	Euro		906.09						906.09
France	Euro		989.01						989.01
United States	Dollar				917.38				917.38
Total			13,607.70		6,458.15				20,065.85

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Nov. 18, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Darci Vetter:									
Denmark	Krone		1,400.00						1,400.00
United States	Dollar				1,152,07				1,152.07
Total			1,400.00		1,152.07				2,552.07

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Aug. 24, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, AMENDED FROM 2ND QUARTER, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
James Greene:									
Germany	Euro		856.12						856.12
United States	Dollar				6,979.69				6,979.69
Keith Luse:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,429.65						1,429.65
Timor-Leste	Dollar		124.75						124.75
Singapore	Dollar		340.60						340.60
United States	Dollar				5,695.88				5,695.88
Debbie Yamada:									
Kazakhstan	Tenge		225.00						225.00
Total			2,976.12		12,675.57				15,651.69

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 23, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.:									
Georgia	Lari		185.40						185.40
United States	Dollar				9,334.78				9,334.78
Senator Bob Corker:									
Georgia	Lari		550.00						550.00
United States	Dollar				10,405.52				10,405.52
Senator Chuck Hagel:									
Kuwait	Dinar		135.00						135.00
Jordan	Dinar		135.00						135.00
Panama	Dollar		68.00						68.00
Colombia	Peso		218.00						218.00
Brazil	Real		90.00						90.00
United States	Dollar				4,244.00				4,244.00
Senator Richard Lugar:									
France	Euro		302.00						302.00
Georgia	Lari		301.00						301.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		301.00						301.00
Turkey	Lira		301.00						301.00
Romania	Lei		301.00						301.00
Ukraine	Hryvna		301.00						301.00
Germany	Euro		301.00						301.00
Belgium	Euro		301.36						301.36
United States	Dollar				3,055.64				3,055.64
Antony Blinken:									
Kuwait	Dinar		150.00						150.00
Jordan	Dinar		150.00						150.00
Neil Brown:									
Azerbaijan	Manat		347.50						347.50
Turkey	Lira		350.00						350.00
Romania	Lei		350.00						350.00
Ukraine	Hryvna		350.00						350.00
Germany	Euro		350.00						350.00
Belgium	Euro		350.00						350.00
France	Euro		350.00						350.00
Georgia	Lari		350.00						350.00
United States	Dollar				6,886.04				6,886.04
Jason Bruder:									
Tajikistan	Somoni		507.00						507.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		568.00						568.00
Kazakhstan	Tenge		704.00						704.00
United States	Dollar				14,271.23				14,271.23
Perry Cammack:									
Yemen	Rial		496.00						496.00
Qatar	Riyal		67.00						67.00
Egypt	Pound		523.00						523.00
United States	Dollar				12,688.87				12,688.87
Steven Feldstein:									
Germany	Euro		354.00						354.00
Tanzania	Shilling		1,401.00						1,401.00
Djibouti	Franc		82.00						82.00
Chad	Franc		670.00						670.00
United States	Dollar				11,348.28				11,348.28
Andrew J. Fisher:									
France	Euro		338.00						338.00
Georgia	Lari		338.00						338.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		337.00						337.00
Turkey	Lira		337.00						337.00
Romania	Lei		337.00						337.00
Ukraine	Hryvna		337.00						337.00
Germany	Euro		338.00						338.00
Belgium	Euro		338.00						338.00
United States	Dollar				6,886.04				6,886.04
James Greene:									
China	Dollar		900.00						900.00
United States	Dollar				9,816.45				9,816.45
James Greene:									
Ghana	Cedi		1,072.00						1,072.00
United States	Dollar				10,596.86				10,596.86
Mark Helmke:									
Ghana	Cedi		756.00						756.00
United States	Dollar				10,596.86				10,596.86
Frank Jannuzi:									
Australia	Dollar		1,173.00						1,173.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Hong Kong	Dollar		582.00						582.00
China	Yuan		2,155.00						2,155.00
United States	Dollar				16,263.23				16,263.23
Mark Lippert:									
Kuwait	Dinar		50.00						50.00
Afghanistan	Afghani		50.00						50.00
Jordan	Dinar		50.00						50.00
Erin Logan:									
Germany	Euro		628.89						628.89
Tanzania	Shilling		1,633.55						1,633.55
Djibouti	Franc		84.75						84.75
Chad	Franc		315.00						315.00
United States	Dollar				11,747.88				11,747.88
Mark Lopes:									
Peru	Dollar		945.00						945.00
Ecuador	Dollar		590.00						590.00
United States	Dollar				5,598.30				5,598.30
Greta Lundeberg:									
Germany	Euro		104.90						104.90
Djibouti	Franc		84.00						84.00
Tanzania	Shilling		1,638.00						1,638.00
United States	Dollar				10,517.78				10,517.78
Keith Luse:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		1,205.55						1,205.55
Thailand	Baht		44.26						44.26
Taiwan	Dollar		16.75						16.75
United States	Dollar				5,695.88				5,695.88
Sarah Margon:									
Nigeria	Naira		1,181.00						1,181.00
Ghana	Cedi		227.00						227.00
Sierra Leone	Leones		532.00						532.00
Liberia	Dollar		475.00						475.00
United States	Dollar				7,537.44				7,537.44
Carl Meacham:									
Argentina	Peso		268.00						268.00
United States	Dollar				5,547.80				5,547.80
Kenneth Myers, Jr.:									
France	Euro		317.00						317.00
Georgia	Lari		316.00						316.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		316.00						316.00
Turkey	Lira		316.00						316.00
Romania	Lei		316.00						316.00
Ukraine	Hryvna		316.00						316.00
Germany	Euro		316.00						316.00
Belgium	Euro		317.00						317.00
United States	Dollar				6,886.04				6,886.04
Kenneth Myers III:									
France	Euro		352.00						352.00
Georgia	Lari		351.00						351.00
Azerbaijan	Manat		352.00						352.00
Turkey	Lira		352.00						352.00
Romania	Lei		352.00						352.00
Ukraine	Hryvna		352.00						352.00
Germany	Euro		352.00						352.00
Belgium	Euro		352.00						352.00
United States	Dollar				6,886.04				6,886.04
Rexon Ryu:									
Kuwait	Dinar		308.00						308.00
Jordan	Dinar		190.00						190.00
Rexon Ryu:									
Panama	Dollar		148.00						148.00
Colombia	Peso		334.00						334.00
Brazil	Real		209.00						209.00
United States	Dollar				4,244.00				4,244.00
Shannon Smith:									
Nigeria	Naira		1,238.00						1,238.00
Ghana	Cedi		231.00						231.00
Sierra Leone	Leones		467.00						467.00
Liberia	Dollar		480.00						480.00
United States	Dollar				7,537.44				7,537.44
Chris Socha:									
Tajikistan	Somoni		507.00						507.00
Kyrgyzstan	Som		568.00						568.00
Kazakhstan	Tenge		879.00						879.00
United States	Dollar				14,271.23				14,271.23
Puneet Talwar:									
Switzerland	Dollar		475.29						475.29
Greece	Dollar		1,031.67						1,031.67
United States	Dollar				9,697.27				9,697.27
Puneet Talwar:									
Netherlands	Dollar		469.00						469.00
United States	Dollar				7,457.39				7,457.39
Tomicah Tillemann:									
Georgia	Lari		386.00						386.00
United States	Dollar				9,334.78				9,334.78
Todd Womack:									
Georgia	Lari		577.00						577.00
United States	Dollar				10,375.52				10,375.52
Total			45,564.87		249,728.59				295,293.46

SENATOR JOSEPH BIDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 23, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Joel Spangenberg:									
United States	Dollar				1,301.01				1,301.01

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United Kingdom	Pound		769.21		226.51				995.72
Netherlands	Euro		428.20		187.85				616.05
France	Euro		839.35		25.30				864.65
Tara Shaw:									
United States	Dollar				1,241.01				1,241.01
United Kingdom	Pound		232.35						232.35
Netherlands	Euro		456.54		300.65		14.68		771.87
France	Euro		835.21		134.89				970.10
Jason Yanussi:									
United States	Dollar				1,241.01		10.00		1,251.01
United Kingdom	Pound		784.92		259.60		9.73		1,054.25
Netherlands	Euro		463.62		261.55		7.52		732.69
France	Euro		848.16		28.27		14.88		891.31
Jennifer Hemingway:									
United States	Dollar				12,937.52		100.00		13,037.52
Pakistan	Rupee		616.00						616.00
Lebanon	Dirham		20.00						20.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,305.00		82.00		75.00		1,462.00
Kenya Wiley:									
United States	Dollar				12,967.52				12,967.52
Pakistan	Rupee		668.10						668.10
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,389.00						1,389.00
Thomas Richards:									
United States	Dollar				12,937.52		122.75		13,060.27
Pakistan	Rupee		605.00						605.00
Lebanon	Dirham		50.00						50.00
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		1,319.00						1,319.00
Total			11,629.66		44,132.21		354.56		56,116.43

SENATOR JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 21, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Bradley Hayes:									
Denmark	Krone		1,524.00						1,524.00
Estonia	Kroon		1,324.00						1,324.00
Poland	Zloty		1,420.00						1,420.00
United States	Dollar				8,497.77				8,497.77
Senator Arlen Specter:									
Mexico	Peso		595.57						595.57
Venezuela	Bolivar		390.58						390.58
United States	Dollar				2,310.38				2,310.38
Nicholas A. Rossi:									
Mexico	Peso		650.77						650.77
Venezuela	Bolivar		511.43						511.43
United States	Dollar				2,686.27				2,686.27
Senator Patrick Leahy:									
Canada	Dollar		585.00						585.00
Edward Brady:									
Canada	Dollar		515.00						515.00
Total			7,516.35		13,494.42				21,010.77

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 24, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
John Maguire			1,907.00						1,907.00
	Dollar				12,771.60				12,771.60
Eric Chapman			736.00						736.00
	Dollar				10,378.26				10,378.26
David Koger			1,296.00						1,296.00
	Dollar				6,983.91				6,983.91
Gordon Matlock			1,528.00						1,528.00
	Dollar				6,951.00				6,951.00
David Koger			2,013.00						2,013.00
	Dollar				11,914.00				11,914.00
Caroline Tess			598.00						598.00
	Dollar				1,661.60				1,661.60
John Dickas			483.00						483.00
	Dollar				1,661.60				1,661.60
Gregory Thielmann			1,220.00						1,220.00
	Dollar				11,243.00				11,243.00
Jennifer Wagner			1,921.00						1,921.00
	Dollar				11,273.80				11,273.80
Louis Tucker			1,705.00						1,705.00
	Dollar				2,959.30				2,959.30
Richard Girven			1,705.00						1,705.00
	Dollar				2,959.30				2,959.30
Daniel Jones			2,273.00						2,273.00
	Dollar				2,959.30				2,959.30
Alissa Starzak			1,976.00						1,976.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2008—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
	Dollar				9,846.40				9,846.40
Andrew Kerr			2,432.00						2,432.00
	Dollar				9,846.40				9,846.40
Caroline Tees			550.00						550.00
	Dollar				1,700.11				1,700.11
Richard Girven			190.00						190.00
Senator Christopher Bond			1,705.00						1,705.00
	Dollar				3,760.80				3,760.80
Louis Tucker			3,162.00						3,162.00
	Dollar				11,901.09				11,901.09
Richard Girven			3,162.00						3,162.00
	Dollar				12,160.13				12,160.13
Jennifer Wagner			1,399.00						1,399.00
	Dollar				13,932.68				13,932.68
James Smythers			664.00						664.00
	Dollar				12,410.25				12,410.25
Bryan Smith			1,231.00						1,231.00
	Dollar				13,932.68				13,932.68
Randall Bookout			672.00						672.00
	Dollar				2,420.96				2,420.96
Eric Pelofsky			956.00						956.00
	Dollar				7,953.25				7,953.25
Paul Matulic			989.00						989.00
	Dollar				8,803.39				8,803.39
Total			36,473.00		192,384.81				228,857.81

SENATOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Nov. 5, 2008.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), MAJORITY LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM AUG. 24 TO AUG. 31, 2008

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Marcel Lettre:									
United States	Dollar				7,896.07				7,896.07
Qatar	Dollar		936.00						936.00
Total			936.00		7,896.07				8,832.07

SENATOR HARRY REID,
Majority Leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged of PN2128; that the Commerce Committee be discharged from PN1994, except the nomination of Robert E. Day; PN2117 and PN2118; that the Senate proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD; that no further motions be in order; and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister:
Asif J. Chaudhry, of Washington

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor:
Gary C. Groves, of Texas

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor:
Alan D. Hrapsky, of Texas

IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain John H. Korn,
Captain William D. Lee,
Captain Charles D. Michel,
Captain Roy A. Nash,
Captain Michael N. Parks,

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

To be lieutenant (junior grade)

Kyle W. Ryan
Oliver E. Brown

To be ensign

Gregory R. Schweitzer
John H. Petersen
Benjamin S. Bloss
John F. Rossi
Charlene R. Felkley
Emily M. Rose
Kevin W. Adams
Matthew M. Forney
Patricia E. Raymond
Matthew J. Nardi
Adam R. Reed
Adrienne L. Hopper
Rachel M. Sargent
Jonathan E. Owen
Ryan A. Wartick

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

To be lieutenant (junior grade)

Andrew R. Colegrove
Anna-Elizabeth B. Villiard-Howe
Nicholas C. Morgan
Jeffrey G. Pereira
Colin T. Klewer
Harold B. Emmons III
Paul M. Chamberlain
Michael W. O'Neal
Julie L. Earp
Kyle A. Byers
Loren M. Evory
Andrew J. Ostapenko
Laura T. Gallant
Gregory R. Schweitzer
Mark S. Andrews
Megan R. Guberski
Nathan E. Witherly
Christine L. Schultz
Claire V. Surrey
Ronald L. Moyers, Jr.
Brian D. Prestcott
Glen A. Rice
Patrick M. Redmond
Russell A. Quintero
Nathan B. Parker
Jonathan R. Heesch
Matthew C. Griffin
Faith C. Opatrny

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR AND NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider Calendar No. 757, the nomination of William Carr; and that the Judiciary Committee be discharged of PN1113, the nomination of Ricardo H. Hinojosa; that the Senate proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc; that any statements related

thereto be printed in the RECORD; that no further motions be in order; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011.

Ricardo H. Hinojosa, of Texas, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2013.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged of PN730; the HELP Committee be discharged of PN2019, PN2020, PN2022, PN2132, PN2024, PN2104, and PN2119; and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged of PN2058 and PN2086; and that the Senate proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotenitiary of the United States of America to Libya.

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

Douglas D. Randall, of Missouri, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

Ray M. Bowen, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

France A. Cordova, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

To be medical director

Paul J. Andreason
Wanda D. Barfield
Charles H. Beymer
Susan Blank
Michael J. Boquard
Brenton T. Burkholder
Jay C. Butler
Michael A. Carome
Martin S. Cetron
Susan T. Cookson
Michael M. Engelgau
Carol Friedman
Richard P. Hedlund
Dale J. Hu
Stephen G. Kaler
Newton E. Kendig
Jeffrey B. Kopp
Eric A. Mann
Aubrey K. Miler
Eric D. Mintz
Allyn K. Nakashima
Elena H. Page
Brent Pennington
Calman P. Prussin
Steven G. Scott
Robert J. Simonds
Mark J. Tedesco
Douglas B. Trout
Jonathan T. Weber
Jane R. Zucker

To be senior surgeon

Kenneth L. Brooks
Erlinda R. Casuga-Marquez
Ahmed M. Elkashef
Douglas H. Esposito
Alicia M. Fry
Rosemarie Hirsch
Stephen P. Kachur
Charles E. Lee
Sarah R. Linde-Feucht
Julie M. Magri
Katherine C. Palatianos
Mary C. Porvaznik
Stephen M. Rudd
Taraz Samandari
Julia A. Schillinger
Michael G. Wilcox
Jason J. Woo
Darius S. Yorichi

To be surgeon

Anthony M. Dunnigan
Mark R. Dybul
Nancy W. Knight
Dianna L. Mahoney
Kelton H. Oliver
Pragna Patel
Tobe M. Propst
Jeffrey D. Schulden
David L. Sprenger
Greggory J. Woitte
David Wong

To be senior assistant surgeon

Daisy Y. Eng
Daniel Molina

To be dental director

Michael C. Arnold
Timothy S. Bishop
William F. Catelli II
John F. Caudill II
Jeffery R. Combs
Dean J. Coppola
Steven D. Florer
Carl J. Gustke
Daniel J. Hickey
Joseph G. Hosek
Thomas E. Jordan
Mary G. Murphy
Rebecca V. Neslund
James T. Owen
Thomas A. Reese
Suzanne K. Saville

To be senior dental surgeon

Anita Arnold
Ronald C. Cox
Glen A. Eisenhuth
Richard L. Firnhaber
Ronald L. Fuller
Stanley K. Gordon
Christine K. Heng
Arlene M. Lester
John E. Lorincz
Aaron R. Means, Sr.
Kathleen M. Oconnor-Moran
Richard D. Stricklin
Todd M. Tovarek

To be dental surgeon

Ruben S. Acuna
Joyce D. Biberica
William J. Esposito
Katrina J. Leslie
Anthony L. Likes
Kimberly Woods Montoya
Adrian R. Palmer
Stella Yuk Kwan Lau Wisner

To be nurse director

Ana Marie L. Balingit-Wines
Eileen D. Bonneau
Sheila D. Carnes
Laurie S. Irwin-Pinkley
David W. Kelly
David L. Kerschner
Kathleen M. Kobus
Carol L. Konchan
Mary M. Leemhuis
Michael D. Lyman
Robert W. Mayes
Jerilyn Anderson McClain
Genise Y. Nixon
Monique V. Petrofsky
Gilbert P. Rose
Cindy L. Wilson
Beverly R. Wright

To be senior nurse officer

Victoria L. Anderson
Linda J. Belsito
Susan K. Brown
Michael P. Bryce
Annette R. Debisette
Joanne Derdak
Mary Y. Elkins
Susan K. Fritz
Byron C. Glenn
Wanda W. Gonzalez
Joan F. Hunter
Mary L. Kinkade
Colleen O. Lee
Jaime Muniz
Priscilla J. Powers
Doris L. Raymond
Letitia L. Rhodes
Bonnie A. Saylor
Sylvia Trent-Adams
Joyce B. Watson
Daniel J. Weskamp

To be nurse officer

Dawn A. Anderson-Gary
Ileana Barreto-Pettit
Patricia A. Barrett
Valene N. Bartmess
Jason M. Bischoff
Marie A. Casey
Susanna N. Choi
Brian R. Cronenwett
Derwent O. Daniel
John W. David, Jr.
Diane Douglas
Kimberly J. Elenberg
Eileen M. Falzini
Dion E. Franklund
Barbara A. Fuller
Serina A. Hunter-Thomas
Jackie Kennedy-Sullivan
Carol S. Lincoln
Lisa A. Marunycz
Tami L. McBride
Alberta M. McCabe
Sherry L. McReynolds
Anita E. Pollard
Letitia B. Robinson
Thomas M. Scheidel
Jeffery R. Semak
Judith B. Sutcliffe
Victoria F. Vachon

To be senior assistant nurse officer

Mark D. Cruz
Kaori Donohue
Bryan H. Emery
Coleen R. Fett
Joshua E. Hardin
James E. Thomas
William T. Williamson
Anh P. Wright

To be assistant nurse officer

James K. Lyons
Adriana M. Meyer-Alonzo

To be engineer director

David M. Apanian
Bryan L. Fischer
Michael G. Gressel

Robert B. McVicker
Robert J. Reiss
Keith P. Shortall
Mark A. Stafford
George W. Styer
Maurice C. West

To be senior engineer officer

Steven L. Bosiljevac
Gary S. Earnest
Cheryl Fairfield Estill
Chucri A. Kardous
James H. Ludington
Jamie D. Natour
Steven E. Raynor
Daniel C. Tompkins
Dennis J. Wagner
Marjorie E. Wallace
Mary M. Weber
Richard S. Wermers

To be engineer officer

Steven J. Dykstra
Keith E. Foy
David E. Harvey
Kelly G. Hudson
David E. Johnson
Mathew J. Martinson
Jennifer E. Mosser
Brent D. Rohlfs
Chad A. Snell

To be senior assistant engineer officer

Sean T. Bush
Jennifer Lynn Caparoso
Jeremy B. Nickels

To be scientist director

Peter I. Hartsock
Lauren C. Iacono-Connors
Rosa J. Key-Schwartz
Helena O. Mishoe
Joyce L. Smith
William H. Taylor I, II

To be senior scientist

Christine J. Benally
John J. Eckert
Laurence M. Grummer-Strawn
Leslie A. MacDonald

To be scientist

Rachel N. Avchen
Dan-My T. Chu
Danice K. Eaton
Lisa N. Pealer
Diana L. Schneider

To be environmental health officer director

Alan S. Echt
Robert F. Hennes
Michael E. Herring
Joseph L. Hughart
Robert S. Newsad
Douglas C. Pickup
Richard E. Turner
Paul T. Young

To be senior environmental health officer

Eric J. Esswein
Deborah A. Greco
William J. Greim
Michael P. Keiffer
Joe L. Maloney
David H. McMahon
Gary D. Perlman
Edward A. Pfister
Edwin Vazquez

To be environmental health officer

Charles M. Blue
William C. Crump
Timothy E. Jiggens
Mary B. O'Connor
Harrichand Rhambarose
Daniel J. Yereb

To be senior assistant environmental health officer

Robert A. Gibbs
Christopher T. Smith

To be veterinary director

Sean F. Altekruse
Stephanie I. Harris
Hugh M. Mainzer
Stephanie R. Ostrowski

To be senior veterinary officer

Terri R. Clark
Victoria A. Hampshire
Alfred W. Montgomery
Daniel R. Oleary

To be veterinary officer

Gregory L. Langham

To be pharmacist director

J. R. Eric Edwards
Mary A. Fong
Marie B. Greenwood
George J. Havens II
Martin Jagers
Anthony E. Keller
Michael R. Lilla
M. Carlene McIntyre
Murray F. Potter
Nicholas A. Quaglietta
Renee J. Roncone
Margaret A. Simoneau
Thomas J. Troshynski

To be senior pharmacist

Christine Hee-Kyung Chung
Michelle Dillahunt
Terry A. Hook
Mary E. Kremzner
Nitin K. Patel
Robert G. Pratt
Nita Sood
Brenda L. Stodart
Matthew J. Tarosky
Lisa L. Tonrey

To be pharmacist

Matthew R. Baker
David A. Bates
William H. Bender
Sye D. Bennefield
Mary A. Bickel
Bradley M. Bishop
Michael P. Bourg
Catherine Y. Chew
Chae Un Chong
Tamara A. Close
Michael A. Eddy
Rebecca E. Garner
Gary B. Hobbs
Marci C. Kiester
Kristy M. Klinger
Vlada Matusovsky
Nina C. Mezu-Nwaba
Margaret A. Rincon
Spencer S. Salis
Tina M. Spence
Jacqueline K. Thomas
Vasavi T. Thomas
Gerardo Z. Vazquez
Chi-Ann Yu Wu

To be senior dietitian

Juli M. Haws
Ann M. Staten

To be dietitian

Robert M. Collison

To be senior therapist

Jessie Whitehurst
Rita B. Shapiro

To be therapist

Corey S. Dahl
Frederick V. Lief
Henry P. McMillan
Robert E. Roe, Jr.
Jon M. Schultz

To be health services director

William M. Gosman
Greg A. Ketcher
Robert J. Lyon
W. Henry MacPherson
Margaret A. McDowell
Michael R. Miner
Janet Reen Saul

To be senior health services officer

Carol E. Auten
Gregory D. Cliff
Valerie A. Darden
Michael J. Flood
Mark S. Floss
Richard R. Kauffman
Elijah K. Marlin, Jr.
Philip S. McRae
Sheila P. Merriweather
David J. Miler
Sunil Patel
Anthony Sanchez
Phillip L. Toy
Jeanean D. Willis-Marsh

To be health services officer

David J. Bellware
Keith W. Cespon
Rhondalyn R. Cox
Gregory J. Flaitz
Anna T. Gonzales
Dione Marie Harjo
Beth Anne Henson
Theresa A. Minter
Daisy D. Mitchell
Michelle A. Pelkey
Jacqueline D. Rodrigue
Tobey Manns Royal
Scott J. Salvatore
Angela K. Shen

To bie senior assistant health services officer

Brian T. Burt
Sean R. Byrd
Torrey B. Darkenwald
Eduardo R. Faytong
James D. Hall, Jr.
Carl A. Huffman I, II
Jason S. Jurkowski
Raquel A. Peat
Angel E. Sanchez
Stephen C. Smith
Anthony A. Walker
Darin S. Wiegers
Elaine C. Wolff

NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

G.P. Peterson of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Barbara Ernst Prey, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2014.

U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

To be medical director

Matthew T. McKenna
Zachary Taylor III

To be senior surgeon

Timothy R. Cote
Juliette Morgan

To be surgeon

Henry C. Baggett III
Edward C. Doo
Paul D. Heiderscheidt
John T. Redd
Joseph P. Simon

To be senior assistant surgeon

Scott J. Filler
Monique R. Fountain
Ana I. Guzman
Karen C. Lee
Lori A. Pollack
James J. Sejvar
Michael C. Thigpen

To be senior dental surgeon

Seyed H. Mortazavi

To be dental surgeon

Juan K. Packer
Phillip A. Wilson
Paul A. Wong

To be senior assistant dental surgeon

Jodine C. Anderson

Carol L. McDaniel

To be nurse director

Holly A. Williams

To be senior nurse officer

Ann M. McCarthy

To be nurse officer

Kristal E. Dye
Susan E. Erwin
Martin A. Foreman
Brant B. Goode
Veronica M. Gordon
Jerri L. McGinnis
Dorothy R. Merchant
Elvira D. Mosely
Rebecca S. Noe
Arlene M. Patuc
Carolyn R. Stacy-Wilkin
Debra Tubbs

To be senior assistant nurse officer

Anne M. Arceo
Helen E. Ballantyne
Demetrius Chapman
Summer A. Cutting
Dan Fletcher III
Melissa A. George
Shawna L. Hutchins
Deborah N. Lamping

To be engineer officer

Jeffrey A. Murray

To be senior assistant engineer officer

Varsha B. Savalia

To be scientist

David J. McIntyre
Danisha L. Robbins

To be senior environmental health officer

Paul M. Lewis

To be environmental health officer

Brian L. Lewelling
Mathew J. Thomas
John T. Whitesides

To be senior assistant environmental health officer

Jeffrey T. Dickson
Molly E. Patton

To be pharmacist

Steven A. Labrozzi
Judy L. Rose
Jamie L. Shaddon

To be senior assistant pharmacist

Kristina J. Ballinger
Jefferson Fredy
Katie E. Johnson
Randi R. Lanier
Jeffrey J. Mallette
Lori B. Moore
Allison M. Paynter
Vincent S. Sansone
Courtney M. Suggs
Judith B. Thompson
Leo B. Zadecky

To be senior assistant therapist

James M. Cowher

To be health services officer director

Clifford D. Brown

To be health services officer

Irwin W. Fish

To be senior assistant health services officer

Julia H. Bryan
Alnissa T. Carter
Michael C. Clay
Martha S. Fermin
Lori A. Goodman
Rachael Trimpert Schmidt
Cameron C. Scott
Michael R. Tilus
Emily J. Williams

To be junior assistant health services officer

Kristi R. Anderson
Keren Arkin
Sarah E. Coleman
Matthew R. Daab
James C. Decker
Dimana Dimitrova
Elizabeth A. Franklin
David M. Gianferante
Marilou Gonzalez
Rebecca Hardy
Amy J. Hatcher
Sara A. Kierpiec
Tina Pattaratornkosohn
Jeffrey R. Strich
Xi Hua Yang
John I. Young

JUDICIARY

Alfred S. Irving, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Kathryn A. Oberly, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

DR. WALTER CARL GORDON, JR. POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6859, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6859) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia, as the ''Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6859) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JOSEPH A. RYAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3681 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3681) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. 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 any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3681) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3681

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH A. RYAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''.

AUTHORIZING A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3711, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3711) to authorize a cost of living adjustment for the Federal judiciary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to express support for a bill introduced by myself, the minority leader, and others to provide a cost-of-living salary adjustment to Federal judges.

The Framers of our Constitution were men of great vision and foresight. One of their great innovations was the establishment of an independent judiciary, which is to function as a coequal branch of government.

The Framers knew that justice and the rule of law would only prevail if judges are free from executive and legislative interference. In order to preserve the autonomy of judges, the Framers established safeguards. One of these safeguards was the assurance that judicial pay could not be diminished during a judge's service on the bench. This safeguard was important enough that it was included in the first section of article III of the Constitution.

Unfortunately, in terms of real dollars, we in Congress have allowed judicial pay to dwindle. Since 1969, the salaries of Federal judges have significantly declined when adjusted for inflation. The Office of the United States Courts estimates judicial pay has declined by 25 percent.

Preserving judicial integrity is a bipartisan goal. Earlier this Congress a

bipartisan bill was put forward which would have given judges a long-awaited pay raise. The Federal Judicial Salary Restoration Act of 2008 would have brought judicial salaries more closely in line with what the position merits. Although this bill had support on both sides of the aisle, we were unable to pass it this year. We will return to that proposal in the very near future.

The bill we have introduced today simply provides a cost-of-living increase for this year. I favor a proposal, included in the Salary Restoration Act, which would guarantee judges a cost-of-living adjustment every year. But at the very least, we must provide such an increase for this year.

Between 1993 and 2001, the Federal judiciary has received only three out of eight proposed cost-of-living adjustments. Because of Congress's failure to act, judicial pay has declined relative to the rest of the economy, and judicial independence is threatened. It is time we stop allowing judicial pay to diminish.

If we are to preserve the judicial independence envisioned by our country's Founders, we must not allow judicial pay to continue to ebb. Passage of this bill would be a small downpayment on the more meaningful steps we need to take to treat judges with the respect they deserve.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at the very beginning of the 110th Congress, I joined with Senators REID, SPECTER, FEINSTEIN, and CORNYN to pass legislation to authorize a cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, for the salaries of U.S. Justices and judges for fiscal year 2007. Now as we wrap up this session, we are again compelled to take remedial action, because a COLA for our Federal judiciary was not included in the continuing resolution for fiscal year 2009.

Earlier today, we attempted to pass a bipartisan bill to repeal the section of the U.S. Code that is a barrier to Federal judges receiving an automatic cost-of-living adjustment. The Administrative Office of the United States Courts notes that when adjusted for inflation the pay rate for Federal judges has declined by 25 percent since 1969. In 1975, Congress enacted the Executive Salary Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, intended to give judges, Members of Congress, and other high-ranking executive branch officials automatic COLAs as accorded other Federal employees unless rejected by Congress. However, in 1981, Congress enacted section 140 of Public Law 97–92, mandating specific congressional action to give COLAs to judges. This action has resulted in judges failing to receive a cost-of-living adjustment when other Federal employees have received one. Unfortunately, there was an objection on the other side of the aisle that prevented passage of the measure to repeal this antiquated section and to ensure that the wages of our Federal judges can keep up with inflation.

The bipartisan legislation we are now trying to move provides a COLA for Federal judges consistent with the law and with fairness. I hope that this measure, providing judges with a COLA for fiscal year 2009, can pass by both sides of the aisle by unanimous consent. I had sincerely hoped that we could have passed a more comprehensive judicial pay bill this Congress given all the work we dedicated to the issue in the Judiciary Committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives but at a minimum we should not allow judicial salaries to slip even further behind.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, a strong and independent judiciary is essential to the administration of justice in our country.

It is my understanding that the Senate has been unable to clear bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators REID and MCCONNELL which would repeal the requirement that Congress specially authorize a cost-of-living increase each year for the Federal judiciary. Repealing this provision, which is known as section 140, would in essence ensure that Federal judges are treated in the same manner as Members of Congress regarding salary adjustments.

I am disappointed that this bipartisan effort is being blocked, but I am pleased that the Senate is expected to pass another measure, which I have cosponsored, that would provide a cost-of-living increase to judges for at least the next year. Without this fix, Members of Congress will receive a COLA increase in January along with most of the Federal workforce, but not the judiciary. I don't see any reasonable justification for giving Members of Congress and the Federal workforce a cost-of-living increase and denying the judiciary a similar adjustment.

There are ongoing discussions about the extent we should provide for an overall increase in judicial compensation, but the issue we are discussing today isn't about making major adjustments to judicial salaries. I support reforming judicial salaries, and I hope the next Congress will be able to pass legislation to this end, but in the meantime I believe it is important that we don't deny the judiciary a reasonable cost-of-living increase.

Leaving the judiciary behind would be wrongheaded and shortsighted. By denying these dedicated public servants adequate compensation, we are making it more difficult to attract and retain judges of the highest caliber.

I would also like to note my appreciation for the majority leader's efforts to address this issue. Although attempts to repeal section 140 have stalled at this point, I know Senator REID, along with Senator LEAHY, are committed to ensuring that we maintain a strong judiciary and to enacting necessary reforms. I will continue to do everything I can to support these efforts.

Mr. DORGAN. 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, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3711) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3711

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

SECTION 1. COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY.

Pursuant to section 140 of Public Law 97–92, justices and judges of the United States are authorized during fiscal year 2009 to receive a salary adjustment in accordance with section 461 of title 28, United States Code.

MAKING A TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO THE PAUL WELLSTONE AND PETE DOMENICI MENTAL HEALTH PARITY AND ADDICTION EQUITY ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3712 introduced earlier today by Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3712) to make technical corrections in the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3712

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

SECTION 1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN MENTAL HEALTH PARITY EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 512(e)(2)(B) of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (subtitle B of title V of division C of Public Law 110-343) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2009'' and inserting ''January 1, 2010''.

SHORT-TERM ANALOG FLASH AND EMERGENCY READINESS ACT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3663 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3663) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a very important change that is set to occur all across America on February 17, 2009: The final switch from analog to digital broadcast television called the DTV, or Digital TV, Transition.

In many respects this is not a new issue. The wheels have been in motion on this change since 2005—spurred by the horrible tragedy of September 11th which starkly highlighted our desperate need for a national, interoperable communications network. The transition to digital TV will free up spectrum for public safety use so the national emergency communications network America needs can be put in place.

But there have been serious concerns about our readiness to make the shift to digital TV, and several of my colleagues and I have been raising red flags about them for years now. Not because we believe the change is a mistake, but because we believe that not enough has been done to prepare, to educate, and to help American consumers so that the screens on their television sets do not go black 88 days from now.

What is the change from analog to digital broadcast? Over-the-air broadcasters will send their signal over digital spectrum, not analog spectrum that is currently used. The change won't affect consumers with cable or satellite TV or those who have a converter box for their older analog TV set. And the switch to digital will improve the definition and clarity of the TV picture.

Why are we making this change? Primarily to modernize our airwaves and use the more efficient digital spectrum for a smarter use of our limited spectrum resources for the public good. The change will, again, free up critically needed spectrum so that we can move toward the nationally interoperable public safety communications network we need. It will also allow over-the-air broadcasters to offer new and innovative programming and provide new spectrum for wireless technologies.

The DTV Act was enacted as part of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. It directs the Federal Communications Commission, FCC, to require all full power television stations to cease analog broadcasting following February 17, 2009. That day is 88 days from now. What this means—and let me be very clear—is that any consumer with traditional analog televisions—regular TV sets that use an antenna to get a signal—will not be able to watch free, over-the-air television without taking one of three steps to adapt their TV to receive a digital signal. The most common and least expensive way that consumers can adapt their TV will be to buy a digital-to-analog converter box to hook up to their analog television set. While seemingly a highly technical issue to some, this is no small matter to the 10–13 million Americans who might well lose their TV signal on February 18th of next year.

I firmly believe that our Nation is not ready to make this transition without substantially more involvement from every level of government, the entire communications industry, and willing community organizations across America. At present, most experts agree that the transition will unleash a massive amount of consumer confusion. And when people are cut off from their televisions, it is not just a matter of convenience, but it is a matter of public safety. We simply cannot stand by and let people lose access to emergency alerts and public safety communications.

I am especially concerned because this transition is going to hit our most vulnerable citizens—the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and those with language barriers—the hardest. We risk leaving those who are most reliant on over-the-air broadcast television for their contact with the outside world literally in the dark. These consumers are disproportionately rural.

In 2005, the outgoing administration and its proponents decided to leave almost all of the implementation of the transition to the private sector—broadcasters, cable and satellite companies, and consumer electronics retailers. While there are claims that hundreds of millions of private sector dollars have been spent making Americans aware of the DTV transition, it seems that most Americans have no idea what it really is even if they have heard of it. New surveys suggest more consumers are growing aware of the transition, but that consumers remain confused about what steps they need to take to get ready for it. Consumer Reports has found that 63 percent have major misconceptions about what steps they need to take to prepare.

The recent DTV transition test market of Wilmington, NC demonstrated that, even with extraordinary levels of outreach, some still did not know anything about the DTV transition. I would note that Wilmington received far more attention than any market in West Virginia is likely to receive, or any other part of the country for that matter.

Even in the test market, several thousand people called into the FCC for assistance—they could not set up their converter box, they could not receive certain digital signals, or their antennae needed adjustment—just to name a few of the problems. Consumers, especially the elderly and those with limited English proficiency, are going to need help in managing the transition. On February 18, 2009, those thousands of calls will become millions.

There is no question the transition to DTV could have and should have been far better managed and far better planned. But at this point, we must focus on fixing it, not laying blame.

Last night, I asked unanimous consent for the Senate to take up S. 3663, the Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act, as amended. This piece of legislation will help make sure those consumers who fail to make the DTV transition by February 17, 2009 are not left without access to emergency information. This bill will also allow those consumers to understand what steps they need to take in order to restore their television signals by allowing an analog signal to continue to be broadcast in each regional market for an additional 30 days past February 17th.

Let me be clear: This bill is far from a silver bullet that will fix all the problems associated with the transition.

I can assure my colleagues that the new Democratic leadership in Congress and the White House is committed to protecting the American consumer. Over the next few months, I will work with my colleagues on a more comprehensive plan of action to make sure millions of Americans receive the support and assistance they need to make this transition.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Rockefeller substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the bill be read a third time and passed; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the bill be placed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5698) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for the short-term partial extension of analog broadcasting)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act''.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Communications Commission shall, not later than January 15, 2009, develop and implement a program to encourage and permit, to the extent technically feasible and subject to such limitations as the Commission finds to be consistent with the public interest and the requirements of this Act, the broadcasting in the analog television service of only the public safety information and digital transition information specified in subsection (b) during the 30-day period beginning on the day after the date established by law under section 3002(b) of the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 for termination of all licenses for full-power television stations in the analog television service and the cessation of broadcasting by full-power stations in the analog television service.

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The program required by subsection (a) shall provide for the broadcast of—

(1) emergency information, including critical details regarding the emergency, as broadcast or required to be broadcast by full-power stations in the digital television service;

(2) information, in both English and Spanish, and accessible to persons with disabilities, concerning—

(A) the digital television transition, including the fact that a transition has taken place and that additional action is required to continue receiving television service, including emergency notifications; and

(B) the steps required to enable viewers to receive such emergency information via the digital television service and to convert to receiving digital television service, including a phone number and Internet address by which help with such transition may be obtained in both English and Spanish; and

(3) such other information related to consumer education about the digital television transition or public health and safety or emergencies as the Commission may find to be consistent with the public interest.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS.

In designing the program required by this Act, the Commission shall—

(1) take into account market-by-market needs, based upon factors such as channel and transmitter availability;

(2) ensure that broadcasting of the program specified in section 2(b) will not cause harmful interference with signals in the digital television service;

(3) not require the analog television service signals broadcast under this Act to be retransmitted or otherwise carried pursuant to section 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b), 338, 339, 340, 614, or 615);

(4) take into consideration broadcasters' digital power levels and transition and coordination plans that already have been adopted with respect to cable systems and satellite carriers' systems;

(5) prohibit any broadcast of analog television service signals under section 2(b) on any spectrum that is approved or pending approval by the Commission to be used for public safety radio services, including television channels 14-20; and

(6) not include the analog spectrum between channels 52 and 69, inclusive (between frequencies 698 and 806 megahertz, inclusive) reclaimed from analog television broadcasting pursuant to section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act, the term ''emergency information'' has the meaning such term has under part 79 of the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission (47 C.F.R. part 79).

The bill (S. 3663), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 435 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 435) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall on December 2, 2008, for ceremonies and activities held in connection with the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center to the public.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 435) was agreed to.

THE ADOPTION OF BLUEFIN TUNA CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 709 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 709) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

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.

CONDEMNING STONING IN SOMALIA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 711, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 711) condemning the tragic and senseless death by stoning of a 13-year-old girl from Somalia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 711) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 711

Whereas a child from Somalia, identified as Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow, was raped by 3 men, and when her family reported the rape to authorities of the al-Shabaab militia that control the city of Kismayu, Somalia, she was accused of adultery and ordered to be stoned;

Whereas, in October 2008, Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow was stoned to death by 50 militant men before 1,000 witnesses in a public stadium;

Whereas al-Shabaab, some of whose members are affiliated with al Qaeda, is a violent and brutal extremist group that has used intimidation and committed human rights violations to undermine the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and threaten activists in civil society working to bring about peace through political dialogue and reconciliation;

Whereas, on February 29, 2008, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice designated al-Shabaab as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189) and placed the organization on the list of specially designated global terrorists established under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and initiated under Executive Order 13224;

Whereas the 2007 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Somalia, released on March 11, 2007, by the Department of State, cited the ''poor human rights situation'' in Somalia, including ''unlawful and politically motivated killings, official impunity, and discrimination and violence against women'';

Whereas stoning is a grave and serious violation of human rights law, in which the victim is killed in an especially brutal way;

Whereas stoning is practiced particularly on girls and women accused of adultery;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has condemned the death of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow and called on the United States Government to join other states in speaking out decisively in international fora against such grave human rights abuses; and

Whereas the United States Government continues to support the efforts of those working to transform the troubled region of Somalia through commitment to sound human rights practices, democratic and representative government, economic recovery, and lasting peace and reconciliation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the tragic and senseless death by stoning of Aisha Ibrahim Duhulow;

(2) urges the international community to join the Senate in speaking out against this brutal act; and

(3) urges the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia—

(A) to undertake robust efforts to protect women and children and to prevent acts of institutionalized violence against women in Somalia;

(B) to work to strengthen the rule of law as part of the effort by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia to establish its authority;

(C) to promote equal and fair treatment of women; and

(D) to end the culture of impunity in Somalia.

CONGRATULATING THE PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES ON WINNING THE 2008 WORLD SERIES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 712, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 712) congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to submit a resolution congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series. On October 29, 2008, the Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4 to 3 in Game 5 to secure a World Series title for the first time since 1980 and second time in team history.

This historic victory was the culmination of a hard-fought 2008 regular season and an exhilarating postseason run for the Phillies. On September 27, the Phillies beat the Washington Nationals to clinch the National League East Division for the second consecutive year. They would go on to defeat the Milwaukee Brewers and Los Angeles Dodgers in the Division Series and National League Championship Series, respectively, to advance to their first World Series since 1993.

In the World Series, the Phillies faced a young and talented Tampa Bay Rays team, led by Manager, and Pennsylvania native, Joe Maddon. With strong performances from their starting pitchers, an outstanding bullpen and well-timed hitting, the Phillies beat the Rays in five games to clinch the title.

On behalf of the Senate and as an ardent Phillies fan myself, I congratulate the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series and bringing to my hometown of Philadelphia a major sports championship for the first time in 25 years. In particular, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to manager Charlie Manuel, who, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, has guided this young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball. Further due special recognition is 24-year-old pitcher Cole Hamels, who was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and World Series with a 4–0 record and 1.80 earned run average in the postseason.

Also deserving of much praise are the 2008 American League Championship Rays. Though they had endured 10 consecutive losing seasons and the worst record in baseball last season, the Rays won their division and the 2008 American League Championship Series. The Rays have a bright future and I wish them continued success.

Finally, and perhaps more importantly, I congratulate all Phillies fans, who could finally enjoy that parade

down Broad Street they so well deserve. Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for and devotion to Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship. While we have a reputation of being somewhat rough around the edges, Philadelphia fans are enthusiastic about sports and fiercely loyal to our teams. We also have a reputation for not resting on our laurels and demanding a lot from those players and coaches privileged to wear our teams' uniforms. I therefore urge my Phillies to keep fighting and bring home another title next year.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions, to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 712) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 712

Whereas, on October 29, 2008, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series;

Whereas the 4 to 3 Phillies victory in Game 5 of the Fall Classic secured for Philadelphia a World Series title for the first time since 1980, and for the second time in team history;

Whereas the Tampa Bay Rays deserve congratulations for a stellar 2008 season, in which, after 10 consecutive losing seasons, they posted a regular season record of 97–65 and won the American League Championship Series;

Whereas Tampa Bay Rays Manager and Hazelton, Pennsylvania-native Joe Maddon established himself as among the premier managers in Major League Baseball during the 2008 season, and aptly was named American League Manager of the Year;

Whereas Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for, and devotion to, Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship;

Whereas, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel has guided the young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball;

Whereas recently retired General Manager Pat Gillick, who joined the Phillies in 2006, played an integral role in assembling the World Series-winning team;

Whereas 24-year old pitcher Cole Hamels was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and the World Series, with a 4–0 record and 1.80 Earned Run Average in the post-season;

Whereas starting pitchers Cole Hamels, Brett Myers, Joe Blanton, and Souderton, Pennsylvania-native Jamie Moyer delivered outstanding performances throughout the post-season;

Whereas the Phillies' bullpen distinguished itself as among the greatest in Major League Baseball, particularly closer Brad Lidge, who finished the 2008 season with 48 out of 48 save opportunities, including the final game of the World Series;

Whereas the Phillies were led by a talented and tough group of players including: 2006 MVP Ryan Howard; All-Star Chase Utley; 2007 MVP and 2007 and 2008 Gold Glove winner Jimmy Rollins; third baseman Pedro Feliz; veteran outfielder Pat Burrell; 2008 Gold Glove winner, the ''Flyin' Hawaiian'', Shane Victorino; outfielder Jayson Werth; and catcher Carlos Ruiz;

Whereas numerous reserve players made significant contributions to the Phillies' World Series title run, including Geoff Jenkins, Chris Coste, Eric Bruntlett, Greg Dobbs, and Matt Stairs; and

Whereas more than 1,000,000 fans packed the streets of Philadelphia on October 31, 2008 for a parade along Market and Broad Streets ending at Citizens Bank Park;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Philadelphia Phillies for winning the 2008 World Series;

(B) the Phillies manager, coaches, and support staff, whose commitment to the Phillies franchise has sustained this proud organization and allowed the team to reach the pinnacle of success in 2008;

(C) all Phillies fans, whose tenacity, perseverance, and enthusiasm are matched only by that of the team to which the fans are dedicated; and

(D) the Tampa Bay Rays on an outstanding 2008 season; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Phillies manager Charlie Manuel;

(B) Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro, Jr.;

(E) Phillies advisor Pat Gillick.

CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 713, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 713) calling on all parties to the escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire and work with the support of the international community toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to this crisis.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over recent weeks, eastern Congo has been making international headlines since new fighting broke out between the Congolese military and rebels loyal to General Laurent Nkunda. The rebels overran several government military bases and major towns as they surrounded the strategic city of Goma. Meanwhile, the Congolese military—a feckless force that often rapes and pillages the very people it is meant to protect—retreated, leaving UN peacekeepers to fend off the rebels' advance and attempt to protect civilians. Fortunately, the rebels stopped before marching on Goma, but the situation remains extremely volatile.

I traveled last year to the very region, North Kivu Province, where this violence is taking place and saw firsthand the grave suffering of people who have lived through a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis. The numbers are staggering: an estimated 5.4 million deaths over the last decade and 1,500 people still dying each day. In addition, millions have been displaced from their homes, living in squalid camps where children are subject to forced recruitment and women suffer unspeakable levels of sexual violence.

In my travels to many parts of Africa over the years, the suffering of women and girls in eastern Congo particularly stands out. I met with women and girls who had been gang raped, often leaving them with irreparable physical and psychological damage. I met with women who had lost their husbands, their homes, and their livelihoods and yet against all odds they refused to give up—if only for the sake of their children. There may be no worse place to be female than eastern Congo. And yet it is the strength of these women that continues to give hope.

The renewed fighting in eastern Congo is worrisome not only because it will further exacerbate this humanitarian tragedy, but also because it risks engulfing the neighboring countries in a new regional war. Last month, the Congolese Government accused Rwanda of sending troops across the border in support of Nkunda's forces. The rebels in turn have recently alleged that Angolan and even Zimbabwean troops are supporting the Congolese military. Despite vows by these governments to avoid another regional conflict, tensions remain high. It is not hard to imagine a minor incident sparking a repeat of 1998 when at least six neighboring countries were drawn into Congo's war.

Such a scenario would destabilize the Great Lakes region of Africa. Over recent years, the United States and our international partners have made significant investments—both financial and diplomatic—to assist in consolidating peace and restoring the rule of law in this region. No one wants to see those investments lost and the progress made reversed, and we may not have to. If we take bold and strategic action now, we can prevent a new regional conflict and revive the peace process in eastern Congo.

I was pleased that our top diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Frazer, traveled to the region with high-level diplomats from the UK and France 2 weeks ago. In addition, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened an emergency summit of regional leaders in Nairobi. But this diplomatic engagement must remain consistent and get all key actors, including Rwanda, to commit to a clear roadmap for implementing the already signed peace agreements. To be successful, we must also establish monitoring and verification mechanisms to hold the parties accountable and challenge the continued culture of impunity.

At the same time, while achieving a political solution is vital to ending the crisis in eastern Congo, the international community should also take measures to help protect civilians and enforce a ceasefire in the short term. The UN Secretary General has called for an additional 3,000 troops and police specially trained and equipped for rapid response to reinforce the peacekeeping force in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC. The United States and other Security Council members should act immediately to fulfill those requests. In addition, the Security Council should clarify MONUC's mandate to prioritize civilian protection and conflict prevention in the east and ensure it is implemented equally by all brigades. A renewed MONUC will not only save lives, but can also deter military involvement from neighboring countries.

Ultimately though, lasting peace in eastern Congo and the wider region will require measures to transform the underlying causes of conflict. The continued exploitation of Congo's rich mineral base, particularly cassiterite, coltan, and gold, makes war a profitable enterprise. The international community should work with governments in the region to bring greater transparency and regulation to the trade in these minerals. The next administration and Congress must look seriously at how the United States can contribute meaningfully to this process as it is a critical step toward the larger goal of reforming Congo's economic and political institutions.

Congo has vast potential and its stability can have a positive impact across Africa. We have made notable progress in that direction over recent years, but we are once again standing at a precipice. In the face of a potential regional war, we can no longer rely on piecemeal tactics and half-measures. It is time for a comprehensive and concerted international effort to ensure protection and basic rights for all Congo's people. It is for that reason that I am today introducing a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in eastern Congo and a comprehensive solution to this crisis. I am pleased to introduce this resolution with the distinguished senior Senator from Kansas, who has long been a champion on this issue, and I hope our colleagues will join us in this urgent plea for peace.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 713) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 713

Whereas the Democratic Republic of Congo was devastated by civil wars lasting from 1996 to 1997 and 1998 to 2003, spawning some of the world's worst human rights violations and involving at least 6 neighboring countries;

Whereas, despite the signing of a peace agreement and subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces in 2003, eastern Congo has continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, insecurity, and absent or inadequate institutions, allowing armed and criminal groups to operate freely;

Whereas continuing abuses committed by the national military against civilians in Congo and apparent ties between the military and armed groups in the region have tainted attempts to restore the rule of law in the eastern region of the country;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Rescue Committee released in January 2008, the conflict and related humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo have taken the lives of an estimated 5,400,000 people since 1998 and continue to cause as many as 45,000 deaths each month;

Whereas sexual violence and rape remain a pervasive tool of warfare used by all parties in eastern Congo to terrorize communities, affecting hundreds of thousands of women and girls and frequently resulting in traumatic fistula and other severe genital injuries;

Whereas the continued plunder and trade of eastern Congo's rich mineral base, notably cassiterite, coltan, and gold, by armed groups and members of the national military make war profitable and undermine peace efforts;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda signed the Nairobi Communiqué in November 2007, committing to work together to address the continued activity of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and other armed groups operating in their shared border region;

Whereas, on January 23, 2008, with the active support of the international community, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 22 armed groups in the eastern region signed the Goma accord, committing to an immediate ceasefire and buffer zones for troop disengagement and ultimately disarmament;

Whereas these agreements together provided the first working framework in years for peace and lasting stability in eastern Congo, but a continued culture of impunity and suspicion has impeded their implementation;

Whereas the United Nations reported more than 200 violations of these agreements between January and July of 2008, as well as 2,000 cases of rape and hundreds of people killed;

Whereas hate speech inciting ethnic violence by local and national leaders in Congo continued during this period, feeding the concerns and perceived insecurity of minority Tutsi communities;

Whereas, since August 28, 2008, fighting has resumed in North Kivu Province between the national military and the forces of General Laurent Nkunda, known as the National Congress for the Defense of the People, the latter of which has taken control of several government military bases and major towns around the city of Goma;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 250,000 people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of this renewed fighting in eastern Congo, often without access to shelter, water, food, and medicine, and adding to the over 1,000,000 people already displaced from North and South Kivu;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing resentment and protests by local communities;

Whereas allegations of troops from Angola, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe crossing into eastern Congo have strained existing regional tensions and increased fears of a wider war that could draw other countries from the region into the fighting, as happened in 1998;

Whereas the United Nations' Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Alan Doss, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have called for more troops and better capabilities for MONUC to stop the rebel offensive and protect civilians;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7, 2008, and convened a summit of regional leaders, including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which led to a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of humanitarian corridors; and

Whereas, in 2006, Congress passed the Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 22, 2006 (Public Law 109–456), stating that it is the policy of the United States to work for peace and security throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo by supporting efforts to protect civilians, to disarm illegal armed groups, and to hold accountable individuals, entities, and countries working to destabilize the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the continuing violence, forcible recruitment of children as soldiers, and abuses against civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo;

(2) calls on the national military in Congo, the National Congress for the Defense of the People, and all armed groups operating in eastern Congo to cease hostilities, end all human rights abuses, and respect an immediate ceasefire based on the principles of the Goma agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet its obligations under the Lusaka Agreement of 1999, the Pretoria Agreement of 2002, and the Nairobi Communiqué of 2007 to take action to end the threat posed by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda;

(4) calls on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda—

(A) to fully restore bilateral relations;

(B) to work together to mitigate escalating tensions in the region; and

(C) to break any ties that still exist between them and illegal armed groups in eastern Congo;

(5) calls on all governments in the Great Lakes region of Africa and those of the Southern African Development Community to support a peaceful resolution to the crisis while ensuring that the volatile situation does not spark a wider regional war;

(6) supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, his newly appointed United Nations Special Envoy, former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, and the international facilitation team to bring all parties to the negotiating table and establish a clear roadmap to implement the signed peace agreements;

(7) encourages the international community to take immediate measures to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in Congo to protect civilians, specifically through increased troops and additional capabilities as requested by the Secretary-General;

(8) urges the President to sustain high-level diplomatic engagement together with the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations to avert a wider regional war and revive a comprehensive peace process in eastern Congo;

(9) urges the United States and the international community to develop and support monitoring and verification mechanisms that can hold the parties in Congo accountable to the signed peace agreements, investigate alleged ceasefire violations, and ultimately challenge the continued culture of impunity in Congo; and

(10) urges the President and the international community to adopt measures to help the regional governments to identify and ultimately address the factors underlying the conflict in eastern Congo, especially weak governance and the exploitation of the region's lucrative minerals.

HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY WORKERS IN CALIFORNIA IN 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 714, which was submitted earlier today by Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 714) honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 714) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 714

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning strikes burned approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California's recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;

Whereas many firefighters were injured and 14 firefighters tragically lost their lives in California in 2008;

Whereas 25,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel from California, 41 other States, and other nations worked side-by-side to fight the wildfires;

Whereas members of the National Guard from California and other States provided essential support to the firefighting effort; and

Whereas the people of California and the United States recognize the steadfast dedication of the firefighters throughout the ongoing fire suppression and subsequent repair and rebuilding efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the firefighters and emergency workers from California, 41 other States, and other nations for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires in California;

(2) supports the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public lands, and private property from further damage;

(3) praises the people of California for their great courage in the face of the fires; and

(4) extends heartfelt sympathy to the people who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in the wildfires.

SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolutione be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 715

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 105 of the One Hundred First Congress, 1st session (agreed to on April 13, 1989), as amended by Senate Resolution 149 of the One Hundred Third Congress, 1st session (agreed to on October 5, 1993), as further amended by Senate Resolution 75 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 1st session (agreed to on March 25, 1999), as further amended by Senate Resolution 383 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 2d session (agreed to on October 27, 2000), as further amended by Senate Resolution 355 of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, 2d session (agreed to on November 13, 2002), as further amended by Senate Resolution 480 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, 2d session (agreed to November 20, 2004), and as further amended by Senate Resolution 625 of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, 2d Session (agreed to on December 6, 2006), is further amended in section 4 by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2010''.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110–23

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 20, 2008, by the President of the United States: Investment Treaty with Rwanda, Treaty Document No. 110–23. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

This is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded between the United States and a sub-Saharan African country since 1998. The Treaty will help to promote cross-border investment by providing legal protections for investors of each country for their investments in the other country. The Treaty underscores the shared commitment of both countries to open investment and trade policies.

Rwanda has opened its economy, improved its business climate, and embraced trade and investment as a means to boost economic development and help alleviate poverty. The U.S.-Rwanda BIT will reinforce these efforts.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy to secure protections for U.S. investment abroad and to welcome foreign investment in the United States. Under this Treaty, the Parties agree to accord national treatment and most-favored nation treatment to investments. They also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation in the event of expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; prohibitions on nationality based restrictions for the hiring of senior managers; and the opportunity for investors to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also

includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations and commitments to transparency in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 20, 2008*.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Mr. Peter Videnieks of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2010.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the following days and times for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted: Monday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, November 26 at 10 a.m.; Saturday, November 29 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.; and that when the Senate recesses on Friday, it stand in recess until 3 p.m., Monday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, over the next few weeks, Senators will be continuing to negotiate a bill to provide assistance to the auto industry. If an agreement is reached—for the information of the Members—the Senate will turn to its consideration when the Senate returns on December 8.

That is a message from the majority leader, Senator REID.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:03 p.m., recessed until Monday, November 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DAVID J. STRAWMAN, OF ILLINOIS
DAVID J. STRAWMAN, OF ILLINOIS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. ROGERS

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASIF J. CHAUDHRY AND ENDING WITH ALAN D. HRAPSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN AND ENDING WITH CAPTAIN MICHAEL N. PARKS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE W. RYAN AND ENDING WITH RYAN A. WARTICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. COLEGROVE AND ENDING WITH FAITH C. OPATRNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

RICARDO H. HINOJOSA, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2013.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

GENE ALLAN CRETZ, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

DOUGLAS D. RANDALL, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

RAY M. BOWEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

FRANCE A. CORDOVA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

G. P. PETERSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

BARBARA ERNST PREY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW T. MCKENNA AND ENDING WITH JOHN I. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL J. ANDREASON AND ENDING WITH ELAINE C. WOLFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

ALFRED S. IRVING, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

KATHRYN A. OBERLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 20, 2008:

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C. SECTION 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN

CAPTAIN WILLIAM D. LEE
CAPTAIN CHARLES D. MICHEL
CAPTAIN ROY A. NASH
CAPTAIN MICHAEL N. PARKS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GENE ALLAN CRETZ, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO LIBYA.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BARBARA ERNST PREY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2014.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

DOUGLAS D. RANDALL, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

RAY M. BOWEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

FRANCE A. CORDOVA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

G. P. PETERSON, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2014.

THE JUDICIARY

ALFRED S. IRVING, JR., OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

KATHRYN A. OBERLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

RICARDO H. HINOJOSA, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2013.

WILLIAM B. CARR, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2011.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASIF J. CHAUDHRY AND ENDING WITH AALAN D. HRAPSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE W. RYAN AND ENDING WITH RYAN A. WARTICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. COLEGROVE AND ENDING WITH FAITH C. OPATRNY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL J. ANDREASON AND ENDING WITH ELAINE C. WOLFF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2008.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EUGENE J. BLOUNT

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 Bishop Eugene J. Blount. Bishop Blount has, from an early age, always placed a devotion to community betterment and a passion for Christ and his church at the forefront of every endeavor he has undertaken.

Bishop Eugene J. Blount, in 1990, joined the Elim International Fellowship, where he introduced a renewed enthusiasm for the scriptures and an appreciation for the supernatural, serving in the prophetic ministry as one of the ''King's Seers'' and as Chief of Staff in the full time ministry under the leadership of Archbishop Wilbert S. McKinley, where he molded and implemented the mission of the church.

Bishop Eugene J. Blount, an outstanding and well-respected member of the Brooklyn clergy, will undoubtedly prove to be a tremendous asset to the Bedford-Stuyvesant community as he is consecrated as a Bishop of the Elim International Fellowship.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Bishop Eugene J. Blount for his extraordinary accomplishments and to congratulate him on his consecration at the Elim International Fellowship.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Bishop Eugene J. Blount.

HONORING IWAN SHULJAK

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iwan Shuljak of Cleveland, Ohio who passed away October 6, 2008. This record stands as first published in the *Ukrainian Weekly*, November 2, 2008, written by Andrew Fedynsky. In addition to this beautiful narrative of the life of Iwan Shuljak, I fondly remember his warm smile and welcoming heart. He will be missed by his family, friends and the entire Ukrainian-American community. May his generous and loving spirit be comfortable at its final resting place.

''This is a fairytale, only the story is true. And because it's true, it ends with death, but it's a fairytale and therefore has a happy ending. It's about an elderly man who devoted his life to Ukrainian Culture and how the global village cared for him.

I first met Iwan Schuljak in the early 1960s at the Plast Scouting Home in Cleveland where he was the live-in caretaker. Twenty-five years later, he was still there when I returned to Cleveland to become director of the Ukrainian Museum-Archives (UMA), which had purchased the building from Plast.

In 1987 the UMA was adrift. Having been in the Tremont neighborhood for a century, the Ukrainian community left for the suburbs after highway construction demolished half the houses and nearby factories were closing. UMA leaders had either passed away or retired. And so, a staggering collection of memorabilia, documents, books and artifacts was sitting neglected in an aging wooden building in a neighborhood where the major industry had become arson and insurance fraud.

Mr. Schuljak lived in a spare room on the second floor. Invariably, he sat on the porch reading or prowled the streets of Tremont to let people know the UMA was viable and someone was caring for it. In the winter he shoveled the snow; in the summer, he mowed the grass; throughout the year, he cleaned and was there to welcome the occasional visitor.

I was 39 years old and ready for a change after nearly a decade on Capitol Hill. My father had been UMA director and I felt an obligation to help preserve his legacy. And so, with old friends like Ihor Kowalysko and new ones like Vlodko Storozynsky, we started working on the collection and raising the profile of the institution.

At the age of 76, Mr. Schuljak welcomed the changes and made appropriate accommodations. He announced that he was now restricting his garlic to weekends only and told me that I was to avoid it altogether. People were noticing, he said, and we had to present a certain image.

Before long, the world around us changed dramatically: communism collapsed and Tremont began gentrifying. The arsonists went to jail, and urban pioneers were restoring historic buildings, opening art galleries, coffee shops and restaurants. Developers built townhouses and condominiums. And the UMA was part of all that, with young volunteers and board members. Throughout, Mr. Schuljak was a mainstay: not only a caretaker, but also an advisor, a confidant and a beloved figure in the neighborhood.

He had a thousand stories: you know the guy at the Friendly Bar with no fingers on his left hand? Back in the 1930s, the NKVD demanded he turn his gold over to the state. He didn't have any, he said, so they chopped off a finger and kept on until they were finally persuaded he was telling the truth . . . The macabre punch line: the joke was on them! He had the gold all along, and it's still there, buried in the ground. The guy hated the Communists so much he wouldn't give them the satisfaction.

Well, Mr. Schuljak, the son of farmers, hated them too. When communism came and with it collectivization and famine, he became a ''class enemy.'' Arrested and brutally interrogated, he carried scars the rest of his life where a Chekist cracked his skull with a revolver, depriving him of hearing in his right ear.

Once the Terror subsided, Mr. Schuljak was released to work on the railroad. When the Nazis invaded in 1941, he, along with 2 million other Ukrainians, was forced to work in the German economy. His blue and white OST patch identifying him as a slave is now part of the UMA collection. When the war ended, Mr. Schuljak wisely decided to immigrate to America. There, he maintained contact with his family, exchanging letters and phone calls, sending them money.

As he reached his mid-80s, Mr. Schuljak was slowing down and the village in Cleveland began to pay attention to his plight. Daria Sopka, who worked at the UMA, signed him up for the Cuyahoga County Passport Program for the elderly. Lida, a young immigrant from Lviv, assisted Mr. Schuljak with everyday needs, shopping, etc. At MetroHealth, nurses, doctors and Ukrainian interpreters knew him by name.

Then in January 2007, he slipped and broke his leg. The leg healed, but at 95, he could no longer live unassisted and Myron Pakush—also with the UMA—arranged for him to be admitted to Avon Oaks, a nursing home owned and operated by the Reidys, Ukrainian Americans from Lorain County.

Not having heard from him for some time, Mr. Schuljak's family became concerned and called. When they learned what had happened, they immediately offered to take care of him in Ukraine. Well, Avon Oaks is a gracious and caring community and he had regular visitors, especially Father John Nakonachny from St. Vladimir's Cathedral, but it was still a nursing home and Mr. Schuljak was ecstatic at the prospect of ''going home.''

But there was a problem: he had never become an American citizen and since Ukraine did not exist when he was born, he wasn't a citizen of that country either. So he couldn't get a passport.

I explained the situation to Ukraine's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Oleh Shamshur, who directed his consular office to help. To establish that Mr. Schuljak had been born in what is today Ukraine, his relatives retrieved his birth certificate from 1911. He also needed an updated ''green card.'' Alerted to the urgency of his case, the Department of Homeland Security turned things around in less than a week. Ukraine's honorary consul for Ohio, Andrew Futey, and Roman Andarak at the Embassy in D.C. did the rest and earlier this year, Mr. Schuljak became a Ukrainian citizen. In June, accompanied by Ihor Mychkovsky, he arrived in Kyiv to meet his relatives. His life had come full circle.

Because he was nobody's responsibility, Mr. Schuljak became everyone's. People all over helped out, making amends, in a way, for how brutally he'd been treated in the first half of his life and repaying him in part for his dedication and selflessness. He died on October 6, and is buried within walking distance of where he was born.''

HONORING ROBERT AYERS GOULD, SR.

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement after twelve years of service on the City Council of Athens, Texas, where he has overseen many projects benefiting his community.

After graduating from Athens High School in 1957, Bob joined the United States Navy where he served aboard the USS *Coral Sea*. Following an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Athens where he opened the Gould Insurance Agency in 1962, which he has owned and operated for over forty years.

Among his many civic activities, Bob has been the Director and Vice-President of the Athens Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Charter Director for the Henderson County YMCA. He has also received many awards from his community including the Roadhand Award from the Texas Highway Commission and the Athens Citizen of the Year Award in 1984.

In addition to faithfully serving his community, Bob is a husband to Mrs. Peggy Lorene Lubben Gould, and father of four children: Robert Jr., Joseph, Patricia, and Mary.

I want to recognize Bob for his service and commitment to his community. Due to Bob's leadership in the city and throughout the business community, Athens remains a strong, supportive, and vibrant community.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 5th District of Texas, it is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Robert Ayers Gould, Sr. on his retirement from the City Council and thank him for a job well done.

HONORING PHILADELPHIA'S PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, an extraordinary win-win development has recently expanded and enriched the cultural scene in the City of Philadelphia. And it is thrilling for countless youngsters across our region.

Philadelphia has always been remarkable for its museum experiences, from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Franklin Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences, to museums that interpret the history and origins of our nation and liberty, museums that extol the experiences of African Americans, Jewish Americans, Polish Americans and many, many more.

But there is nothing quite like the Please Touch Museum for hands-on, visceral (and subtly educational) appeal to our youngest and most curious citizens. Please Touch has been the must-stop for youngsters and young-at-heart adults since it opened in 1976 not far from Philadelphia's museum-chocked Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Its name was Rule One. Everything was up-close and available. No longer did parents have to tell their kids, ''Don't touch that!'' Please Touch moved and expanded several times, but inevitably, its popularity outpaced every new location.

Meanwhile stately Memorial Hall, grand icon and last vestige of the world-shattering 1876 Centennial Exhibition, stood almost unused and slowly deteriorating in Fairmount Park, a few miles to the west.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Nancy Kolb, the search for a new home for Please Touch began in earnest a decade ago. When a riverfront plan failed to materialize, the search turned to Memorial Hall. A landmark agreement among the City of Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Commission and Please Touch resulted in an 80-year lease signed in 2005, and the project was underway.

On October 18, 2008, the ''new'' Memorial Hall, fresh from an $88 million renovation, opened its doors as home for the dramatically expanded, 38,000 square foot Please Touch Museum. At the same time, Please Touch won coveted accreditation by the American Association of Museums, one of just 775 institutions out of the nation's 17,500 museums to be currently accredited.

Please Touch now joins the nearby Philadelphia Zoo and other attractions—as well as Fairmount Park itself—in the exciting Centennial District of West Philadelphia. The October 18 official opening drew a record attendance, and the crowds keep on coming—to ride the century-old restored carousel or the monorail, to ''drive'' a kid-size SEPTA bus, to ''shop'' in a scaled down ShopRite grocery store (complete with checkout counters), to float water duckies, to visit Fairytale Garden and Alice's wonderland adventures . . .

And always, always to ''Please Touch.''

TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY COLLEGE TRUSTEES CHUCK BEEMAN AND ALLEN GRESHAM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like today to pay special tribute to San Bernardino Community College District Trustees Chuck Beeman and Allen Gresham, who over the past several decades have overseen the rapid growth and maturing of the major community colleges in my district in California.

A respected attorney in San Bernardino County, Allen Gresham was first elected as college trustee in 1971 and is now the third-longest-serving in California. Chuck Beeman, a retired pharmacist and owner of Beeman's Pharmacy, was appointed to the board in 1983. The two men are leaving the board this year after a combined 62 years of public service.

While they have been on the board, the district's two campuses have grown significantly—now serving more than 18,000 students with nearly 500 full- and part-time faculty members. Since Allen Gresham joined the board, more than 150,000 students have received degrees and certificates. The two campuses—San Bernardino Valley College and Crafton Hills College—have two of the most diverse student bodies in California.

As the student body has grown, Mr. Gresham and Mr. Beeman have led the board of trustees in meeting their needs through a continuing building program that has expanded and significantly modernized both campuses. With the help of Federal Emergency Management Agency earthquake mitigation funding, Valley College has completely remade its central facilities, building a new library, Health and Human Sciences Building, administration building and a 37,000–square-foot Campus Center. A new art building with a modern gallery—named in honor of Clara and Allen Gresham for their devotion to art—opened last year.

At Crafton Hills College, ground was recently broken for a new library and learning resource center, as well as a new swimming center. The district has also built a new central headquarters at the former Norton Air Force Base and upgraded facilities for its public-access television and radio station, KVCR—which provides the only broadcast local news for San Bernardino County. In addition, the college district has opened a nationally-recognized academy at the former air base to give firefighters hands-on training in dealing with jet fuel and aircraft fires.

Madam Speaker, wary California taxpayers have turned back construction bond measures for many cities and school districts in recent years. But thanks in large part to the leadership of Allen Gresham and Chuck Beeman, San Bernardino County taxpayers gave solid approval to a $190 million bond in 2002 and a $500 million bond just this year to continue the expansion of these fine college campuses.

In addition to academic excellence, the college district has won intercollegiate athletics championships in many sports. These accomplishments have especially delighted Chuck Beeman, who came within a fraction of a second of qualifying for the 1956 U.S. Olympic team and taught track at Valley College for many years. The college's track was named in Mr. Beeman's honor last year.

Madam Speaker, Allen Gresham and Chuck Beeman can look back with pride as they come to the end of their time on the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees. Please join me in saluting them for their decades of service to education and our community and wishing them well in their future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican leadership's policy on earmarks, I am requesting funding for Special Operations Forces Advanced Mission Planning Tools in fiscal year 2009, in H.R. 2638, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008, Continuing Resolution, from account 31 0603003A Aviation Advanced Technology. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Westar Aerospace & Defense Group, Inc., 4 Research Park Drive, St. Charles, MO 63304–5685. The funding would be used for the continued development of enterprise-enabled, integrated aviation tools and provide this ability to all Army aviation systems. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

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; (2) is not intended for a ''front'' or ''pass through'' entity; and (3) meets or exceeds all statutory requirements for matching funds where applicable. I further certify that should this request be included in the bill, I will place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of Federal taxpayer funds.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RONALD M. DAVIS

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 life of Dr. Ronald M. Davis, who sadly passed away on November 6 after a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer. A resident of Michigan's Eighth District in East Lansing, Dr. Davis will be sorely missed. Yet his legacy of service and compassion will never be forgotten.

First and foremost, Dr. Davis was a committed father and loving husband. He will also be remembered as a distinguished public health advocate throughout his entire career, most notably during his time as president of the American Medical Association. During his tenure at the American Medical Association, he worked tirelessly to promote public awareness of healthy lifestyles, encourage health insurance reform, and push doctors to reduce medical errors and improve patient care.

Even while suffering from a terminal illness, Dr. Davis fought to advance critical public health initiatives. A staunch opponent of smoking, Dr. Davis worked every day to save lives by promoting tobacco control. Over the years, Dr. Davis served the tobacco control community in numerous ways, including as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Office on Smoking and Health and as chief medical officer of the Michigan Department of Public Health. He was an expert witness in litigation against the tobacco industry and a National Cancer Institute-funded researcher. Dr. Davis was also the founding editor of the world's very first scientific journal dedicated to the field of tobacco control.

Through his cancer treatment, Dr. Davis continued to work diligently as a leader in the health care community. His remarks to the American Medical Association last year were particularly memorable and moving as he discussed his terminal illness, even joking about the baldness caused by his chemotherapy. In spite of the odds against someone with a diagnosis that included such a slim chance of long-term survival, Dr. Davis told his fellow physicians to ''never take away someone's hope.'' They agreed and cheered his courage.

As a cancer survivor myself, I understand the challenges Dr. Davis faced every day, and I deeply admire his indomitable spirit throughout such a difficult battle. He will be remembered as a remarkable leader and a determined public servant. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Nadine, their sons and entire family during this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. Ronald M. Davis. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration for his tremendous contributions to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO REND LAKE WARRIORS MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding group of young men attending Rend Lake College in Ina, Illinois. On November 8, 2008, Rend Lake Warriors Men's Cross Country Team placed fourth in the National Junior College Men's Cross Country Championship. After an impressive fourth place finish in 2007, the Warrior's trained hard during the 2008 season to maintain their spot in the top five cross country teams in the Nation.

The Warriors had an outstanding freshman on their team this year. Kenyan native Stephen Sambu, also an All-American, was the National Champion, or ''cross country king'' and helped lead the team to fourth place.

My congratulations go out to Coach Brent McLain on this great achievement. Most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the 2008 Men's Cross Country team: Dey Tuach, Bailey Bunyan, Scott Speare, James Noonan, James Gramtham, Stephen Sambu, and Clay Locke.

I congratulate them on their achievement, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ENID SALES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Enid Sales, a unique woman and a fierce fighter for historic preservation, who passed away at the age of 86. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 3, 1922, she moved to Carmel, California with her family when she was 10. She attended Reed College in Oregon and was married for awhile to jazz critic Grover Sales.

Enid operated a vineyard in Calistoga for 10 years. In 1962, she became the first woman in California to hold a state general contractor's license. In the mid–1970's she served as the head of the rehabilitation department of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. One of her most memorable accomplishments was organizing and moving 12 Victorian homes in a single night. She shut down the transit system and traffic lights and completed the entire job in time for the next morning's commute.

Enid moved back to Carmel in 1986. She was the first chairwoman of the city's Historic Resources Board and founded her own Carmel Preservation Foundation. She was also on the board of the Alliance of Monterey Area Preservationists. Her ''roll up her sleeves and take no prisoners'' approach is credited with saving Carmel's Sunset Center and the George Marsh Building in Monterey, as well as many of the original cottages that define Carmel's charm.

Enid's legacy is to be seen in the recent upswing of interest in ''heritage tourism.'' It was her vision that preserving our historic buildings would make good economic sense, and not be done just for esthetic or sentimental reasons. Enid was a giant in the world of historic preservation. Few people can maintain such fierce tenacity to fight through to the end against all odds. Enid Sales had that fighting spirit, and she will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Enid Sales for her dedication to preserving history. She is survived by her daughter Rachel Lopez, her grandchildren Esther and Valley, her sister-in-law Barbara Thompson, and her nephews Peter, Matthew, and John Thompson. We will all miss her dearly.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY GREEN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, every so often we encounter an individual who, wittingly or not, becomes a transformative figure—one who leaves a profound and permanent impact on countless lives and their community.

Dorothy Green, founder of Heal the Bay and one of the most influential environmental leaders in California in the last generation, was such a person.

An unlikely activist, Dorothy was a housewife and mother in the early 1970s when her brother was splattered with untreated sewage from an open drain at Ballona Creek, which runs directly into the Santa Monica Bay. Outraged, she convened a group of friends and activists in her living room to form what grew into the 15,000-member strong Heal the Bay. Under Dorothy's leadership, the organization has tackled everything from the health of marine life to oil spills to ocean water quality.

But Dorothy's vision was much broader than the view from her living room window. She also founded the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and the California Water Impact Network to educate Californians on water policy and to redefine how we use and think of water as a precious and limited resource.

I cannot remember when I first met Dorothy Green. But I do remember being told that if I wanted to run for Congress she was the lode star on water issues. And she was! No issue was too big or too small for her, as long as it has something to do with water. From storm drains to the Peripheral Canal, she knew about it all and inspired thousands to join and support her efforts to fix dysfunctional policies.

On October 13, 2008, Dorothy lost her battle with cancer. Yet her legacy will continue to motivate many. She fought for what she believed until the end. Five days before her death, she penned an op-ed piece from her hospice bed calling for sensible plans to preserve and treat the natural resource she spent her adult life defending.

I am proud to have known Dorothy Green as a friend and colleague. She always focused on getting things done and never accepted the status quo. A brilliant grassroots organizer, her friends—and adversaries—will all tell you of

her relentless spirit, and modesty. She would probably tell me get to work rather than offer this tribute, but she deserves every bit of praise. The people of California and our priceless environment have lost a dear friend. I assure you, Dorothy, we will fight on.

GEORGE A. BEACH, PHILADELPHIA'S PIONEERING CREATIVE COMMUNICATOR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting George A. Beach, a pioneering African-American businessman in Philadelphia, who is being honored for a half-century of achievement in the fields of design, advertising, graphics and public relations.

George Beach is founder and chairman of Beach Creative Communications, the nation's first and oldest African-American owned advertising agency—a firm whose name and motto summarize the Beach ''brand'' for creativity and communication: ''A full service agency providing creative solutions for today's diverse marketplace.''

George Beach has won numerous awards and commissions for his design and artistic flair, his business skills and his broad and generous reach into civic and charitable activities. Now he adds a new honor, as the African-American Chamber of Commerce in Philadelphia presents ''A Golden Tribute to George Beach,'' celebrating his 50 years in business, on Friday, November 21, 2008.

George Albert Beach was born in Harlem, New York City, on August 14, 1936. By the age of 10 he had moved with his family to Philadelphia, his adopted home town. His educational background stretches from Gratz High School and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia to Paris, where he studied at the L'Academie de la Grande Chaumiere and L'Alliance Francaise.

Already an artist and designer, George Beach became a young man of business in 1958 when, fresh from college, he founded the Creative Art and Design Studio as a groundbreaking minority enterprise. In another pioneering step, he was the first African American elected president of the Artist Guild of Delaware Valley, a position he held from 1964 to 1967. In 1970, he and two colleagues launched the fully illustrated African American Historical Calendar, which is marking publication of its 40th annual edition.

The Studio evolved into Beach Advertising in 1974, assuming its present name in 2001. The Beach roster of clients and accounts has included Pfizer U.S. Pharmaceuticals, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, the University of Pennsylvania, McDonald's, plus health firms, governmental agencies and public utilities.

George Beach's personal artistic work was impacted by the onset of rheumatoid arthritis. Pain and joint destruction forced him to set aside painting for a quarter century. But as with everything else in his achieving life, this became a challenge and an opportunity. Today, painting once again, Mr. Beach brings his special expertise to the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NAIMS), where he serves under appointment by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

And his career as an artist flourishes. He has completed a new series of oil on canvas paintings that include ''Indivisible,'' a haunting skeleton of the World Trade Center Towers embracing an American flag under a full moon, which has been exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Now, as his varied, productive career continues beyond the half-century mark, with wife Mary and sons Timothy and Matthew, George Albert Beach carries forward with his varied, productive career—always communicating, ever creative. He has earned the gratitude and admiration of Philadelphians and many beyond our city. Thank you, George.

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638.

Defense Division of H.R. 2638—OM, ARNG—Non-foam, Special Polymer Twin Hemisphere Pad Sets for Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops Helmet Retrofit Kits—$1,280,000.

Defense Division of H.R. 2638—OM, N—Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops Helmet Retrofit Kits to Sustain Navy IPE Pool—$1,120,000.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: SKYDEX Technologies, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12503 E. Euclid Drive, Suite 60, Centennial, Colorado 80111.

Description of Request: Both earmarks will address an unfunded requirement of the Army National Guard and the Navy to improve shock-absorption padding to retrofit helmets. The replacement material is a durable and protective polymer. This funding would build on roughly $2 million that has been allocated for this purpose over the last two years.

HONORING HARRY OVITT

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harry Ovitt, a resident and community leader from San Miguel, California, for his outstanding and exemplary service and leadership to the residents of San Luis Obispo County during his tenure as County Supervisor from 1989 through 2008.

Harry has been a longtime leader in local government who has established and participated in a extensive list of civic organizations, all in the pursuit of improving the community he represents. During his 19-year tenure on the Board of Supervisors, he served as Chairman in 1993, 1999, and 2004, and Vice-Chairman in 1992, 1998, and 2003. He also was active on various local boards, including the Children-At-Risk Task Force, the Mental Health Advisory Board, the Economic Vitality Committee, and the Resource Conservation District.

During his time on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, Harry devoted himself to many issues to improve the lives of the residents within the County. He worked to secure funds to help construct both the Heritage Ranch Fire Station and the Meridian Fire Station. He established the North County Government Center in Templeton, which has a Sheriff's Substation and a County Agricultural Office. He was also instrumental in bringing a new courthouse to Paso Robles.

Harry understood the importance of having adequate transportation infrastructure, and worked tirelessly to ensure residents had sufficient and safe roads as the County continued to grow. To that end, he has been a passionate advocate of making State Highway 46 safer for drivers through a widening project of this 2-lane highway as well as developing the North County Shuttle. He also worked to obtain mobile healthcare units, which visit communities around the County to provide basic medical services to residents so they do not have to incur the cost of traveling long distances to obtain medical services. Harry also worked to improve water quality and accessibility in the County. He formed the North County Water Forum, which examines the impacts of residential and agricultural development on the Paso Robles Water Basin, chaired the Lake Nacimiento Commission that has worked on the Nacimiento Water Pipeline Project, and is chairman of the North County Water Task Force.

Prior to serving on the County Board of Supervisors, Harry was a Paso Robles City Councilman, a member of the Paso Robles Airport Planning Commission, and a past chairman of the Paso Robles Planning Commission. In addition to the public offices he has held, Harry always remained active in the local community. He was the Elks Club Citizen of the Year in the late 1980s and an Outstanding Jaycee of the Year. He was also a member of the Paso Robles Historical Society, the Santa Lucia Boy Scouts Executive Council, the Paso Robles Trail Riders, and a past chairman of the United Way North County Campaign. He is also a founder of the Clark-Ovitt Foundation, a nonprofit organization that has served the County since 1992.

A true mark of leadership is the generosity of time and talents that one gives on behalf of his neighbors and community. Harry Ovitt exemplifies this time-honored tradition. I commend Harry for his service and leadership in San Luis Obispo County, and wish him well.

HONORING WILLIAM NEUFELD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congressmen RADANOVICH, to congratulate William Neufeld upon his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr.

Neufeld will be honored at the 50th anniversary enshrinement dinner of the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 6, 2008.

Born third in a family of nine children in the Ukraine at the turn of the 20th century, William Neufeld moved to the United States and blossomed into a world-class track and field performer in the javelin and other throwing events. His father, a Mennonite minister, eventually settled the family in Reedley, California, where the 6-foot-2, 201-pound teenager played football, basketball, baseball and track and field in high school while earning money working in the fields. He went to Bethel College in Kansas where he played basketball and starred in track and field. Mr. Neufeld then decided to follow his brother Henry to the University of California, Berkley. It was a perfect match, as he dominated the throwing events and led the Bears to the national collegiate title in 1923.

The following year, Mr. Neufeld won the discus title at the collegiate nationals, but he was just getting started. He won the javelin competition at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by more than five feet, throwing for 191½ feet. Following a week-long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, he placed fifth in the javelin in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. William Neufeld was a familiar face at many Olympics to follow.

After coaching at Riverside College and Harvard, Mr. Neufeld entered the Navy during World War II and later returned to Harvard as the Director of Physical Education. When Neufeld's competitive career ended, he traveled the globe as a coach and athletics liaison for the U.S. State Department. He served as a liaison to the 1952 Japanese Olympic team and also coached sports in Iran, Taiwan and Africa. Mr. Neufeld passed away at the age of ninety-one in Riverside, California in 1992.

Madam Speaker, we rise today to posthumously honor William Neufeld's achievements and for his induction into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in offering my congratulations in memory of Mr. Neufeld's many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA KREBS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Virginia Krebs, my former colleague on the Johnson County Community College Board, JCCC, who recently stepped down from that position at the age of 89.

My tenure on the JCCC overlapped with Virginia Krebs for 6 years in the 1990s. She is truly a distinguished public servant whose concern for our community has benefited her friends in neighbors, both in tangible and intangible ways, since the 1960s. Today, Sun Publications of Johnson County posted an editorial reflecting on her distinguished service and an article detailing some of the ways in which she served Johnson County and the JCCC over the past several decades. These two pieces tell her story much better than could I. I include them in the RECORD for review by the House membership and wish my good friend, Virginia Krebs, many happy returns on her long-delayed retirement, although I am certain she will continue to find ways of being indispensable to the JCCC and Johnson County.

[From Sun Publications, Nov. 19, 2008]

A MODEL FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The departure of Virginia Krebs from the Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees is a reminder of her long and distinguished service to the college. Her leadership, from JCCC's beginning, helped bring it recognition as one of the nation's most prestigious community colleges.

Actually, her dedication predates the life of the college. Krebs served on the task force, appointed by the county commission in 1963, to examine the feasibility of a community college here. That three-year chore led to establishment of the college district and, in 1967, voter approval of a tax to support it.

Rather than running for the board of trustees, as she was urged to do, Krebs signed on as the first employee, a part-time job as the board secretary. Later she became special assistant to the governing body. In that role she worked closely with the trustees in forming the mission and fundamental objectives of the college, along with the hiring of its first president.

Her career at the college mirrored the widespread entry of women into the professions and work force. She was in her late 40s and the mother of four sons, two of them elementary school age and younger, in the early years of her time at the college. She knew from personal experience the needs of working women.

As the college's director of community services—its first—in the 1970s and '80s, Krebs played a major part in creating one of the most highly respected continuing education programs in the Midwest.

Her awareness of societal and economic changes led to creation of a program for women who, having raised their families, were interested in work outside the home. It helped prepare women for a new career.

Krebs was on the leading edge of many activities that enriched our cultural and intellectual life. She helped organize the first county arts council, a JCCC ''Evening With the Stars,'' an astronomy venture for the public, and a speakers bureau that arranged for faculty members to appear at meetings of civic, service and community groups.

A year after she retired from the college in 1984, Krebs found another way to serve. She ran for and was elected to the JCCC Board of Trustees. Voters returned her to the board six times, the most recent in 2005. She retired in mid-October.

As a trustee, Krebs drew from her experience on the faculty to bring the needs of continuing education to the board. She was known as a good listener, well-read and with the ability to analyze issues with keen insight. She was not a frequent speaker at trustee meetings, but when she spoke, her comments were considered a valuable addition to the discussion and decision at hand.

Virginia Krebs has been an imaginative, innovative force in this community. She deserves our praise and gratitude.

[From Sun Publications, Nov. 19, 2008]

RETIRING JCCC ICON WILL BE MISSED

(By Kristin Babcock)

The history book about Johnson County Community College is dedicated to her. As Charles Bishop, professor emeritus at the college, researched and wrote the book, one influential name appeared more than any other: Virginia Krebs.

''Dedicating it to her was a very easy decision,'' Bishop said. ''When I looked at the history, she was someone who was instrumental from the beginning. There was no easier choice than Virginia Krebs.''

Krebs, who became the college's first employee in 1967, recently resigned from her position on the college's Board of Trustees. Krebs, who turned 89 this year, said she was ready to stop driving to meetings. She also hopes to become more involved in her retirement community, she said.

''It was not any big thing, and I still hope to do some things with the college,'' Krebs said.

Her desire to be involved started in childhood, Krebs said. In grade school she started her own civics clubs.

In adulthood she helped form and lead several parent-teacher associations. She served as program chair for Kansas State PTA. She served on state task forces to revise state school codes and to consolidate area school districts.

''She just always had interest in organizing,'' Virginia's son Fred Krebs said. ''There was always an emphasis of trying to group things that brought people together in the community. The community college came along and they were born to meet.''

In 1963, the board of county commissioners appointed Virginia to study the feasibility of building a community college in Johnson County. In 1967, county voters approved a taxing district to fund the college. Before the college had its own buildings, Virginia became the college's first employee as assistant to the first board of trustees.

''Community colleges were kind of the new kid on the block in the '60s and '70s,'' Bishop said. ''She always had her ears to the community and tuned into the higher-end world as well. She did a nice job of marrying higher education and community needs.''

Those marriages were seen most prominently when Virginia became JCCC's director of community services in 1969. Under her leadership, organizations formed to include senior citizens, art supporters and community civic groups. Through her efforts, students, children and adults found a place to be involved, educated and entertained at the college.

''She is kind of a matriarch of Johnson County Community College,'' Charles Carlsen, former JCCC president, said. ''She was well-networked and promoted relationships between groups and the college.''

Some groups Virginia called ''among the most interesting'' were programs that helped women educate themselves to enter the working world in the 1960s and 1970s.

''It helped ease the transition for literally hundreds of women in the county,'' Bishop said.

Virginia also helped form a speakers bureau at the college. Professors spoke to civic organizations about a variety of topics. Although it involved extra work with no extra pay for professors, they would volunteer when she asked, Bishop said.

''A lot of professors like to squirrel down in their office and read books, and she got them to get out there,'' Bishop said. ''Her arms were long and her grip was wide. She reached out to aspects of the community, involved people and got you in there. She has a fire in her belly when she needs to.''

Virginia retired from work at the college in 1984. She ran for a position on the board of trustees and was elected in 1985.

''I was not surprised when she ran for the board,'' Fred said. ''She felt she had important things to do. She felt she was making a contribution. It was very important to her.''

Fred predicted that even in retirement people will still use his mother as a resource.

''She still has contributions to make,'' Fred said. ''Lots of people still think of her as a mentor. She has a legacy we all have to follow.''

Voters re-elected Virginia for six consecutive terms on the board of trustees. After her retirement, the board named her the first trustee emeritus.

''She was a stalwart throughout,'' Fred Logan, former JCCC board chair, said. ''She is one of the founders but not just a founder. She has been an important part for 40 years. That kind of service will always be remembered.''

On Nov. 20, the JCCC Board of Trustees will interview eight finalists to fill Virginia Krebs' term, which ends June 30.

The candidates are: Laura S. Byrne-Harris, Leawood; William A. Dean, Overland Park; Ronnie Metsker, Overland Park; Michael M. Morales, Olathe; Melody L. Rayl, Olathe; Kurtis M. Ruf, Overland Park; Mary R. Tearney, Leawood; and Sandra K. Willsie, Overland Park.

The new trustee will begin Dec. 11. The seat is up for election in April 2009.

ROBERT MASSEY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on November 8, 2008, Robert Massey died in Fair Oaks, CA. Born on November 5, 1921, ''Farmer Bob'' (as he is known) contributed to the community throughout his life. As a local historian, Bob frequently shared his knowledge of the area and made a habit of correcting media reports and the Fair Oaks Historical Society whenever their reports conflicted with his own expertise. Bob was a member of the Sunrise Center Toastmasters, sharing with others his great oratory skills and motivational tactics. Many families enjoyed a visit to Farmer Bob's pumpkin patch and truck farm.

While Bob made many great contributions to our region, perhaps his most important work was his strong advocacy for the Auburn Dam. The Auburn Dam Council's website describes Bob as President of the council from 1921–2008. This is an appropriate title for someone who understood the need for greater flood protection and was willing to work for the safety of so many others living nearby. Unfortunately, the dam has yet to be built, but when that day comes it will be in large part thanks to Bob's efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's loving wife of 65 years, Beryl, and the rest of his family and friends. Bob brightened the lives of so many people, and he will be truly missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to have known him.

PRESIDENTIAL RANK AWARD OF MERITORIOUS EXECUTIVE TO DR. L. BRUCE SIMPSON

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 selection of Dr. L. Bruce Simpson for Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive for 2008. Each year, the President recognizes and celebrates no more than 5 percent of career Senior Executives with this award. Recipients of this prestigious award are strong leaders, professionals, and scientists achieving results and consistently demonstrating strength, integrity, industry, and a relentless commitment to excellence in public service to America.

Dr. Simpson is Director of the 308th Armament Systems Wing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida and is a 27-year veteran of the Federal civil service. He leads a wing of over 900 personnel and executes a portfolio of programs valued at more than $46 billion. The wing's programs include the Joint Direct Attack Munition, Small Diameter Bomb, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile, High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Targeting System, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range, Miniature Air Launched Decoy, Aerial Target Systems, P5 Combat Training System, Sensor Fuzed Weapon, Wind-Corrected Munitions Dispenser and Joint Stand-Off Weapon System. These programs are all key elements in enabling our warfighters to engage high-value targets and are vital weapons in the Global War on Terror.

Selected for Senior Executive Service in 2003, Dr. Simpson has served as Deputy Manager of the Armament Product Group, Director of the Air Armament Center Special Projects System Program Office, and Director of the Directed Energy Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory. Dr. Simpson has been honored as a Distinguished Fellow at Mississippi State University and received Annual Technical Achievement Awards from the Air Force Research Laboratory and Air Force Systems Command.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Dr. L. Bruce Simpson on this most prestigious Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. America and the United States Air Force depend heavily on the selfless service and leadership he provides. I sincerely wish Dr. Simpson many more years of dedicated public service to this great country.

HONORING FRANK MECHAM

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Mecham, a resident and community leader from Paso Robles, California, for his outstanding and exemplary leadership while serving as the mayor of Paso Robles from 2000 through 2008.

Frank has been a longtime leader in local government, reflecting the same success, enthusiasm, care, and commitment to his community as nine generations of Mecham Californians and five generations of San Luis Obispo County Mechams before him. His great-great grandfather, Don Joaquin Estrada, was a member of the first County Board of Supervisors in 1852, and his father was Fire Chief at Fort Hunter Liggett for over 20 years. Carrying on this tradition of public service, Frank served our country in the United States Navy and later began his political career on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Planning Commission for the City of Paso Robles. He was elected to the City Council in 1998 and served for two years. In 2000, Frank was the first mayor of Paso Robles to be directly elected by the voters (in the past, the mayoral post had rotated between elected city councilmembers).

In 2003, Paso Robles felt the devastating effects of the San Simeon Earthquake. Frank showed strong leadership and composure throughout this natural disaster and guided the City through the aftermath and recovery efforts. Through his tireless efforts, the City of Paso Robles was able to rebuild faster and move forward onto the road to recovery quicker than anyone had expected. In addition, as mayor, he also oversaw the completion of the Barney Schwartz Park, the Public Safety Center, the Robert Rader Memorial 13th Street Bridge, and the Niblick Bridge expansion.

In addition to his public service, Frank has also remained active in the Paso Robles community. Frank is a member of the Twin Cities Community Hospital Board of Governors, the Nacimiento Water Commission, and the Paso Robles High School Technology Academy. He has also coached youth baseball and football for over two decades in the community, established a youth football league which continues to this day, and created the first Youth Commission for the City in 1999. In 2004, Frank was honored by the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce as Roblan of the Year in recognition of his outstanding service to the local community.

In a City named for its strong oak trees, Frank has stood strong in times of challenge, and helped create prosperity through a commitment to fiscal responsibility and transparent and accountable government. I commend Frank for his service and leadership as mayor of Paso Robles, and wish him and his family well as he continues to serve our community as a supervisor on the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors.

HONORING TRAVIS WEBB

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Corporal Travis Webb from Adrian, Michigan who was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast in Mosul, Iraq on January 22, 2007. He lost both legs and his best friend Nicholas Brown died in his arms after the blast. The following poem is dedicated to a true American hero, Travis Webb.

A SOLDIER'S STORY

Throughout our Nation's history
Such magnificent men of honor and glory, have so been seen
Who so went, where angel's feared to tread
Who went off to war
All for us, the ones who so lived and died and so bled
All so we could be here!
As this is a soldier's story!
All about Heartbreak, Faith and Glory
All about life and death
As he put himself in harm's way, as his best friend died in his arms that day
When courage comes to crest!
All about a young man from Michigan . . . Travis, and his heroic stand
As all of us, he would so bless
Who came out of such hell and fury!

A Hero from The 2–7 Cav . . . 11 Bravo, Corporal Webb, his soldier's story
A fighting force to be feared, who gave all he had so very clear
A Soldier's Story
Who, into that valley of death . . . so walked
All with his two fine legs, as was our freedom bought!
His charge, his thought's
The life of Travis Webb, so much to all has taught
All about courage and faith
As this mighty Michigander makes his way
As no other's could so take his place
As throughout his young life, his flow and ebb
Through the good and bad!
A work of art, to be said!
As it all began
With a young man with no direction
Until, he found his life's true passion . . . his reflection
Reaching, his greatest introspection
His fine reflection, in a Uniform
As A Soldier's Heart and soul, so proud and bold . . . so very warm
All for his country 'tis a thee
As a future Hero was born, as we would see
While, on battlefields of honor and death and gore
Charging bravely so, so ever . . . ever forth!
When, Looking down
As there it was he so found, no more
His two strong fine legs, which made up this most valiant force
While, there in that moment of truth
As in that moment we find the answer, the proof
All about what courage, and a magnificent heart can do!
To build where none lie left
To climb the highest of all mountains, no less
To Teach Us all . . . to so bless
To Reach Us . . . to so Beseech Us, all no less
To But Be The Best
When, Courage comes to Crest
Day by Day
Night after Night
To win the battle, to win that fight!
As he will not give up, will not rest!
As is this soldier's story, our hearts have blessed
As we watch him grow
For he has a life to live
And to this our world, so much more to give!
Could such faith and courage, we so know? Possess?
And, if I ever have a son
I, but hope and pray . . . that he could so be like this fine one!
Shining, all in Faith's True Son
A Soldier's Story, Travis Webb our hearts have won!
All in our Lord's Heart, that will be done
Amen!
—Albert Carey Caswell

IN MEMORIAL OF SGT. TIMOTHY SIMPSON

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on November 17, 2008, Sgt. Timothy Simpson, a 20-year veteran of the Philadelphia Police Department and a constituent of the 13th Congressional District was killed by a drunk driver while responding to a robbery. He is the fourth Philadelphia police officer killed this year in the line of duty.

Sgt. Simpson, 46, left behind his wife, Catherine, and three children. His brother, Terry, is an officer on the Philadelphia Police Department SWAT team.

He was a decorated officer, having recently earned superintendant of the month in the 24th District. Other accolades included a heroism award, four merit awards, and a letter of commendation.

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said Simpson was "a good officer trying to do his duty."

Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said he was "an excellent sergeant, excellent police officer," adding "you can't say enough good things about him."

Sgt. Simpson's death is a major shock to Philadelphia opening wounds that have had little time to heal. He was the partner to Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski, a 12-year veteran and former constituent, who was shot and killed on May 3, 2008 while responding to a bank robbery.

The sacrifices that the Simpson and Liczbinski families have made to protect the City of Philadelphia can never be repaid. All Philadelphia residents owe a debt of gratitude to these families and the families of the other fallen officers from Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, including Gary Skerski, Charles Cassidy, Isabel Nazario, and Patrick McDonald all of whom died in the line of duty in the last two years.

I ask that the House of Representatives extend its condolences to Catherine Simpson, her family, and the Philadelphia Police Department for yet another significant loss.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of FY 2009 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Monmouth University's Rapid Response Institute.

Funding Amount: $3,200,000.

Account: Research, Development, and Testing, Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Lockheed Martin.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

Description of Request: Project will evaluate the software's ability to improve the effectiveness of military (including National Guard) preparedness and its support to the civilian first responders.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM D. HENDERSON, JR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William D. Henderson, Jr. who has contributed over 24,000 volunteer service hours over the course of 45 years to his local communities. Mr. Henderson was born in Wellesley, Massachusetts in 1927 and began volunteering with the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad in 1963 and later with the Northumberland County Rescue Squad in 1995. Through this time he has served as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), as an Advanced Life Support Provider and as a Training Officer. Mr. Henderson's selfless dedication has been recognized throughout his tenure as a volunteer EMT.

First, in 1973 he was awarded the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Citation of Merit, and in 1986 was selected for the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad's Captain's Choice Award. As recognition of his commitment to the entire community, the Honorable Thomas J. Vandever, then Mayor of Charlottesville, VA, proclaimed "William D. Henderson Day" in 1993. Two years later Mr. Henderson would again be recognized by the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad with the Joel Cochran Award for Outstanding Service.

Next, the Rappahannock General Hospital would recognize Mr. Henderson in 2000 as the EMT of the year. The subsequent year he would be honored by the Peninsula EMT council as the Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider. In 2002 the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad named its training room after Mr. Henderson. He would then be recognized by the Governor of Virginia in 2003 with the Governor's Award for outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider.

2008 has been just as busy for Mr. Henderson as he was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award by the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad. In December, the Northumberland County Rescue Squad will award him a second lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award and the Point of Light Award. Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating and thanking William D. Henderson on his steadfast service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens.

IN APPRECIATION OF MY SENIOR AND AGING ISSUES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS' SERVICE

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 men and women of Southeastern Arizona who for the past two years have served on my Senior and Aging Issues Advisory Council.

These 35 active and engaged citizens have selflessly shared their time and expertise with me as important advisors. Each one brought considerable personal and professional expertise to the table to help me gain a greater understanding of the challenges faced by seniors and their family members. Their advice and insights allowed me to better represent my constituents in Arizona's 8th Congressional District.

The counsel they provided has been invaluable to me in making legislative decisions and delivering constituent services. I am grateful to them for the recommendations and issues

they brought to my attention during my first term in Congress and I look forward to their continued assistance.

The Senior and Aging Issues Advisory Council members are: Harry Anthros, David Braun, Marlene Bluestein, Fred Ebeling, Dr. Mindy Fain, Karen Fields, Sharon Gartner, Doris Goldstein, Mary Gomez, Craig Gordon, Clark Hay, Kathleen Heard, Felipe Jacome, Anna Jolivet, Al Kaszniak, Joe La Cava, Cress Lander, Dr. Allan Levenson, David Likness, Larry Linderman, Marian Lupu, Barbara Matteson, Dr. Fred Miller, Jim Murphy, Steve Nash, Elizabeth Packard, Gordon Packard, Anita Royal, L'Don Sawyer, Bill Santa Cruz, Mattie Stone, Jan Sturges, Helen Symes, Russ Symes, Dr. Tony Vuturo and Carol West.

I commend each of them for their contributions to our work on behalf of seniors and thank them for their service our community.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I submit the following earmark disclosure and certification information for one project request I made included within the text of H.R. 2638, the "The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009."

Requesting Member: Congressman CHIP PICKERING.

Bill Number: FY 09 Defense Appropriations Bill.

Project: Advanced, Long Endurance Unattended Ground Sensor Technologies.

Project Amount: $3.6 million.

Account: Defense-wide; RDT&E.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Special Operations Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: Tampa, Florida.

Description of Request: A significant challenge in modern military operations is the ability to achieve and maintain real-time battlefield situational awareness. Achieving battlefield situation awareness requires the ability to robustly and persistently monitor the movements of the adversary in near real-time across a wide range of operational environments including foliage, mountainous, and urban terrain.

The funding will continue the research and development of small, low power UGS technologies that support critical USSOCOM reconnaissance and surveillance missions by providing robust: (1) target detection, classification and tracking; (2) high bandwidth, covert communication of data, voice and video, and (3) data/information exfiltration via satellite communications (SATCOM) for displaying advanced visualization technologies. The proposed UGS capability will provide USSOCOM with the ability to relay critical, actionable intelligence from remote areas of interest to analysts and commanders worldwide in near real-time—ultimately allowing special operations forces (SOF) to think and react more quickly than the adversary. The proposed research program will also have applications in other areas such as border patrol.

HONORING PATRICK R. VECCHIO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant of rare devotion and accomplishment. My constituent, Patrick R. Vecchio is marking his 30 year anniversary as supervisor of the town of Smithtown, a historic community on the shores of Long Island Sound. His tenure as supervisor is the longest in New York State's 231-year history, and has few rivals anywhere in the Nation.

On October 23rd, I was proud to join the Smithtown Historical Society at its gala in St. James in the town of Smithtown, New York, at which it honored Supervisor Vecchio for his steadfast commitment and countless contributions to the people of Smithtown.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Vecchio is a lifelong public servant, U.S. Army veteran and retired NYPD detective sergeant. During his tenure as supervisor, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and low taxes while protecting vital government services. His legacy is clear: Today, Smithtown is on solid financial footing and has the lowest debt level of the 10 towns in Suffolk County.

Pat Vecchio is more than an exemplary public servant, he is a friend and a role model. You can always trust that the words that come out of Supervisor Vecchio's mouth will be the truth, to the chagrin of some. As someone who was new to public service when I was elected to Congress in 2002, I learned a lot simply by watching and talking to Pat.

In 1655, an English settler, Richard Smith, struck a unique bargain with local Native Americans where he was entitled to settle all of the area he could ride around on his bull in a day's time. Smith's ride on his bull, Whisper, formed the boundaries of modern-day Smithtown. Richard Smith's ride is the stuff of legends.

I don't know if Pat Vecchio ever rode a bull. But I know he has gotten into a boxing ring with a champion fighter; I know he has guarded the President of the United States; I know he has taken on organized crime and I know he has done it all without a hint of ego. In short, Mr. Speaker, Pat Vecchio's life is the stuff of legends. I am honored and humbled to help honor his lifetime of service to the town of Smithtown and our Nation.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA DEVASTATED BY TORNADOES

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, families from my district in eastern North Carolina are working to recover from tornadoes over the weekend that killed two people and displaced up to 125 people.

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the families affected by this damaging storm. They should know that our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

Tragically, the tornado claimed the life of 11-year-old Joshua Wiggins, a bright, outgoing sixth-grader at Toisnot Middle School in my hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. He played the drums, enjoyed soccer, and sang in the chorus. The tornado also took the life of Maryland Gomez, a 61-year-old mother from Kenly, North Carolina.

The tornadoes, believed to be EF–2 to EF–3, moved northeast along the Interstate 95 corridor at 45 to 55 miles per hour with winds of 130 to 135 miles per hour.

I want to give thanks to the North Carolina Department of Transportation workers who have been clearing fallen trees from roadways and to the Progress Energy crews who are restoring power along the storm's path.

North Carolina Governor Michael Easley has requested a U.S. Small Business Administration disaster declaration for Wilson and Johnston County areas affected by deadly tornadoes.

Madam Speaker, our hearts go out to the community and especially to the families directly affected by this tragedy. Although this natural disaster may have destroyed many homes and upended the lives of many families, the people of North Carolina are generous and caring. I have no doubt we will pull together to rebuild these communities to make them stronger than ever. I look forward to working with my colleagues to assist the families in need and to helping them to move forward from this tragedy.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS SANTIAGO ON RECEIVING THE ''GREEN LIVING 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 Thomas Santiago for receiving the prestigious "Green Living Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center, APEC, on November 13, 2008. APEC, located in Douglaston, Queens, is a superb educational center committed to environmental understanding and awareness. Tom's commitment to using environmentally-friendly green building techniques and protocols for Citigroup's new office tower in Long Island City is a truly groundbreaking example of "green living" in an urban environment and is truly worthy of public notice and praise.

In his role as the Managing Director of real estate for Citigroup in the Northeast U.S., Tom was the driving force behind Two Court Square, Citigroup's second 1.5 million square foot tower in Long Island City. The building is Citi's first ever Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, Gold certified green building, the national benchmark for rating green buildings. Two Court Square serves as the "green" model for corporate America, not only for being environmentally responsible, but also for demonstrating the economic value of money-saving "green" building technologies and materials.

Under Tom's leadership, Two Court Square is LEED Gold certified because it meets or exceeds stringent criteria in five categories: Sustainable Sites, Energy and Atmosphere, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality and

Materials and Resources. Some of the amazing environmentally-friendly innovations include: Electricity requirements are met by the purchase of 100 percent wind-power energy; over half the wood used in construction did not originate from logging; low-emitting volatile organic compound materials are used for paint and adhesives; 90 percent of its structural steel contains post-consumer content; 2 million gallons of water annually are saved by recycling rainwater for building cooling and through the use of low flow plumbing fixtures; and the carpet uses backing made from recycled soda bottles. This kind of top-to-bottom environmental sensitivity is where our Nation and our planet's future lies.

I would also like to acknowledge APEC's leadership in environmental education and awareness. Every year, over 35,000 school students from all over New York City and Long Island visit Alley Pond Park. At APEC-run programs, students of pre-school, elementary school, middle and high school ages learn about the environment and conservation policy. APEC also runs wonderful teacher workshops to educate teachers in methods to enrich and improve their natural sciences curriculum when they return to the classroom. APEC restored and reclaimed Alley Pond Park in the 1970s as a refuge where New Yorkers could experience nature, wetlands and woodlands first hand. APEC features live animal exhibits and several miles of trails in both wetland and woodland areas, bird walks, nature hikes, craft sessions and workshops on environmental topics. Through the ''Green Living Award'', APEC continues its environmental mission by recognizing the ''green'' achievements of individuals throughout the New York area.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to recognize Tom Santiago for his exemplary work in green building construction and for receiving the ''Green Living Award'' from the Alley Pond Environmental Center. I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Thomas Santiago and his colleagues at Citigroup for this well-deserved honor.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENNETH OWENS UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRINCIPAL OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN MILTON, FLORIDA

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 Kenneth Owens, who is retiring after almost 40 years of service as a teacher, coach, and administrator in the Northwest Florida school system. His passion and dedication proves that teachers can truly make a difference in the lives of their students, and I am proud to honor such an admirable leader of our community.

Mr. Owens began his life as a public servant almost forty years ago. He spent his entire career enriching the lives of young people as both a teacher and a coach. Seventeen years ago, he came to Central High School in Milton, Florida as an assistant principal where he has remained ever since. As principal, Mr. Owens transformed Central High School from a ''C'' school to a ''B'' school under Florida's A+ Plan for Education. This tremendous achievement exemplifies Mr. Owens' commitment to Central's mission statement of providing an environment that encourages students to achieve their fullest potential. He has touched thousands of lives, and his devotion will never be forgotten. Although he is retiring from his position as an educator, Kenny Owens will always be a Central High School Jaguar.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to thank Mr. Owens for his years of public service to the students and community of Northwest Florida. Vicki and I wish him and his family best wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York as they commemorate the 225th anniversary of Evacuation Day.

The Sons of the Revolution in New York is an organization which keeps alive the memory of the men who achieved American independence through military, naval, or civil service. They also promote and assist in celebrating the anniversaries of events which relate to the War of the Revolution.

November 25th is the anniversary of Evacuation Day, which signaled the end of the Revolutionary War when the last British troops departed Manhattan. Though the importance of this day is sometimes forgotten, the Sons of the Revolution have kept its memory alive. This year they are hosting a parade on November 22nd to commemorate the 225th anniversary of the British evacuation of New York.

Once again, I offer my heart-felt congratulations to the Sons of the Revolution at the time of this celebration. As representative of the 8th Congressional District of New York, I am honored to have such distinguished citizens working in my district to keep the history of America alive.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2009.

FEL Capabilities for Aerospace Microfabrication.

Account: U.S. Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Jefferson Science Associates on behalf of the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

Address of Requesting Entity: 12000 Jefferson Avenue, Newport News, VA 23606.

Description of Request: Provide $1.4 million for the expansion of the Free-Electron Laser program at Jefferson Laboratory through the USAF RDT&E Account. The FEL has delivered world-record levels of infrared light for development of defense, science and industrial applications. This joint project of the Aerospace Corporation and the Jefferson Lab in support of the Air Force Research Lab has demonstrated the use of kilowatt levels of ultraviolet light useful as a microfabrication processing tool to produce miniature satellite components. The completion of the ultraviolet processing capability will enable microfabrication techniques for production of miniature satellites at substantially lower cost and processing time than what is achievable with current technology.

$11 million was appropriated for the UV FEL project in the FY 2001–FY 2004 period, as well as an additional $1.6 million appropriation in FY 2008, which has allowed the hardware to be 90 percent completed. The FY 2009 request of $1.4 million is needed to complete and commission this project. There is no matching requirement. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation account.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE MARILYN MASSENGILL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge The Honorable Marilyn Massengill, Plymouth Township Clerk, upon her retirement from the government of Plymouth Township after thirty-nine years of dedicated service.

Throughout her life, Marilyn has striven to better our community. Mrs. Massengill graduated from Plymouth High School in 1952 and went on to work in several township departments. She began her dedicated career in June, 1969 when she was hired to work in the Building Department before advancing to the Planning Department and then the Clerk's Office. Marilyn was first elected Plymouth Township Clerk in 1992, re-elected in 1996 and again in 2000. She received official recognition as a Certified Municiple Clerk in 1995 by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks following completion of specialized training.

Marilyn has participated in multiple associations during her committed service to Plymouth Township, including; The First United Methodist Church, Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club, BPW, Wayne County Clerk's Association, International Institute of Municipal Clerks, Plymouth Study Club, and as a Charter Member of the Plymouth Canton Kiwanis Breakfast Club. Despite her numerous accomplishments and community activities, Marilyn remains most proud of her four children, all of whom attended and graduated from the Plymouth Canton Community School District, and her eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, after over 30 tireless years, Clerk Massengill will be retiring from her position of Plymouth Township Clerk. As she enters the next phase of her life, she leaves behind a legacy of leadership, integrity,

and devotion to the citizens of Michigan. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Honorable Marilyn Massengill, upon her retirement and recognizing her years of loyal service to our community and our country.

HONORING THE SAFETY AND EXCELLENCE OF KEITH BRUCE AND CHARLES RHYNEHART OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, U.P.S.

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding efforts of Keith Bruce and Charles Rhynehart of the United Parcel Service.

These two men who graciously serve Louisiana's 5th District, have been inducted in to the elite ''Circle of Honor'' for their 25 years or more of accident-free driving. The men and women who have achieved membership in to the Circle of Honor are the best of the best. This is an accomplishment I am proud to honor as these men have demonstrated a commitment to safety and high standards in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Keith Bruce and Charles Rhynehart of the United Parcel Service, for their dedication to the safety of their fellow drivers and those with whom they share the roads.

SWEETWATER HIGH SCHOOL MAKES HISTORY!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Sweetwater High School in National City, California, a school in California's 51st Congressional District, my district, with a statement prepared by the school which touts its remarkable success.

In the United States of the 21st Century, no single institution has received more attention, been the center of more controversy or passionately advanced as ''the last best hope'' of passing on the promise of national excellence than the public high school. The driving force behind the passage by Congress of ''No Child Left Behind'' was to create schools that reflect equity—where dynamic learning environments driven by high academic standards will promote academic, social and ethical growth for ALL students.

Schools are held accountable through a comprehensive assessment program that measures achievement and yearly progress for every student, their scores reported by gender, by ethnicity, by parent education, by economic circumstance. No child was left undiscovered, and in 2001, at Sweetwater High School, it was alarmingly clear that many had been left behind.

Census reports from 2001 reported that National City ranked as the second poorest city in San Diego County and had the fifteenth poorest economy in the United States for a city of fewer than 59,000 residents. Located seven miles north of the Mexican border, Sweetwater High School, built in 1921, serves culturally and socially diverse low-income families whose needs place unique demands on the school and staff who serve them. Eight of ten students speak a language other than English at home. More than 80 percent of the 2500 students qualify for the free lunch program.

In its first reporting year for ''No Child Left Behind,'' Sweetwater scored a lowly 461 out of a possible 1000 on the Academic Performance Index (API) and more telling, did not meet adequate yearly progress by its targeted populations. In the second year, while the API score improved significantly and some gains had been made, the school did not meet the goals established by the federal guidelines of ''No Child Left Behind.'' Two consecutive years of unmet goals landed Sweetwater High on the Federal List of Failing Schools.

What followed is Sweetwater High School at its best, Sweetwater High School calling on 87 years of Spirit and Pride.

Under the leadership of new principal Wesley Braddock, administrators, counselors, resource personnel, and teachers united to develop a school-wide assault on poor and failing scores. District curriculum and instructional staff provided resources and support identified by Sweetwater teachers and administrators as key to moving ALL students to academic success, with proficiency on state exams and meeting and exceeding federal benchmarks for performance. Student data became the map staff followed in search of the keys that would unlock the treasure chest of achievement. Students who had previously missed the proficiency cut were assigned an extra support class to assist them in developing critical thinking strategies and test taking skills. Incoming 10th grade students identified as below basic—those in the lowest quartile—were given additional support. This strategy provided in-depth remediation and academic development prior to the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to the Sophomore Class each February. Most striking was the challenge to those sophomores who were ''not at risk,'' that they too should work hard in their core academic classes.

Principal Braddock went personally to every 10th grade English class and spoke from his heart about the importance of doing well, about the Sweetwater Tradition to rise far beyond what others think we can do. While 350 is the score required to pass the CAHSEE exam, this minimum state score was not sufficient to move Sweetwater out of the federal Program Improvement category. Principal Braddock then issued the ''380 Challenge.'' He challenged students to do what so many said Sweetwater High would never do. He told them that together, they would accomplish great things. To accomplish those great things, all of us, students, staff, administration, parents and community would not only act, but dream, and not just to dream, but to BELIEVE! Students did believe, and many smashed the 380 goal, giving Sweetwater High the largest passing percentage in English-Language Arts in the district.

The staff and students have learned over these past three years that great things are not done by impulse, but by knowing the goal, committing to the work, and hitting the target always saying, WE BELIEVE.

Sweetwater High School has raised its Academic Performance Index (API) from 461 to 706.

Sweetwater's API growth is the 5th highest in the entire state of California.

Sweetwater High School's 97 percent Attendance Rate is the highest in the 30,000 student/23 school Sweetwater Union High School District.

Sweetwater High School, in September of 2008, made history by being one of only two schools to make it off the Federal Watch List. In fact, its achievement has surpassed the achievement of 851 of California's 855 high schools.

Sweetwater High School, stands with firm resolve, both feet planted in this 21st century. The staff and students of Sweetwater High exemplify extraordinary courage as they continue to engage in attacking and mastering the rigorous academic standards set forth by the state and the nation. Their resilience and resolve rise up from their State of the Heart Legacy and will take each generation of students into a world where they not only believe in their ability but will achieve success. For those looking for that ''Last Best Hope'' described in A Nation at Risk, just Google . . . 2900 Highland Avenue, National City, CA: Sweetwater High School—''Home of the Red Devils!''

As an educator, I applaud the achievements of the students, staff, teachers, administrators, parents and the community of Sweetwater High School! I was so moved by the efforts of these students that I was able to obtain $292,000 in federal funds for students at Sweetwater High School and neighboring high schools for their Compact for Success. This Compact is a program that guarantees a place at San Diego State University for every graduating high school student who maintains a ''B'' average and meets the goals of the Compact. Participation in the Compact is yet one more way that the Sweetwater High School community is challenging and rewarding its students, the students who are a beacon of light and a remarkable example of what can be achieved when everyone focuses on the goal, the goal of a quality education for each and every student.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELAWARE STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S MARVIN S. GILMAN SUPERSTARS IN BUSINESS AWARDS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards. For ten years, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce has taken pride in honoring small businesses and organizations for their outstanding services, quality of management, and exemplary approach to business in our state.

Each year, winners of the Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards are companies that have met three criteria: the companies have been established at least three years, have 150 employees or less, and are members of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Awards of Excellence are

given to commendable companies, and one award is given to one outstanding non-profit organization. Over the years, corporations within the development, arts, public utilities, communications, and healthcare industries, among others, have been recognized for playing a leading role in Delaware's economic well-being. In November of 1998, the very first luncheon was held to present these distinguished awards in the Gold Ballroom at the Hotel DuPont, the very same location where many of the 40 winning companies, state and local officials, Chamber members, and other notable members of the community will gather to celebrate this milestone. In fact, I was among the guests present at the first Superstars in Business Awards luncheon, and a decade later I am pleased to join in saluting what has become a distinguished tradition.

In recognizing this program, it is only fitting to also recognize the program's entrepreneurial namesake, the late Marvin S. Gilman. Mr. Gilman served as president of Gilman Development Co. in Wilmington for more than forty years, during which time he earned the reputation of a model small business owner and leader in the community. He used his position in the housing industry to further the cause of desegregation, sponsoring the Sutton Place high-rise facility project in Baltimore—one of the first major real estate projects to welcome tenants of all races—and serving on the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. Recognized for their service to the community, Mr. Gilman and his wife, Muriel, were the first couple to receive the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Josiah Marvel Cup Award.

Once again, I recognize the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce's Marvin S. Gilman Superstars in Business Awards for ten years of honoring exceptional small businesses and organizations. It is this commitment to fostering economic and community excellence that keeps Delaware one of the best environments to conduct business in the United States.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION 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, I reluctantly supported this economic rescue plan on Monday, and I will do so again today. Not because I like it. I don't. Not because it is popular. It isn't. And certainly not because I think responsible taxpayers have any obligation to bail out Wall Street. They don't. Instead, I will support this plan because I believe that acting decisively now will almost certainly mean less cost to taxpayers and less pain on Main Street than allowing this credit crisis to get worse.

In what history will record as the final verdict on 8 years of the Bush administration's failed economic policies, allowing this credit crisis to spread to Main Street would dry up existing lines of credit, cause more small businesses to fail, put more people out of work, place more retirees' pensions at risk, and accelerate the current downturn in our fragile economy. We simply cannot allow that to happen.

Let's be clear: This legislation is a far cry from the original, three-page, blank check proposal Secretary Paulson submitted to Congress. Whereas the Paulson proposal had no oversight, no limits on executive compensation or golden parachutes, no help for homeowners, no upside for taxpayers, and no requirement that the President submit a plan to Congress to recoup the full amount of the taxpayers' money from participating institutions should any amount of the initial outlay not be recovered after 5 years' time, this legislation contains all of those protections.

Additionally, as a result of the Senate's action last night, the bill we are considering today also includes a 1-year patch for the AMT to ensure 25 million additional Americans are not snared by this tax; $18 billion in renewable energy incentives (paid for by eliminating subsidies to the oil and gas industries) to accelerate our transition to a 21st century green economy; and mental health parity legislation that will end the shameful history of insurance discrimination suffered by those whose conditions affect the brain, rather than the rest of the body. This revised package also contains bipartisan legislation I introduced to end the ISO AMT crisis affecting tens of thousands of law-abiding Americans by providing permanent relief from that universally condemned corner of our code. And it further protects our citizens' savings by temporarily increasing the cap on FDIC-insured accounts to $250,000.

Like any legislation of this magnitude, there are provisions I do not support, other provisions I thought should be included, and still others I would have changed. For example, the renewable energy title includes several incentives that in my view fall outside the definition of "renewable," and the tax title contains a number of narrowly drawn provisions that detract from the larger purpose of this legislation. Additionally, the final bill failed to include a measure I support to allow bankruptcy judges to modify mortgages on primary residences the same way they are currently able to modify mortgages on second homes and investment properties. Furthermore, the Senate package was not fully paid for and for that reason will unnecessarily add to our national debt. And finally, I personally would have preferred that that this rescue plan include some immediate regulatory reforms, recognizing that more comprehensive reform will follow congressional hearings that begin next week. Nevertheless, our citizens can be assured that Congress is determined to get to the bottom of what caused this mess and act promptly to make sure this kind of crisis never happens again.

IN HONOR OF RAFAEL "FEYNNER" ARIAS GODINEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of a special friend, Rafael "Feynner" Arias Godinez, on this occasion of his 20th anniversary as a steward of the UC Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve in Big Sur, California. The Big Creek Reserve is operated by the University of California's Santa Cruz campus. The land was part of the Circle M Ranch until the ranch was broken up and sold; private owners, including my father, the late Senator Fred Farr, later granted the land to the university's Natural Reserve System.

Feynner Arias came to the United States from his native Costa Rica. He was born near the town of Parrita, Costa Rica. His family was very poor by American standards. Feynner's life in the jungles of Costa Rica is full of stories that books and movies are made from; learning to hunt and fish from his grandmother, his abuela, Elijia; battling school bullies who abandoned him in a well; overcoming deadly snake bites in the jungle; learning to survive with just a machete and his wits; and, as a sawmill child laborer having to remove saw dust from a fast moving sawmill blade. Through hard work and out of necessity, he developed a jungle reputation as a person who could track down anything; he could hunt and capture it for food or money to support his mother and seven siblings.

Feynner's vast knowledge of the land and animals drew wildlife scientists from around the world to hire him as a guide; his work helped to establish the Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica. Feynner often traded his guiding services for food. One of his clients was a woman PhD candidate at UC Berkeley. Together they lived in the rain forest studying ants. After she returned to California he received a letter asking him to come for a visit. He traded the gold that he had panned for in Panama for an airline ticket to the U.S., going from the rain forest of Cost Rica to the San Francisco Bay area. Soon married, he landed a job at the Big Creek Reserve. By a stroke of luck, the resident reserve manager at Big Creek had, many years prior, benefited from Feynner's guide services in Costa Rica and was well familiar with Feynner's wilderness experience and helped to guide Feynner through the bureaucracy of the university's hiring practices.

Today, the entire Big Sur coast and the UC Natural Reserve System have come to love and respect Feynner's knowledge of natural flora and fauna and the coast range. His stories of sleeping near the mountain lions, killing a wild boar with a small knife, rescuing lost and injured hikers, and leading fire crews to the best areas to fight raging fires are well known on the coast. Whether working with world-renowned academics or nondegreed people like himself, he is sought after like a celebrity. He is known locally as the person who can fix anything, build anything, or find anything. He is able to grow Costa Rican bushes in his home, spot wildlife and whales that others can't find, and to understand the natural world around him in ways that the more formally educated often can't. His understanding and appreciation of the world around him and us is unsurpassed.

Feynner is now celebrating 20 years with the Big Creek Reserve. Those who know and love him celebrate this uncommon immigrant who has captured their hearts and minds. We congratulate and celebrate his service to the people of California and especially to his friends and neighbors in Big Sur.

Madam Speaker, Speaker, I for one, will always treasure the Farr family good fortune to have known, laughed and learned from Rafael Arias. Gracias Amigo por todo!

THE CONCUSSION TREATMENT AND CARE TOOLS (CONTACT) ACT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce the Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (ConTACT) Act. This bipartisan legislation provides our schools and coaches with the tools needed to ensure that student athletes receive the proper care for sports-related concussions. I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation as soon as possible.

On October 16, 2008, Ryne Dougherty, a 16-year-old from Montclair, New Jersey, tragically died from a brain hemorrhage after returning to play football without fully recovering from a concussion sustained earlier in the season. Unfortunately, this is not the first story of a young athlete losing his or her life early to a head injury.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, as many as 3.8 million concussions related to sports and recreation are estimated to occur in the United States each year. After sustaining one concussion, an athlete becomes as much as four to six times more likely to sustain a second concussion, and if an athlete is allowed to return to play without fully recovering from a concussion, they may face tragic consequences.

Repeat concussions can result in cumulative neurological damage and have been shown to significantly worsen long-term outcomes including depression and other psychological problems. In rare cases, a repeat concussion can trigger ''second impact syndrome'' which can be marked by the swelling of the brain, permanent brain damage, or even death. Because damage to a maturing brain can be catastrophic, it is even more important to ensure that the proper care is provided to young athletes.

Fortunately, repeat concussions and ''second impact syndrome'' are highly preventable if sensible guidelines and procedures are adopted. Many college and professional athletic associations—including the National Collegiate Athlete Association, NCAA, the National Football League, NFL, and the National Hockey League, (NHL)—and other national provider organizations—including the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the National Athletic Trainers' Association, and the Brain Injury Association of American—have all adopted guidelines for the management of concussions. Despite education efforts by CDC, however, much of this information has not made its way to our local middle schools and high schools.

Furthermore, pre-season and post-concussion testing technologies are widely used in college and professional sports to provide a baseline against which coaches and providers can determine when athletes are ready to return to play. These technologies are widely available and fairly affordable at as little as $500 a year. Unfortunately, these tests are not commonly used in middle and high school sports.

By providing coaches, athletes, and parents with the tools and information needed to identify and understand the signs, symptoms, and implications of concussions, we can help to prevent needless deaths and countless injuries. The ConTACT Act will convene experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus set of concussion management guidelines and provide states with the resources to adopt, disseminate, and ensure the implementation of concussion management guidelines for student athletes.

Madam Speaker, Congress must act now to pass this vital piece of legislation, so that we may provide our young athletes with the safety and protections that they deserve.

HONORING THE TOP DOG ALUMNI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of the 2008 Top Dog Award recipients from California State University, Fresno. All award winners were honored on Friday October 10, 2008 at the Awards Gala at the Save Mart Center in Fresno, California.

The Top Dog Award is a great tradition for CSU Fresno. It allows the University to honor alumni that continue to give back to the University. There are three award categories: Distinguished Alumnus Award, Outstanding Alumni Awards and the Arthur Safstrom Service Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is the highest honor given to an alumna of the University. The award is based on scholarship, leadership and service to CSU Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley and the State of California. It has been established to provide special recognition to an individual who has distinguished themselves through outstanding achievement during their post-collegiate career. The University President and the Alumni Association present the award.

For 2008 the Distinguished Alumnus Award is being given to Nat DiBuduo, class of 1972. Mr. DiBuduo has strong roots in the Central San Joaquin Valley as a vineyard and winery owner. He attended CSU Fresno where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Plant Science/Viticulture and a minor in Business. He is also a graduate of the California Ag Leadership Program, holds a Certified Pest Control Advisor's license and a Department of Real Estate sales license. He has worked as an independent consultant overseeing farm management of 24,000 acres of winegrapes, nuts and vegetables. Today, he is President of Allied Grape Growers; a local organization that works with over 500 grower members from throughout California to competitively market the crops. During his time at CSU Fresno, he was student body vice president, but his service to the commundy did not stop there. He generously gives to his alma mater, and serves on the boards of the Ag One Foundation and the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The Outstanding Alumni Awards recognize CSU Fresno alumna for outstanding accomplishments in their field and to present such alumni to current CSU Fresno students as examples of exceptional achievement. The Alumni Association works in conjunction with the deans of CSU Fresno's eight schools/colleges, as well as the dean of student affairs and the athletic director to identify and select candidates for the awards.

This year there are twelve Outstanding Alumni Awards from the various schools, colleges and divisions. The honorees are:

Dr. Robert C. Cannell (class of 1986) from the College of Agriculture Sciences and Technology. Dr. Cannell is the supply chain director for McDonald's USA and is responsible for the quality and safety of the restaurant chain's beef and pork.

Brad Lewis (class of 1980) from the College of Arts and Humanities. Mr. Lewis is a Pixar Animation Studios producer, whose movie ''Ratatouille'' received Oscar, Golden Globe and Clio awards.

Kern Donis (class of 1991) from the Athletics Department. Ms Donis is a former Bulldog softball star; she played for two national titles. She is now deputy chief for the Fresno Fire Department.

Steve Heinrichs (class of 1968) from the Craig School of Business. Mr. Heinrichs is a managing partner of Bulldog Capital Partners, a venture fund that invests in new business ideas and companies with potential to contribute to the Central San Joaquin Valley economy.

Darlene Spano (class of 1969) from the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. Ms. Spano has been an elementary school teacher in Fresno for 32 years. She had embraced computer technology early enough to educate and assist her students and colleagues.

Dr. Vida Ilderem (class of 1982) from the College of Engineering. Dr. Ilderem is the vice president of physical and digital realization research at Motorola Laboratories, the applied research arm of Motorola.

Mabelle Selland (class of 1950 and 1972) from the Division of Graduate Studies. Ms. Selland's community service includes the preservation of the old Administration Building at Fresno City College, the Veterans Memorial Auditorium restoration and active participation in numerous organizations.

Pamela Loewen (class of 1966) from the College of Health and Human Services. Ms. Loewen has followed a career in military and public health nursing with extensive service to the University's Department of Nursing as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Kendall Manock (class of 1951) from the Henry Madden Library. Mr. Manock is a local attorney and has been instrumental in obtaining materials for the Library's Central Valley Political Archive. He has also worked on many other library initiatives.

Dr. Roy James Shlemon (class of 1958) from the College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Shlemon has a consulting geological practice that focuses on sites for nuclear power plants, waste facilities, large dams and residential developments throughout the world.

Thomas Williams (class of 1970) from the College of Social Sciences. Mr. Williams is the chairman and CEO of Universal Parks and Resorts, part of the NBC Universal division of GE.

Ambassador Phillip Sanchez (class of 1957 and 1972) from the Division of Student Affairs. Ambassador Sanchez retired as a newspaper publisher after government services included two ambassadorships and directing the War on Poverty as the nation's highest-ranking Latino government official.

The third award is the Arthur Safstrom Service Award; it is awarded to an alumna or

friend of CSU Fresno who has given outstanding service to the Alumni Association and/or the University. This year the award is presented to Dr. Arnold and Dianne Gazarian. The Gazarians' generous donations to the university have included a gift to the Smittcamp Alumni House, the Friends of the Madden Library, the President's Fund and the Craig School of Business to establish the Arnold and Dianne Gazarian Real Estate Center. The couple has also provided incentives to attract others' gifts for the Haig and Isabel Berberian Endowed Chair in Armenian Studies. Beyond the campus, the Gazarians are benefactors of the Berberian Community Hospice Patient Services Center as well as the Homeless and Transitional Living Center in Modesto, California.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate all of the Top Dog Award recipients for their individual contributions. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the honorees many years of continual success.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES NAVIN OF HONOLULU, HAWAII

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. James Navin, MD, FCAP. Dr. Navin, a resident of Honolulu, has made many valuable contributions to the field of medicine not only in Hawaii, but throughout the United States.

Dr. Navin began his medical career with the United States Army and has also served in the United States Army Reserve as well as the Hawaii Army Reserve National Guard, serving both Tripler General Hospital and Fort DeRussey. Dr. Navin is a recipient of the Bronze Star, as well as the Army Commendation Medal.

He is the current president of the Hawaii Society of Pathologists, and a member of a variety of pathology related specialties, including the Hawaii Medical Association, the Honolulu County Medical Society, the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Cytopathologists.

I came to know Dr. Navin as a passionate healthcare advocate in the 1990s. I worked closely with him and the national pathology organizations to increase the reimbursement for a common but vital medical test. With his commitment, tenacity, and capacity to bring people together we succeeded legislatively. More importantly, we ensured that life saving medical testing was conducted according to best practice.

An accomplished author, Dr. Navin has been published in over 30 medical publications, including the Hawaii Medical Journal. He has been recognized by the American Pathology Foundation as the American Pathologist of the Year, 2000, and has been recognized several times as one of the Best Doctors in Hawaii.

Dr. Navin will be stepping down as a member of the College of American Pathologists' Political Action Committee, but we are confident he will continue to be a strong voice for pathology. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding physician for his commitment to patient care.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JOSEPH R. BURNS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of an exemplary American citizen, a friend, a comrade in arms during our service together on the frontlines of the Korean war, and a true hero—Joseph R. Burns, who passed away on November 9, 2008.

Joseph R. Burns was born on August 21, 1930, in Charity Hospital, New Orleans, LA. Joe dedicated his life to protecting the freedom of this great country through his many years of public service. Joe served in the U.S. Army during the Korean war conflict and underwent extreme hardships as a prisoner of war for 33 months and 11 days.

After his service in the U.S. Army, Joe continued to build his career in public service by obtaining a position as El Paso's Deputy Sheriff and creating programs to help children. Joe's faith in his religion and love for service manifested itself when he performed his duties and responsibilities of a deacon at the Unity Missionary Baptist Church, and when he served as a senior usher for the church.

Although Joseph R. Burns has passed, his legacy in public service will not go unnoticed. His calm demeanor and quiet spirit will never be forgotten. He was a great influence to his family, his community, and our country. Joseph R. Burns is a national hero who will be greatly missed.

He is succeeded by his beloved son Tyronne J. Burns, his family, and friends.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF VERNON A. LOSH II OF SONOMA 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 along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Chief Vernon A. Losh II, who is retiring this month as chief/department director of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. He has held the position since June, 1999, and also served concurrently for over 5 years as fire chief of Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District.

Chief Losh has had a long and distinguished career in fire and emergency services, starting in 1974 with the South Placer Fire Protection District where he eventually held every rank from volunteer firefighter to full-time battalion chief. He came to Sonoma County in 1995 as deputy chief/fire marshal for the Department of Emergency Services and became Chief a few years later with responsibility for all aspects of the Department's work. He deftly managed 23 full time employees, over 350 volunteers, and a budget of $7.5 million.

With extensive education in emergency management, including being one of the first 12 people certified in the State of California as a fire chief, Chief Losh has shared his expertise for years as a community college fire service instructor and also as chair of the Santa Rosa Community College Fire Tech Advisory Committee. A long list of professional affiliations—from local to international—is a testament to both his spirit of community volunteerism and the high regard with which he is held by his peers. He has been president of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, Sonoma County Department Heads Association, and the Northern California Firefighters Association, to name a few.

Shortly after the anthrax and 9–11 terrorist attacks on our country, we met with Vern Losh and other Sonoma County officials. We were particularly impressed by the level of emergency preparedness as well as by plans to continuously upgrade and improve equipment and procedures. These efforts, directed by a coordinated leadership effort, clearly paid off when much of the County was affected by severe flooding a few years ago. The response was swift and organized, mitigating what could have been a serious disaster.

The Losh family is also a source of pride to Vern. His wife Teresa is an accountant at the Sonoma County Office of Education and marathon walker for several charitable causes; his son Allen is a Specialist in the Army serving as a combat medic ready to be deployed to Iraq on Thanksgiving Day; his daughter Whitney is a student at San Francisco State in the Public Health field. Whitney just finished her first marathon for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Perhaps since, as his biography states, he "currently serves as the Grand Emperor of the Cosmic Order of Fire Gods, an honor he has held since birth," Vern Losh won't fully retire. He plans to continue as Chair of the Sonoma-Mendocino Red Cross, Chair of the Volunteer Fire Fighter Committee of the California State Fire Fighters Association, and as the California representative to the National Volunteer Fire Council. He will also become a volunteer firefighter for the City of Healdsburg. And he will continue his teaching at the California Community College.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County will miss the skills of Chief Vernon Losh, but we thank him for helping to make our emergency services strong. We know he will appreciate having time for his family and his hobbies—photography, football and all sports, attending Giants and 49er games . . . and firefighting.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NOEMI ANDERSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Noemi Anderson of Petaluma, California, for an unusual accomplishment. Noemi just turned 111 years old, making her the oldest person in Sonoma County, the 67th oldest person on earth, and even the oldest known member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Noemi doesn't know the secret of her longevity. She has always exercised, eaten her vegetables, and quit smoking over 50 years

ago. But these activities alone cannot account for her years. That is probably why researchers are studying her life and genetics to unravel the secret.

Although her mind and body are in good shape, Noemi laments the loss of her eyesight a few years ago. Until then, she was a sharp bridge player, ardent about the game and with an astonishing memory for the cards. Today, her memory is still quick as she talks about her life and her past.

Born on September 28, 1897, Noemi Bernard grew up on a ranch in Oregon and later attended UC Berkeley. She became a history teacher and worked in various schools, marrying fellow teach Henry "Andy" Anderson in 1928. Shortly after their daughter Janice was born, she left teaching to take care of her home, including designing a new house for the family.

Andy and Noemi led a full life in Hanford and also traveled a great deal. When Andy passed away in 1988, Noemi moved to the Bay Area to be near Janice and her family. Today she lives in an assisted living facility in Petaluma. Janice passed away in 2001.

Madam Speaker, although we know we can't all live to be 111 years old, it is fitting to honor Noemi Anderson whose life exemplifies for us the benefits of living with enthusiasm and grace. I hope she will have many more birthdays to celebrate.

CONGRESS HOLDS AN EXHIBITION OF THE ARTWORK OF DR. YUHUA WANG

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, on November 13th at the Capitol in Washington DC, several Members of Congress and the Congressional Arts Caucus held an exhibition of the artwork of Professor Yuhua Wang and an official reception honoring her. The exhibition hall was crowded with people, including numerous officials and dignitaries. Many Members of Congress, council members of the District of Columbia, ambassadors, and diplomats came to appreciate the exhibits on display. They praised the beauty of the artwork as being beyond imagination and praised Dr. Wang for bringing the light of beautiful art into the Capitol. Even after the exhibition ended, there were still Members of Congress who came to the exhibition hoping to view Dr. Wang's works of art.

Professor Wang personally attended the official reception in her honor. The hall was filled to capacity, making it a very grand occasion. Members of Congress and members of the Congressional Arts Caucus added their support by signing and presenting certificates of commendation. During the official reception, Members of Congress gave speeches expressing their respect for Professor Yuhua Wang. They praised Professor Wang for her outstanding contributions to world color painting, sculpture, oriental arts, and the development of cultural exchange. A Congressional Commendation stated that Professor Wang is a selfless person whose moral character is noble. It also stated that through her practice of Buddhism, she benefits humanity and all living beings. Members of Congress who initiated the exhibition proudly presented that Congressional Commendation to Professor Wang as a symbol of appreciation and gratitude for her service to America and humanity. The Mayor of Washington DC, Adrian M. Fenty, presented to Professor Wang a certificate welcoming the exhibition of her artwork in the Nation's Capital and welcoming her to visit the entire area of Washington DC. Members of Congress who initiated and held this art exhibition included CORRINE BROWN, DANNY DAVIS, ELIOT L. ENGEL, ADAM SCHIFF, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, CHAKA FATTAH, DAVID WU, and others.

The exhibition displayed four of Professor Wang's hand-sculpted faux coral painted in oil colors. Those works are entitled "Glamour in Pink," "Arching Branches," "Parched Antiquity," and "Cinnabar Nectar." Another exhibit is called "Seventy-Seven Stones," which are exquisitely hand-sculpted and painted faux cobblestones. Additionally displayed were 10 ink-wash paintings called "Spiritual Air," "The Appeal of Lotuses," "Two Chicks Under the Wool Tree," "Ink Alone Excels Nature," "Auspicious Atmosphere at the Lotus Pond," "Light, Elegant Ink; Three Lovely Flowers," "Yuhua," "Lotus Fragrance Blown by the Wind," "Golden Lotuses," and "A Bit of Charming Autumn Scenery." The three oil paintings on exhibition were "Flying Object in the Night," "Heavenly World," and "Exuberant Life." All of these exhibits were authentic, and most of them were chosen by International Arts Publishing to be included in the book World's Highest-Level Color Paintings and Ink-Wash Paintings—the Art of Professor Yuhua Wang. At the exhibition, news reporters asked Professor Yuhua Wang which one of the works of art that she created is her favorite. Her answer, which she gave without hesitation, has profound meaning. She said, "Whichever work of art is everyone's favorite is my favorite work of art!"

Dr. Yuhua Wang was born in China and permanently resides in the U.S. She is currently a research professor at the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University in Georgia. She has been highly commended by the president and vice-president of Auburn University and by the dean of the college where she is a visiting professor for her achievements in the study of colors.

Professor Wang's hand-sculpted faux coral on which she painted oil colors are even more genuine-looking and more beautiful in form and color than real coral found at the bottom of the sea or on islands. Such works of art are many times more beautiful than natural coral and have become rare artistic treasures. It is no wonder that her art is regarded as "treasures of the world."

The cobblestones that Professor Yuhua Wang hand-sculpted from light-weight material and painted are exquisite and were made with meticulous attention to detail. These intriguingly and unpredictably varied faux cobblestones are not only genuine-looking, they are even more beautiful than real cobblestones. Their spots, streaks, watermarks, weathered appearance, reflecting light, and hues are all lifelike and exquisite. In all of their myriad variations, these cobblestones capture the spirit and form of real cobblestones yet surpass the beauty of natural ones. None of her cobblestones duplicates any other cobblestone in form, lines, color, or extent of weathered or aged appearance. Each cobblestone is in and of itself a meticulously and realistically painted work of art. Just like Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa and Vincent van Gogh's Sunflower Paintings, Dr. Wang's oil painting on these cobblestones has been called wondrous color application and the most superb art in the world.

The ink and wash paintings of Professor Wang are boldly arranged yet lack the slightest trace of affectation. They have an air of ease and smoothness and convey a sense of complete naturalness. They express loftiness and broadmindedness and are imbued with deep charm and liveliness. Those works of art by Professor Wang can indeed be called ink and wash paintings of the highest order.

The modern paintings of Dr. Wang have a unique style to them. Their lines flow smoothly and freely. Their diverse and unpredictable color combinations can express bold intensity, overflowing enthusiasm, traditional elegance, inspiring vitality, rustic charm, or majestic splendor. Those paintings are truly a feast for the eyes. Deeply embedded within them are feelings and wondrous skills. Her modern paintings are very sophisticated and should be carefully viewed. Actually, a magnifying glass would reveal that each of the many different parts that make up one of her modern paintings is a work of art in and of itself with its own unending appeal.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the inclusion of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health and Addition Equity Act in H.R. 1424, and I congratulate my friend and colleague, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD, for this achievement. Without his courage and dedication to fairness, this bill would not be before us today.

It is long past time that American families have access to the care they need. This bill ends discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illness or addiction by requiring that benefits that are offered for physical health are also available for mental health.

Mental illness left untreated affects all facets of our society and costs our economy over $150 billion annually. Mental illness affects 50 percent of the homeless population in Minnesota, 70 percent of those in our juvenile justice system, and those with the highest unemployment rates. Health care costs double when diabetes and heart disease patients have co-morbid depression, and patients with mental illness and substance abuse disorders are often less responsive to treatment. In addition, the burden that mental illness places upon the health and productivity of our nation has long been underestimated. One in five adults and one in ten children have a mental illness. And over one-third of our returning service members from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from mental health problems.

We have all been affected in some way—ourselves, a family member, a friend or colleague—by mental health or substance abuse.

This is an issue I hear about in my district a lot, both from those inspired by Senator Wellstone's passion for this issue and those willing to share their stories to make change.

We all know the current system is unfair. People should not have to forego essential treatment because of cost when care could mean improvements to their quality of life and productivity.

Parents should not end up with an emergency room bill they can't pay because they rushed their daughter to the hospital after a suicide attempt, or watch their child suffer after being released from a residential center because insurance coverage ended—not because his treatment was over.

And our servicemen and women returning from Iraq should not be handed a 1-800 number to treat a mental illness.

As we look to reform our health care system, mental health and physical care can no longer be looked at as separate entities. It is morally right, and good for both our economy and our health care system. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and I yield back my time.

HONORING SPIKE O'DELL ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM WGN RADIO

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Spike O'Dell, retiring host of the Spike O'Dell program on WGN Radio in Chicago. Spike has brought his unique style of humor and knowledge to countless Chicagoans every morning for the past two decades. I have appeared on his morning show numerous times, and I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure working with Spike and his staff, especially his producer Jim Wiser. Spike will be sorely missed on the radio by all in Chicagoland.

A native of East Moline, Illinois, Spike graduated from York College in Nebraska before obtaining his certificate in broadcasting from a local vocational school. His first radio job was at WEMO in his home town of East Moline, Illinois, before moving on to KSTT in Davenport, Iowa. Next, he moved to WBT in Charlotte, North Carolina, then on to KIIK back in Davenport, Iowa. Spike's big break came in 1987 when he was offered the afternoon show on WGN Radio in Chicago. He flourished in this role at WGN, garnering a loyal following, and in 2000 he succeeded the late Bob Collins as the host of morning programming. Since his appointment, Spike's show is consistently rated the top morning show in Chicago.

The Spike O'Dell show did not just report the news, it was where the news was made. From exclusive interviews with everyone from entertainers to politicians, on sight reporting from across the globe and insightful editorials from Spike and a wide cast of contributors, the Spike O'Dell show was always both informative and entertaining.

The self proclaimed "worst kept secret" in radio, Spike announced his retirement nearly 2 years ago, telling listeners that on January 1, 2009 there would be a new host for the morning show. While a successor has yet to be named, it is going to be extremely difficult to find someone as hard working and who generates as loyal a fan base as Spike.

It is my great privilege to honor Spike O'Dell for his commitment to radio in Chicago. I wish the best to Spike and his wife Karen. May his retirement be as successful and rewarding as his show.

HONORING LINDA RAWLS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor and acknowledge Linda Rawls, who has been named the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year, or simply the Sonoma Treasure, by the City of Sonoma. Each year the City's Cultural and Fine Arts Commission selects one of the hundreds of artists living and working in the Sonoma Valley to receive this honor. Ms. Rawls was singled out for her decade's long work in costume design.

By one account, she has fitted and costumed the stars and extras of more than 132 productions, including those of the Sonoma City Opera, the Sonoma Ballet Conservatory, schools plays at Sonoma Valley High and each of the grade schools, Vintage House Senior Center, churches and Hootchie Doo Productions, a community theatre group. Her talents have led her to create designs for productions in neighboring counties, including 42nd Street Moon productions in San Francisco.

According to Ms. Rawls, "Costumes have to do everything. A show can have no scenery, but with a woman's dress or a man's hat, you can decipher the time and place in an instant." She calls costumes the "elemental scenery of a play, telling more about character and context than anything else on stage."

Ms. Rawls stumbled into her artistic calling 26 years ago when the costume designer for a school opera in which her 8-year-old son was performing unexpectedly quit. She volunteered to step in and has been following her passion ever since.

Her peers have acknowledged Ms. Rawls work by awarding her the Best First Day Costume Award from the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England in 1996 and the Dean Goodman Choice Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Costume Design in 2003.

Madam Speaker, Linda Rawls is a true artist in every sense of the word and it is appropriate that we honor her today as the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF COACH JIM BOEHEIM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coach Jim Boeheim for helping to bring home a Gold Medal in Men's Basketball at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and for his decades of service to Syracuse University basketball and the Syracuse community.

Jim Boeheim, an Upstate New York native from the Wayne County town of Lyons, began his career with Syracuse basketball as a walk-on player in 1962. By the time he was a senior he had worked his way to being a co-captain and helped lead his team to the NCAA tournament for the second time in school history. After graduating from Syracuse, Jim had a successful pro playing career until he turned to coaching when he joined the Syracuse Men's Basketball coaching staff in 1969. He worked his way up the ranks, starting as a graduate assistant coach to ultimately being named head coach in 1976.

For 32 years Jim Boeheim has honorably served as head coach of the Syracuse University Men's basketball team. During his tenure he has become one of the most successful and respected coaches in college basketball history. He has led all of his teams to a winning record, including 30 seasons with 20 or more wins. His 30–20 win or better seasons ties him with coaching legend Dean Smith for the most ever. Under Coach Boeheim's direction, SU has made it to the post-season 31 times, including 25 trips to the NCAA Tournament where they made appearances in three championship games. In 2003 Coach Boeheim led the Syracuse Orange to its first ever NCAA National Championship Title.

With 771 career wins, Jim ranks 11th all time in wins among Division I head coaches, 4th among active coaches. He is also the winningest coach in Big East Conference history, with 342 conference wins, which include five conference championships. In September 2005 he was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

In November 2005, Jim continued to add to his hall of fame resume when he was named as one of three assistant coaches for USA Basketball Men's National Team for a three year appointment. His coaching expertise helped lead Team USA to an undefeated record in the 2008 Olympics, culminating in a 118–107 victory over Spain in the gold medal game. Team USA's victory not only brought home a gold medal, but it also restored pride and respect in American basketball, and Jim's role in achieving both was instrumental. His role as part of the gold medal men's basketball team gives us all another reason to applaud him. With his Olympic success, Jim brought a piece of Syracuse to Beijing and a piece of the gold back to Syracuse.

Jim is someone that I have admired for his entire career, not only for being a great coach, but for also being a great human being. He has always handled himself with class, even in the face of adversity from critics, many of whom have never even played basketball. He has never looked for credit in his teams' successes; he just goes out and does his job and does it well. I also hold Jim in high regard for his selfless contributions to his community through numerous charitable initiatives, including Coaches vs. Cancer, for which he has been a top fundraiser, nationwide, for many years.

On behalf of the people of the 25th District of New York, I thank Coach Boeheim for his contributions to basketball, both at Syracuse and at the Olympic games, and for being an outstanding community leader. I also wish to

thank Jim's wife Juli and his children for sharing him with us for all these years. Thank you Jim for your service and congratulations on all of your success. Best of luck in the upcoming season; I know you and your team will continue to make us proud.

DANIEL WILLIAM BYRNE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on October 5, 2008, Daniel William Byrne passed away at his home in Tulelake, CA with his wife, Geri, and his family at his side. Dan was one of the finest stewards of our great natural resources that I have ever known, and his contributions to northern California's agricultural community will be sorely missed.

Dan was born on Sept. 19, 1954, in Klamath Falls, Ore., to Robert A. Byrne and Elizabeth (Betty Lou) Byrne (Dalton) Shirley. He attended Newell Elementary School and graduated from Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose in 1972, then earned his Bachelor of Science degree in farm management from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo in 1977. While at Cal Poly, he met his future wife and partner, Geri Bielar, whom he married in 1978.

Dan returned home after graduation and operated the family ranch with his father and his brothers. He demonstrated remarkable intelligence and earned respect as a rancher who took great pride in running cattle while also working in partnerships to improve stewardship of the land. He and his brother, Mike, were awarded the Society for Range Management California Section Award in Excellence in Range Management in 1968 as well as the conservation award from the Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District and the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fair Farmer and Rancher of the Year Award, both in 2007. Dan was also given the California Farm Bureau Federation Distinguished Service Award in 2008. Dan was a good friend and a fine man.

His loved ones were an integral part of his life and his work, and I wish to offer my condolences to the entire Byrne family. Dan is survived by his wife, Geri, of Tulelake; sister, Elizabeth Flynn, of Danville, Calif., and her sons, Michael and Thomas; a brother, Bob, and his wife, Cory, of Tulelake and their daughters, Melissa, Gwen and Katelyn; a brother, Mike, and his wife, Bev, of Tulelake, and their son, Matt, and their daughter, Brianna; a sister, Pat Byrne, of Lodi, Calif.; his stepfather, Bob Shirley, of Chico, Calif.; and his mother-in-law, Joan Bielar, of Rocklin, Calif.

TRIBUTE TO PETER HART

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Hart for his diligent and outstanding leadership as chairman of the Alleghenies Chapter of SCORE, a nationwide organization providing free counseling to small businesses around the country. As chairman of Alleghenies SCORE from 2006–2008, Peter led a team of 45 volunteers in assisting and counseling 400 small businesses around the region.

SCORE was most fortunate to have had Peter as its chairman for the past two years. His background in the railroad and steel industries and as a college educator has served him well in the dual role of counselor and administrator. His accomplishments include providing formal training for new counselors; establishing a chapter Web site; renaming the chapter "Alleghenies" to better identify the wide region that is served; and establishing a system for providing clients with counselors who closely match their professional needs. Peter has zealously devoted many extra hours into publicizing SCORE's mission and service in the Allegheny region. He is an excellent recruiter for the chapter, and his son has followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a counselor in the Pittsburgh Chapter.

Peter has demonstrated extraordinary devotion toward providing counseling for start-ups and continuing businesses located in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton and Somerset Counties. Peter Hart's chairmanship of the Alleghenies SCORE Chapter has inspired and enthused the volunteer members of the chapter and many others who have benefited from his selfless and tireless dedication and leadership. I and the volunteers of Alleghenies SCORE would like to thank Peter Hart for his devotion to assisting his community and for inspiring so many others to do the same.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF RAY STEELE, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. NUNES and Mr. RADANOVICH to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Ray Steele, Jr. After 41 years, Ray Steele is retiring as publisher and president of the Fresno Bee in Fresno, California.

Prior to embarking on his distinguished career with the Fresno Bee, Ray worked at the Fowler Ensign and for the Associated Press Bureau in Fresno. In 1967, he began what would result in 41 years of service to the McClatchy Company. Mr. Steele worked tirelessly in various positions with the Fresno Bee, the Sacramento Bee and with corporate headquarters.

Ray started as a reporter with the Fresno Bee while he was still in college. During his time there he held several positions in the news room before moving to Sacramento in 1982 to take on the position of administrative director of the Sacramento Bee, and then later becoming publisher of community publications. In 1986, Mr. Steele returned to Fresno, California and became the General Manager of the Fresno Bee, with responsibility for all business operations. After only seven years Mr. Steele moved on to corporate headquarters where he held several different management positions. In 2001, he became publisher and president of the Fresno Bee.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ray has served on numerous boards and has given back to his community. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Fresno Business Council, the Economic Development Corporation of Fresno County and the Fresno Regional Foundation. He also serves on the board of governors of California State University Fresno Foundation as well as the advisory council of the Criminology Department. Ray has also been a lifetime member of the Fresno State Alumni Association and previously served on the board of the Metropolitan Museum of Art & Science.

His service and accomplishments were recognized by California State University, Fresno in 2005 when he received the Top Dog Award as the outstanding alumnus of the College of Arts and Humanities. In 2007, he was awarded with the Jim Tucker Media Service Award which is presented by the Mass Communication and Journalism Department at California State University, Fresno.

Throughout his career, Ray Steele has proven to be a highly effective leader who has always been committed to excellence in journalism. As he gets ready to spend more time with his wife Mary Lou, daughters and grandchildren, along with endeavors of interest to him, we thank him for his service and we wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING RAYMOND HATTER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond Hatter, as he retired from his position as Executive Director of Salem Housing Community Development Corporation. An open house was held in his honor on November 7, 2008 in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For the past 14 years, Raymond Hatter has provided leadership to the Salem Housing organization. He has reinforced the Salem Housing commitment to provide safe, affordable housing for limited income families and to support families through education, property management, and economic development. During his tenure, Salem Housing has developed relationships with economic development organizations, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, and community groups in an effort to bring re-investment into City of Flint neighborhoods. Mr. Hatter's vision became reality when the area of Wood Street, M.L. King Avenue and Garland Street was cleared, cared for and became the Metawanenee Hills neighborhood. At a cost of 4 million dollars the 24 new homes provide affordable, safe and energy efficient housing to families.

In addition to his work revitalizing neighborhoods, Mr. Hatter is a member of the Flint Board of Education, the Co-Chairperson of the University of Michigan-Flint University Outreach Department, Advisory Council Member of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, Board Member of the Mass Transportation Authority Board of Directors, Board Member of the City of Flint Zoning Board of Appeals, and a Reader Representative of the

Flint Journal's Editorial Board. His work as Co-Chairperson of the City of Flint "Fifty Year Master Plan" Planning Committee guided the drawing up of comprehensive community development plans for the City.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the work of Raymond Hatter. His foresight with Salem Housing Community Development Corporation has laid the groundwork for thriving, vibrant neighborhoods to take root in the City of Flint and his leadership has transformed the lives of numerous families.

TRIBUTE TO PUI CHU YEE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jinba Pui Chu Yee, the world's youngest world-class artist and English language calligrapher. When she was 12 years old, International Arts Publishing published and distributed around the world a collection of her works entitled Pui Chu Yee Sculptured Landscapes and Calligraphy—The World's Youngest World-Class Artist and Calligrapher.

Although Jinba Pui Chu Yee is still in high school, her highly creative powers in the field of art are incredible. The main theme of her hand-molded landscapes is natural scenery. Her captivating craftsmanship, which comes from nature yet transcends nature, takes the viewer into a world of fantasy.

The New York Academy of Art evaluated her in 2004; the Academy issued a certificate signed by its Executive Director, Mr. Stephen Farthing. That certificate contained the following evaluation: "It has been a great pleasure for both me as Executive Director, and my Faculty at the New York Academy of Art, to get to know the artwork of such an internationally acclaimed artist as Ms. Pui Chu Yee. Her unique approach transports the viewer beyond taste and fantasy to a point where enchantment and contemporary art meet. Her work is a great achievement."

Pui Chu Yee is also an English language calligrapher. Jinba Pui Chu Yee was invited to create signatures in calligraphic style at an assembly. Attendees of that assembly included experts and scholars from Taiwan, Tibet, Thailand, North America, and South America. Also in attendance were outstanding alumni, doctorate holders, and university professors, all of whom graduated from prestigious U.S. universities. At the assembly, Jinba Pui Chu Yee wielded her pen to the astonishment of all. Everyone expressed admiration.

Through her talent and hard work, Jinba Pui Chu Yee has opened a new chapter in the appreciation of art in this world. Under the personal guidance of Jinba Pui Chu Yee, a high-tech art studio is now producing three-dimensional artistic images never before seen in this world that are created from some of her sculptured landscapes.

Additionally, Jinba Pui Chu Yee has received numerous honors and commendations from various governmental bodies, community organizations, and entities representing all walks of life.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Jinba Pui Chu Yee, a extremely talented and creative young lady who has excellent moral character, deeply loves the United States, cares about the public good, and takes pleasure in developing the talents of others. In her honor I ask my congressional colleagues to join me in honoring her accomplishments as a premier artist around the world.

IN HONOR OF TURBOMECA MANUFACTURING

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, the Safran Group Company, Turbomeca Manufacturing, celebrated its grand opening on September 25, 2008. This company proudly manufactures the engines that power the U.S. Coast Guard HH–65 Search and Rescue Helicopter fleet and that of the U.S. Army Light Utility Helicopter fleet.

Turbomeca Manufacturing provides resources, jobs and business growth to the city of Monroe, North Carolina, and has shown tremendous commitment to the community. This 100,000 square foot factory plans to reach a production capacity of 200,000 hours per year by 2010, and will encompass a team of approximately 180 employees.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I honor and recognize this company in my district for the economic opportunities that they create and the outstanding community presence they provide.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FLOWERS OF MEMORY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have for many years had the benefit of learning from Jack Authelet, a journalist and the town historian of the town of Foxborough—an important town in my district known for a number of things, including being the home of our New England Patriots.

Recently, Mr. Authelet wrote to me about a group that he accurately describes as "very appreciative and dedicated French citizens who have . . . made a solemn vow" that the Americans who gave their lives in the defense of freedom in France will not be forgotten. The organization of French citizens who have dedicated themselves to this is Les Fleurs de la Memoire, or The Flowers of Memory.

Madam Speaker, what they have done and are doing is an inspirational example of international cooperation, and I ask that the very thoughtful and informative letter from Jack Authelet describing the work that they do be printed here, along with the essay entitled "A Tribute," written by Claude Lavielle, who is president of Les Fleurs de la Memoire. This essay was written for Memorial Day 2002.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Authelet asked that I do this on Veterans' Day, but since we were not in session on that day, I have chosen the next day in which it is possible to insert this into the RECORD as an appropriate way of acknowledging their great work.

FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION,
Foxborough, MA.

Congressman BARNEY FRANK,
Newton, MA.

DEAR BARNEY, thank you for your dedication and leadership role in resolving the fiscal crisis that grips this nation. In the midst of all the uncertainty, I would like to call to your attention a living tribute to the fallen of World War II that I pray will move you to call for national recognition of this unique volunteer effort on Veterans Day.

In the aftermath of World War II, some 15,000 American military personnel who made the Supreme Sacrifice remain on French soil in the Normandy and Brittany Cemeteries where there families seldom—if ever—have an opportunity to visit their graves.

We as a nation have honored the pledge we would never forget their sacrifice in part by properly maintaining the military cemeteries there and around the world.

There are some very appreciative and dedicated French citizens who have also made a solemn vow: these brave Americans will never be forgotten because they know that every day they live in freedom, they become even more indebted to those who lie buried in the countries they came to liberate. They belong to the organization Les Fleurs de la Memoire (The Flowers of Memory) and each volunteer is assigned the grave of an American to decorate at every opportunity and especially on the American Memorial Day. Many volunteers adopt more than one grave, and also make every attempt to locate family members of the deceased that they might know someone is there looking over the grave of their loved ones.

I became aware of The Flowers of Memory when Vincent Robillard, the French volunteer assigned to the grave of Airman Clinton Davison (Class of 1939, Foxborough High School) was finally able to contact Clinton's brother, 93-year-old Lewis Davison of Walpole, himself a World War II veteran. I have been handling the correspondence for Lewis, for whom contact with the French volunteers has brought the comfort of knowing there are many who appreciate the family's loss. Through Vincent, the family now has had many of its questions answered about the death of Clinton, even to an eye witness account of what happened that fateful day at the height of the war when his plane failed to return following a bombing run over Germany. I have attached a story I published in The Foxboro Reporter about the French volunteers and what this has meant to the Davison family.

The commitment by these French volunteers to honor those brave Americans is both heartwarming and extraordinary. However, most Americans don't even know the group exists.

I have provided background on The Flowers of Memory in hopes that you would use your considerable influence by taking the initiative to afford this group and its volunteers some national exposure this Veterans' Day that the people of America would know about this magnificent tribute being paid every day to those who gave their lives when their Nation called.

The attached information provides background on The Flowers of Memory and their mission and I think it would bring comfort to the American people to know that so many people in France living in freedom today attribute that gift to those whose graves they decorate as an outward symbol of an inner vow that they will never be forgotten.

Thank you for your consideration and again, my personal appreciation for your inspired leadership in a time of crisis.

JACK AUTHELET,
Town Historian.

[From fleursdelamemoire.free.fr]

A TRIBUTE

(By Claude Lavielle)

Worse than death, is to be forgotten . . . So that this never happens to those to whom we owe so much, the association ''Les Fleurs de la Memoire'' (Flowers of Remembrance), came to life. It happened on December 15, 2000, in Saint Lo, a city which, after the June 6, 1944, bombing raids, was called the Capital of Ruins.

Since that day, along with our members, we have paved the way along memory's roads. These paths of memory lead to the American military cemeteries where those, swept along by the Star-Spangled banner, listening only to their courage, came to offer their life, so that we could reclaim our freedom.

At the core of Les Fleurs de la Memoire, the 720 members, put aside their differences, religious beliefs, and their origins, share the same gratitude towards the GI's who repose at Colleville-sur-Mer or Saint James.

Together, on Memorial Day or individually on any other day of the year, we come to meditate, in silence, or in prayer. Then, in an affectionate gesture, as would a godparent for their godchild, allowing the heart to speak, we place flowers at the base of the headstone.

It is not uncommon to see grandparents, at times moved to tears, accompanied by their children and grandchildren moving along the rows on the way to find ''the'' grave.

Once at the gravesite, their heads filled with images. . . . All listen, all meditate.

Is it the sound of the breeze? . . . Rather, isn't it the sound of the souls, the living memory of the dead speaking to our subconscious? . . . Then the terrible sounds of combat invade the mind . . . those unbearable sounds of bombs which explode . . . the whining cry of diving planes . . . the agonizing cries of the suffering. All the horrors of war assault our memories.

Finding the spirit of those who died for that we may live in a better world, kneeling in front of the headstone, placing these flowers, is this not a profound appeal for peace?

That is, I believe, what each person feels when coming to execute their pledge towards our association, ''Les Fleurs de la Memoire''. A humble pledge always accomplished with the infallible faith and immense fraternity with those whom we honor. It is true we have so much to say to you who sleep forever in our Normandy soil. Yes, so many things, which however must be resumed in one word: ''Merci.'' Yes, ''Thank You. Always!''

TRIBUTE TO MARY FRANCES HILLOW

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mary Frances Hillow, a distinguished student at Visitation Academy located in Town and Country, Missouri. Mary Fran continues to excel in and outside of the classroom.

Mary Fran is an outstanding student. She shows a passionate drive to achieve academic excellence. Mary Fran is also a member of National Jr. Honor Society. The national junior honor society is one of the Nation's premier organizations established to recognize outstanding high school and middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serve to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character (and Citizenship for NJHS).

Aside from her academic endeavors, Mary Fran is also an established varsity golfer at Visitation Academy. She dedicates at least 10 hours every weekend to improving her golfing techniques. Mary Fran began playing her first 18 holes of golf in December 2007, just 10 short months later, she finished 10th in the Missouri State Golf Tournament. Mary Fran again excelled on the golf course by winning her second tournament after beating the second place player by 11 shots.

Mary Fran's athletic achievements as a golfer have landed a varsity position for Visitation Academy, something unusual for a freshman to achieve. She is one of five players on the varsity team. Her team was undefeated for the 2008 season and won the state district tournament by 56 shots.

Again, Mary Fran excelled at the State District golf tournament with a 17 hole lead and ended in a tie for first place at 3 over, 75. Her team's score was an impressive 309 at the State District tournament. This is the lowest score ever recorded in Missouri history.

Mary Fran played in the Missouri State Golf Tournament October 20–21, 2008. She was one of the few freshman players in the tournament. Her team won the tournament by 55 shots and Mary Fran was the number 2 player on her team. Individually, Mary Fran finished the tournament in 10th place out of an astonishing 120 players.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Mary Frances Hillow has my absolute highest recommendation to be honored today. I admire her demonstrated commitment to academic excellence and her accomplishments as a golfer and team player. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring such a wonderful Missouri student athlete.

HONORING THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH OF ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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 extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Holy Rosary Church, its staff, and congregation as they commemorate their 100th Anniversary. This is a remarkable milestone for this community treasure and certainly cause for great celebration!

In the late nineteenth century, Italians began to settle in the City of Ansonia and within a few short decades the Italian population had risen to the hundreds. Families began to seek their own religious center and so they approached the Assumption Parish to request the use of the church and it was graciously granted. The first mass was celebrated on October 4, 1908 and as this was the first Sunday of October, it was also Rosary Sunday—and so the title was found, the Holy Rosary Church.

The Holy Rosary Church has not only been a center for religious worship, but a vehicle through which their members could give back to the community. The St. Ann's Society for women, the St. Joseph's Society for men, and the Children of Mary Sodality for young women were all quickly founded following the establishment of the church and they were later joined by the Catholic Men's Club, the Catholic Women's Club, the Rosary Guild, and the parish's Catholic Youth Organization. The societies can be credited with bringing the annual feasts honoring patron saints to their neighbors as well as succeeding in raising the capitol funds needed not only to purchase the property on which the church resides, but also to completely renovate the church several times throughout its history.

Our churches play a vital role in our communities— providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. The members of the Holy Rosary Church have also given much to the City of Ansonia. Throughout the years, as their membership grew so did its commitment to the enrichment of this community. By strengthening our bonds of faith, the Holy Rosary Church gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values.

In its 100 year history, the Holy Rosary Church has built a strong foundation and its success is due to the dedication and commitment of each and every member of its congregation. Through their ministry and outreach efforts, they have left an indelible mark on our community and continue to enrich the lives of others. That is why I am so pleased to stand today to offer my sincere congratulations as they mark this very special centennial anniversary. The families, parishioners, and staff have much to be proud of as they celebrate this 100th anniversary year.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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 five retired United States Generals who, for the past two years, have served as members of my Military Advisory Council.

These distinguished Americans have served the Nation as leaders of our Armed Forces. They continue their service in our community. I am fortunate to have the benefit of their advice on military affairs.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have often turned to my Military Advisory Council as we considered legislation and appropriations to meet the needs of our Armed Forces. I have benefited immeasurably from their knowledge and experience.

I commend them for their commitment to our men and women in uniform and thank them for making their expertise available to me. They are: General John Wickham Jr., former Chief of Staff, United States Army, General Donald Shepperd, former Director, Air National Guard, General John Cronin, former Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine, General Bill Van Dyke, former Adjutant General, Arizona National Guard, and General Ronald Shoopman, former Commander Arizona 162nd Fighter Wing.

They all have proven themselves to be true patriots. It has been my privilege to have them as advisors on military issues. On behalf of our Armed Forces I thank them for their continued service.

HONORING THE WORK OF CHIEF VERNON A. LOSH II

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Chief Vernon A. Losh II, who is retiring this month as chief/department director of the Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services. He has held the position since June 1999, and also served concurrently for over 5 years as fire chief of Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District.

Chief Losh has had a long and distinguished career in fire and emergency services, starting in 1974 with the South Placer Fire Protection District where he eventually held every rank from volunteer firefighter to full-time battalion chief. He came to Sonoma County in 1995 as deputy chief/fire marshal for the Department of Emergency Services and became chief a few years later with responsibility for all aspects of the department's work. He deftly managed 23 full-time employees, over 350 volunteers, and a budget of $7.5 million.

With extensive education in emergency management, including being one of the first twelve people certified in the State of California as a fire chief, Chief Losh has shared his expertise for years as a community college fire service instructor and also as chair of the Santa Rosa Community College Fire Tech Advisory Committee. A long list of professional affiliations—from local to international—are a testament to both his spirit of community volunteerism and the high regard with which he is held by his peers. He has been president of the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, Sonoma County Department Heads Association, and the Northern California Firefighters Association, to name a few.

Shortly after the anthrax and 911 terrorist attacks on our country, we met with Vern Losh and other Sonoma County officials. We were particularly impressed by the level of emergency preparedness as well as by plans to continuously upgrade and improve equipment and procedures. These efforts, directed by a coordinated leadership effort, clearly paid off when much of the county was affected by severe flooding a few years ago. The response was swift and organized, mitigating what could have been a serious disaster.

The Losh family is also a source of pride to Vern. His wife Teresa is an accountant at the Sonoma County Office of Education and marathon walker for several charitable causes; his son Allen is a specialist in the Army serving as a combat medic ready to be deployed to Iraq on Thanksgiving Day; his daughter Whitney is a student at San Francisco State in the public health field. Whitney just finished her first marathon for Leukemia Lymphoma Society.

Perhaps since, as his biography states, he "currently serves as the Grand Emperor of the Cosmic Order of Fire Gods, an honor he has held since birth," Vern Losh won't fully retire. He plans to continue as chair of the Sonoma-Mendocino Red Cross, chair of the Volunteer Fire Fighter Committee of the California State Fire Fighters Association, and as the California representative to the National Volunteer Fire Council. He will also become a volunteer firefighter for the City of Healdsburg. And he will continue his teaching at the California Community College.

Madam Speaker, Sonoma County will miss the skills of Chief Vernon Losh, but we thank him for helping to make our emergency services strong. We know he will appreciate having time for his family and his hobbies—photography, football and all sports, attending Giants and 49er games, and firefighting.

HONORING LINDA RAWLS OF SONOMA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and acknowledge Linda Rawls, who has been named the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year, or simply the Sonoma Treasure, by the city of Sonoma. Each year the city's Cultural and Fine Arts Commission selects one of the hundreds of artists living and working in the Sonoma Valley to receive this honor. Ms. Rawls was singled out for her decade's long work in costume design.

By one account, she has fitted and costumed the stars and extras of more than 132 productions, including those of the Sonoma City Opera, the Sonoma Ballet Conservatory, school plays at Sonoma Valley High and each of the grade schools, Vintage House Senior Center, churches and Hootchie Doo Productions, a community theatre group. Her talents have led her to create designs for productions in neighboring counties, including 42nd Street Moon productions in San Francisco.

According to Ms. Rawls, "Costumes have to do everything. A show can have no scenery, but with a woman's dress or a man's hat, you can decipher the time and place in an instant." She calls costumes the "elemental scenery of a play, telling more about character and context than anything else on stage."

Ms. Rawls stumbled into her artistic calling 26 years ago when the costume designer for a school opera in which her 8-year-old son was performing unexpectedly quit. She volunteered to step in and has been following her passion ever since.

Her peers have acknowledged Ms. Rawls work by awarding her the Best First Day Costume Award from the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Buxton, England, in 1996 and the Dean Goodman Choice Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Costume Design in 2003.

Madam Speaker, Linda Rawls is a true artist in every sense of the word and it is appropriate that we honor her today as the 2008 Sonoma Treasure Artist of the Year.

HONORING FRANK C. TROTTA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Long Island's finest public servants, Frank C. Trotta, who recently left office after serving for a quarter century as mayor of the village of Bellport—a historic community, which, thanks in no small part to Mayor Trotta's leadership, has successfully preserved its character and identity.

On October 30, I was proud to join the Bellport Chamber of Commerce in honoring Mayor Trotta for his steadfast commitment and countless contributions to the people of Bellport. This tribute was celebrated at the Bellport Country Club, which could not have been a more appropriate location considering that it was losing $35,000 a year when Mayor Trotta entered office.

Today, the golf course generates more than $1 million a year in revenue for Long Island's economy which is one of the main reasons that village taxes are among the lowest on Long Island.

During his tenure, Mayor Trotta demonstrated a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and low taxes while protecting vital government services. His legacy is clear: Today, Bellport is on solid financial footing and has been recognized by CNN and Money Magazine as one of the best places to live on the east coast and is 1 of the 10 "hottest" Zip Codes in New York State.

I have been privileged to know Frank Trotta for nearly 35 years, long before either of us entered public service. We attended graduate classes together in the summer of 1974 at Southampton College and I am proud to say that we have been friends ever since. I watched with great pride as Frank's career blossomed. As someone who was new to public service when I was elected to Congress in 2002, I learned a lot simply by watching and talking to Frank.

Although Frank and I do not belong to the same political party, we share a common philosophy, which is that you always put the needs of the community first. There must always be a place in public service for a man like Frank Trotta who understands that political partisanship has no place in village government and we should all treat one another with courtesy and civility.

For anyone who has ever walked with Frank during Bellport's Fourth of July parade, it is plain to see how much he loves his community and how much that community loves him. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to help honor my friend, Frank Trotta, for his years of service to the village of Bellport and our Nation. On behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I wish him continued success, happiness and good health in his future endeavors as a private citizen and one of Long Island's favorite sons.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOLAR ENERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the forward-thinking men and women of Southeastern Arizona who for the past two years have served as members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council.

Arizona is known throughout the world as a place of abundant sunshine. Harnessing the power of the sun and putting it to use as a source of energy has been among my top priorities as a member of the United States House of Representatives. Great strides have been over the past two years in advancing this goal, the most significant of which has been the extension of the investment tax credit.

Many individuals across our country played a role in this achievement. Among them are the twelve determined members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council. Each and every council member played a crucial role in helping expand the availability and use of solar energy in our nation.

The Members of my Solar Energy Advisory Council are:

Tom Alston, Roger Angel, Kendall Burt, Dennis Dickerson, Prabhu Dayal, Richard Elias, Steve Farley, Tedra Fox, Michael Gering, Britt Hanson, William Harris, Scotty Johnson, Katharine Kent, Leslie Liberti, Mayor Paul Loomis, Jacquie McNulty, Tom Peterson, Bruce Plenk, Luther Probst, Valerie Rauluk, Denise Richerson-Smith, David Rousseau, Joaquin Ruiz, Shirley Scott, Joe Simmons, Denise Smith, Mayor Bob Strain, Leslie Tolbert, Nina Trasoff, Karin Uhlich, Mayor Robert Walkup, John Waszczak, John Wesley Miller.

I commend them for their hard work and dedication and look forward to their ongoing advice and counsel as we continue to make solar energy more available to the citizens of my District, the state and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S CONGRESSIONAL FORUM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Congressional Forum luncheon group sponsored by the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce. Forty years ago in 1968, this group was founded to be a link between the elected congressional representative and the business community served by the Third District of Kansas. It has continued to the present day, and shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

At that time, Congressman Larry Winn represented the Third Congressional District of Kansas in the United States House of Representatives. Budgets for travel between Washington and Kansas were limited. Congressman Winn and his chief of staff, Dick Bond, wanted to find a way for Congressman Winn to return more often to his home district. The Congressional Forum luncheon group was founded to help cover those travel costs, and to give its members a monthly report from their Member of Congress.

Even after Larry Winn retired, the group and its traditions have continued. For 40 years, the scheduled speaker at Congressional Forum has been the Member of Congress for the Third Congressional District, unless he or she was unable to attend. If that was the case, then the Member of Congress made arrangements for a substitute speaker.

Although the representation of the Third District has changed over the years, the Member's commitment to this unique group has not. Every Member of Congress elected since 1968 has agreed to attend and speak to this group on a regular basis.

Those Members of Congress include:

Congressman Larry Winn, who served in Congress from 1967 to 1985;

Congresswoman Jan Meyers, from 1985 to 1997;

Congressman Vince Snowbarger, from 1997 to 1999;

And me, Congressman Dennis Moore, from 1999 to the present.

For some time, the group actually held their meetings across the state line at the Golden Ox Restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri, because a portion of the parking lot of that venerable restaurant was actually in Kansas City, Kansas. At the present time, the group meets once again in the heart of downtown Kansas City, Kansas, at the Reardon Convention Center.

It is a testament to this group that an organization founded by Republican business leaders has continued even when a Democratic congressman like me was elected. I have found that this group gives me a great sounding board on the thoughts of my home district. While not every member of Congressional Forum supports me at the ballot box, I know they will express their views to me with candor and courtesy.

For most of its history my good friend, Dr. Fred Bosilevac presided over the Congressional Forum luncheons as its President. For most of us, Dr. Fred remains the heart and soul of the Congressional Forum luncheons. Now age 92, Dr. Fred is still an active and interested member of Congressional Forum, although Bill Eppenheimer has taken over the gavel (or rather the cowbell) as President since Dr. Fred's retirement in 2006.

It is a distinct honor for me to express my affection and high regard for this unique group. A copy of my remarks will be presented at the Congressional Forum's December meeting, which hopefully will include many former Members of Congress from the Third District, as well as Dr. Fred; Bill Eppenheimer; Cindy Cash, the current President of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce; and many other important leaders to this group and our community.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to share the story of the Congressional Forum with our colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS WOLFF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for nearly 6 decades Thomas Wolff built a legacy in Connecticut that included a prolific business career, leadership in academic and political communities, authorship of countless books and articles, and extensive philanthropic endeavors. His legacy has touched countless lives and will continue to inspire generations to come. While his passing brings great sadness to our community, reflecting on the memories of this extraordinary man brings solace to those in mourning.

Thomas was born in New York City in 1928. In 1949. he moved to Vernon, Connecticut, and married his high school sweetheart, Bette. Following service in the Korean war, Thomas attended the University of Connecticut and graduated cum laude with a degree in economics. Shortly after, he would translate these studies and an uncanny business sense into a lifelong, successful business career.

In the late 1950s, he launched Wolf-Zachin and Associates, a successful insurance firm that has remained a fixture in Connecticut's business community. The firm, now called the Wolff Group, is currently headed by his three children, Gary and Greg Wolff and Debi Davis, as well as his grandson, Keith Wolff. In 1969, Thomas launched Vernon Publishing Services, Inc., a publishing company that created training manuals and presentation binders for professionals in the insurance industry.

His work in the insurance industry would define him as one of the most respected and knowledgeable leaders in the field. Highlights of his career include president of the Connecticut Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advsors, chairman of the board of Life Insurance Underwriters Training Council, and recipient of the International Insurance Society Gold Medal for Excellence.

Additionally, Thomas served on the Vernon Board of Education, UConn's University Foundation Board, and was a member of Vernon's Town Council. He also brought the Big Brothers and the YMCA to Vernon, was the president of the Rockville Rotary Club, and endowed countless UConn programs and campus amenities.

Beyond these numerous accolades, contributions, and achievements, Thomas was a devoted family man and friend to many in our community. His wife, Bette, whom he married in 1949, was his closest confidant for nearly 6 decades. The outpouring of love and support from his wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family reflects the strong bond that they shared.

Thomas lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and he will be greatly missed. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in honoring his life and offering condolences to his family.

RECOGNIZING EAST MT. ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON ITS 180TH ANNIVERSARY

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 East Mt. Zion United Methodist Church on its 180th Anniversary.

For the past 180 years, East Mt. Zion has continued to inspired people throughout the Northwest Florida area. The church has withstood the societal, geographical, and archeological changes that have occurred over its long history, thus authorizing its member's constant faith and enduring dedication.

Opening amidst humble beginnings, East Mt. Zion was initially a rudimentary structure built out of logs. After fire destroyed the building, its members rebuilt the church with whatever materials were available. Logs from a nearby forest were used for the walls and slabs from a local sawmill were made into the pews. In the early twentieth century a more modern church was constructed. Services were held in that location until 1956, when the present church began construction. Since then, the congregation has continued to grow exponentially as worshippers throughout the Northwest Florida area travel to East Mt. Zion.

Over the years, East Mt. Zion has served as a great source of inspiration for its members, who have always helped participate in the betterment of the church. Bake sales, quilt sales, and various other fundraisers were held by the members to raise costs for the various construction projects that the church has held over the years. Their enduring dedication serves as testimony to the excellence of East Mt. Zion and this milestone anniversary is evidence of the greatness the church has achieved.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize East Mt. Zion on this outstanding achievement.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN McCREE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melvin Phillip McCree. Melvin passed away on November 12th following a long illness and a tribute will be held tomorrow in remembrance of his life and work.

After graduating from Flint Northern High School, where he was the Student Council President, Melvin went on to graduate from Mott Community College. He continued his studies at Western Michigan University and the University of Michigan-Flint. In 1981 he was elected to the Flint City Council for the Fifth Ward. During his service on the Council, he was elected to a record-setting 5 consecutive terms as Council President.

Appointed to the position of Register of Deeds in 1990, Melvin was re-elected for 4 more terms. During the 18 years he served as Register of Deeds, Melvin sought to bring the office into the 21st century. He was diligent in implementing new technologies to provide better service to the public. Melvin developed an office website, a system to scan and store all documents digitally, and the ability to provide documents to the public in a variety of media. Through his foresight, the Genesee County Register of Deeds office is a model for other county offices to image and store records.

Melvin McCree was an enthusiastic, conscientious public servant, an insightful innovator, and a thoughtful humanitarian. I knew Melvin since he was a child and I watched him grow and develop into a good man, and a kind friend. I valued his counsel, his sense of humor, and his community spirit.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and honor Melvin Phillip McCree. The people of Genesee County have lost a dedicated public official and I mourn his passing.

IN CELEBRATION OF DENIS O'SULLIVAN'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th birthday of Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, a wonderful brother-in-law, husband, and father. He is married to Elizabeth O'Sullivan, and has made his home in Mountain Lakes, New Jersey for the past 35 years.

Denis was born December 2, 1933 in New York City at Lennox Hill Hospital. He was educated in New York State Schools and was founder-owner of O'Sullivan Menu Publishing. His company started small, with a staff of less than 10, and grew to employ over 200 people in the United States and England.

O'Sullivan Menu Publishing had a groundbreaking impact on the airline industry by providing the first comprehensive service for the creation and production of printed menus. These international menus were translated into 84 different languages.

Since retirement in early 2008, Denis has been intently working for charitable and philanthropic causes. He currently serves on three individual boards in various capacities, including President. For many years he supported the fundraising activities of St. Clare's hospital in Denville, New Jersey. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Northern New Jersey, and maintains special interest in their Alzheimer's disease support facility.

Denis is a loving and generous father of three as well as a step-father of three. His unstinting support of education for all of these children has produced six college educations and three post-graduate degrees. Denis' six grandchildren are an enduring source of love, pride, and pleasure in his life.

I thank Denis for the countless lives that he has touched through his many accomplishments. It is for these reasons that I join Denis O'Sullivan's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 75th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

ROBERT CRIBBS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, on October 30, 2008, Robert Cribbs passed away in the presence of his loving family. Bob was a true innovator who successfully developed five high technology companies. He was also deeply committed to his personal interests, most notably in the area of Egyptian culture. Bob was recognized throughout his life for his great work, and his presence as an entrepreneur, professor, scientist, father, husband and friend will be sorely missed.

Bob came to California after graduating from the Carnegie Institute of Technology with a degree in physics. He arrived with his wife, Donna, and two infant boys, Mark and Bob, to work at Aerojet General Corporation. Soon after, Bob and Donna's daughter, Sherry, was born. In 1967, Bob left Aerojet to form Electra-Physics Laboratories (EPL), located in Folsom. After General Electric became interested in EPL and purchased the rights to work with part of the company, the remaining division was named Folsom Research Inc. (FRI) and moved to Rancho Cordova. FRI was bought by Barco, and soon after Bob formed SoniPulse, Inc., in El Dorado Hills. Bob also co-founded a medical company, LipoSonix, Inc.

Bob was an expert in ultrasound technology. He used this knowledge not only to further important medical research, but also for discovery as he explored the pyramids in the Valley of the Kings in search of the burial chamber of pharaoh Seti using ultrasound and RF equipment to locate the tomb. Bob's keen interest in Egyptian music also led him to prove that Pythagoras actually stole the musical scale from the Egyptians.

Bob's life was full of accomplishments, and those of us who were fortunate enough to know him will miss him dearly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife of 51 years, Donna; his children Bob, Mark and Sherry; his grandchildren Tensor Chen, Weijing Chen, Jason, Sommer, Royce, Anneleise and Gretchen; and his great-grandchild Adam.

HONORING MANCINI'S CHAR HOUSE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise to pay tribute to the Mancini family and all employees of Mancini's Char House and Lounge in Saint Paul in honor of their 60th anniversary year. Mancini's restaurant has earned a legendary reputation for hospitality, serving a gathering place for generations of Saint Paul families, friends, as well as quite a few local and national sports stars and celebrities. Anybody who comes to Mancini's looks forward to having a great meal and a special occasion.

It all began with Nick Mancini, who opened his first small tavern on Saint Paul's West 7th

Street in 1948, with strong support from his family—especially his mother's famous spaghetti. It was not long until Nick met his wife Maryann, who was with him every step of the way, until he passed away in 2007.

Throughout his entire life, Nick's generous and friendly presence personified Saint Paul hospitality. Nick's greatest pleasure was greeting his customers and making them feel at home. Nick also delighted in serenading diners with his beautiful accordian music. Nick's sons Pat and John now own the restaurant, continuing the tradition of hospitality with the help of the whole family, including their mother, children and Nick's sister Bertha. Their many loyal employees feel like they are part of the family.

Hospitality was the cornerstone of Nick's business success, growing through the years from a tiny bar to a 600-seat steakhouse. Mancini's has been a crossroads of who's who in sports, Hollywood and politics. Nick's son John estimates that 300 photographs of notable patrons line the walls of the lounge. Mancini's 1986 major expansion even attracted the attention of singer Tony Bennett, who lent his voice and star power to the celebration.

Despite Mancini's great success, the family restaurant has remained focused on its neighborhood roots. Among their most loyal customers are the families who grew up with Nick and his family. Mancini's Sports Hall of Fame pays tribute to nearly 150 Saint Paul athletes who are leaders in teaching, coaching or supporting amateur or professional athletics in Saint Paul.

Hospitality continues to be the biggest draw at Mancini's—but their fantastic steaks don't hurt either. In recent years, their famous 12-ounce Mancini's sirloins have been enjoyed worldwide. Through an ambitious effort called "Serving Our Troops," Mancini's has partnered with several other family-owned Saint Paul restaurants, other local businesses and hundreds of volunteers to stage several major picnics for Minnesota National Guard troops and their families. Since 2004, they have donated their time and thousands of steaks to bring Saint Paul hospitality to troops and their families in Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kosovo and Iraq. "Serving Our Troops" truly speaks to the community spirit and hospitality epitomized by the Mancini family. Many people talk about supporting our military families, but the Mancini family has gone above and beyond the call of duty in sharing Saint Paul hospitality.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Mancini family and all employees of Mancini's Char House and Lounge on the first 60 years of a remarkable Saint Paul institution. We look forward to many more.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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 men and women of Southeastern Arizona who for the past two years have served as members of my Veterans Advisory Council.

These former members of our Armed Forces live throughout my 8th Congressional District, they come from all walks of life and they represent every branch of military service and every military conflict from World War II to the present time.

They are a very diverse and multi-talented group and yet they all have one important thing in common. They all willingly contributed their time, experience and knowledge as advisors to me on issues concerning veterans.

Their wise counsel and insights have been invaluable to me. By serving on my Veterans Advisory Council, they have continued to serve their country and the men in women who have put on the uniform. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The Members of my Veterans Advisory Council are: Stan Abrams, Sergio Arellano, Bob Berry, John Cronin, Jim Ellars, Johnny Fajardo, Mary Figura, Terrie Gent, Dale Halstead, Frank Hartline, Amy Hartline, Thomas Heaney, Mike Klier, Mel Kloor, Col. Joey Strickland, Pepe Mendoza, Tommy Mendoza, Able Moreno, Pam Murphy, Norma Navarre, Chuck Larry Ohara, Bob Parson, Dan Ross, DuWayne Smith, John Soltero Sr., Mary Pat Sullivan, Christian Vasquez, Bob Walton, Barbara Williams, Don Williams, and Bob Winchester.

I am grateful to them for their advice and their advocacy on behalf of our veterans and I look forward to their continued assistance in the next two years.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican earmark guidance, I am submitting the following project that was included in H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY LEWIS.

Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Project Name: Lafayette Escadrille Memorial.

Account: American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force.

Address of Requesting Entity: HQ USAF/CC, 1670 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330.

Description of Request: Provide $500,000.00 to conduct an updated engineering study of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial to determine the long term recurring costs to preserve and maintain the memorial at ABMC standards.

HONORING CESILIA LOMELI-PEREZ, FNP, MPH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madan Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cesilia "CeCe" Lomeli-Perez 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, Calitbrnia on Friday, October 24th.

CeCe Lomeli-Perez grew up in Patterson, California. She attended Patterson High School and Modesto Junior College where she received her Associate's of Science and Registered Nurse degrees. She moved to Fresno, California to further her education and earned her Bachelors of Science degree in nursing (BSN) from California State University, Fresno. After completing her Bachelors degree she started working at Valley Children's Hospital in the neo-natal intensive care unit. She worked there for five years and decided to continue her education. She returned to California State University, Fresno to earn her Masters in nursing with a specialty in family practice, a Masters in public health and is currently working on her Ph.D. in public health.

Mrs. Lomeli-Perez is a nurse practitioner for the Holy Cross Clinic in Fresno, a community outreach clinic of Saint Agnes Medical Center located within the Poverello House. The clinic provides free medical and dental services to the poor and homeless; the only eligibility requirement is that patients cannot have medical insurance. Throughout her career she has run health fairs, health screenings for schools, eyeglass programs and taught classes on diabetes and prenatal care. She has also served as Chair of the Adult Task Force to help secure funding for mental health services for Fresno County. She is very involved in her church, the Poverello House, the Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army and the Youth Orchestra of Fresno. She has organized the "Mujeres de Valor," a group of women of color who walk annually in the Komen Foundation's Walk for the Cure. In 2005 she received a "Top 10 Business and Professional Women of the Year" award from the Marjaree Mason Center, and the University of California, San Francisco Fresno Latino Center Award for medical education and research. She has also received the annual Leadership Award in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. In 2008 she was a presenter at the annual Veritas Forum at California State University. Fresno. Mrs. Lomeli-Perez has been a champion in reaching out to those who are poor, homeless and uninsured. She has served the community for over fifteen years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Cesilia "CeCe" Lomeli-Perez upon being awarded with "Community Health Champions Award". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Lomeli-Perez many years of continued success.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL PAULK FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Georgian, LTC Michael

Paulk. Lieutenant Colonel Paulk is retiring after more than 25 years of service in the United States Marine Corps. He was raised in Stone Mountain, Georgia, where he graduated from Tucker High School in 1982 before attending the University of West Georgia.

Lieutenant Colonel Paulk has served in a variety of assignments throughout his distinguished career beginning at Parris Island, South Carolina, where he attended basic training in 1983. He then went to his military occupation school, MOS, at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, where he was one of the top candidates at the school, earning the field radio operator MOS.

Private First Class Paulk was then assigned to the 4th Forward Area Air Defense Battery, Detachment Alpha, Marietta, Georgia as a field radio operator with 2nd Squad, 1St Platoon, Alpha Company. In 1986, Corporal Paulk was selected to participate in the Platoon Leaders Class and attended Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He graduated from the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia in April 1987, with a bachelor of arts degree in history, and then received a commission as a Marine Corps second lieutenant.

From April through November 1987, Lieutenant Colonel Paulk attended the Basic School, graduating in the top third of his class. Upon completion of The Basic School he attended Aviation Maintenance Officer's School in Pensacola, Florida.

From May 1988 through June 1999, Lieutenant Colonel Paulk served with Marine All Weather Attack Squadron 533, in Cherry Point, North Carolina, deploying to Norway, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Guam, and Wake Island. He also served in Marine Aircraft Group 42, in Marietta, Georgia, deploying with Marine Observation Squadron 4 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 773 to a multitude of counter-narcotic missions throughout the United States and the Caribbean. Lastly, during this time he also served in the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, serving as the rotary wing class desk officer and as the executive officer for Headquarters Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In June 2000, Lieutenant Colonel Paulk graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with a master of arts, National Security and Strategic Studies, degree and transferred to U.S. Marine Corps Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. He served in the Operations and Plans Division overseeing the deployment of marines to Central and South America, as well as to the Caribbean.

From April 2002 until May 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Paulk served on recruiting duty in Marietta, Georgia and Quantico, Virginia. During this tour he deployed to Fallujah, Iraq, participating in Operation Al Fajr and supporting Iraq's first free elections. He earned the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with combat operations while serving as the plans officer and operations officer for the 4th Civil Affairs Group.

Lieutenant Colonel Paulk served as a congressional liaison officer with the Office of Legislative Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, DC, during his last 8 months of service. In his position, Lieutenant Colonel Paulk carried the Corps' message to these hallowed halls, providing Members of this body the infonnation necessary to determine how best to equip, maintain, and support the United States Marine Corps.

Lieutenant Colonel Paulk has made a lasting contribution to the capability of today's Marine Corps' and the future shape of tomorrow's Corps. His superior performance of duties highlights the culmination of more than 25 years of honorable and dedicated Marine Corps service. My home State of Georgia and our country are proud of Lieutenant Colonel Paulk's exemplary professional competence, sound judgment, and total dedication to duty. He has reflected great credit upon himself and has always upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps. I wish Michael, his wife, April, and their daughters, Mallory and Maggie, all the best in their future endeavors as they return to life together in Georgia.

ROBERT C. FISHER

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 minute and pay tribute to an old friend and former staffer, Robert C. Faber. Bob is a man of strong ideals and integrity.

I first met Bob when we were in our first year of law school at McGeorge Law School in California. Our friendship began then and has been strong ever since. After law school, Bob and I went our separate ways. Bob worked first at the State Lands Department and then had a private law practice. I went to work in the California State Senate in Sacramento. Ten years later I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and when I became Chairman of the Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power, I encouraged Bob to become the staff director of the committee. He graciously accepted the position, and he and his lovely wife, Joyce, moved to the Washington area.

Bob was born in Kansas City, Missouri and grew up in Oregon, Michigan, Indiana and California. He attended high school in La Sierra, California. While in high school, Bob showed his talent of teaching in his early years. He would often help tutor his fellow students at his home, and eventually the group got so large that the class asked their teacher if Bob could teach the class, since he was able to better relate to his peers. The teacher allowed Bob to teach the class for about 2 weeks under his supervision.

After high school, Bob attended Andrews University in Southwestern Michigan where he majored in journalism. He earned his undergraduate degree in 3 years after successfully testing out of 1 year of classes. While at Andrews, he met Joyce in the communications department, and the two have been married for 35 years now. They have one son, Robert Jr., who is 14 years old.

Bob has the gift of being able to teach people in both personal and professional situations. When he was living in California, Bob taught Sunday school at his local church and has been involved with it ever since. He currently teaches the adult group at his local church in Leesburg, Virginia and has recently started writing about Jesus and the New Testament.

I am very grateful for Bob's friendship, and I look forward to the many years ahead we have as friends. I wish him and his Family much happiness and success.

HONORING ST. DOMINIC'S PARISH IN BREESE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Dominic's Parish in Breese, Illinois. For 150 years, St. Dominic's has represented the spread of Catholicism in rural America and has also acted as one of its community's cornerstones. The first church building was used from 1858 to 1868 and measured 40 feet by 60 feet. In 1858 Father August Reineke was called to act as the first pastor of St. Dominic's and served until 1909. A larger church was needed due to the growing number of settlers in the area. The parishioners donated the land as well as the stone and limestone for construction of the present church still in use today.

The original parish began with 70 Catholic families and today has grown to 867 families. One of St. Dominic's largest accomplishments was the establishment of Mater Dei High School. The men and women of St. Dominic's help by reaching out to their community and world with the parish's volunteer efforts. St. Monica's Altar Sodality and St. Joseph's Men's Sodality donate money to the parish's Vacation Bible School, food pantry and youth ministry. The ladies of the parish are currently sponsoring a child in Guatemala, while the men have donated over $20,000 to the new multi-purpose room.

I join with my fellow Representatives to congratulate St. Dominic's on 150 years of faith and service.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE HELEN MARSHALL ON RECEIVING THE ''GREEN LEADERSHIP 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 Queens Borough President Helen Marshall for receiving the prestigious ''Green Leadership 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. Helen's dedication and support of environmental education, public parks and responsible zoning and land-use in Queens is a great example of how we can promote ''green living'' around the nation through local political leadership.

Thanks to Helen's aggressive efforts, over $60 million has been allocated to maintain, improve and expand the parks and playgrounds of Queens. Recently, Helen was instrumental in procuring resources to help begin construction of APEC's new environmental educational

facility. APEC had a staggering 40,000 New York City area school students visit Alley Pond last year. During APEC-run programs, students of pre-school, elementary school, middle and high school ages learn about the environment and conservation policy. APEC also runs wonderful Teacher Workshops to train teachers in methods to enrich and improve their natural sciences curriculum when they return to the classroom. Demand for APEC's educational programs is so high that over 8,000 students had to be placed on a waiting list to visit Alley Pond.

Borough President Marshall, recognizing APEC's need for space, led the way for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to allocate resources for APEC's future environmental educational facility. Utilizing the $1 million in funds that Helen helped to get, APEC will soon start construction of a new green facility that will make student waiting lists for APEC's programs a thing of the past. For Helen, this kind of action is nothing new. From her time as a teacher, to her service as a member of the New York State Assembly and the New York City Council, to being the Queens Borough President; she has been the most tireless advocate for children's educational and environmental resources. From libraries, to remedial programs, to playgrounds and parks, no one has done more to make certain that the children of Queens receive the help they need for the best education possible.

Madam Speaker, I highly commend Borough President Marshall for her extraordinary dedication to environmental education and for receiving the "Green Leadership Award" from the Alley Pond Environmental Center. Helen embodies the spirit of the award, having devoted herself to ensuring that children experience the world's natural beauty in America's greatest city. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in congratulating Helen Marshall as a recipient of this well-deserved honor.

TRIBUTE TO RECOGNIZE MR. NORRIS O. CHANDLER

HON. Wm. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Norris O. Chandler, former WWI and WWII veteran who has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to the service of others through 60 years of civilian service.

Chandler enlisted in United States Army at Jefferson Barracks and was soon assigned to a special amphibious engineering unit activated for World War II—the 149th Engineer Combat Battalion. As a Demolition Specialist for the 149th, he joined the invasion of France on Omaha Beach in 1944.

The 149th was responsible for destroying enemy bridges, probing and destroying mines and other obstacles, both on land and underwater, and for building Bailey Bridges.

Following World War II, Mr. Chandler returned to Fort Polk, Louisiana to await discharge. His unit was deactivated in December of 1945 and he became part of the newly activated Organized Reserve Corps (Individual Stand-By) until 1951.

In 1951, Mr. Chandler entered the Civilian Service with the Missouri Military District (MMD), 11th Army Corps, St. Louis, and Missouri as a warehouseman. During this time the MMD was renamed the U.S. Army Support Center. Mr. Chandler continued his services at the center, holding various positions including stock control clerk, general supply clerk, and Publications Supply officer among other things before the agency moved to Fort Sheridan, Ill.

Mr. Chandler opposed relocating to Fort Sheridan and joined the staff at the U.S. Army Adjutant General Publications Center as a packer, for over 40 years, turning down General Schedule (GS) opportunities in favor of his Wage Grade (WG) packer position.

Chandlers WWII unit received four campaign ribbons: Normandy (with bronze arrowhead), Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Chandler's civilian awards include the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in September 1996. In addition, he currently has over 3300 hours of sick leave and usually forfeits almost all of his annual leave, except when he generously donates to other employees through the leave donation program.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Chandler, an American hero, for 60 years as a civil servant and for his noble sacrifice and courage to the United States Armed Services. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Norris O. Chandler for his service and commitment to put country first.

IN RECOGNITION OF WARNER GLENN'S DEDICATION TO THE SOUTHWEST

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments of Mr. Warner Glenn, a dedicated steward of our fragile lands and a champion for endangered species of the Southwest.

Mr. Glenn is a rancher who lives near Douglas, Arizona, a small city on the United States-Mexico border that traces its roots back to the early 20th century. The desert lands surrounding Douglas are an environmental treasure. They are abundant in wildlife. These beautiful areas face serious threats and many citizens in my district have taken action to address these issues. Warner Glenn is a leader in this movement.

Warner and his family are part of the Malpai Borderlands Group, ranchers and conservationists who are dedicated to preserving the open spaces that are in danger of disappearing.

He was recently named by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a "Regional Recovery Champion" for his tireless efforts in protecting the endangered jaguar. Mr. Glenn's photographs of jaguars were the first taken of the animal in the United States.

Mr. Glenn's photographs were more than mere documentation of the jaguar. In honoring Mr. Glenn, Benjamin Tuggle, the director of the Fish and Wildlife's Southwestern Region, noted that Mr. Glenn's "stunning photographs, along with his written and oral accounts, have ignited a passion for jaguars and borderlands conservation."

He took his photographs in 1996 and 2006. Since then, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has granted the jaguar protection under the Endangered Species Act. The agency also funds monitoring efforts in Arizona and has contributed to local and international programs to help conserve the jaguar and aid in the species' recovery.

Mr. Glenn embodies the true spirit of the Southwest. Born and raised in the fabled Chiricahua Mountains, he makes his living from the land as a rancher, guide and outfitter for hunters. When he is in the wild, he typically carries a .357 Magnum on his belt. Yet as he has said that he "never felt danger" when he encountered the jaguars! His only thought as he first saw the jaguar that day was how can we protect this beautiful animal and maintain its ability to roam the deserts and mountains?

Not all of us have Mr. Glenn's vision but all of us can learn valuable lessons from him with regard to the jaguar. As he put it, "When you see one of those in the wild, you can't help but admire and respect those cats, and they deserve it."

I commend and thank Warner Glenn for all he has done to preserve the land and the wildlife that lives on it.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 2638.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: Eglin Air Force Base Range Operations Center (ROCC) Initiative.

Account: RDT&E, Air Force.

Earmark Received: $800,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: Considering the effects of BRAC, emerging Joint Test and Training missions, and increased operations tempo, this initiative will address the current Eglin AFB shortfalls in infrastructure to provide safe, efficient, effective control of range resources. Eglin AFB initiated a phased approach (Super ROCC) to address these shortfalls, and this project will initiate the action by addressing movement and control of people and equipment and relevant security issues. This initiative will help the Air Force increase the operations tempo at the Eglin Range by addressing the movement and control of people and equipment as well as relevant security issues. Through this initiative, the Air Force will greatly improve its ability to track all players on the Eglin Range thereby significantly increase its efficiency in an increased ops tempo environment. Driven by BRAC and safety imperatives, this further provides for more effective control which will better optimize range scheduling and increase flexibility in meeting test and training missions. Simply by knowing the locations of all entities

on the range, more flexibility in reassigning missions to ground and air space previously underutilized will be achieved.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: FPS–16 Radar Mobilization Upgrade.

Account: RDT&E, Air Force.

Earmark Received: $2,800,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: This enhanced, mobile radar tracking capability will provide AAC the flexibility required to support testing of current and emerging weapon systems and platforms. This new capability will attract test programs to the AAC test range that cannot presently be supported, provide expanded instrumentation coverage for the range, reduce encroachment concerns, and provide more comprehensive coverage and support to all test programs. This added instrumentation asset will result in more cost effective and timely test support for the U.S. Air Force and ultimately in fielding systems for the war fighter in a more timely manner.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: Moving Target Strike.

Account: RDT&E, Air Force.

Earmark Received: $2,000,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: The ability to extend the capability of GPS guided weapons to moving targets will significantly enhance the effectiveness of weapons platforms that use GPS guided systems. The enemy knows that currently if he keeps moving he is safe from many of our current weapon systems. The ability to strike movers from a variety of platforms with GPS guided weapons will greatly reduce the enemy's ability to avoid our weapons.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: Gulf Range Mobile Instrumentation Capability.

Account: RDT&E, Defense-Wide.

Earmark Received: $800,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: By developing a GR–MIC we will be able to integrate the simultaneous employment of many advanced weapons/platforms into a single test or exercise/training events. This effort connects test and evaluation ranges that use many communication and data requirements to interact between geographically separated ranges, making valuable information available to everyone who requires it. The result is ranges becoming interconnected and consequently creating a greater training experience.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: Joint Gulf Range Complex Upgrade.

Account: RDT&E, Defense-Wide.

Earmark Received: $1,200,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: The upgrade will result in improved and more accurate testing which will improve training effectiveness and mission readiness.

Name of the requesting Member: JEFF MILLER.

Bill number: H.R. 2638.

Project: Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) for AFSOC AC/MC 130 aircraft.

Account: RDT&E, Air Force.

Earmark Received: $4,400,000.

Justification for use of taxpayer funding: The funding will be used to provide aircraft protection from infrared and small arms threats.

HONORING NAPA VALLEY HOSPICE AND ADULT DAY SERVICES 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 honor Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of their Adult Day Services program. The Adult Day Services program has done visionary work serving the unique needs of the elderly, younger adults with mental and physical impairments, and those suffering from Alzheimer's and other dementias.

In 1979, Hospice of Napa Valley opened as a program of St. Helena Hospital. They became an independent non-profit in 1997, and opened their acclaimed Adult Day Services program in 1998. ADS is the only program of its kind in Napa County and is one of 54 official Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers in California.

Since its inception 10 years ago, the Adult Day Services program has served more than 1,000 people. Last year alone, they served 80 people with Alzheimer's or other dementia, gave family training to 129 people, provided 165 hours of support groups, 200 hours of counseling for 143 people, 30 hours of community education for 327 people, and 166 consultations for 133 people.

These incredible achievements would not be possible without their dedicated staff, led by Executive Director Catherine Poliak and ADS Program Coordinator Celine Regalia. Catherine and Celine lead a team that is second to none in their creativity and enthusiasm.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank everyone at Napa Valley Hospice and Adult Day Services for the remarkable work they have done for our community. Through their hard work and generous contributions this program has thrived for the past 10 years, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

HONORING ST. MARY'S PARISH IN TRENTON, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Mary's Parish in Trenton, Illinois. St. Mary's has represented Catholicism for 150 years in the community of Trenton.

During the 1820s and '30s the local Catholics of Trenton gathered at the railroad station once a year to take the train to St. Louis to fulfill their Easter duty. In 1858 Fr. Peter Peters began holding mass with a small group of Catholic families in Trenton. The first church was built in 1864. Yet, it was not until 1868 that St. Mary's Parish of Trenton had its first permanent pastor, Fr. Anthony Brefeld. Just two years after Fr. Brefeld took the position as pastor, St. Mary's built a small school where the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ came to teach. By 1950 it was evident that a larger church was needed. In 1953 the new church was completed and by 1955, about 1,500 parishioners called St. Mary's home.

To help celebrate the 150th anniversary, the St. Mary's family placed a "time capsule" into the ground at the parish. The capsule contains materials related to the parish celebration. The time capsule will be opened in 2058, 50 years from now.

I join with my fellow Representatives to congratulate St. Mary's on 150 years of faith and service.

JIM MARTINO

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, Jim Martino was born in 1929 in eastern Pennsylvania. He graduated from Lafayette College and soon after married his lovely wife, Nancy, and joined the army. Jim served in Korea from 1951 to 1953, which was an experience that had a profound effect on his life. In 2000, the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, Jim searched for his comrades and organized reunions to bring together the men he served with and to share their memories and experiences. Their wives also enjoyed the experience, and the group developed into a close family.

After returning from Korea, Jim began a successful career in direct mail marketing. Beginning in Valley Forge, PA, Jim's achievements took him to Dayton, OH, southern California, and eventually Cameron Park, CA. Jim was an accomplished private pilot who flew for business and pleasure, making many trips with his wife across the country between their homes. Jim was also an avid participant in government and politics, supporting candidates he believed in and authoring numerous "Letters to the Editor" to express his views.

On August 7, 2008, Jim passed away. He is now buried in the Sacramento Valley Veterans National Cemetery, where he is recognized as a "Defender of Freedom." I was honored to have been one of Jim's many friends. My thoughts and prayers are with Jim's wife, Nancy, their three children and four grandchildren.

EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, our country is facing an economic crisis and America's families are living with it everyday. If proof is needed, today, the Labor Department released new employment statistics revealing that 159,000 American jobs

were lost in September. So far this year more than 750,000 American jobs have been lost. In September alone, more than 1.5 million Americans are working part-time jobs because they cannot find full-time work. The wages of American workers are stalled and with inflation at 5 percent it means most working Americans have effectively taken a pay cut. These are hard times for working families.

This report translates into real pain not just for Main Street, but for every family that sits around the kitchen table deciding how to make ends meet. We are seeing jobs at risk, credit frozen, business activity stalled, and the pensions and college funds of hard working Americans at risk. This is an economic crisis and the time for Congress to act is now.

On September 29th, the House failed to pass the economic rescue package. I voted for that bill and I have no regrets. As a result of the failure of that bill to pass, the stock market went into an immediate free-fall resulting in a $1.2 trillion loss of value. That translated into seniors losing their retirement, workers losing their jobs, and confidence being lost in the American economic system which exacerbates the downward economic spiral.

What Congress is once again attempting to do today is pass an emergency package that will provide $700 billion to the Treasury Department to buy mortgage-backed securities, sometimes referred to as ''toxic paper,'' that is strangling the credit market for companies, small business, and families. This credit crisis is real and we are seeing it manifest itself in the inability of consumers with good credit to get auto loans, banks refusing to lend to banks, and municipalities unable to access financing for needed projects like roads, hospitals and water treatment plants. The entire credit system is frozen and it will require action by Congress to salvage our economy after years excess, abuse, and corruption by Wall Street.

The American people, seeing this rescue package with a $700 billion price tag, should be angry. I am angry. My office has received thousands of calls from constituents who are furious, but anger should not be an excuse for inaction. Many of these calls, even the majority, have warned me of the evils of what they call a ''socialist intervention.'' Many advocated that a better solution would be to keep government out of the crisis and let the market solve its own problem even if the outcome is a complete economic meltdown. In my estimation, such an argument is both irrational and irresponsible.

The bill before the House today is a critical first step towards stabilizing the economy and preventing financial disaster for millions small businesses, families and seniors. I support this rescue package because Democrats, Republicans, and the Secretary of the Treasury, along with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, came together and worked tirelessly, putting politics aside, and put the people's needs first in addressing this serious crisis.

This bill provides $700 billion to buy mortgage-backed securities. These are assets with value bundled with distressed assets that will be purchased by the government so they can be taken off the books of financial institutions, restoring confidence and trust in the institutions, and allowing for liquidity to return to the credit market. This is not an ideal solution, but it is not a giveaway either. This $700 billion is a Federal investment that will buy assets that possess value and many experts say taxpayers could break even or earn a profit in the end. In the meantime serious oversight, accountability, and government regulations have been added to protect the taxpayer. There is strong language to help homeowners in financial distress to prevent home foreclosure which again makes this bill very important and relevant to American families in trouble. Also, I am very pleased that prohibitions on golden parachutes for executives from companies benefiting from this legislation have been put in place.

Finally, this legislation is not the end of Congress's efforts to address the causes of this crisis, only the beginning. Next week I will participate in Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearings to explore the root causes of this economic disaster. Where there is identifiable malfeasance recommendations for criminal investigation and prosecution should be made to the Justice Department. Wall Street's high flyers whose excesses and corruption violated the law must be held accountable.

While this package is not perfect, it is Congress's best effort to address this economic crisis. A new provision in this bill that I support is a temporary increase for insured deposits under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation from $100,000 to $250,000. This increase in deposit insurance is intended to allow for additional liquidity in lending and restore confidence for depositors that their money is safe.

There are other aspects of this bill that were added by the U.S. Senate which I strongly object to because they are giveaways to special interests. Tax breaks for special interests like NASCAR, the rum industry, and the manufacturers of children's arrows is an egregious abuse of the legislative process to pass out favors. These giveaways result in a $107 billion reduction in revenues to the Federal Government meaning more deficit spending.

My preference would have been to strip these provisions from the bill. These pork barrel provisions, if absolutely necessary, should have been offset and paid for to eliminate deficit spending. The Senate's irresponsible inclusion of these earmark tax giveaways is an example of how the other body is out of touch with the needs of ordinary Americans.

This week, concluding with today's vote, the Congress—Democrats and Republicans—will take action not seen since the Great Depression to intervene to restore confidence in the markets. If successful the result will be to avoid dramatic and damaging pain for America's families of every income level and geographic location. Doing nothing to address this emergency situation would be a decision to condemn the U.S. economy and the American people to years of stagnation and hard times.

Following the passage of this bill and its signing into law, there must commence a new era of government responsibility, oversight, accountability, and, when necessary, regulation of the financial markets. The Reagan era of deregulation for markets and labeling government as the problem is over. We have seen how this philosophy has mutated into the grotesque excesses of Wall Street's elite and their massive concentration of wealth. It has infected our economy with a financial pathogen that is now destroying small businesses as well as the lives of families and the communities they live in.

The next Congress—the 111th Congress—will have a duty to institute unprecedented and tireless oversight of not only this rescue effort, but all the excess in the market place, from Wall Street to the pharmaceutical industry, and beyond. The Bush administration's abdication of its duty to regulate and its endless campaigns of misinformation on innumerable issues has eroded the trust American's once had in their Federal leaders. From the falsehoods that led this Nation to war in Iraq to the current corruption scandal in the Justice Department, this White House has destroyed the American people's confidence in government. This administration's failure to regulate Wall Street and protect taxpayers is just another example of misplaced priorities and a costly lack of leadership.

My vote for H.R. 1424 is a vote to protect the jobs, pensions, college accounts, and the savings of millions of hard working Americans. This important step must be followed with a new commitment to accountability and government oversight. I will be working to make sure this rescue package not only helps restore our economy, but returns every dollar we invest back to taxpayers.

AMERICA'S TABLE: A THANKSGIVING READER CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE ROOTS AND SHARED VALUES

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday, I rise today to remind this Congress that we are all one people, one family, one America. We all come from different backgrounds, but in millions of homes across the country, our celebrations look very much the same. We will gather around our dinner tables with family and friends giving thanks. This day is a reminder that we are all together in this American experiment, that we should celebrate our diversity, but also recognize our shared values.

I commend to every family the publication called America's Table: A Thanksgiving Reader. The pamphlet is short and simple, and it is meant to be read at the Thanksgiving meal or as people contemplate the meaning of Thanksgiving. This booklet tells the story of American people by sharing profiles of men and women of diverse backgrounds. I am honored to be one of the people profiled in this year's publication.

The American Jewish Committee began publishing America's Table annually on the Thanksgiving after the 9/11 disaster. They partner with ten human relations organizations, including the NAACP, the National Urban League, and the National Council of La Raza to distribute this wonderful pamphlet.

We all have our stories of how we came to this great land. We must use this opportunity to celebrate our differences and our oneness as Americans. I submit a copy of this year's America's Table for the RECORD, and I hope and pray that Americans will continue to use it as a way to help build the Beloved Community, a nation at peace with itself.

AMERICA'S TABLE

A Thanksgiving Reader

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE ROOTS AND SHARED VALUES

You are holding the eighth annual edition of America's Table.

As in past years, the brief narrative on the white pages is intended to be read aloud at the Thanksgiving meal. It helps us express gratitude for living in a nation where each of us, regardless of background, is entitled to a place at the table.

The facing pages contain profiles of eight accomplished Americans. These profiles can be read at the Thanksgiving meal or whenever you have time. Five of the profiled individuals arrived in America recently. Another is descended from slaves. All are deeply engaged in helping America fully achieve the promise of opportunity and mutual respect.

By reading America's Table on Thanksgiving, we add new meaning to our most beloved and universal holiday as a time to celebrate our diverse roots and shared values. In some homes, a leader designates the parts to be read. At other gatherings, people simply go around the table, switching readers at each sentence, paragraph, or page. Do whatever feels right for you and your family and friends.

And enjoy a warm and peaceful holiday.

November 2008

Adams Costa Spencer Lind Tanaka Carney Schultz Pucinski Leibowitz McLaren Gonzales Szymankiewicz Giannini Humphreys Zimmer Poulos Tinley Kahn Trugglio Singh Sandbuig Jackson Kogovsek Smith Rivera Acosta Demetrios Nemec Schwartz Nwaguru Rosenbaum Kimura Peck Teters Foulks Koproski

WE ARE EACH ON A JOURNEY

These are the names of the generations that came to America.

They reveal individual lives that represent the story of our nation.

These are the names of the generations that built America.

They recall our parents and grandparents and mirror ourselves.

These are the names of the generations that will care for America.

They remind us why we gather at this Thanksgiving table.

Calderon Lew Durley Branovan Sharma Hassan Montalto Paterson Jordan Cheng Gioia Noriega Ellison Josephs Kassab Phillips Pun Letona Linares Brooks Gilchrist Mineta Levine Patel Tsosie Yuo Meghani Verdeja Aoun Parens Al-Suwaij Morris Rangel Hong Lafley Nganji Ahuja Totenberg Lewis Shamim Padron

Chung-Wha Hong ''We were watching the presidential debates with Jimmy Carter, and I remember my mother saying, 'He's going to be the president and he does the dishes' ''

Growing up in South Korea, Chung-Wha Hong gained her impressions of the United States from black-and-white TV.

AMERICA IS HEAVEN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Hong was eleven when the family arrived in St. Louis, in 1977. Local people were welcoming, she recalls, but the schools offered no programs for students like Hong who spoke no English. ''I went to school and slept all day.''

Her immigrant experience and the influence of her parents, both religious leaders and social reformers, shaped her career choice. After graduation from the University of Pennsylvania, Hong returned briefly to Korea, where young activists inspired her.

Back in the United States, she worked in Washington, D.C., for Korean and Asian organizations before moving to New York to engage at the grassroots level ''on work that flows from my identity as a Korean-American immigrant.''

As head of the New York Immigration Coalition, Hong now helps immigrants of all backgrounds cope with what she describes as a convergence of issues facing new arrivals, including: poverty, lack of English language skills, and limited access to government services. These challenges, says Hong, are compounded by anti-immigrant sentiment.

''Part of my job is to challenge people that this is not what this country is about, to tap into people's better instincts of generosity and justice.''

The insightful questions of our children, innocently asked, compel us to reconnect with our past.

When our families came to America.

How they got here.

What they found.

Why they came.

At every table the answers are different, but much the same.

Many of us were immigrants and refugees from all regions of the world, fleeing the afflictions of poverty and oppression.

Drawn by the promise of a better life, we chose America and she took us into safe harbor.

Not every journey was easy.

The first arrivals sometimes shunned those who followed.

Not every journey was voluntary.

The first African slaves landed in Jamestown a year before the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth.

Not every journey was righteous.

Native Americans were devastated by a new nation's need to conquer, cultivate, and build.

A.G. Lafley knows something about diversity.

On his father's side, Lafley is descended from a French Canadian man who migrated to New England in the 1850s and married a Native American woman. A few decades later, his mother's family arrived in Boston from County Cork, Ireland.

''My mother was adamant about understanding the world and people who are different from you,'' says Lafley. ''She was a card-carrying member of the League of Women Voters. I remember being dragged around in the '52, '56, and '60 presidential elections in neighborhoods we didn't live in.''

Lafley enrolled as a Ph.D. student in history before a hitch in the Navy overseeing retail supply shifted his career goals. After Harvard Business School, he joined Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble in 1977, becoming CEO in 2000 and chairman in 2002.

For Lafley, diversity is a competitive advantage at a company that employs 138,000 people from 140 nationalities and ethnicities, and provides household and personal care products for more than three billion consumers.

Lafley recalls a recent conversation with a young mother and her family in a modest home on a hillside above São Paulo, Brazil. ''We sit around the kitchen table,'' he says.

I LEARN THROUGH HER STORY

''It may take a little longer to work across cultures and languages,'' says Lafley, ''but we're going to come up with more ideas and create something that will make a difference.'' Sometimes the difference is big.

''We developed a unique and proprietary product that can render any source of water anyplace in the world potable.''

Jean Nganji ''Are you Hutu or Tutsi?''

The question was raised by a teacher when Jean Nganji was a seven-year-old schoolboy in Rwanda.

''Go home and ask your parents,'' the teacher commanded.

The next day, he recalls, ''I said, 'I am Tutsi' '' Nganji's parents then pushed him hard to excel academically.

''Why?'' he asked.

''Just listen,'' they said. ''Don't ask questions.''

The answer soon emerged, as Nganji was forced to repeat grades, despite his competence, because he was Tutsi. When he realized that a Tutsi admissions quota made it difficult to attend college in Rwanda, he was accepted at a small school in Massachusetts with the help of his friend Andre, who had moved to America.

The two young men became college roommates soon after Nganji arrived in the United States, in October 1989. But Andre was Hutu, and a year later, with the outbreak of war, the friendship ended.

The genocide started on April 6, 1994. On April 15, Nganji learned that his parents and youngest brother were killed. The daughter of his eldest brother, who perished, was saved by her nanny, a Hutu woman who claimed the four-year-old was her little sister.

Today, Nganji lives near Boston. He tells his story at schools in America and travels regularly to Rwanda on a project that helps Tutsi and Hutu youth tell their stories through film. ''I have found therapy and peace talking to young people.''

DO NOT FALL INTO THE TRAPS OF IGNORANCE, BIGOTRY, AND RACISM

WE ARE EACH PART OF AMERICA'S JOURNEY

We did not leave history behind, like unwanted baggage at immigration's door.

Our particular pasts and our shared present are wedded in hyphenated names:

African-American,

Irish-American,

Italian-American,

Korean-American,

Polish-American.

We are not always on a first-name basis with one another.

But we quickly become acquainted in playgrounds and classrooms, in college dorms and military barracks, and in offices and factories.

We feel at home.

In some parts of the world, our differences would be threatening.

We feel enriched.

In America, our differences resonate in our names, language, food, and music. They inspire art and produce champions and leaders.

We feel free to disagree.

We are a family, and what is a family gathering without debate?

Gurpreet Singh Ahuja was completing his residency in New Delhi, in 1984, when Indira Gandhi was assassinated.

Reports that the prime minister was shot by Sikhs set off reprisals throughout India. ''As a physician in the hospital, I saw the charred bodies of those young men and women.''

The violence contradicted his experience growing up. ''As a Sikh, we're reminded to respect all faiths. They're all paths to the same central truth.''

He and his wife, Jasjit Singh, also a doctor, moved to New York, in 1986, where they continued their medical training before moving to Washington, D.C., and then to Southern California. They visited family in India annually.

''Every time I stepped foot back on American soil it would give me a great sense of exhilaration and liberation.''

That feeling was tested in the aftermath of 9/11 and the rash of hate crimes that began with the murder of a Sikh living in Arizona. The events evoked memories of 1984. Says Ahuja,

I NEVER LOST FAITH IN THE SYSTEM IN AMERICA

He helped establish the California Sikh Council to promote tolerance and educate

people about the Sikh faith, and now serves as president of the council. Jasjit Singh is vice president of the Central Orange County Interfaith Council.

''As a relatively recent immigrant, I am very appreciative of the opportunities that this country has given me,'' says Ahuja. ''Our value system must remain steadfast. That's what distinguishes us from most any other country in the world.''

Nina Totenberg ''Ninotchka, we're proud of you.''

Nina Totenberg still cherishes her father's words. She had just endured a period of intense scrutiny after her reporting led to testimony by law professor Anita Hill, during the confirmation hearing of Justice Clarence Thomas.

Her father, Roman Totenberg, a world-renowned violinist, performed across Europe by age eleven. A Polish Jew, he left Europe in 1935. ''He saw the rise of Hitler,'' says his daughter, ''but he came to America because it represented a kind of equality and meritocracy that did not exist in Europe.''

Nina Totenberg's mother, Melanie, shared her interest in American politics. ''I remember my mother watching the Army-McCarthy hearings on TV all day every day, explaining to me what was going on,'' says Totenberg. ''I knew who all those senators were and I was eight years old.''

At 16, reading The Making of the President, the classic book about the 1960 election, Totenberg confirmed her childhood desire to be a witness to history. ''I wanted to be a reporter from the time I realized that I couldn't be Nancy Drew.''

For the past three decades, Totenberg has reported for National Public Radio and is best known for her coverage of the Supreme Court. ''There are a lot of injustices in the world and in this country,'' she says. ''The ones that I can do something about—I will try to do something about.'' She credits her father, who still teaches at age 97.

YOU CAN'T GET MY DAD TO DO SOMETHING HE THINKS IS NOT RIGHT

We believe in fairness.

In America, the loudest voice does not always have the last word, and every voice has a right to be heard.

We act with hope.

Not because life is perfect, but because we are free to face life, and all its imperfections, on our own terms.

We rely on faith.

In a sturdy and tested framework of law and government that works because of the confidence we place in it and in each other.

WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING AMERICA ON COURSE

''Are we there yet?'' the children ask.

We know the answer.

We pursue justice.

But still have a way to go.

We celebrate freedom.

But endlessly debate what it means to be free.

Our table is brimming.

But not everyone receives a fair portion.

John Lewis Growing up in a large family on a small farm in rural Alabama, John Lewis cared for the chickens.

When his parents wanted to sell or trade chickens, or have one for dinner, ''I would protest,'' Lewis recalls. ''They were creatures of God, and we didn't have a right to abuse them.''

Lewis was fifteen in 1955, when Emmett Till, a black teenager, was brutally murdered in Mississippi, Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus, and Martin Luther King, Jr., organized the Montgomery bus boycott. Listening to King on the radio, ''It was like he was saying, 'John Lewis, you can do it,

YOU, TOO, CAN MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Lewis went to Nashville, to study nonviolence and become a minister. He participated in sit-in demonstrations, Freedom Rides, and the creation of a campus group called the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

''Even when I was being beaten, I saw these individuals almost like the chickens,'' he says. ''They were innocent creatures and something happened to them.''

As chairman of SNCC, at 23, Lewis stood with King and other civil rights leaders on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in August 1963, preaching, ''Wake up, America.'' He has exerted leadership in Congress since 1986, representing the district around Atlanta. ''We've made progress,'' says Lewis. ''The world is so different from the world I grew up in.''

Still pursuing his vision of a ''beloved community,'' Lewis asserts, ''We need to turn toward each other to create a greater sense of community and belonging.''

Tasneem Shamim. In the late 1990s, at about age 40, Tasneem Shamim began to feel spiritually empty.

She missed a sense of compassion and universality, which she remembered from her childhood in India and could not find in the mosques in New Jersey, where Shamim, a doctor, lives with her husband and three children.

''One of my early memories is going with my grandmother to the small villages. My grandmother started organizations to help women out of poverty and oppression.''

To help reconnect with her feelings, Shamim visited the holy sites in Mecca and Medina, and she decided to cover her hair. Her mother and sister were concerned about potential antagonism, and one friend asked, ''Do you have to go to chemotherapy?''

For Shamim, the head scarf is an opportunity to prompt and answer questions about Islam. Most important, it makes her more conscious of her roles in life.

''You become a doctor mostly to please God. God says, 'You cannot help Me, but help the creatures that I have created.' ''

Shamim also began studying Sufism, a spiritual strand of Islam. At the urging of a Sufi leader that she express her religion in good works, Shamim established the Muslim Women's Coalition, a national organization devoted to community service and mutual respect.

PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT AMERICA IS A QUILT

Progress can be slow as we propose and protest, argue and advocate.

But we are grateful to be part of this vigorous democracy.

We enjoy its unparalleled privileges and accept its obligations:

To pursue our dreams while helping others.

To advance our convictions while respecting others.

To prepare our children for the gift of the American journey.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the new Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for a bill that includes earmarks they have requested, describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of Federal taxpayer funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

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

Project Name: Battlefield Plastic Biodiesel.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Renewable Energy Group and General Atomics.

Address of Requesting Entity: West Central, 406 First Street, Ralston, IA 51459. General Atomics, 3550 General Atomics Ct., San Diego, CA 92121.

Description of Request: $1.6 million is provided in the bill to continue a 3-year partnership with the U.S. Army to develop a technology providing a cost effective way to recycle military plastic waste into a useable biodiesel fuel with enhanced energy yield, for use in field power generation and other applications. This technology has the potential to save taxpayers millions per month in military waste disposal costs, and enhance the viability of increased use of biodiesel by both the military and civilian sectors to achieve greater energy independence. The $1.6 million FY09 appropriation is needed to complete the development phase of this multi-year project and demonstrate the technology.

RECOGNIZING THE FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize five students in my district that have received national honors from Future Farmers of America. These young people—Ryan Highsmith, Jordan Culpepper, Nicholas Worley, Jacob Schindler, and Courtney Curlin—have surpassed many other students to earn top honors for their work in local Future Farmers of America. All of these students excelled though challenging assessments at State and National level against their peers before being awarded these top accolades.

Ryan Highsmith of Lake Park, Georgia, won first place in the nation for Specialty Animal Production for his four year work with honey bee cultivation.

Jordan Culpepper of Lake Park, Georgia, won second place in the nation for Diversified Agriculture Production. Jordon dutifully worked with both livestock and crop production in a wide range of operations for over 5 years.

Nicholas Worley of Valdosta, Georgia, was named National Agriscience Student of the Year. Using clean wood chips and leftover biomass from Georgia forests, Nicholas found that a large amount of ethanol can be produced from these two sources.

Jacob Schindler of Valdosta, Georgia, won second place in the Junior Individual Botany Division. Jacob's project involved research on the effects of inert gases on kudzu. Jacob researched the uses of gases on kudzu, which enabled him to eradicate several large infestations of kudzu in the Valdosta area.

Courtney Curlin of Valdosta, Georgia won third place in the senior individual Engineering

Division. Courtney designed a filter using urea, which was able to filter out over fifty percent of particulate emissions from a tractor exhaust.

Agriculture plays an important role in the Georgia economy and it is wonderful to see our young people taking an interest in developing our resources. Their projects not only show their innovative thinking, but also prove that this generation recognizes the need to get involved. I am proud to recognize these five students today and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following earmark declaration:

Requesting Member: Mr. ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Barksdale Air Force Base.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 625, Shreveport, LA 71162.

Description of Request: Construct a new Security Forces Squadron Complex at Barksdale Air Force Base. Security forces command and operations functions are currently housed in a 1930's vintage hangar on the aircraft parking ramp. The Law Enforcement Desk and associated offices (including confinement) and storage of mobility equipment/personal bags are located across the street in one of our historic facilities. The majority of security operations occur in the Weapons Storage Area (WSA) which is over four miles by road from the current facility. The hanger facility is inadequate in functional layout to accommodate existing requirements. The facility is incompatible with existing land uses as the facility should house a function supporting flight line operations. Delays in construction of this facility will prevent compliance with the base comprehensive plan established land use policies. Already strained base resources will continue to be spent on an inadequate and inefficient facility.

Requesting Member: Mr. ALEXANDER.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: FEMA State and Local Programs.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Louisiana State University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 156 Thomas Boyd Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Description of Request: Louisiana State University's (LSU) National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT), Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education is a founding member of the Consortium which consists of LSU, New Mexico Tech, Texas A&M University, U.S. Department of Energy's Nevada Test Site, University of Hawaii, Transportation Technology Center, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness. The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium shall identify, develop, test, and deliver training to State, local, and tribal emergency response providers, provide on-site and mobile training at the performance and management and planning levels, and facilitate the delivery of training by the training partners of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The current mission of the Consortium is to enhance the preparedness of federal, state, local, and tribal emergency responders/first receivers and teams, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and all-hazard high-consequence events by developing, delivering and assessing plans, training, technical assistance and exercises.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for a Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Request that I made and which was included within the text and/or report to accompany H.R. 2638, the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009." I certify that neither I, nor my spouse, have any financial interest in this request, and certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this request is (1) not directed to an entity or program named or that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) is not intended for a "front" or "pass-through" entity; and (3) meets or exceeds statutory requirements for matching funds (where applicable). Please note that while publication of this disclosure information prior to the floor vote was intended, such was not possible because House Democratic Leadership chose to circumvent regular order under the House Rules last September when the bill was voted upon in the House by waiving the normal layover period between the time of filing of the report and a floor vote on the same in order to rush the bill through to a vote with minimal public scrutiny.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP (UT–01).

Bill Number: H.R. 263—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009.

1. Project: Distributed Environment for Critical Infrastructure—Decision Making Exercises for Increasing Cyber Security.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638, the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009."

Project Amount: $3 million.

Account: Science & Technology; Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations.

Requesting Entity: Utah State University Space Research Foundation.

Receiving Entity: The Cyber Conflict Research Consortium (CCRC); an affiliation of academic and non-profit institutions, including Miami University, Norwich University Applied Research Institutes, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, University of Nevada at Reno, and Utah State University Space Research Foundation.

Address: CCRC Team Leader, Norwich University, Applied Research Institutes, 57 Old Freight Yard, P.O. Box 30, Northfield, VT 05663–0030.

Project Description and Justification: Funding would continue work begun in FY'08 with the Department of Homeland Security on completing full-scale development of the Web-distributed Environment for Critical Infrastructure Decision-making Exercises (DECIDE). This project is the only high-level governmental program designed to minimize threats and risks of cyber attacks against the U.S. Government and key economic sectors which rely on electronic data bases, such as financial markets and banking institutions. Funding would continue development of core software components and demonstration to government entities and private-sector institutions concerned about following a coherent and coordinated plan to counter the serious and growing cyber-attack threat.

Matching Funds: Not applicable.

Detailed Spending Plan: Not applicable.

COMMENDING THE SOUTHERN GUAM LITTLE LEAGUE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE 2008 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I join the people of Guam in commending the Southern Guam Little League, a team comprised of players from the villages of Agat, Inarajan, Merizo, Naval Station, Santa Rita, Talofofo, and Umatac who competed in the 62nd Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Southern Guam Little League represented the Asia-Pacific Region.

After a seven to six comeback victory over the European champions from Italy, Team Guam played two hard-fought games against teams from Mexico and Curacao. A three run loss to Curacao on August 19, 2008, at Volunteer Stadium allowed Curacao to advance to the elimination round. I congratulate the players, parents, and coaches on their winning the Little League Asia-Pacific Region Championship and their representation of Guam in the 2008 Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

I would like to commend Dominick San Nicolas and his parents Paul Paulino and Josephine San Nicolas; Austin Paulino and his parents Jesse Meno and Debbie Paulino; Brielle Meno and her parents Ben and Ma-Donna Meno; Fernando Rabago and his parents Thomas and Tammy Rabago; Mark Blas and his parents Mark and Lucy Blas; Brian Bunag and his parents Benjamin and Gina Bunag; Johnny Quenga and his parents Johnny and Lani Quenga; Parish Reyes and his parents Fred and Ester Reyes; Andrew Quintanilla and his parents Jesse and Marie Quintanilla; Austin Sablan and his parents Rocindo Alforque and Mary Sablan; Nicholas Cruz and his grandparents Felix and MaryJane Cruz; Nicholas Hernandez and parents Guillermo and Nancy Hernandez; Southern Guam Little League Coaches Paul Paulino and Johnny DeJesus; Manager William Meeks; President William Sarmiento; Vice President Donna H. Santiago and Mr. Stephen J. Guerrero, the District Administrator, Guam Little League for their work and accomplishments in the 2008 Little League Baseball World Series.

The players, parents, and coaches of the Southern Guam Little League represented Guam with pride throughout the 2008 Little League Baseball World Series competition. I commend the parents and coaches for their hard work and dedication to the players in their road to Williamsport. Most of all, I join with all the people of Guam and baseball fans everywhere in commending the Southern Guam Little League players who inspired us with their skills and their sportsmanship.

Congratulations and thanks for the memories.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUPERVISOR JOHN F. SILVA IN THE COUNTY OF SOLANO IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleague, the Hon. GEORGE MILLER, in the House of Representatives to recognize Supervisor John F. Silva, as he retires after 53 years of public service with the County of Solano.

Supervisor Silva's career with Solano County began as a police officer in the Benicia in 1956. In 1978, he was appointed Benicia city manager. Following his time as city manager, he was elected to two terms as a city councilmember. Supervisor Silva was elected to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in 1997.

Supervisor Silva's outstanding service in Solano County also includes several achievements that significantly impacted the quality of life of the residents of Solano County. As supervisor, he was dedicated to representing his community and exemplified a strong work ethic. To address Solano County's escalating crime levels, he pushed hard for the successful development of a county-wide Gang and Drug Task Force. In addition, he was involved in the construction of the juvenile hall, the probation building, an award-winning new county administration center and parking facility.

One of Supervisor Silva's biggest achievements was his involvement in the program, Insure All Kids. Through the relentless fundraising efforts of supporters, the county was recognized by the State of California for achieving an astounding level of 96 percentile of health insurance for Solano County children.

The honors and awards Supervisor Silva has earned over the years are a testament to his hard work and dedication. This year, he has received the prestigious Circle for Service Award from the California State Association of Counties, as well as the Solano Transportation Authority's Outstanding Leadership in Transportation Award.

As Supervisor John Silva retires from his seat on the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I would like to thank him for his leadership and dedication to improving the quality of life for the residents of Solano County. I wish him and his wife Jan the best of luck in their future endeavors.

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 15th Anniversary of South Texas College to congratulate them for enrolling 22,000 students, the highest amount enrolled in South Texas College's history.

The South Texas College was created by the Texas legislature in 1993 and signed into law by former Governor Ann Richards. They are only one of three community colleges in Texas accredited to offer bachelors degrees and the only community college in the state to offer two Bachelor of Applied Technology Degrees. Their faculty and staff of over 1,500 have been leaders in higher education by not only providing education to college students, but by providing unique workforce training programs and the College Express dual enrollment high school program. Partnered with sixteen school districts in Hidalgo and Starr Counties, these programs help minority students find a pathway to higher-paying careers in math and science.

In recent years, South Texas College received the MetLife Foundation's 2008 Community College Excellence Award for promoting educational and economic advancement, thirty-one Excellence Awards from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in 2008, and the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2003 through 2007.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize South Texas College for their record enrollment in 2008, and I thank you for this time.

IN MEMORY OF MARILYN LACEY McMULLEN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mrs. Marilyn McMullen of Mission Hills, Kansas, a lovely person and dear friend.

Marilyn, whom I affectionately called "Lace," was a proud graduate of Webster High School, Webster Groves, Missouri. She attended Milliken College and the University of Missouri, Columbia, where she graduated in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Education and where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority. She established scholarships at the School of Education in honor of her mother.

Marilyn taught second grade at LaDue Elementary School in St. Louis. She was a member of the Grace Bibb Society in support of the MU School of Education and a member of the Friends of the MU Library and MU Kansas City Alumni Club. She was also a member and a past Director of the MU Jefferson Club.

At Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral Marilyn had served in the choir and vestry. She was a long-time member for over 40 years and Director of the Altar Guild at the Cathedral.

Marilyn was a Cub Scout Den Mother and President of the Boy Scout Mother's Club. She also served on the Board of Bishop Spencer Place to whom she was very grateful for the wonderful care provided to her mother.

Madam Speaker, I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to her family: her husband, Larry McMullen; her two sons and daughters-in-laws, Michael, Andrew, Bonnie and Yvette; and her grandchildren, Matthew, Hannah, Sarah, Rachel, Abby and Sophie.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. PATRICIA M. BOYLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Patricia M. Boyle of the Department of the Navy, who is retiring after more than 36 years of faithful service to our Nation, culminating in her service as the Legislation Specialist in the Department of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs.

Mrs. Boyle started her federal service in 1972 with the Office of Legislative Affairs as a Legislation Assistant. She was responsible for researching, routing legislation for comment throughout the Department of the Navy, and for maintaining all working files on current or past legislation of interest to the Department of the Navy. She worked in this position until July 1974.

She then worked in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Legal and Legislative Office, as a Legal Technician. She served in that position from July 1974 to December 1981. In that position, she helped coordinate comments on items of legislation and executive orders for the Chief of Naval Operations staff.

In 1981, Mrs. Boyle returned to the work at the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in Washington, DC, where she has remained since December 1981.

Mrs. Boyle has provided superb support as the Legislative Specialist to the Chief of Legislative Affairs within the Office of Legislative Affairs. This position marks the culmination of 36 years of Federal service in which she has continued to serve the Department of the Navy's legislative agenda. She has had a major impact on the identification of high-interest legislative items and the coordination of complete and thorough Navy positions to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the White House Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

Responsible for acting as central coordinator for the Department of the Navy for more than 300 legislative proposals per year, she has consistently provided timely and thoroughly vetted Navy positions, thereby ensuring the Navy's interests were furthered. She monitored the progress of legislation critical to the Department of the Navy and communicated the status and any outstanding requirements to ensure that Navy leadership was fully informed of important legislative initiatives. Her diligent, thoughtful, and timely coordination ensured that the Navy's message was effectively communicated to Congress.

In addition, she managed the coordination of all legislative items, approximately 1,000 per fiscal year, which included House and Senate Bills, executive agency proposals, testimony and executive orders. She provided consolidated Navy positions on these legislative items to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress, while successfully meeting all deadlines and suspense dates. Her effective coordination and thorough review consistently ensured a concise and well thought out Navy message to Congress.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans like Patricia Boyle that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud, Madam Speaker, as a fellow Virginian, to thank her and her family for her honorable service to our Nation with the United States Navy. I wish her fair winds and following seas as she concludes a distinguished career of public service.

VETERANS DAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Veterans Day. This national holiday serves as reminder of the enormous sacrifices that brave men and women have made for the ideals and beliefs that all Americans value. Veterans Day is also an opportunity to give thanks to the hundreds of thousands of armed forces personnel serving our country to protect our Nation and to secure the peace around the world.

To mark this special holiday, I had the honor of attending both a ceremony for Mexican American Post 5, where I learned of the hardships faced by American soldiers of Mexican descent, and the Minnesota State Veterans Day program to pay tribute to the men and women serving our country in uniform. This year, I also had the privilege of visiting our troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan to witness the tremendous sacrifice they and their families make each day.

On the battlefield, the U.S. Armed Forces pledge to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it must be our promise that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind. Fully preparing our troops, and providing the necessary healthcare, education, and disability benefits to meet the needs of our veterans, is our responsibility and moral obligation.

The 110th Congress has honored our commitment to veterans by making their needs a priority. This Congress passed the largest funding increase in the history of the Department of Veterans Affairs, which ensures that our veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan receive the quality health and mental health care they deserve. This year, we have also provided tax relief for military families, increased pay for members of our armed services, established a suicide prevention program, improved housing assistances for homeless veterans, and helped military families avoid home foreclosure. Lastly, this Democratic led Congress passed a GI bill for the 21st century that fully restores four-year college scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, on a par with the educational benefits after World War II.

The men and women of the armed forces who have served this country with honor during times of war and peace deserve the best this country can afford. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and President Obama to ensure veterans receive the highest level of care and compensation they have so bravely earned serving this country. This is a commitment to which I hold fast on Veterans Day and everyday.

To all veterans, you have my thanks and that of a grateful nation.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS CHAIRMAN DANA GIOIA

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and laud Dana Gioia's service as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 2003 when he began his service, Chairman Gioia has played a vital role in advancing America's cultural vitality and economic prosperity by promoting and expanding access to the arts. As a co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I am grateful for Chairman Gioia's efforts and look forward to his future contributions to the arts in America after he leaves the NEA in January 2009.

Chairman Gioia has launched a handful of national initiatives that have spread the reach of the NEA across the country and expanded arts education in schools and communities. One favorite program of mine, The Big Read, provides citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities. The initiative includes innovative reading programs in selected cities and towns, comprehensive resources for discussing classic literature, an ambitious national publicity campaign, and an extensive Web site providing comprehensive information on authors and their works. The NEA inaugurated The Big Read as a pilot project in 2006 with ten communities featuring four books. The Big Read continues to expand to include more communities and additional books. By 2009, approximately 400 communities in the U.S. will have hosted a Big Read since the program's 2007 national launch.

Chairman Gioia has democratized the arts. Last year, the NEA awarded over twenty-two hundred grants totaling over $100 million in 435 congressional districts. The National Endowment for the Arts is the largest national source of arts funding in the United States and supports local arts programs in every congressional district across the country. While the NEA's budget represents less than one percent of total arts philanthropy in the United States, Chairman Gioia has successfully leveraged NEA grants to have a powerful multiplying effect, with each grant dollar typically generating seven to eight times more money in matching grants.

Chairman Gioia is a Renaissance Man. As an artist himself, he recognizes that the arts are more than just a cultural or emotional enterprise. With his background in business, he knows that the arts have immense financial and social impact. Creativity, innovation, and imagination fuel today's global economy, and America's artists are a large source of that investment. Chairman Gioia led the NEA with this always in mind. When Chairman Gioia visited my congressional district, he brought not only great enthusiasm and energy to all of the arts organizations he toured, but imparted valuable guidance and advice to these organizations on how to increase their membership, spur local investment in the arts, and expand their presence in the community.

As a blues singer myself, I can empathize with Chairman Gioia's decision to return to his artistic craft. But despite his departure from the NEA, Chairman Gioia will continue to enrich the arts community. Art transcends barriers of language, time, and generation, translating cultural differences, breathing life into history, and bridging experiences across cultures. Chairman Gioia's exceptional writing and poetry no doubt enrich the lives of all Americans. Chairman Gioia will leave big shoes to fill, but I am confident that his leadership has trickled down in the NEA over the years. The NEA will continue to drive excellence in the arts with his spirit always in mind.

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN RUSSIA AND THE STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, after the summer recess, the Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was preparing to conduct a hearing on United States and Western businesses at risk entering markets in Russia and the former Soviet Republics without the protections guaranteed by the rule of law and government adherence to market principles. The hearing had to be postponed due to the invasion of Georgia, but it is our intention to take up this issue in the next Congress.

The Helsinki Commission, and the OSCE, is fully committed to the development of democracy, civil society, the rule of law and free markets in the Russia Federation and in other states of the former Soviet Union. We trust that Russian President Medvedev shares that commitment when he proclaims that "my most important task is to further develop civil and economic freedoms."

Yet we see evidence that Russian authorities continue to selectively prosecute and harass human rights advocates, prominent business leaders and journalists by employing arbitrary and extralegal means to achieve state and political ends. This is often accomplished through a manipulated court system, thus denying its citizens and foreign investors the impartial application of the rule of law and equal justice.

In June, 1992, the United States and Russia negotiated and signed the Bilateral Investment Treaty, which grants investors the protections and safeguards necessary to conduct business in a fair and transparent environment. Unfortunately, Russia has failed to ratify this important measure that would ultimately serve the economic interests of both our nations.

Along the same lines, it is regrettable that Russia refuses to ratify the Energy Charter

Treaty. This measure insures the rights and protections of private and public sector interests against a government taking arbitrary action that would disrupt or threaten global energy security. The thousands of United States investors who became shareholders in the Russian oil company, YUKOS, lost everything when the Russian government seized the company's assets.

Finally, Russia has not honored its pledge to amend its federal laws to guarantee protections of intellectual property rights and enforcing such laws consistent with international standards. I would note the frequent Western media reports on cases where Russian authorities have seized the assets of certain companies, many with foreign investors, utilizing executive decrees, court orders, and extradition requests to assume ownership or control over Russian enterprises. Some foreign investors have been compelled to surrender their equity shares in Russian companies without proper due process and compensation only to have Western courts, in a series of cases, issue rulings in favor of such companies.

Madam Speaker, we appreciate that our economy is truly global and American and Western investments are essential in Russia and throughout Eurasia, given their abundant natural resources, and urge that all countries can mutually commit to an economic relationship that is based on mutual trust, the rule of law and market forces that are free of arbitrary or capricious government activity.

RAISING CAIN

HON. STEVE KAGEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, this poem was written by Albert Carey Caswell, a member of the Capitol Guide Service in honor of SSG Michael Cain of Berlin, WI.

Staff Sergeant Cain is a disabled veteran currently undergoing treatment at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I met Staff Sergeant Cain at Walter Reed on November 18, 2008, while visiting another wounded soldier. I am proud and happy to submit this poem, written in his honor.

RAISING CAIN

A young man lies face down . . .
Right between life and death, as found . . .
Clinging to life, as now . . . with one leg lost . . .
When, we hear a sound . . .
For it's his heart, as we watch what is lost, as now is found . . .
Which will not let him go, which will not let him down . . .
As all inside of his fine soul, is so is now . . .
As he raises his head up high, Raising Cain . . .
As he brings such tears to eyes . . . as he astounds!
What will we raise in these our days?
To what heights and mountains, will we so climb?
All in our lives and times . . .
All in what we've so lost, and gained . . .
All in that great heartache and pain, has made . . .
To lie face down . . . upon battlefields of honor . . .
As Michael you were bound . . .
While, all in the midst of hell . . . as the dark evil lie all around . . .
As your fine heart so chose, so chose to swell . . . swell somehow . . ..
To cheat death, with what you have so left . . .
All in uniform, so brilliant now . . .
When right there, on that edge of death . . .
As you so looked down . . .
To see what you had so left . . .
As your once strong leg was gone . . .
As your life so hung in the balance now . . .
As you were the one who so raised his head . . .
Whose fine heart so began to pound!
Raising Cain . . .
His Daddy raised a Hero, his Momma did the same . . .
All in their hearts of love, which now so remains!
A Wisconsin Man . . .
Who love's his Packers . . .
County music, and his Momma understand!
There's a lot of Brett in this man . . .
And there's a lot more of Michael, in Brett which stands . . .
As a winner . . .
And a simple man . . .
Who wears his heart on his sleeve, time and again . . .
With a heart of courage full . . .
This American Jewel . . .
Beating proud, for that old red white and blue . . .
And most of all, he's a family man . . .
As we watch, and see . . .
All that a heart can be . . .
As he fight's the good fight . . .
As Michael's Raising Cain . . .
Building where not lies left . . .
As our world he'll bless . . .
To come back from the dead . . .
Back from that dark abyss, abyss of death . . .
To go off to war . . .
As one fine fighting machine sure . . .
As an Army man . . .
Who to courage ran . . .
All in what he gave up . . .
All in what he must endure . . .
And if I ever raise a son . . .
I but hope and pray . . .
That he could but be, like this fine one . . .
The kind who will teach us, who will reach us . . .
Who to hearts will all so beseech us . . .
All in how life is won . . .
As Michael Cain, was raised this one . . .

In honor of Michael Cain on your 27th birthday . . . your friend Bert—Albert Carey Caswell ©2008

RECOGNIZING FIRE SERVICE SPECIALIST RODERICK R. MENO, GUAM'S 2008 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, congratulate and commend Fire Service Specialist Roderick R. Meno on being named Guam's Firefighter of the Year for 2008.

Roderick, a native son of southern Guam, grew up in a family of outstanding firefighters: his father, retired Deputy Fire Chief Frank C. Meno; his brothers, Fire Specialist Frank R. Meno, Fire Captain Kurt R. Meno, Fire Fighter II Brian R. Meno; and nephew Fire Fighter I Joshua R. Meno. This exposure, from his early youth, to a family of dedicated public servants imbued in Roderick an instinctive desire to serve the public, and protect life and property as his father and siblings did before him.

Roderick's upbringing in the closely knit village of Inarajan also inculcated in him the spirit of community and volunteerism. From his father, a recognized Chamorro master builder, he learned skills as a general overall handyman, a skill he unhesitatingly used to assist his fire precinct in the operations and maintenance of its fire station. He used these skills to perform renovations of the station control room, improving working conditions for his fellow firefighters. His skills as a carpenter and do-it-yourselfer enabled him to perform modifications to the sleeping quarters of his fellow firefighters, rendering those quarters more comfortable and organized. When he saw a need and he knew he had the skills to accomplish the work, he did not hesitate.

And just as his spirit of volunteerism motivated him to apply his skills to work he could perform, Roderick did not hesitate to use his own resources to accomplish these tasks. Roderick would begin projects knowing that financial support from the government may not be available. He used his own tools and when he needed materials and parts, rather than waiting for the cumbersome government procurement process, he used his own finances to purchase parts and materials.

And Roderick did all of this, ever mindful of, and never neglecting, his duties and responsibilities as a firefighter. As his father and brothers before him, Roderick Meno was always ready to serve and protect. For these attributes that have characterized our Nation's outstanding firefighters, Roderick Meno joins his father and brothers, and America's firefighters whose dedication to purpose and spirit of community make them outstanding role models for all citizens in all roles of life. Fire Service Specialist Meno, thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA FRANCO

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, in my years of public service, I have benefitted from the efforts of many capable employees on my staff who have come and gone. Yet there has always remained one constant in my office, Martha Franco, and for that I am truly grateful.

Martha was born in Mexico and grew up in Colusa, California. As a naturalized citizen, she is a model example of someone who made the efforts required to become a U.S. citizen and has gone on to contribute to our country through public service.

Martha first came to work for me in 1984 when I served in the California State Senate. When I was elected to Congress in 1990, Martha became my Executive Assistant and Office Manager. She has worked for me in Washington and in California, and this year I named her as my Deputy Chief of Staff.

Martha's loyal presence has meant so much to my wife, Julie, to me, and to our entire organization. The people who call upon our office have appreciated seeing a familiar face

through the years, and I have appreciated having someone who knows the many people who have been important to us throughout my career. Martha's unsurpassed character and dedication have allowed me to trust her with confidential and sensitive materials and to do so with great confidence.

Martha's spirit is demonstrated by her commitment to family as well. She cares for her father at home and is a wonderful aunt to her many nieces and nephews. I know she is looking forward to spending even more time with her large family as she begins a new chapter in her life.

While our work together will soon end, Martha will always remain an important person in our lives. As she looks to new opportunities, I wish Martha all the best, and look forward to her continued friendship in the years to come.

THE LOSS OF LES HIRSCH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the death of Les Hirsch. Mr. Hirsch made an indelible mark on my community in Tampa Bay.

Over the 50 year period that Mr. Hirsch lived in Tampa, he took on a few different roles. In 1960 he became a stockbroker. Many of the brokers still practicing in my community got their start when Mr. Hirsch hired them. Former employees describe him as ''upbeat, with a very sharp mind'' and ''a mentor, inspiration and a role model.'' And through his love of politics, he inspired one of them to seek public office. Mr. Hirsch helped on his successful campaign for City Council in 1991.

In the late 1970s, Mr. Hirsch was appointed to the Tampa Port Authority and then to the Tampa Sports Authority. When Tampa hosted its first Super Bowl in 1984, Mr. Hirsch contributed to the effort to secure our city as the location. As we ready our city to welcome Super Bowl fans again this season, I regret that we won't have his expertise this time around.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hirsch's death on October 31st marked a great loss to his wife Gail, his sons, Rabbi David Hirsch and his wife, Margot, and Andrew Hirsch and his wife, Tricia, his daughter, Beth Hirsch, and his six grandchildren, as well as the entire Tampa Bay area.

A TRIBUTE TO THE EXEMPLARY HISTORY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE TOWN OF KILLINGLY, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the exemplary history of public education in the town of Killingly, Connecticut.

This year, the town of Killingly celebrates the 300th anniversary since its incorporation in 1708. Equally inspiring, it celebrates the 150th anniversary of its public education system. The development of public education in Killingly has been a microcosm of the region, the state of Connecticut, and country as a whole—it is a model of progress.

From a time when providing free education to the public was a visionary innovation to a time when teacher shortages plagued the country when teachers were drafted to serve in World War II, Killingly's education system persevered and thrived.

The mission outlined by the town of Killingly for its school system includes as a high priority fostering citizenship in our Nation's next generation. Moreover, Killingly's contribution to citizenship is not confined to the classroom. I was proud to see pictures of the high school marching band in a Veterans' Day parade. Killingly's commitment to community and progress is certain to continue to energize its education system for another 150 years.

I am pleased to see Killingly's strong commitment to education, evolving over many generations. I know Connecticut will continue to benefit from Killingly's progress for generations to come.

RECOGNITION AND THANKS TO MICHAEL J. CRONIN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Michael Cronin for his three years of dedicated service to the House as Office Director of the Office of the Historian. Michael first came to the House in 1986 as an intern and then upon graduation from college, joined the office of former Rep. Timothy J. Penny of Minnesota. He left Capitol Hill in 1990 but returned in 2005 to serve as Office Director for the reestablished Office of the Historian, under the direction of Dr. Robert Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler. This month, Michael will continue his service to the People's House as the Administrative Director of the Office of the Inspector General.

Madam Speaker, we, as Members, are indeed fortunate to have the services of talented individuals like Michael Cronin. I know I join the Historian of the House, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and the staff of the Office of the Historian in wishing him my best as he begins this new position.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF KENNETH T. JONES, JR.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Guam in mourning the death of a great son of America and community leader in the Pacific where, for the last sixty three years, he lived, worked and built a business empire. Born in the small town of Willow Springs, North Carolina, on November 22, 1917, Kenneth T. Jones, Jr. will be remembered for his contributions to our community.

''Ken'', as he was fondly known to his family, friends and associates, was the consummate business adventurer, always searching for new opportunities and always willing to venture into new endeavors where he sensed success was certain. That business sense convinced him that prospects would arise on Guam, a small Pacific island he temporarily visited as a Navy Chief Petty Officer with the 25th Seabees during World War II. Hearing the slogan, ''Guam, Crossroads of the Pacific'', Ken instinctively saw great future potentials for those who were willing to work hard and had the spirit to succeed.

Ken befriended Segundo ''Sy'' Leon Guerrero, a young Guamanian he met during his short stay on the island. Ken and Sy had many discussions about the future and planned for Ken's return to Guam when they would become business partners. But even while he was waiting for the opportunity to return to the island, Ken would purchase small items to send to Sy who sold them from his small Quonset hut in Sinajana, which would eventually become the first Town House Department Store under the partnership called Jones and Guerrero Company Incorporated, immediately coined ''J & G'' throughout the Pacific.

Under the Chairmanship of Ken Jones, J & G rapidly expanded into several areas where Ken felt there was a need on island. After Town House and upon his return to Guam in 1946, J & G Repair Shop opened, a natural fit for Jones who was an automotive mechanic in the Seabees. Other businesses quickly followed: from companies which supplied construction materials, built modular homes and a residential subdivision (Jonestown) to the bottling of soft drinks (Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.) and J & G Payless Supermarkets. To supply his many companies, Ken established Pacific Navigation Company, agents for ocean going freight liners calling ports in Australia, Asia, the Philippines, China and other islands in Micronesia.

Ken's business acumen motivated him to build Cliff Properties Development, one of the island's first hotels; and the Guam Hilton Hotel, Guam's first major chain hotel. Ken Jones' business interests and ventures were not confined to Guam. Ken built and operated the Royal Taga Hotel, the first hotel in Saipan, CNMI, as well as the Bar K cattle ranch in Tinian, CNMI. He operated thoroughbred race horse ranches and stables in Australia and the bluegrass country of Kentucky. He also built and operated a considerable shopping mall in his home state of North Carolina. Ken Jones' success as a businessman created within him a sense of philanthropy to which he devoted much personal time, effort, energy and considerable financial resources. These include leadership roles and membership in such organizations as the American Red Cross; the American Cancer Society; the Guam Chapters of the American Boy and Girl Scouts; the Guam Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop; the Boards and Trustees of several private schools, including St. John's Episcopal School, the Academy of Our Lady of Guam; the Guam Lytico-Bodig Association; the Make-a-Wish Foundation; and the American Heart and Lung Association.

Ken's efforts and successes as a premier businessman have always been recognized by the people of Guam and the entire business community of the Pacific Basin. This recognition culminated in his induction into the Guam Business Hall of Fame on May 2, 1992. In

1994 he was named Guam Business News' Executive of the Year.

Kenneth T. Jones, Jr., was a respected businessman on Guam, much loved by the people of Guam and our entire community. We recognize him for his many achievements and we commend him for his contributions to our community. Our community mourns his passing and we extend our condolences to his family and friends. Ken leaves behind his wife, Elaine Cruz Jones and five daughters, Vivian, Linda, Veronica, Donna and Ramona.

IN MEMORIAL OF PENNSYLVANIA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CATHERINE BAKER KNOLL

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, on November 12, 2008, Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor and former State Treasurer Catherine Baker Knoll, a dedicated mother, political pioneer and tenacious public servant, lost her battle with cancer while surrounded by loved ones.

Knoll, 78, is survived by her four children, Albert, Charles, Mina and Kim Eric. Her late husband Charles was a U.S. Postmaster.

Knoll was born one of nine children in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. She was a schoolteacher, a businesswoman, and an innovative State Treasurer from 1989 to 1997. In that post, she created the Tuition Assistance Program, which opened doors for thousands of Pennsylvania's youth to attend college.

The self-described ''steel woman from the steel city,'' Knoll became the first woman Lieutenant Governor in Pennsylvania in 2003 and was well-known for her persistence, initiative, and unflinching commitment to the public good. Her affection for all the people of Pennsylvania and unstoppable desire to knock down barriers for women and minorities were obvious to all who witnessed her energetic and caring demeanor. On the day she was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor, she compared Pennsylvania to a 10-speed bicycle, saying, ''We have gears we haven't even tried yet.''

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell called her one of the ''strongest, most dedicated public servants in Pennsylvania's history,'' adding that ''Her passing is a tremendous loss for the many people whose lives she touched.''

I ask that the House of Representatives extend its condolences to Catherine's family and friends, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which feels the loss of a true public servant.

HONORING ''THE LEAF-CHRONICLE'' FOR ITS 200 YEARS OF SERVICE TO MIDDLE TENNESSEE

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long history of ''The Leaf-Chronicle'' newspaper in Clarksville, Tennessee, which is now in its 200th year of serving Clarksville, Montgomery County and Middle Tennessee.

''The Leaf-Chronicle'' was officially formed in 1890 by a merger between two local journals, ''The Tobacco Leaf'' and ''The Chronicle,'' which dated back to 1808. For two centuries, the people in our community have been well-served by a quality daily newspaper that fairly and thoroughly covers the stories so important to our families and businesses. Twenty-two men and women have had the honor of serving as Publisher of the Clarksville newspaper, including the current publisher, Andrew Oppman, and his immediate predecessor, my friend Gene Washer, who served 17 years as Publisher until his retirement earlier this year.

We are particularly proud of the newspaper's coverage of Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division, which are an integral part of our community in Montgomery and Stewart counties and the surrounding area. The journalists of ''The Leaf-Chronicle'' show their support through extensive coverage of our military families and others in the community whose support of our men and women in uniform is unwavering.

''The Leaf-Chronicle'' has always been known for its strong opinions page, where it has boldly editorialized on local, state, national and international issues. In fact, because of the reputation of the newspaper's powerful editorial page, all operations were suspended between 1862 and 1865 when Union troops occupied Clarksville during the Civil War.

Publication was also threatened in the early morning hours of January 22, 1999, when a tornado ripped through downtown Clarksville, leaving behind it a path of destruction, including severe damage to the offices of ''The Leaf-Chronicle.'' The staff, however, determined to publish a newspaper to cover such an important story, gathered at Mr. Washer's home. The next day, subscribers still received the paper on their doorsteps, this time with eight pages of in-depth coverage and photographs of the storm and its impact on Montgomery County.

Following the storm and until completion of its current, state-of-the-art facilities, the newspaper staff was temporarily based in an empty supermarket that featured a sign reading ''Foodland—Fresh,'' which was poignantly changed to read ''The Leaf-Chronicle—Fresh Daily.''

As we reflect on the long service of ''The Leaf-Chronicle'' to its readers, it is important to think of all the historic moments that have happened in the last two centuries in Tennessee, across this country and throughout the world. Middle Tennesseans have had ''The Leaf-Chronicle'' to report daily on those historic events, provide insightful analysis and help record history as it happens.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in recognizing the long history of ''The Leaf-Chronicle,'' expressing gratitude for its service to our community and wishing its staff all the best as the newspaper enters its third century of quality journalism.

IN HONOR OF COUNTY MANAGER JOHN MALTBIE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, soon San Mateo County will lose its premier administrator when County Manager John Maltbie retires after two decades at the helm.

John has served the county ably since taking office in 1989. He has shown, time and again, how thoughtful, steady leadership can make all the difference in the quality of service a county offers to its residents. John oversees a government operation employing more than 4,800 people, who serve a growing and diverse population nearing three quarters of a million residents.

Under John's leadership, San Mateo County was the first County in the State to develop school-based children and family services, a MediCal-managed care system for medical and mental health patients and a work-first model for welfare reform.

A strong proponent of collaborating with his peers in and outside of government, John continued San Mateo County's long history of forming and continuing mutually beneficial partnerships with other local governments, businesses and organizations. Some of these partnerships are the City/County Association of Governments; Peninsula Partnership for Children, Youth and Families; San Mateo County Telecommunications Authority and the Library Joint Powers Authority. John has also worked closely with local cities to develop a nationally recognized model for county-wide emergency medical services.

Madam Speaker, during John Maltbie's tenure, the county has seen the completion of a state-of-the-art, 225-bed San Mateo County Health Center. He has also overseen the building of a new main jail, administrative office building, parking garage, three medical clinics, three social services district offices and a new County Court facility.

John's service in Public Administration began in 1972. Prior to San Mateo County, he served in multiple roles in Santa Clara County and was City Manager for both Milpitas, California and Glendale, Arizona.

John holds a Masters of Arts Degree and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, with an emphasis in Public Administration, from San Jose State University. He has taught at several colleges and universities, including Arizona State University, College of Notre Dame and San Jose State University.

A true public servant, John passed his community commitment on to his children, Jeff and Jayme, who have both worked in public service. They will no doubt enjoy more of their father's time, but Madam Speaker, the real benefactors of John's retirement will be his lucky grandchildren: Ella, Emma and Zoe. Please join me in wishing John Maltbie a long and joy-filled retirement.

PAYING SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO AN HIV/AIDS ACTIVIST

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Debra Fraser-Howze, a constituent and HIV/AIDS activist, for her many years' of dedication and hard work to find ways to test, educate, and treat those that have HIV/AIDS.

The November 11, 2008, CARIB News article, ''Debra Fraser-Howze: Making a Difference,'' points out her more than 20 years' commitment to helping the fight against HIV/AIDS in New York where she resides, across America, and around the world. Since the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, passed, which will allocate $48 billion in Federal money towards fighting this epidemic in Africa, she is now pushing to have some of the money go towards battling HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. There are 14 Caribbean nations that could get some of the money, including Jamaica where her mother is from. This is a great initiative that Debra Fraser-Howze has made. With her leadership, I am confident that she will be able to get funds from PEPFAR to go towards fighting this epidemic in the Caribbean.

Again, I commend Debra Fraser-Howze for her determination to find cures, provide funding and to educate people about HIV/AIDS around the world.

[From CaribWoman, Nov. 11, 2008]

DEBRA FRASER-HOWZE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(By Causewell Vaughan)

There's growing optimism for fighting AIDS in the Caribbean region as billions of dollars become available to fund programs aimed at preventing and containing the disease.

With $48 billion in federal money being set aside to battle the disease in Africa, the Caribbean is actively seeking to qualify for a share.

The funds will be allocated through a U.S. foreign aid program known as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It is the largest commitment in history by any nation to fight a single disease.

''It's going to open doors to a new stream of funding where those doors were not open before,'' said Debra Fraser-Howze, a longtime HIV/AIDS advocate.

''The Caribbean will have the same positioning as some of those African nations with whom they share a similar AIDS situation.''

Fraser-Howze has been helping to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS for more than two decades. She founded the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS in 1987 and subsequently advised two presidents while she served on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

In 2003 she was appointed to the New York City Commission on AIDS and last year to the New York State Governors Advisory Council.

Fraser-Howze is now vice president of External and Government Affairs for OraSure Technologies, a medical diagnostics company. While her responsibilities with the company focus on domestic matters, she remains an active advocate for anti-AIDS funding for the Caribbean.

''It's a personal issue with me,'' Fraser-Howze said, ''because I know the numbers, and I see the rising rate of infection.''

That's why she's resolute about the funding, especially since the Caribbean did not receive any of the initial PEPFAR money, which became available in 2003. ''The Caribbean islands to which Americans travel all the time need to get the same focus as Africa,'' she said.

There are 14 Caribbean nations that could get some of the new money. They are Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Any PEPFAR money they receive will be for AIDS testing, prevention, treatment and care.

Fraser-Howze is quick to credit U.S. Rep. Donna Christiansen of the U.S. Virgin Islands for taking the lead in getting those nations included in the PEPFAR funding. ''I've known her for more than 25 years, and I've worked with her and her staff on this issue. We understand that it is imperative that the Caribbean have a robust testing initiative,'' Fraser-Howze said.

But, she added, even with funding the battle against AIDS is truly difficult in the Caribbean because the region's culture is almost an ally of the disease. Fraser-Howze's mother is from Jamaica so she has knowledge of the cultural barriers to AIDS testing.

''Sex and drugs are very taboo topics in the Caribbean, and there is a lot of homophobia because the disease is very much focused on gay men,'' she said. ''That is why the key to testing in the Caribbean is to have those barriers broken down by the community itself.

''I've seen government send in different people and different groups who are not culturally competent. The best approach is for Caribbean nations to develop their own plan. We want them to craft their own proposals to PEPFAR.''

Fraser-Howze cited Barbados as already having ''a major HIV/AIDS initiative.''

She said she's ''extremely optimistic'' the Caribbean will get PEPFAR money and, she added, ''I'm humbled at playing some small role in opening up this opportunity.''

HONORING REP. JIM MCCRERY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of my colleague JIM MCCRERY of Louisiana who is retiring after over 20 years as Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. JIM and I have also served together on the Committee on Ways and Means for 16 years.

Though we are from opposite sides of the aisle—and we frequently take opposite perspectives on issues—he is a colleague I admire greatly and a friend I will miss.

One of the many downsides to the increased partisanship in Congress is that many Members do not take the time to develop personal relationships across the aisle. JIM has never adhered to that philosophy. Maybe that's because he started in Congress on the staff of a Democratic Member of Congress. But I believe it's because JIM values the array of opinions to be had in Congress and is willing to look at the data and listen to others' thoughts before he makes up his mind—not necessarily always toeing a straight party line.

As the Ranking Member on the Committee on Ways and Means during this session of Congress, JIM and our Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL restored civility and respect to the proceedings of our Committee—something that didn't exist under the leadership of the previous Chairman.

For JIM, the title ''Honorable'' is truly representative of him. He's served his constituents and this country well. His leadership and service will be missed. I wish JIM and his family all the best.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DOLORES HUERTA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of community organizer Dolores Huerta. She has been selected as this year's honoree from the Center for Kern Political Education. For more than half a century, Dolores has devoted her life's work to ensuring economic justice for farm workers and their families as well as securing rights for women.

Dolores was born on April 10, 1930, in the small mining town of Dawson situated in northern New Mexico. She spent much of her childhood and young adult years in Stockton, graduating from Stockton High School. Dolores continued her studies at University of Pacific's Delta College where she received a provisional teaching credential. Soon after, she began a career in teaching where Dolores became acutely aware of the pressing need to address economic injustice.

During her post in leadership with the Stockton Community Service Organization (CSO), Dolores became christened as an organizer. In 1955, she encountered CSO Executive Director Cesar E. Chavez who shared in her vision of organizing farm workers, distinctively separate from the CSO mission. Thereafter, in 1962, Dolores and Cesar launched the National Farm Workers Association. In 1963, Dolores' lobbying and negotiating skills prevailed in securing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and disability insurance for California farm workers. The Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975 was also enacted with her efforts.

Dolores wielded her powerful voice as the United Farm Worker's spokesperson to gain political power for farm workers. She helped in the election of many candidates: Robert F. Kennedy, President Clinton, Congressman Ron Dellums, Governor Jerry Brown, Congresswoman Hilda Solis, and, most recently, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Currently, Dolores acts as President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation which principally serves to protect, organize and educate working poor immigrants.

In her honor, 5 elementary schools and a high school are named in recognition of Dolores Huerta. Among the countless prestigious awards received include the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998, Creative Citizenship Labor Leader Award from Puffin Foundation in 1984, Kern County's Woman of the Year by California State legislature, and the 100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century by Ladies Home Journal. Nine honorary doctorates from

universities throughout the U.S. have also been granted.

Throughout her life, Dolores Huerta has proven to be a highly effective community leader whose commitment to justice and public service has proven beneficial for farm workers, working families and women throughout the nation. At the age of 78, Dolores' relentless work continues. We thank her for her noble service and wish her continued success for the future.

IN HONOR OF DR. CARL KOHRT

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Ohio, I want to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Carl Kohrt, as he retires as president and chief executive officer of Battelle Memorial Institute.

Carl assumed the leadership of Battelle in 2001 after a long career at Kodak. He immediately put his experience from the private sector into practice at the world's largest nonprofit independent research and development organization. Over the past eight years, Battelle has grown substantially in business volume and impact. Battelle has won competitions to manage and operate research and development laboratories for the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, and international organizations.

Battelle has also been selected for many projects in support of various national and homeland security programs. In fact, within a few weeks of Carl's arrival at Battelle in the summer of 2001, he was able to marshal Battelle's suite of capabilities to help the United States respond to the impact of the 9/11 attacks. Battelle was later asked by the White House to provide staff to help with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

Carl Kohrt has also enhanced Battelle's corporate role in the City of Columbus and the State of Ohio. He developed a strategic partnership with The Ohio State University. Battelle has supported many civic enterprises on behalf of the State of Ohio, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and other organizations, such as COSI.

The son of schoolteachers, Dr. Kohrt, has left a major imprint on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in Ohio through the Metro School, which is a partnership with The Ohio State University and the school districts of Franklin County. Battelle has also joined with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as other educational entities in the State of Ohio, to develop additional schools with a focus on STEM education throughout Ohio. Carl's indelible imprint on Ohio will be a signature effort on behalf of STEM education.

The way to judge one's impact on an organization or community is to measure one's personal and corporate accomplishments. Through this lens, it is easy to conclude that Carl has been an outstanding leader for Battelle as an organization and an outstanding leader in the Columbus metropolitan area. Carl has made a significant difference, and we extend to him and his family best wishes and good health in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERYL YOUNG AND COMMUNITY GATEPATH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like our chamber to recognize a giant in the nonprofit community, Sheryl Young, Chief Executive Officer of Community Gatepath, which serves San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties.

Sheryl oversees one of the largest and oldest local non-profit organizations in our nation. Each year, the organization serves more than 8,000 children, adults, seniors and their families, as well as the countless professionals who support them. For close to 90 years, Community Gatepath, with a budget of $11 million, has provided programs, support services, education, and information to those most vulnerable in our society. Sheryl's staff of 150 employees are dedicated to making their motto more than just words. These good people have their hearts committed to Turning Disabilities into Possibilities.

Sheryl Young has more than two decades of managerial experience and her keen business sense has lifted Community Gatepath to new levels. She has an almost unnatural ability to build sustainable non-profit programs. Sheryl has drawn from the best of non-profit and for-profit management styles to craft the unique organizational model that works so well for Community Gatepath. Sheryl is a gifted administrator who leads by example and is always poised to attempt new programs or explore new tools to better service the developmentally disabled community. She is an inspiration to her staff, board of directors and the community leaders who work with her.

As proof of Sheryl's standing in our community, ''The Sheryl Young Community Impact Award'' has been established to pay tribute to persons, businesses and organizations who make an impact in their community by helping people with disabilities.

Sheryl is a graduate of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders. She also earned a Masters of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley, a Masters Degree in Special Education from Ball State University and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Purdue University.

Madam Speaker, I first met Sheryl while she worked for San Mateo County and I was a County Supervisor. A member of my staff had a sister who gave birth to a child with Down Syndrome, named Heidi. The new mother was grief-stricken because she had been told by doctors that she would be unable to raise Heidi by herself and should turn her daughter over to a residential treatment center. I reached out to Sheryl and she did not disappoint. She called numerous community agencies, eventually contacting Poplar Center, which was the predecessor to Community Gatepath, and asked if there was any other alternative to giving up the child. Not only was the organization able to help Heidi, but they nabbed a remarkable volunteer, too. Sheryl was so impressed with the program at Poplar Center that she stayed involved. Shortly thereafter, Sheryl's heart and her head convinced her to leave county government and accept an offer to lead the Poplar Center.

By the way, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to note that this year, Heidi will graduate from high school after having lived with her family since she was born.

Madam Speaker, I have known Sheryl Young in many capacities. She has been my constituent, my colleague, my boss and, more significantly, my dear friend. Sheryl has been a loving role model to her daughter, Megan Viera, who, with Sheryl's support, has graduated from college and is ready to begin a life of her own.

Sheryl is at once kind, fun-loving and intensely driven. When you work with Sheryl, you work hard, but you also enjoy every minute of it.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Sheryl Young for being a tenacious, spirited, inspired leader who, no doubt, lifts us all.

IN MEMORY OF MARSHALL PARKER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, November 15th, South Carolina lost a distinguished statesman with the death of former State Senator Marshall Parker of Oconee County.

A thoughtful tribute to his courageous service was published November 18, 2008, in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina, professionally authored by John O'Connor.

[From The State, Nov. 18, 2008]

ONE OF FIRST ELECTED DEMOCRATS WHO LATER RAN AS A REPUBLICAN DIES

(By John O'Connor)

Marshall Parker, who helped blaze a path for state Republicans in the 1960s, died at his Oconee County home Saturday. He was 86.

Parker was among the first elected Democrats to run later as a Republican, twice losing U.S. Senate contests against Ernest ''Fritz'' Hollings in 1966 and 1968.

Parker was born in Seaboard, N.C., but was first elected to the Seneca City Council and Oconee County Board of School Trustees before winning a state Senate seat in 1955. Parker served a decade in the S.C. House.

''He taught me about working hard,'' said grandson Burl Williams, who frequently mended fences at Parker's farm. ''He had a presence...you could see people looked up to him.''

In 1966, Parker decided to become a Republican and challenge friend and former colleague Hollings for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by Olin Johnston's death. The race was decided by several thousand votes, with some of Parker's supporters believing he had won.

''If that race had gone another few weeks, (Parker) might have won it,'' said Crawford Cook, who worked on both Parker's and Hollings' campaigns. ''There were none any tougher than that first one.''

Parker believed his role in creating the state technical college system was his most important accomplishment, friends said. Others also credited him as an example for those switching to the Republican Party.

Williams believed that Parker, as a dairy farm owner, understood early that the Republican Party better matched his ideals.

''There were people who stood up and were candidates even though they couldn't win,''

said Crawford Clarkson, a former Parker campaign chairman. ''He was a sterling individual; an absolutely incorruptible politician.''

URGING THE NEW PRESIDENT TO SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN SAFE COMMISSION ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have never been more concerned about the short- and long-term budget shortfalls we face as a Nation. These issues must be addressed simultaneously in a bipartisan way.

I share with our colleagues the letter I sent today to President-elect Barack Obama, urging him to adopt the SAFE Commission process as a way to provide a path toward a safe and secure economy for generations—a renaissance for America.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 20, 2008.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
Office of the President-elect,
Chicago, IL.

DEAR PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA: As you prepare to take the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States, I want to congratulate you on your historic election, which has reminded the nation that America is indeed a land of boundless opportunity.

I write today because you face enormous challenges of change in building an administration in a time of economic turmoil and financial crisis for the American people. As syndicated columnist Robert Samuelson recently wrote, ''The great project of the next president is to improve the economy's stability without subverting its vitality.''

Recent congressional action aimed at shoring up the nation's financial system and restoring the flow of credit to help folks keep their homes or small businesses, get student loans or car loans, and protect the value in their retirement accounts I believe addresses only a symptom of a far greater financial crisis on the horizon. I voted for the financial rescue plan because I believed that immediate action was critical to restore confidence and stability in the Nation's financial system. I remain deeply concerned, however, not only by the debt burden nearing $11 trillion, but also by the mounting deficit spending, predicted to reach $1 trillion this fiscal year alone.

You are inheriting not only a short-term deficit and debt problem, but a looming long-term crisis former Comptroller General David Walker has characterized as ''a financial tsunami that could swamp our ship of state.'' Mr. Walker, of course, is referring to the current $53 trillion in unfunded obligations promised through Medicare, Social Security, and other entitlement programs which have skyrocketed from about one-third of the federal budget in 1965 to nearly two-thirds today. As if that amount were not difficult enough to comprehend, it is expected that when the new total is released in mid-December, it is likely to be over $56 trillion. That means in just a year, spurred by soaring health care costs and retiring baby boomers, our Nation's unfunded commitments have jumped another $3 trillion. It's noteworthy that the obligation of Medicare alone is 50 times the $700 billion rescue bill.

I believe both short- and long-term budget shortfalls must be addressed simultaneously. Yet I fear this daunting task is only part of the immense challenges of change our nation faces. I also continue to be alarmed that America is losing its competitive edge in the world economy. Once bustling U.S. cities and towns that were home to industrial and manufacturing bases are shuttered and crumbling.

On a drive across the old cast iron bridge linking downtown Trenton, New Jersey, with Morrisville, Pennsylvania, you will read the outdated slogan etched in rusted letters, ''Trenton Makes, the World Takes.'' There was a time when Trenton made the steel used for the world's longest suspension bridges, its cars, and farm tools. But Trenton, like so many other U.S. centers of domestic manufacturing, today is a shell of its past. The slogan today could be, ''The World Makes and America Takes.''

And it's not only America's competitive edge that is dulling. The United States has always been the world's innovation leader, but we graduate half the number of physicists that we did in 1956—before Sputnik spurred America's last ''great awakening'' in science and engineering. I worry that the National Science Foundation reported that in 2004 China and India graduated 950,000 engineers compared to a meager 70,000 in the United States, and one-third to a half of those we graduate with science and engineering degrees are foreign students, and most will return to their home countries rather than applying their skills in the U.S. I worry that U.S. patents are down. I worry that our companies are spending more on tort litigation than on research and development.

How will we remain competitive, how will we rebuild our manufacturing base, how will our children compete in the global marketplace with the tsunami of mandatory spending obligations coming closer to our shores and the national debt racing past $10 trillion? As the rate of mandatory spending grows, discretionary spending used to meet the needs and challenges of future generations shrinks. What will we tell our children when we can't afford to pay for a first-class education? Where will we find the money to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and transportation systems? What hope do we provide for American families touched by health care concerns and battling devastating diseases when we don't have funds for medical research to find cures for cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and autism? Not only is this unacceptable, I believe it raises serious moral questions. Is it right for one generation to live very well knowing that its debts are being passed on to its children and grandchildren?

Routinely increasing the amount of money the government can borrow without taking any action to stem the country's growing debt has been standard operating procedure in Congress. But the storm warning signs have been posted. Standard and Poor's Investment Service has projected that the U.S. could lose its triple-A bond rating as early as 2012, while Moody's delays its projection to 2018. It's hard to believe that the United States of America could be such a poor investment risk that it is poised to lose its gold standard rating.

As our nation's financial outlook erodes, we also are mortgaging the economic opportunity of future generations to countries like China and Saudi Arabia, two of the largest holders of U.S. debt. You may have seen The Washington Post report earlier this week that China now owns nearly $1 out of every $10 in U.S. public debt. Are we willing to allow China—a country that persecutes its own people because of their faith—or Saudi Arabia—which breeds the kind of radical ideology that led to the terrorist attacks on our country—to own what generations of Americans have worked so hard to build for their children and grandchildren? This is the same China linked to cybersecurity attacks on the computer systems in congressional offices and committees, in federal agencies and even at the White House.

How do we respond to these challenges of change? Where do we start? I bring to your attention one plan already in place. It has attracted the support of 111 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives and newspapers and think tanks across the political spectrum. I believe it is an idea upon which you can build with bold, courageous and bipartisan leadership.

Democrat Rep. Jim Cooper of Tennessee and I have teamed to offer legislation to create a national bipartisan commission to review the totality of our nation's financial future—entitlement spending, other federal spending and tax policy. This proposal differs significantly from other blue ribbon-type panels, however, because it has teeth and mandates action, similar to the base closing commission. After spending several months holding town hall meetings across the country, gathering comments and explaining the depths of America's current unsustainable financial problems, the commission will report back to Congress. The legislation requires Congress to vote up or down on the commission's recommended plan of action. The proposal is called the SAFE Commission—Securing America's Future Economy—and a companion effort has gained traction in the Senate.

While we have been encouraged with the support generated by the SAFE proposal, I have been disappointed that Congress continues to languish in the political divide while the financial tsunami edges closer. In 1968 songwriter Paul Simon wrote ''The Boxer.'' You may recall its refrain: ''Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.'' That could describe Congress's reaction, or lack thereof, to the financial crisis staring America square in the face. The American people deserve to know the truth, not just what we think they want to hear.

Your former colleague Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad, sponsor of the SAFE Commission idea in the Senate, said that he supported your candidacy because you are ''somebody that reaches out to bring people together to get results,'' noting that ''nobody is more responsible for that than the president of the United States. It starts at the top.''

America is facing extraordinary challenges that call for extraordinary action. I worry about the future for my five children and 13 grandchildren and your two young children if we do not act now to make certain that America continues to be a land of boundless opportunity. I believe the SAFE concept can provide the outline of a plan that you as president could embrace in the 111th Congress which convenes in January. Enactment of the legislation setting up the commission during the first session next year would ensure a vote on the commission's recommendations during the second session in 2010. Your active support of the SAFE Commission effort in Congress would signal the critical immediacy of attacking this problem head on in the only way I believe it will be solved—by working together in a bipartisan way.

America is yearning for bipartisanship. With your leadership in reaching across the aisle of Congress to bring people together, I believe we can start down the path that will lead to a renaissance in America and ensure that the essential goodness of the United States endures.

I would be pleased to speak with you about the SAFE Commission plan, and I wish you Godspeed as you begin your presidency.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the ''Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2008.''

The following project I requested was included in the legislation considered on the floor of the House:

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Research Development Defense Wide, Industrial Preparedness.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Seaman Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Venture Boulevard, Wooster, OH 44691.

Description of Request: I received an earmark in the amount of $1,600,000 to continue a research and development project to develop a more reliable collapsible storage tank that will be utilized by our military for fuel and water distribution. Research and development will occur in Seaman facilities in Ohio and in Bristol, TN.

In recent years, the tanks being used by our military have consistently underperformed, and the Defense Logistics Agency is working with Seaman to develop fabrication technologies that will improve the performance capabilities of the tanks being produced. The money appropriated for this project will be utilized by: (1) identifying the manufacturing processes to ensure long-term performance that meets and/or exceeds current military application requirements, (2) establishing quality assurance procedures to ensure extended life performance dependability, and (3) providing field validation testing.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFFERSON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE JEAN BRINK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, an era is coming to an end in the Jefferson Union High School District. Jean Brink, first elected in 1988, is retiring as a Trustee after 20 years of productive and selfless service.

Like so many in public service, Jean first got involved as an active and concerned parent. Her two children, Adam and Laura, attended the District's Oceana High School, where Jean quickly became as well-known as her son and daughter.

In five straight elections, the voters of the Jefferson Union High School District returned Jean to office, relying on her level head, passionate commitment to education and keen understanding of the School District's greater role in the community.

Madam Speaker, Jean is the kind of public servant that we could all take a lesson from. While overseeing the modernization of district schools and facilities and working for the passage of two bond measures, Jean remained vigilant against waste and abuse and always kept a watchful eye on the taxpayers' hard-earned money.

Jean Brink earned the title ''Trustee'' because ''trust'' is what Jean is all about. As a board member, she guided the District through difficult economic times while always making sure that the needs of students were foremost on the minds of administrators. While committed to the basics, she understood that high school is one of the last times that many students have a chance to participate in artistic endeavors. She has been a strong supporter of art, music and drama programs, not just by providing financial and administrative support, but by attending nearly every band concert, school play and art show produced in the district for the last 20 years. Madam Speaker, a generation of students benefitted from Jean Brink's service. We will miss her, but she has certainly earned her retirement. Jean can now spend more time on her other interests, including swimming and volunteering for such worthwhile projects as the Oceana Natatorium's ceramic mural and the Pacifica School Volunteers.

We all know how much time public office takes away from one's family. I want to thank Jean's supportive husband, John Brink for loaning his talented and remarkable wife to the community. Son and daughter-in-law John and Kristin Brink and daughter and son-in-law Laura and Doug Ritenour will, no doubt, love having more time with Jean, but I have a feeling the person who will benefit most from Jean's newfound free time is her precious and adorable granddaughter, Serena Ritenour.

HONORING JUNE W. BUTTERFIELD

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor June W. Butterfield, who is the recipient of the 2008 Experience Works Prime Time Award for Outstanding Older Workers.

Experience Works strives to improve the lives of older people through employment and community service. 2008 marks the eleventh year Experience Works is leading this national, yearlong initiative that recognizes remarkable individuals 65 and older who continue to make valuable contributions in the workplace.

This year's recipient from the state of West Virginia is June W. Butterfield, an office manager for the West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management in Charleston. Working since she was 18, June started in the private sector but has been a government employee in one form or another for the past 38 years. The constant challenges and opportunities to become more efficient are what keep June so motivated. Her co-workers recognize this effort and praise her positive attitude in the office. A former competitive runner, June is a big advocate of staying healthy and encourages her colleagues to stay fit. She encourages all older people to keep working, saying ''it keeps you young.''

It is an honor to represent this outstanding woman who serves as a strong leader and excellent role model for older women in her community. Congratulations to June W. Butterfield as the recipient of the 2008 Experience Works Prime Time Award for Outstanding Older Workers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DARWIN WIEKAMP OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Darwin Wiekamp, a hard-working businessman and lifelong community philanthropist. Mr. Wiekamp died at his home in Mishawaka, Indiana on the morning of November 13, 2008 at the age of 94.

In 1936, 22-year old Wiekamp married his wife of 72 years, Dorothy. His business career as an area banker began a few years later in 1945, when he and a friend founded the Owners Discount Corporation in Elkhart, Indiana with a vision to serve customers who were ignored by other banks. Their corporation specialized in small loans for cars and new businesses.

For the next several years, Wiekamp implemented aggressive lending programs to his less fortunate community members, and in 1966 Owners Discount purchased West End State Bank of Mishawaka. Wiekamp's bank continued to grow enormously, changing names several times, until it finally became National City Bank. By the time Wiekamp retired, his initial $64,000 capital had turned into a financial corporation that today is worth hundreds of millions of dollars. His ceaseless hard work, willingness to take risks, and dedication to serving his community are qualities that every businessman should strive to emulate.

As a philanthropist in our community, Wiekamp led campaigns to raise money for public television, St. Joseph Hospital, and the South Bend Center for the Homeless. His financial generosity also helped support healthcare and the arts in the form of the Schwartz-Weikamp Clinic in Mishawaka and an auditorium at the Center for History. With the help of nine other community businessmen, Wiekamp also organized and founded Mishawaka Futures Industrial Park, which today is home to twenty small businesses and hundreds of jobs.

Friends and fellow businessmen remember Wiekamp as ''enormously generous in the community,'' ''a great guy with a good sense of humor,'' and a ''tough competitor and good golfer.'' But what Wiekamp will be most remembered for is his commitment to educational causes and community development. He and Dorothy helped fund Wiekamp Hall at Indiana University South Bend, the primary classroom building on campus, housing five computer labs, a language lab, sixteen classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, and a 150-seat lecture hall. They also helped finance the IUSB art gallery and more than thirty scholarships for students at the school.

Their most recent contribution totaled $1.3 million toward the Wiekamp Athletic Facility at Bethel College.

Throughout his life, Wiekamp received many distinguished awards to recognize his accomplishments. These included the Individual Philanthropist Award from the Michiana Chapter of Associations of Fundraising and the Herman B. Wells Visionary Award from Indiana University and the Indiana University Foundation, both of which honor people for their professional accomplishments and service to humanity. He and his wife also received Indiana University South Bend's Chancellor's Medal in 2005. Wiekamp served on the boards of the Century Center Foundation, Center for the Homeless, Project Future, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, the Mishawaka Division of the Salvation Army, St. Mary's College, and the IUSB advisory. He also served as president of the South Bend-Mishawaka Area Chamber of Commerce.

So, today I rise to pay tribute to Dar Wiekamp for his innumerable contributions to our community's development. His and Dorothy's generosity is admirable and they will serve as models of lives well-lived.

CONGRATULATING JEFF FUNICELLO FOR HIS PERFORMANCE IN THE WORLD WRESTLING GAMES

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Jeff Funicello for his performance in the World Wrestling Games in Tirana, Albania. While representing his country and the State of Arizona, Jeff was able to secure a bronze medal in both grappling and beach wrestling in the 92KG division. The World Wrestling Games are highly revered throughout the competitive wrestling world and Jeff's victories signify an outstanding achievement.

I would also like to commend Jeff on the service he offers to the community by teaching mixed martial arts classes which promote discipline and self confidence, but more importantly teach students proper self defense techniques. Jeff founded American Pankration in 1990, a mixed martial arts team which trains and competes at Arizona State University. Jeff shows great dedication to his students and is committed to offering them the highest level of attention and instruction on and off the mats.

Jeff is a former Arizona State University Sun Devil and was on the varsity wrestling team from 1992 through 1994. Jeff's credentials also include being a three time Olympic alternate as well as having competed throughout the world with great success in a number of different disciplines of wrestling, submissions, and kickboxing. Jeff's skills as a training partner and coach have often been tapped to train with a who's who list of Olympic, Ultimate Fighting Championship, and Pride FC Championship champions.

Mr. Funicello should be proud of his accomplishments. Again, I say congratulations on your achievements in the World Wrestling Games and commend you for a job well done.

HONORING JUSTIN ALAN GROTE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Justin Alan Grote of Kansas City, Missouri. Justin 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 1271, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Justin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Justin 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 Justin Alan Grote for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the 2009 Defense Appropriation Bill:

7. Project Name—Advanced Fluid Controls for Shipboard Applications.

Requesting Member—SCOTT GARRETT.

Bill Number—Amendment to H.R. 2638 (FY09 Defense Appropriations Bill).

Account—Department of Defense Appropriations, RDT&E, Navy, Line #35, Shipboard System Component Development Account, PE#0603513N.

Requesting Entity—Marotta Controls, 78 Boonton Ave, PO Box 427, Montville, NJ 07045.

Description of the Project—Funds will be used to complete the development of shipboard fluid controls using the latest in material technologies—including composites and ceramics—to reduce weight, life-cycle costs, and increase fuel efficiency.

Description of the Spending Plan—($2,500,000).

Program Management: $50,000.
Engineering Labor Mechanical: $100,000.
Electrical: $100,000.
Assembly Labor: $425,000.
Machine Shop Labor: $550,000.
Material: $700,000.
Testing: $575,000.
Total: $2,500,000.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican transparency standards, the following is a disclosure for each of my requested projects in H.R. 2638, the FY 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act Homeland Security.

Requesting Member: Rep: JAMES T. WALSH.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Homeland Security NPPD Infrastructure Protection and Information Security.

Legal Name of Representing Entity: Manhole Barrier Security Systems, Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 204, Garden City, NY 11530.

Description of Request: (1) Include $3 million for critical underground infrastructure in major urban areas. This funding would be utilized to complete an inventory of critical underground infrastructure in urban areas; identify the access points to the identified critical underground infrastructure; and, demonstrate low-cost, self-contained technologies that can deter unauthorized access while allowing authorized access to critical underground infrastructure.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. GLORIA COOPER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Gloria Cooper of Niles, Michigan for over two decades of broadcasting excellence.

For nearly a quarter century, we in southwest Michigan welcomed Gloria into our homes as the hostess of the popular ''Here's Gloria'' and ''Gloria's Place'' radio programs on WNIL–AM 1290. Since she first hit the airwaves in 1966, Gloria's in-depth interviews and community focus through the years earned her the reputation as the ''Voice of Niles.''

In 2006, Gloria took her show to the Web where she has continued to educate and entertain her faithful listeners. On November 24, Gloria will record her final interview, marking the end of an era. We will all miss Gloria's voice over the airwaves and Internet. She is a treasure of our community, and I will miss being ''grilled'' by my friend on the pressing issues of the day.

Once again, I would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to Gloria Cooper for her many years of distinguished service to the residents of Berrien County. I wish Gloria and her husband Richard all the best. May God continue to bless the entire Cooper family. Gloria's gift of communication has enriched us all.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIELSEN BUILDERS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, it was 100 years ago in 1908 that Joseph Nielsen and his successors began their work complimenting Virginia's majestic landscape with quality buildings in which to worship, learn, complete commerce and live.

The history of Nielsen Construction represents the very fabric of America. Mr. Joseph Nielsen immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century; a time of tremendous growth and innovation. That young immigrant dedicated himself to hard work and perseverance. The qualities identified as uniquely American in the golden age of industry and expansion and his vision brought him to the growing, but still largely rural, western part of Virginia.

The next phase of Nielsen's success came through the acquisition of the existing W.M. Bucher & Son, a prominent builder in the Shenandoah Valley. This intertwined the futures of a young immigrant and his dream and the growth and development of the Shenandoah Valley.

Today, Nielsen Builders represents the best of American industry. It represents the highest quality in design and build construction. It provides the structure and security to thousands of church goers, students, businesses and families through its homes, churches, schools and businesses.

I wish Nielsen Builders success as it embarks on opening its second century of business and continuing the legacy of commitment, excellence and tradition.

I extend a hearty congratulations to the management and employees of Nielsen Builders of Harrisonburg, Virginia as they celebrate this tremendous milestone.

HONORING CAMERON AUSTIN LEEDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cameron Austin Leeds of Kansas City, Missouri. Cameron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1155, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

HONORING HENRY CHANG, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and contributions of Henry Chang, Jr. An energetic public servant and advocate in the Greater Bay Area, Henry will retire this year from his elected position on the Oakland City Council.

Mr. Chang has tirelessly served the community of Oakland, California as a councilmember-at-large for 14 years, serving as the city's vice mayor for 4 terms. Mr. Chang is sincerely committed to his community, and has employed his diverse life experiences and studies to improving the quality of life for his constituents and to adding greatly to the collective efforts of policy-makers, stake holders, and public advocates in my district.

Henry was born on December 17, 1934 in Shantou, Guangdong Province, China. During the Japanese invasion of Shantou City, Henry and his siblings were separated from their parents for 4 years. In 1950 he moved to Sydney, Australia to study at Knox College. At that time, Mr. Chang was one of only two foreign students at his college. In 1952, Henry again made a bold move to further his education and opportunities, traveling to the United States in the hopes of attending the prestigious University of California, Berkeley.

In 1960, while attending UC Berkeley, Mr. Chang met and married Constance Poon. He graduated in 1961 from the School of Environmental Design at Berkeley. Mr. Chang worked for both the Novelli Engineering Company in Downtown Oakland and the Hugh M. O'Neil Company as an architect before founding his own architectural practice, Henry Chang, Jr. and Associates, Incorporated in 1971. Mr. Chang established his firm in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown District and immediately began using his skills to contribute to the vibrant business community and innovative urban planning needs of that area.

During this time, Mr. Chang began a long and impressive career of service. He has served in countless capacities on local and regional commissions and boards including founding member of the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, several State and city anti-crime commissions, the Oakland Cultural Art Committee, the Lincoln Square Advisory Council, the Oakland Chinese Businessmen Association, serving as that board's president for 2 terms, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, the Oakland Port Commission, the S.F. Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the Oakland Community Development Commission, and the Oakland City Planning Commission. He was also a founding member of the Friends of Parks and Recreation Board. So great were Mr. Chang's contributions to Oakland, the city named September 27, 1990 ''Henry Chang, Jr. Appreciation Day.'' In more recent years, Mr. Chang has served on the executive board of the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Alameda and Oakland Base Re-Use Commissions, the Alameda County Transportation Authority, and the A.C. Transit Major Investment Steering Committee.

On December 6, 1994 Mr. Chang was elected to the councilmember-at-large seat he has been continuously reelected to until his retirement this year. As a councilmember-at-large, Mr. Chang has sponsored important city legislation and has always been proactive in bringing stakeholders, community leaders, and residents of our area together to work on the complex issues facing the diverse and dynamic city of Oakland and its neighboring cities in Alameda County.

Just one example of Mr. Chang's tireless advocacy and thorough approach to policy making is his comprehensive legislation addressing the serious issue of gun control. Henry has authored bills to ban junk guns and ultra compact guns from being sold in Oakland as well as legislation requiring trigger locks on all guns sold. He also sponsored a tax on guns and ammunition sold in Oakland to offset the high cost of violence caused by guns. These laws became regional models for urban safety and firearms regulation. While on the city council Mr. Chang also initiated the City Management Academy which trains neighborhood activists so that they can better understand how the city works and established the Citizens' Assistance Center to help residents get the assistance they need from their city officials and agencies.

Perhaps most memorable of Mr. Chang's achievements as a councilmember-at-large is his work to bring giant pandas to the city of Oakland on loan from the China Zoological Garden of the Ministry of Construction and to build a state-of-the-art facility for their care while in the United States. I have had the privilege to travel with Henry to China and Cuba. He has a deep sense of respect for people throughout the world and uses his diplomatic skills to bring good will to our Nation. I am proud to call Henry my colleague and my friend.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional district, I would like to salute the honorable Henry Chang, Jr. on the occasion of his retirement from public office. It is clear that his dedication, innovation and involvement in the accomplishments of the city of Oakland will not end here. I wish him all the greatest happiness in his retirement years and thank him for a lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING DUSTIN PEDROIA OF WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dustin Pedroia, who is being honored as the American League's Most Valuable Player for 2008, the first second baseman to receive this award since 1959.

From a young age, Mr. Pedroia has shown a passion for baseball. Although, at 5′9″, he has never been the largest player on the field, he has shown time and again that he more than makes up for it by playing with his whole heart. After graduating from Woodland High School in 2001 he was recruited by Arizona State University to play for the Sun Devils. While at ASU he quickly made an impression on his teammates as well as his coaches and went on to be named a 3-time first-team all-Pac-10 selection, the 2003 Pac-10 co-player of the year and the 2003 National defensive player of the year. He never missed a game at ASU, all while batting an impressive .384.

Mr. Pedroia debuted in the major leagues in August of 2006 with the Boston Red Sox, becoming the first member of Boston's 2004 draft class to reach the majors. In 2007 he recorded one of the finest rookie seasons ever for a Red Sox player, breaking a 93-year-old major league record for the highest batting average by a rookie second baseman and also winning the Jackie Robinson Award for American League rookie of the year. He was also able to cap off this impressive start with a World Series ring by helping the Red Sox achieve a 4–0 sweep over the Colorado Rockies to win the championship.

This year, Mr. Pedroia has surpassed his performance last season by leading the American League in hits, runs, and doubles while also batting in 83 runs and hitting 17 home runs in his own right. He has now become the third player in the history of Major League Baseball to win the rookie of the year award and the most valuable player award in consecutive seasons, as well as winning the golden glove award for best fielding performance at second base.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor this fine athlete. His record of accomplishments is a testament to his talent, perseverance and character, as well as an indication of a promising career that is just beginning. I join the entire community in congratulating him for these achievements and wishing him and his family all the best in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL E. LANZA AND ELVA M. POUNDERS

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Samuel E. Lanza of Warren, Ohio and Ms. Elva M. Pounders of Akron, Ohio. In recognition of their honorable service to our nation and selfless dedication to their communities, Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders have been inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame as members of the Class of 2008.

The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame was founded in 1992 in an effort to honor and to raise awareness of the outstanding military service and post-military accomplishments of Ohio veterans. Each year, an executive committee reviews scores of applications received from across the Nation and recommends 20 inductees to the Governor. These inductees represent each branch of the military and have served in armed conflicts spanning from World War II to Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Since its inception, the OVHOF has inducted nearly 900 veterans who, like Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders, have demonstrated a lifelong devotion to country and to community.

Mr. Samuel Lanza served in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and, after his discharge, continued his civil service by advocating and assisting his fellow veterans. He joined the Disabled American Veterans in 1948 and eventually served in every elected position at the DAV including State Commander. Mr. Lanza is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and the American Legion. Additionally, Mr. Lanza participates as a member of the National Association for Uniformed Services and the past President of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. For more than 45 years, Mr. Lanza has taken an active role in Memorial Day parades and decorated the graves of deceased veterans. For more than 27 years, he has transported his fellow veterans to VA hospitals and other medical appointments. In 1997, Mr. Lanza was appointed to the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission.

Ms. Elva Pounders served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Upon her retirement from the Corps after 20 years of active duty which she achieved Marine first sergeant rank, Elva made a commitment to assisting the veterans of her community. Concerned with veterans' healthcare, Ms. Pounders worked part-time at a pharmacy and delivered medicine and supplies to shut-in veterans. She volunteered in VA clinics and medical facilities in Akron and Brecksville, and in 2006, the Brecksville VA Medical Center awarded Ms. Pounders the 500 Hour Award. Ms. Pounders is a Life Member of the Marine Corps League, American Legion, North Coast WAVES 21, and the Retired Enlisted Association and the Fleet Reserve Association. She is the vice chairwoman of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Women Veterans and she has served as a committee member with Summit County Stand Down for Homeless Veterans.

Ms. Pounders serves as the Vice Chairperson for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. In 2007, in acknowledgement of her exceptional commitment to local veterans, the Summit County Veterans Service Commission recognized Ms. Pounders as "Summit County Veteran of the Year."

I would like to commend Mr. Lanza and Ms. Pounders for their extraordinary service and commitment, both in the military and in their communities.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMIE CATLIN PRAYTOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jamie Catlin Praytor and pay tribute to her memory.

A realtor for four decades, Jamie was known to many throughout southwest Alabama as the founder and president of Praytor Realty; however, it was her longtime work with area charities and civic groups that gave her such a special place in so many of our hearts.

Jamie served as chairwoman of the Homeless Coalition Task Force, and she was involved with the Salvation Army and in fundraising for the American Diabetes Association. She also served on numerous boards including: Forward Mobile, Art Patrons League, Allied Arts Council, Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, Mobile United, Alabama School of Math and Science, Junior Achievement, USA Small Business Development Center, Mobile 2000, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, Florence Crittendon Home, and Mobile Sunrise Rotary Club. Jamie was instrumental in helping to establish McKemie Place, a shelter for homeless women and children.

Named Realtor of the Year in 1981, Jamie was an institution among Alabama realtors. In 1974, she opened Praytor Realty with an all-female sales staff, which was unique at the time. Labeled "Praytor's Pretties" by The Birmingham News, Jamie and her team quickly built a highly successful and respected company. Jamie gave much of her time to the realtor community as well. She was elected president of the local Board of Realtors and became president of the state association in 1992. This year, the Mobile Association of Realtors established the Jamie C. Praytor Humanitarian Award, honoring her service. In 2001, Jamie was chosen First Lady of Mobile.

A native and lifelong resident of Mobile, Jamie was a member of All Saint's Episcopal Church. She had served as stewardship chairwoman, vestry member, Altar Guild group leader and president of the women of the church.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Tommy, Jamie Catlin Praytor will be dearly missed by her family—her daughter, Ellen Praytor Wingard; her sons, Hugh Thomas Praytor III and Wilson Wrath Praytor; four grandchildren, Hayley Catlin Praytor, Hugh Thomas Praytor IV, Charles Lee Wingard Jr. and Blake Dixon Wingard; her sisters, Anita Catlin Miller and Martha Catlin Willcox; her brothers, Paul W. Catlin, James G. Catlin, and Charles P. Catlin—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind.

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

HONORING BRANDON JAMES O'BRIEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James O'Brien of Kansas City, Missouri. Brandon 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 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Brandon 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 Brandon James O'Brien for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A TRUE SURVIVOR

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, many people, trapped in a cycle of despair, feel that there is no way out of homelessness, addiction, or prostitution. Exploitative pimps, callously indifferent law enforcement, and a lack of social services combine to make it almost impossible for some to escape the streets. Norma Hotaling not only successfully left that life, but has devoted herself to leading the fight to help those who remain behind.

Ms. Hotaling founded the organization Stand Against Global Exploitation (SAGE). SAGE is devoted to helping women and men who have suffered rape, sexual assault, molestation or violence in the difficult transition from victim to survivor. As her organization has said, ''Norma [is] determined to make it easier for other women, men and youth who wanted to leave the sex trade and addiction behind, and find their way from the harsh effects of sexual exploitation to restored wellness, confidence, vocation, and overall wholeness.''

Through peer counselling—often by survivors—SAGE not only provides psychological and social services to prostitutes and those exiting prostitution, but also empowers the women once they have left the streets. Ms. Hotaling's efforts show that therapy should not be thought of as a luxury for the wealthy: everyone should be able to get psychological services.

Norma Hotaling is a trailblazer. She encourages psychologists around the countries to work with their local law enforcement offices to help women and children exploited by prostitution. She founded San Francisco's internationally recognized ''john school'' in which arrested clients confront the reality of prostitution. Her outreach programs in jails and on the street raise awareness among at-risk populations about how commercial sexual exploitation can lead to addiction and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sadly, Ms. Hotaling is now in an even graver fight—the fight against cancer. We wish her comfort, and all the best. She is supported in her fight by thousands of people whose lives she has touched. Norma Hotaling's life is an inspiration, and her example will continue to inform our own fight against modern slavery and exploitation.

NICK LAMPSON DELIVERS HIS FAREWELL ADDRESS

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, it has been an honor to serve with you these past 2 years in the 110th Congress. It's been an honor to serve the 22d Congressional District of Texas.

I'm grateful for the assistance I received from my friends in the leadership: Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, Chairman VAN HOLLEN and the man who convinced me to run again in 2006, my friend, RAHM EMANUEL.

I'm grateful for the work of my fellow Blue Dogs; those who helped me fight for NASA, rebuild after Hurricane Ike, protect our children, and restore civility and esteem to Congress.

Hopefully before I leave today I will be able to thank each of you individually but while I have the opportunity I'd like to express my gratitude for everything you all have done.

To my family who I love very much, thank you for standing by me, thank you for sacrificing, and thank you for supporting me; you gave me strength to serve and helped carry me through the good times and the bad. My daughters Stephanie Lampson Gertz and Hillary Lampson Shanning, and their husbands Ryan and Mark. My beautiful grandchildren who bring me so much pride and joy: Nicholas, Joseph, Olivia, Caroline, and Julianna, who will be born any day.

And especially my wife of 37 years, Susan, who has loved me and sacrificed for her country by allowing me to spend weeks and months away from home to serve. She is a talented teacher, a loving mother, a strong wife, and a tender grandmother. I am blessed to have her love and support.

Finally, I'd like to thank my staff who worked long days and long nights, weekdays and weekends, and literally did the impossible. Carl Beard, John Boerstler, Carrie Chess, Dan Easley, Erin Fyffe, Rick Guerrero, Kathy Guillory, Georgia Leigh Hearn, Jon Heins, Suzanne Jordan, Trevor Kincaid, Chris Matthiesen, Alastair Rami, Tony Samp, Abby Shannon, Mini Timmaraju, Brittani Williams, Nicholas Williams, and Adeel Zeb; your hard work, dedication, and talents never failed me and are the reason we succeeded beyond the most optimistic expectations. Thank you.

Many of you were with me about this time 2 years when we sent a message that partisan politics and corruption were a thing of the past. That was a great day. In a similar speech on this House floor not too long ago, another outgoing Member called for more partisanship and less compromise. I have been here to emphatically support the opposite message. I stand before you as proof that bipartisanship and working together can and has worked and will work again, if you let it.

Since then, we have made terrific progress to restore ethics, compromise, civility, and hope to Congress and government. There is a tsunami of change and hope that has swept across this country and it all started when a modest, dedicated Texas Congressman brought down ''The Hammer.''

My journey will end today but the movement we started will continue.

Our movement to change the culture in Washington has made great progress but the road is long and many challenges lie ahead.

There are many Republicans and Democrats who have taken up the charge and will see it through to the end. It is a movement that will allow America to move beyond the corruption and political divide that has plagued us for too long. We are now in a time of challenge, but a period of hope.

The arc of change is slow, but it bends toward justice.

That was the observation of Dr. Martin Luther King many decades ago when this country was being tried by a different type of division. Together, we overcame and today we are closer to changing the culture of this Congress than we were yesterday and I have full faith that tomorrow we will be closer than we are today.

We remember the past.

We live in the present.

And we plan for the future.

It has been an honor to serve these past 2 years. However, it is time to start looking to tomorrow.

Scripture tells us, ''Joy cometh in the morning.''

Tomorrow will be a better day in America and the day after that and the day after that.

America's course has been charted on a timeline of achievement. We are a nation that when presented with obstacles says, ''yes we can.''

We are a country built on a foundation of equality, justice, and liberty.

We are a nation that when in the darkest days of depression stood and went to work.

We are a people that when confronted with sickness affecting millions, didn't give up; we found the cure.

We are a society that was presented with an impossible challenge, and less than a decade later watched as an American flag was planted on the Moon.

We will face more challenges, we will come to walls seemingly too high to scale, and people will say, ''you can't.'' But, together we will say ''yes we can'' and we will.

We will again walk on the Moon; only to go further.

We will find the cures to the illnesses of our generation.

We will roll up our sleeves and solve the energy puzzle.

We will fight poverty with compassion.

And we will combat despair with hope.

America's best days are still to come.

I thank you for the privilege to serve you and I thank you for everything you have done for my family and for me.

God bless you and may God bless America.

IN HONOR OF COSMO INSALACO, FORMER FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a past Agricultural Commissioner of Fresno County, a valued voice for agriculture in Fresno County. On Monday, November 10th, 2008, Cosmo Insalaco passed away from a sudden illness at the age of 72.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County ranking as the number one agricultural producing county in California. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 300 different crops, valued at 5 billion annually to the economy of California. Much has contributed to these bountiful crops, but a significant factor in Fresno County's agricultural success in the 1980s and 1990s was the presence of Cosmo Insalaco as its lead advocate.

Mr. Insalaco was no stranger to agriculture. Raised on a family farm in Watterton, Massachusetts, Cosmo later attended the University of Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in Horticulture. He continued his studies in Public Administration in the California school system before entering the Air Force.

Prior to becoming Fresno County's Agricultural Commissioner, Mr. Insalaco served as Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in Santa Clara County, and as an Assistant Agricultural Commissioner for San Mateo County. While in Fresno County, Cosmo served as vice-president of Agribusiness in the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce. He was on the board of Directors of the California Agricultural Commissioners' and Sealers' Association. Always active in the community, Mr. Insalaco continued to return to Fresno each year to judge at the Big Fresno Fair in the agriculture building.

Mr. Insalaco received much praise over the years for his leadership. The crop disasters of

the 1990 and 1998 freezes were challenges he rose to meet. His tenure as commissioner saw major changes in technology and regulation unfold. While known for his strict oversight, Cosmo was also noted by one grower to be ". . . the most cordial and professional . . ." person they had ever met. Contemporaries and employees alike commended Mr. Insalaco for his friendship and his mentorship. Probably most noteworthy was reference to Cosmo Insalaco's vision. Mr. Insalaco was an ardent promoter of education concerning agriculture. Cosmo helped launch the Blossom Trail, a self-guided tour of the fruit and nut blossoms throughout Fresno County during bloom time. Over the years, this annual event has grown and now draws tourists from all over the region and state. This tradition will continue to bear witness to Cosmo Insalaco's influence in the Fresno region.

It is most fitting now to honor this man for his life and his dedication to friends, colleagues and especially agriculture. I urge my colleagues to join me now in celebrating this truly innovative man's life, accomplishments and to extend his family our thoughts. He will be, beyond a doubt, missed.

HONORING CHARLES HENRY RIDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles Henry Rider of Kansas City, Missouri. Charles 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 1261, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Charles 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 Charles Henry Rider for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF DR. R. WALTER ''WHIRLWIND'' JOHNSON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker I am honored to rise today to recognize the distinguished career and achievements of Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind" Johnson, one of many unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Era. We also recognize him for his role in guiding the early careers of Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe—the nation's first African American tennis champions.

Dr. Johnson built a tennis court in the backyard of his Lynchburg, Virginia home during a time of racial segregation and spent more than 20 years (1950–71) training African American athletes who would go on to compete against top players at major junior events. Dr. Johnson primarily used his own funds to house, clothe, feed, and develop these junior players, including Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, who said repeatedly throughout their lives that they never would have made it without Dr. Johnson's generosity and support.

Dr. Johnson inspired, directly and indirectly, many of his students to pursue tennis-related careers, including Willis Thomas, president of the American Tennis Association (ATA) and tennis director with the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation (WTEF) in Washington, DC; former pro Leslie Allen, ex-chairwoman of the U.S. Fed Cup Team; former pro Zina Garrison, former U.S. Fed Cup captain; former pro Rodney Harmon, former head of men's tennis for the United States Tennis Association (USTA); teaching pros Arthur Carrington and Bob Davis; United States Federal Judge Henry H. Kennedy, Jr.; and Doug Smith, who covered tennis for 3 of the nation's largest newspapers—Newsday, the New York Post, and USA Today and is the author of Dr. Johnson's biography, "Whirlwind, The Godfather of Black Tennis."

Dr. Johnson most significantly helped tear down racial barriers in tennis years ago and helped Americans understand that tennis should be enjoyed by all who play and love the game. Dr. Johnson also served as head football coach at 2 Georgia universities—Morris Brown University and Atlanta University—in the late 1920s. He later established a junior development tennis program to train and prepare African American players, including Arthur Ashe, to compete in the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) sanctioned tournaments. Whirlwind's junior program was a prelude to the high-tech junior training academies and camps now run by tennis gurus Nick Bollitteri, Rick Macci and former No. 1 World Champion Chris Evert. Dr. Johnson operated the camp for more than 20 years and helped more than 100 African American juniors earn college tennis scholarships during that era.

Madam Speaker, we should continue to honor American heroes like Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind" Johnson who fought for a better America without race barriers on and off the court. America and the game of tennis have both benefited an enormous amount because of Dr. R. Walter "Whirlwind," Johnson and we as a Nation owe him and other American heroes a tremendous amount of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. William Johnson of St. Joseph, Michigan. An accomplished businessman and community leader, Bill Johnson is retiring from the board of directors of Lakeland Health Care after more than 33 years of service.

During that time he has led Lakeland through a period of phenomenal growth, with the construction of new facilities, the addition of state-of-the-art equipment, and many awards for quality health care. Beginning back in 1975, Bill Johnson has used his leadership and team building skills to implement hospital mergers, build model care programs, and develop world-class community health initiatives. Since 1993, Bill Johnson has served as the chairman of the Lakeland Health Care Board, and he leaves a legacy that will shape health care in southwest Michigan for years to come.

Bill Johnson was born in Lincoln, Illinois, and graduated from the University of Illinois. He served his country as a first lieutenant and company commander in the United States Army.

Following that service to his country, he became an innovative and respected business leader. He was president of Heath Company, vice president of strategic alliances for Zenith Data Systems, and even after his retirement, he came back as chief operating officer for Gast Manufacturing Corporation.

He brought his business experience and entrepreneurial flair to Lakeland Health Care and to a number of other community organizations. And while Bill Johnson formally steps down as the chairman of the board, we all know he will continue to be involved in the community he loves. He and his wife Patt and family are true cornerstones of our corner of Michigan.

KURDISTAN IS MODEL FOR IRAQ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following op-ed published in The Wall Street Journal on November 12, 2008, by Masoud Barzani, President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. It conveys the strong and important relationship between the Iraqi Kurdish population and the United States as well as their efforts to help build a peaceful Iraq. I was fortunate this year to visit the Kurdistan Region, and I know firsthand of Kurdish appreciation of the American people.

[From the Wall Street Journal, November 12, 2008]

KURDISTAN IS A MODEL FOR IRAQ—OUR PATH TO A SECULAR, FEDERAL DEMOCRACY IS INSPIRED BY THE U.S.

(By Masoud Barzani)

Iraq's Kurds have consistently been America's closest allies in Iraq. Our Peshmerga forces fought alongside the U.S. military to liberate the country, suffering more casualties than any other U.S. ally.

And while some Iraqi politicians have challenged the U.S.-Iraq security agreement, Iraq's Kurdish leaders have endorsed the pact as essential for U.S. combat troops to continue fighting terrorists in Iraq.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is committed to a federal, democratic Iraq that is at peace with its neighbors.

We have benefited enormously from the service and sacrifices of America's armed forces and their families, and we are deeply grateful. We are also proud to have shared in such sacrifices; my brother was among those severely wounded during the liberation of Iraq.

Last year, following a U.S. request, we deployed Kurdish troops to Baghdad. These

troops played a decisive role in the success of the surge. Last month I once again visited Baghdad to meet with the leadership of the federal government. We stressed our commitment to developing an Iraqi state that abides by its constitution and that is based upon a federal model with clearly delineated powers for its regions.

In spite of all this, some commentators now suggest that the Kurds are causing problems by insisting on territorial demands and proceeding with the development of Kurdistan's oil resources. These allegations are troubling. We are proceeding entirely in accord with the Iraqi constitution, implementing provisions that were brokered by the U.S.

In the constitutional negotiations that took place in the summer of 2005, two issues were critical to us: first, that the Kurdistan Region has the right to develop the oil on its territory, and second, that there be a fair process to determine the administrative borders of Iraq's Kurdistan Region—thus resolving once and for all the issue of ''disputed'' territories.

Unfortunately, ever since the discovery of oil in Iraq in the 1920s, successive Iraqi governments have sought to keep oil out of Kurdish hands, blocking exploration and development of fields in Kurdistan. Saddam Hussein's government went even further, using Iraqi oil revenues to finance the military campaigns that destroyed more than 4,500 Kurdish villages and to pay for the poison gas used to kill thousands of Kurdish civilians.

The Kurdish leadership agreed to a U.S.-sponsored compromise in 2005 in which the central government would have the authority to manage existing oil fields, but new fields would fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the regions. Since then, the KRG has taken the lead with Baghdad in negotiations on a hydrocarbon law that is faithful to Iraq's constitution and is conducive to modernizing Iraq's oil infrastructure and substantially increasing its oil production.

We have awarded contracts for foreign oil companies (including some American ones) to explore our territory. In so doing, Kurdistan is not threatening the unity of Iraq. It is simply implementing the constitution.

The ''disputed territories'' have a tragic history. Since the 1950s, Iraqi regimes encouraged Arabs to settle in Kirkuk and other predominantly Kurdish and Turkmen areas. Saddam Hussein accelerated this process by engaging in ethnic cleansing, expelling or killing Kurds and Turkmen, or by requiring nationality corrections (in which non-Arabs are forced to declare themselves to be Arabs) and by moving Arabs into Kurdish homes.

The dispute between Baghdad and the Kurds over Kirkuk has lasted more than 80 years and has often been violent. All sides have now agreed to a formula to resolve the problem, to bring justice to Kirkuk, and to correct the crimes against Kurds committed by Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraq's constitution requires that a referendum be held in disputed territories to determine if their populations want to join the Kurdistan Region. Conducting a plebiscite is not easy, but it is preferable to another 80 years of conflict.

If the pro-Kurdistan side should lose the referendum in Kirkuk, I promise that Kurdistan will respect that result. And if they win, I promise that we will do everything in our power to ensure outsized representation of Kirkuk's Turkmen, Arabs and Christians both on the local level and in the parliament and government of the Kurdistan Region.

Regional stability cannot come from resolving internal disputes alone. That is why expanding and deepening our ties with Turkey is my top priority.

My meeting last month in Baghdad with the Turkish special envoy to Iraq was a historic and positive development. There should be further direct contacts between the KRG and Turkey, as well as multilateral contacts that involve the U.S. We are eager to work with Turkey to seek increased peace and prosperity in the region.

I am proud that the Kurdistan Region is both a model and gateway for the rest of Iraq. Our difficult path to a secular, federal democracy is very much inspired by the U.S. And so we look forward to working with the Obama-Biden administration to support and defend our hard-fought successes in Iraq, and to remain proud of what the Kurdistan region is today: a thriving civil society in the heart of the Middle East. When we insist on strict compliance with our country's constitution, we are only following America's great example.

HONORING MATTHEW DONALD SHUMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Donald Shuman 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 1247, 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 Donald Shuman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMPTROLLLER OF THE CURRENCY DUGAN REFUTES UNFAIR ATTACKS ON THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, during the recent campaign, motivated I believe by an effort to stave off much-needed legislation establishing appropriate regulation for currently unregulated aspects of the financial industry, a number of people launched a concerted effort to blame the Community Reinvestment Act for our current financial crisis. Their argument—wholly inaccurate—was that the Community Reinvestment Act was the reason that a large number of irresponsible subprime loans were made.

I was very pleased—although not surprised—that Comptroller of the Currency John C. Dugan, an appointee of President Bush, took the time on November 19th to refute these accusations. Comptroller Dugan is as well qualified to discuss this as anyone in the country, because he has a prime responsibility for the regulation of the safety and soundness of banks and the banking system. Given that, I believe it is essential that all Members have the benefit of his analysis.

Comptroller Dugan is characteristically forthright in addressing the question of the role that CRA has played:

''There are even some that suggest that CRA is responsible for the binge of irresponsible subprime lending that ignited the crisis we now face. Let me squarely respond to this suggestion: I categorically disagree. While not perfect, CRA has made a positive contribution to community revitalization across the country and has generally encouraged sound community development lending, investment and service initiatives by regulated banking organizations.

''CRA is not the culprit behind the subprime mortgage lending abuses, or the broader credit quality issues in the marketplace. Indeed, the lenders most prominently associated with subprime mortgage lending abuses and high rates of foreclosure are lenders not subject to CRA . . . (B)anks subject to CRA and their affiliates originated or purchased only six percent of the reported high cost loans made to lower-income borrowers within their CRA assessment areas.''

Madam Speaker, to make it clear that the forceful defense of CRA that I have just quoted is taken fully in context, I ask that those portions of Comptroller Dugan's speech that discuss the CRA be printed here in their entirety. This firm statement by President Bush's appointee with prime responsibility for the safety and soundness of the banking system should help us end the inaccurate, politically-motivated misrepresentation of the role that CRA has played.

REMARKS BY JOHN C. DUGAN—COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY BEFORE THE ENTERPRISE ANNUAL NETWORK CONFERENCE—NOVEMBER 19, 2008

''. . . Indeed, all of these efforts are fully in keeping with the OCC's mission and the way that we approach our regulatory and supervisory responsibilities, including those under the Community Reinvestment Act. CRA supports banks doing what they do best and what they should want to do well—making viable lending and investment decisions, with acceptable rates of return, consistent with their business plans, I their own communities.

Given recent public discussion, it is appropriate to ask about the role that CRA plays in the credit challenges we face on so many fronts. In my view, it plays a very positive role. Unfortunately, however, current market disruptions have clouded the accomplishments that CRA has generated, many of which we recognized last year during its 30th anniversary. There are even some who suggest that CRA is responsible for the binge of irresponsible subprime lending that ignited the credit crisis we now face.

Let me squarely respond to this suggestion: I categorically disagree. While not perfect, CRA has made a positive contribution to community revitalization across the country and has generally encouraged sound community development lending, investment, and service initiatives by regulated banking organizations.

CRA is not the culprit behind the subprime mortgage lending abuses, or the broader credit quality issues in the marketplace. Indeed, the lenders most prominently associated with subprime mortgage lending abuses

and high rates of foreclosure are lenders not subject to CRA. A recent study of 2006 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data showed that banks subject to CRA and their affiliates originated or purchased only six percent of the reported high cost loans made to lower-income borrowers within their CRA assessment areas.

Over the last ten years, CRA has helped spur the doubling of lending by banking institutions to small businesses and farms, to more than $2.6 trillion. During this period, those lenders more than tripled community development lending to $371 billion. Overwhelmingly, this lending has been safe and sound. For example, single family CRA-related mortgages offered in conjunction with NeighborWorks organizations have performed on a par with standard conventional mortgages. Foreclosure rates within the NeighborWorks network were just 0.21 percent in the second quarter of this year, compared to 4.26 percent of subprime loans and 0.61 percent for conventional conforming mortgages. Similar conclusions were reached in a study by the University of North Carolina's Center for Community Capital, which indicates that high-cost subprime mortgage borrowers default at much higher rates than those who take out loans made for CRA purposes.

Of course, not all single-family CRA mortgages performed this well, because these loans have experienced the same stresses as most other types of consumer credit. Nevertheless, a number of studies have shown that when these loans are made in conjunction with a structured homebuyer counseling program, mortgage performance is substantially improved. Affordable CRA multi-family projects utilizing low-income housing tax credits have also performed well, with an average foreclosure rate through 2006 of 0.08 percent on the underlying mortgages.

During the community tours I have taken over the past three years, I personally witnessed the positive impact that CRA partnerships have had in transforming communities, expanding homeownership, and promoting job creation and economic development. These partner ships between communities and financial institutions have also helped house senior citizens and people with special needs, built community facilities, and assisted small businesses serving low-income areas.

In the Anacostia community of D.C., an area of economic resurgence that I have toured on several occasions, Enterprise's Wheeler Creek project was a critical link in stabilizing a neighborhood that had been plagued by a troubled public housing project. Wheeler Creek involved development of for-sale homes in conjunction with a bank community development corporation, as well as a bank's purchase of low-income housing tax credits for rental housing.

CRA projects also act as catalysts for other investments, job creation, and housing development. Such infusion of capital into these markets leverages public subsidies, perhaps as much as 10 to 25 times, by attracting additional private capital. Many of these CRA equity investments can be made under national banks' public welfare investment authority. These bank investments have grown significantly over the years—totaling more than $25 billion over the past decade. Indeed, the OCC recently held its Managers Conference at the Grand Masonic Lodge on North Charles Street here in Baltimore, a public welfare investment funded by a national bank. To meet the demand to invest in similar types of projects, OCC successfully sought legislation last year to raise the cap on public welfare investments from 10 to 15 percent of a bank's capital and assets. This rise will enable the amount of such investments to increase by as much as $30 billion.

Interpreting national bank public welfare investment authority, OCC recently issued an approval related to energy conservation that may be of interest to Enterprise. This approval clarifies that such authority extends to bank investments in renewable energy tax credits primarily benefiting low-and moderate-income individuals and areas, government revitalization areas, rural underserved and distressed middle-income areas, and designated disaster areas. The investing bank can claim the credits and, in some instances, receive positive CRA consideration under the investment or community development testes.

Your Green Communities initiative, and others like it, may be able to take advantage of these tools to obtain additional resources under the public welfare investment authority, CRA, and other available incentives to build many more sustainable homes and communities across the country. The research and examples described on your Web site demonstrate that moving to a green economy can generate a significant number of jobs, stimulate economic growth, and create a healthy environment in communities that Enterprise serves.

As the credit market stabilizes, CRA-driven initiatives can also help us tackle challenges such as the preservation of homeownership opportunities and rental housing development. Opportunities also lie ahead for bank partnerships with Enterprise affiliates and other nonprofits to help mitigate the impact of foreclosures in communities across the country. . .

Our nation has accomplished much since CRA's passage. Perhaps even Jim Rouse could not imagine how much the flow of CRA-related capital and credit has contributed to affordable homeownership, jobs and business development, and healthy neighborhoods. In today's challenging economy, the need for the positive results that CRA has generated are even greater, and the same is true for organizations like Enterprise.

Thank you very much.''

HONORING JOHN M. MILAM

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine. Mr. John M. Milam has just retired after 34 years with San Antonio's transit system, VIA, the last 16 leading the company as general manager, president, and CEO, and I wish to thank him for his dedication and for his service to our community.

Over the course of his tenure with VIA, Mr. Milam continually embraced change, and the system grew and improved in countless ways. He was among the first to install GPS tracking on VIA buses, ensuring that he knew where every bus and paratransit vehicle was at any moment, resulting in the best planned routes designed with the latest information. VIA acquired newer, more energy efficient vehicles, improving their finances as well as the environment. Mr. Milam's insistence on making VIA one of the most cost-efficient transit systems in the country saved the system in the mid-1990s and allowed him to expand and improve services, making our public transportation system truly outstanding.

It is all too easy to take a well-run transit system for granted. San Antonians simply expect VIA to be there when we need it, to run smoothly, and to provide a restful ride. John Milam ran VIA so well he made it look easy. But for hundreds of thousands of people, on millions of trips, over dozens of years, the efforts of John M. Milam made living in San Antonio that much better. The programs he began will continue to improve the area for years to come. He leaves behind a great legacy and we can all say, ''John, thanks for a great ride.''

HONORING BRANDEN DEMAR THOELE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Branden Demar Thoele of Kansas City, Missouri. Branden 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 1378, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Branden has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Branden 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 Branden Demar Thoele for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF CARLOS MARIN, ARTURO HERRERA, JAKE BRISBIN, JR., AND MATTHEW PETER JUNEAU

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness on the untimely deaths of U.S. International Water and Boundary Commissioner, IWBC, Carlos Marin, IWBC Mexican Commissioner Arturo Herrera, Executive Director of the Rio Grande Council of Governments Jake Brisbin, Jr., and pilot Matthew Peter Juneau, who all lost their lives in a September 16 plane crash outside of Presidio, TX.

I was shocked to hear of the plane crash and am deeply saddened by the loss. My deepest condolences are with the families of those who perished.

I had the privilege of working with Commissioners Marin and Herrera on numerous issues affecting South Texas. They were strong advocates of continued cooperation between the United States and Mexico. Their service to the IWBC was matched by their dedication to improving the quality of life between the two nations.

I will keep their families in my thoughts and prayers.

SALUTE TO COLLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR AWARD WINNING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FOR 2008

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Collin County Sheriff's Office for placing as a ''National Award Winner'' for its outstanding participation in the 25th annual National Night Out Crime, Drug, and Violence Prevention program for a 5th consecutive year. They placed 10th in the Nation for those with populations over 300,000. Over 10,000 communities participated in 2007.

I've spent time with these folks and they run a top-notch event dedicated to improving the quality of life in North Texas.

Thank you to every person in the Sheriff's Office who makes Collin County a great and safe place to live, work and play.

National Night Out aims to bring neighbors together with block parties, cookouts, visits from local police and sheriff departments, parades, exhibits, flashlight walks, contests and youth programs.

National Night Out heightens crime and drug prevention awareness, generates support for local anti-crime initiatives, and fosters neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. National Night Out sends a message to criminals to let them know that neighbors are united together to protect their communities and will fight back.

It was an honor to participate in National Night Out this year. The Collin County Sheriffs Office received a well-deserved award. Congratulations to everyone on that team.

God bless you and I salute you.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR M. BARTELL

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major General Arthur M. Bartell, United States Army, Deputy Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg on the occasion of his promotion and new command assignment. Major General Bartell has served our great Nation for more than 31 years as a truly exceptional officer, and I am proud to call him my friend. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Art on his well-deserved promotion to Major General and his new assignment as Commanding General, United States Army Cadet Command. Since his assignment as Deputy Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps in June 2007, I have had the honor of working closely with him on behalf of our warfighters here at Fort Bragg. With the deployment of Corps Headquarters in January, he has been an outstanding leader as Commander of Task Force Bragg. Major General Bartell has also been a great ambassador in his outreach to the local community, and it is much appreciated. Most importantly, Art's concern for his troops is evident, and he leads by example. Soldier, leader, scholar, gentleman—Major General Art Bartell truly personifies what a warrior should be.

His career accomplishments speak for themselves: Major General Arthur M. Bartell was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer in 1977 through ROTC at the University of Michigan. He began his career as a Forward Observer and Battery Fire Direction Officer with B Battery 2nd BN, 17th FA in the Republic of Korea. Duty with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) followed. There he served as a Battery Executive Officer, Battalion Fire Support Officer, Battalion Fire Direction Officer and Battery Commander in the 2nd Bn, 320th FA. He next served at Fort Wainwright with the 172nd Light Infantry Brigade (Sep) as both Battalion Fire Support Officer and Battery Commander in the 1st Bn, 37th FA. Following a tour at the U.S Army Military Personnel Center as the Field Artillery Personnel Systems Manager and attendance at the Army Command and General Staff College, Major General Bartell moved to Germany where he served as the Deputy G3 and G3 of VII Corps Artillery during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf. Returning to Germany, he served as the Battalion Executive Officer for the 4th Bn, 27th FA (MLRS) and as the Brigade S3 for the 41st FA Bde. Major General Bartell then moved to the 10th Mountain Division (LI) for duty as the Division Artillery Executive Officer and as the Battalion Commander of the 1st Bn, 7th FA (which reflagged to 3rd Bn, 6th FA during his tenure), both at Fort Drum and Port-au-Prince, Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy. After completion of the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island, Art served as the Senior Fire Support Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk. He then returned to Fort Drum as the Commander of the 10th Mountain Division Artillery. After completing his command tour, he assumed duties as the Chief, Joint Interoperability Training Division, and then as Deputy J7/Deputy Commander, Joint Warfighting Center, U.S. Joint Forces Command in Virginia. Following that Joint assignment, he returned, once again, to the 10th Mountain Division (LI) to be the Chief of Staff and deployed to Afghanistan with the Division Command Group and Staff as part of Operation Enduring Freedom where he assumed duties as the Chief of Staff for Combined Joint Task Force 180. Upon re-deployment from Afghanistan, Major General Bartell served as Deputy Commanding General, Support, 10th Mountain Division (LI). Following that assignment he was sent to the Pentagon where he served on the Joint Staff as Vice Director for Operational Plans and Joint Force Development. Major General Bartell's awards and decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal (w/OLC), Legion of Merit (w/OLC), Bronze Star Medal (w/OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (w/7 OLC), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (w/OLC), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/3 BSS), Humanitarian Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwaiti Kuwait Liberation Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (w/OLC), Meritorious Unit Award, and Joint Staff Identification Badge.

On behalf of Congress, the United States of America, and the greater Fort Bragg community, I express our appreciation for Art's tireless service, expertise, patriotism, and dedication to our soldiers. No doubt he will prove a great role model for the cadets under his new command, though it will be a great loss for Fort Bragg and the XVIII Airborne Corps. I want to personally thank Major General Bartell, his wife Karen, and his sons for their commitment, sacrifice, and the contributions they have made throughout his honorable and distinguished military career. I congratulate Art on completing an exceptional tenure here at Fort Bragg and wish him many blessings and much success as he begins this new endeavor.

HONORING VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor American veterans who fought in the most pivotal conflict of World War II; the Battle of the Ardennes, more commonly referred to as the Battle of the Bulge. Specifically, I rise to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the many courageous veterans, family members and supporters of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, based in my district.

Next month marks the 64th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Bulge. At 5:30 a.m. on December 16, 1944, over 250,000 German troops launched a massive offensive against Allied forces along an 85 mile stretch of Europe's Western Front in the Ardennes region of Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Initially, German forces were able to advance approximately 50 miles into terrain controlled by Allied armies, but by late January 1945, American units had reclaimed the lost territory and effectively crippled the German Army.

While the Battle of the Bulge was the largest and most pivotal land battle of World War II involving American soldiers, it also proved to be the bloodiest. When the conflict ended on January 25, 1945, roughly 75,000 American troops had lost their lives defending the vital Western Front and thousands more were left terribly injured. The sacrifices of these servicemen and all those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge were not made in vain, as the U.S. Army's expulsion of German forces from Ardennes damaged the German Army to the extent that its full defeat became inevitable.

Ten years ago, a group of motivated veterans in my district established the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. Today, the membership of this group extends far beyond veterans of the Battle of the Bugle to include veterans of more recent conflicts like the Vietnam war, spouses, family members, friends and even local residents who share the group's interest in American military history. The Chapter meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Terrace Restaurant in Walnutport, Pennsylvania, to socialize, share memories and discuss upcoming community events. Typically, these meetings attract anywhere from 75 to 100 enthusiasts.

One of the primary functions of the organization is to educate local students and residents. Members routinely visit schools

throughout the Lehigh Valley to discuss the importance of the Battle of the Bulge and teach students about the great sacrifices made by thousands of American soldiers over time to preserve our freedom. The Chapter estimates its education program has reached over 50,000 students since its inception.

December 16, 2008, represents 64 years since the start of the famous Battle of the Bulge. On this date, members of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will gather at 5:30 a.m. in two locations in my district to recognize the anniversary of this historic event and remember the many Americans who lost their lives ensuring Allied victory in World War II.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge and thanking all members of the Armed Forces for their brave service to our country.

HONORING NEAL ROBERT WINDHORST

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Neal Robert Windhorst of Kansas City, Missouri. Neal 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 1395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Neal has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Neal 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 Neal Robert Windhorst for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH HENRY BAKER, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the state of Alabama lost a dear friend this week, and I rise today to honor Joseph Henry Baker, Jr. and pay tribute to his memory.

Known affectionately as ''Bobo,'' he was a native and lifelong resident of Mobile. Bobo graduated from Murphy High School and entered the U.S. Army at the height of World War II at the age of 17. He would ultimately retire from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of colonel.

As part of his military service, he attended both North Carolina State University and Oregon State University and earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Following the war, Bobo earned an accounting degree from the University of Alabama. He was also named to the University of Alabama School of Commerce and Business Administration's All Time All Star Academic Team.

After finishing at the University of Alabama, Bobo began his career in the Mobile banking industry. During this time, he attended the National Trust School at Northwestern University, the New York State Trust School and Rutgers Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

In 1955, Bobo joined the auditing department of the First National Bank of Mobile, now AmSouth Bank. The following year he was promoted to assistant trust officer and then to trust officer in 1960. In 1965, Bobo was named assistant vice president. He was elected vice president in 1967, senior trust officer in 1969, senior vice president in 1974 and head of the trust department in 1975.

He was active in a number of professional banking organizations. He served as chairman of the Southern Trust Conference Planning Committee, president of the trust division of the Alabama Bankers Association, and member of the American Bankers Association.

Bobo was also active in a number of civic and community organizations. He was a former secretary and director of the Lion's Club of Mobile, former president of America's Junior Miss, former president of the Mobile Preschool for the Deaf, a founding member of both the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and the Family Counseling Center, and a member of the Senior Bowl Committee, the M.W. Smith Foundation, Quarterback Club, Mobile Touchdown Club, Coastal Conservation Association, Alabama Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited and the Mobile County Wildlife Association.

Bobo also gave much of his time to his beloved parish, St. Ignatius Catholic Church. He was a member of the Equestrian Society of the Holy Sepulchre, Legatus, the Serra Club of Mobile as well as Catholic Social Services. He has also served as treasurer and member of the board of directors of the McGill-Toolen Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Joseph Henry Baker, Jr. will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 48 years, Mary; his children, Laura Blakely Cooper, Leigh Eleanor Givhan, Joseph Henry Baker III, and Mary Lucille Green; his 12 grandchildren, James Lucien Hinton III, Laura Blakely Hinton, Russell Baker Hinton, Mary Virginia Givhan, William Bowman Givhan, Jr., Eleanor Frances Givhan, Mary Deas Baker, Elizabeth Frances Baker, Charles Lansing Green, Jr., Mary Eleanor Green, Julia Baker Green, and Henry Harmon Green; his sister, Frances Baker Lauten; and his brother, William Costello Baker—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

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

A TRIBUTE TO MILDRED COUNCIL

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and applaud The Honorable Mildred Council, Mayor Pro Tempore of Greenville, North Carolina. Known across the state for her longtime community service, Mayor Pro Tempore Council has spent 20 years steadfastly representing her constituents. The National League of Cities recently honored Mrs. Council with its 2008 Women in Municipal Government Leadership Award on Friday, November 14, 2008. This award recognizes women for implementing civic programs in local government. Mrs. Council has devoted her life and career to social work and public service, including a focus on mitigating the effects of sickle cell syndrome on her communities. Her example and accomplishments should serve as a model for future women leaders.

Mrs. Mildred Council is a native of Bethel, North Carolina. She graduated from Shaw University with a bachelor's degree in sociology, and later earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin. After first being elected to the Greenville City Council in 1987, she established Greenville's first Youth Council. She also cofounded the Women/Ladies of Distinction program, which mentors at-risk young female students in North Carolina schools. She has also served on 17 boards and commissions in her career including Sheppard Memorial Library Board and the Recreation and Parks Commission. She has been a 4–H leader, serving as a role model for many children in Pitt County.

Mayor Pro Tempore Council has been recognized throughout her career for her distinguished service. In 2006, she was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by North Carolina Governor Mike Easley. She was awarded the National Association of Black Social Workers 33rd Annual Conference Certificate of Appreciation for Significant Contribution to the African-American Community in 2007. She is also the recipient of the North Carolina Women in Municipal Government For Service As President Award. Further, she has received three awards from her religious community, including the Christian Awareness Organization Humanitarian Award.

Mayor Pro Tempore Council's commitment to her community is based in her strong faith and it permeates into all aspects of her life. She continues to work tirelessly to serve and assist the people with the greatest needs. With her help and support, there is now a Pitt County Habitat for Humanity office, located in the heart of Greenville. Her dedication to the community she faithfully serves truly makes her an exceptional leader and role model. She embodies the true spirit of a public servant by dedicating each day to improving the quality of life for every person living in her community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of Mildred Council.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam speaker, National Adoption Month is a time when Americans can come together to celebrate families grown by adoption. Individuals and families choose adoption for many reasons. Common to all adoptive families is that they offer loving,

permanent homes to children without such a blessing. Multiple States, neighborhoods, and agencies across the United States hold events during this month to encourage families to give children the gift of family through adoption.

There are many types of adoption. In 2007, approximately 51,000 children were adopted from the U.S. foster care system and 20,000 children were adopted internationally. Tens of thousands of children also are adopted within the United States each year. I recognize the joy and love that each of these families offers its adoptive children. I know that Raschke family from Oak Park, IL, exemplifies the happiness and rewards of being an adoptive family. Joe and Cathleen Raschke welcomed Nicholas Dan Raschke to their family in August 2006. Nicholas was adopted from the Vinh Long Orphanage in Vinh Long, Vietnam. As a young Chicagoan, Nicholas loves the Cubs, cold weather, and good food.

We have done great work here in Congress to promote adoption. We recently passed Public Law 110–351, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. This new law is designed to help place children in permanent, caring families through reunification, adoption, and guardianship. In addition to reauthorizing the Adoption and Safe Families Act, the new law supports subsidized guardianship, a policy approach that provides Federal support to kinship caregivers who provide their young relatives permanent, loving homes. I am pleased that we are taking steps to improve the lives of America's youth that are filled with desperate need.

So, during the 2008 National Adoption Month, I tip my hat to those who have opened their families via adoption, providing the care and love needed to grow our youngest citizens into tomorrow's leaders.

TRIBUTE TO TAUBMAN MUSEUM OF ART

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, the Art Museum of Western Virginia has been transformed. Formerly located in Center in the Square in Roanoke, Virginia, the museum has undergone a multimillion dollar makeover under the guidance of renowned architect Randall Stout and has been reborn as the Taubman Museum of Art.

Created in 1951 as the Roanoke Fine Arts Center, and then fully accredited for the first time in 1977, it became the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts in 1980. Following its relocation from South Roanoke to the downtown multicultural structure called Center in the Square, it became the Art Museum of Western Virginia in 1992, testament to the regional nature of its mission. But change beckoned the museum as it sat on the cusp of the 21st century, due both to outgrowing its space and an expansion in its collection.

A vision developed for the new Art Museum of Western Virginia. Museum officials and community supporters determined that instead of renovating an existing structure in downtown Roanoke for the new facility, a state-of-the-art structure was in order. That vision was developed not only to help bring attention to the museum itself but to help speak to the region's steady movement toward becoming a player in our technology-driven economy.

Thanks to the city of Roanoke, an undeveloped site near one of the city's busiest intersections was donated to house the museum, and the city contributed $4 million for the project. Once Randall Stout was hired to develop an image of the museum at that site, it became clear that his growing stature in architectural circles would result in the transformative structure that many had hoped for. The plan was to help put Roanoke on the map with a building that would attract visitors not only from around the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States but from around the world. On September 10, I was honored to be a participant in breaking ground for the new museum.

After just over 3 years of construction, Roanoke's new art museum opened to the public on Saturday, November 8. And I was fortunate to again be present to help cut the ribbon on a building that is difficult to put into words. But once you see the Taubman Museum of Art, you learn to understand that Randall Stout captured the mountains, valleys, rivers, and seasons in rock, steel, and glass.

The new museum in Roanoke is named for Nick and Jenny Taubman, a family name well known to Roanokers. Nick is the former leader of Advance Auto Parts and presently serves as the United States Ambassador to Romania. His wife, Jenny, chaired the museum's capital campaign. And their pledge of $15.25 million was the largest donation received toward the museum. The facility also benefits greatly from the Horace G. Fralin Charitable Trust, which has contributed financially and formatively. Under the leadership of Heywood Fralin, the Fralin Trust has contributed works by American artists that now make the Taubman Museum a home for some of the greatest our Nation has known—Winslow Homer, Norman Rockwell, and John Singer Sargent to name just a few.

Under the able direction of Georgeanne Bingham, the Taubman Museum is not only a structure housing works of art, it is becoming a true destination. The museum also houses Art Venture, geared toward bringing men, women and children together in a gallery that will permit hands-on opportunities to create their own art. A special new media gallery is courtesy of the great leaders and minds at Virginia Tech, a longtime supporter of the new museum and an integral part of the institution's plans for educational outreach in the arts. The museum even features Hokie Stone, once specific only to the buildings on Tech's campus in Blacksburg.

While breaking ground for the Taubman Museum, I said that it was a key to the new frontiers that must be crossed in the Roanoke Valley region of Virginia in order to keep it competitive in the 21st century. Now that the structure is complete, I remain convinced that the facility is the latest successful effort that is opening eyes to the vast array of possibilities that are within our reach in western Virginia. I agree with my friend Heywood Fralin that the museum is without a doubt, the most significant new structure in Virginia.

I extend congratulations to Georgeanne Bingham, Nick and Jenny Taubman, Heywood Fralin, Randall Stout, and countless others who toiled for the past 3 years to help the Taubman Museum rise to the cusp of opening. The expectations were great, but I am sure that everyone who sets foot in the museum will be deeply impressed by what it has to offer to a broad range of art enthusiasts.

The collections inside will speak well. Visitors will get to see old favorites, develop an appreciation for new acquisitions, and experience art in a technologically advanced way. And the building itself—the structure as seen from the exterior and what envelops inside—carries with it special significance. It has automatically become a landmark—and in a setting in downtown Roanoke, it is good company. When given the opportunity to move from ground level and into the museum's interior and then move around it's exterior, one understands that it is surrounded by the landmarks that speak both to the region's past and point the way to its future—from the ancient Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains and valleys, to the star atop Mill Mountain, to the railroad tracks that first brought commerce to the region, to the historic buildings that served in previous centuries and have now been reborn for modern times. The Taubman Museum will join so many other efforts leading the way for the region, its citizens, and visitors through the frontiers yet to come.

I am delighted that the Taubman Museum has been erected in the Sixth District of Virginia. I encourage our Nation to embrace the structure and its contents and to come to Roanoke to enjoy this grand cultural attraction for many, many years to come.

HONORING JACKSON ROSS HOBBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jackson Ross Hobbs of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Jackson 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 1042, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jackson has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jackson 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 Jackson Ross Hobbs 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 MR. GARY L. CRAMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gary L. Cramer of Kalamazoo, Michigan for his years of outstanding service to Kalamazoo Charter Township and the State of Michigan.

Gary began his work as a public official in 1980, when he was elected to serve as Kalamazoo Township trustee. Over the next 16

years, Gary distinguished himself as a clear-thinking and approachable leader, earning him the trust and respect of government, business, and community leaders alike. In his capacity as trustee, Gary also assumed an active role as a township fire commissioner and as a member of the city planning commission.

From the role of trustee, Gary was elected to the position of township supervisor, where he admirably served the residents of Kalamazoo Township from 1996 to 2008. For those 12 years, Gary also worked as a member of the Kalamazoo Township Policy and Administration Committee, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, the Coalition for Urban Redevelopment, the Kalamazoo Regional Water & Wastewater Commission, and the Community Action Board. In 1999, he was elected to the Michigan Township Association Board, where he retired as president in 2008.

Gary has always risen above the fray of partisan politics to ensure that the interests of those he represents are met. As both an administrator and representative, he truly exemplifies the best of the public servant.

Once again, I would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to Gary Cramer for his many years of distinguished service to the residents of Kalamazoo Township. Southwest Michigan is truly stronger because of his contributions.

IN MEMORY OF NANCY HAWK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Friday, October 17th, South Carolina lost a true Charleston Southern Lady with the death of Nancy Dinwiddie Hawk. A native of Virginia, Ms. Hawk spent most of her life in Charleston where she raised nine children, practiced law as a Broad Street Lawyer, and become a tireless advocate and worker for the needs of her community.

I had the honor of knowing Ms. Hawk as a fellow member of First (Scots) Presbyterian Church and growing up with her children. She was truly a pioneer for women's involvement in political and civic service in our society.

A fitting editorial tribute to Nancy Hawk was published on October 19, 2008, in The Post and Courier newspaper of Charleston, South Carolina.

NANCY D. HAWK

[From the Post and Courier, Oct. 19, 2008]

After Nancy Dinwiddie Hawk was named the United States Mother of the Year, a reporter wrote that chronicling her remarkable life in politics, historic preservation and law was more appropriate for a biographer than for a journalist. That was in 1989. Her impressive story got more so after that.

Mrs. Hawk, who died Friday in hospice care, was a woman of purpose and drive. After rearing nine successful children, she enrolled at the College of Charleston to finish the undergraduate degree she had begun at the University of Virginia. Then, she commuted between Charleston and law school in Columbia. And before it became routine to see female lawyers, her shingle was hanging on Broad Street.

What Nancy Hawk touched, Nancy Hawk influenced.

East Bay Street might have been in the shadow of a 10-story apartment building had she not succeeded in stopping the planned building by saving several old warehouses.

She worked to save historic Snee Farm, to shape plans for the Crosstown to mitigate damage to the peninsula, to restore the county courthouse, build the judicial center and organize the Charlestowne Neighborhood Association.

She wasn't afraid to take on controversy. She opposed Charleston Place and supported Lodge Alley Inn. Both were built.

When her two bids for elected office failed—a 1975 race against Joseph P. Riley Jr. for mayor and a 1976 race against T. Dewey Wise for state Senate—she became vice chairman of the State Republican Party.

She later said she probably wasn't suited for politics because the ''gamesmanship'' that goes along with it didn't fit with her straightforward manner.

Mrs. Hawk was born in Charlottesville, Va., but she was thoroughly committed to Charleston where she moved in 1951 with her husband, Dr. John C. Hawk.

First (Scots) Presbyterian Church. The Girl Scouts. Charleston Civic Ballet. Charleston Opera Company. The Christian Family Y. The American College of the Bulding Arts. The Council of Urban Quality. H.E.L.P. Piccolo Spoleto. Meals on Wheels. The Lowcountry Open Land Trust. The Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. Parents Anonymous. Mason Prep school. All were strengthened by her hard work and support. In 1993, she received the Order of the Palmetto.

She once told The Post and Courier, ''It's hard to live with the knowledge that something happened because you didn't act.'' Surely she didn't face sleepless nights on that account.

Charleston is a better place because of Nancy Hawk. The city has lost a leader of strength and character.

A TRIBUTE TO THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF MILTON M. YOUNGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the distinguished career of Milton M. Younger of Bakersfield, California. After more than 52 years as a senior partner for the law firm of Chain, Younger, Cohn, and Stiles, Milt is stepping down to begin a new law firm, Younger and Lemucchi, with his long-time friend attorney Tim Lemucchi.

Milt was born in Bakersfield and has been a longtime resident of the city. He attended Bakersfield High School where he met his wife, Betty. Upon graduation, Milt attended Stanford University where he received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees. In 1956, he graduated from Stanford School of Law. After passing the California state bar, Milt became certified to practice law in 1957. Thereafter, he served as a JAG officer in the United States Army.

Between 1956 and 2008, Milt served as a senior partner for the law firm of Chain, Younger, Cohn, and Stiles. He joined the law firm, originally owned and operated by Morris B. Chain, in 1956. When Mr. Chain died in 1977, Milt became senior partner. During his tenure, Milt devoted his work to advocate for persons involved in accidents. Notable cases include representing burned Kern County oilfield electricians where he demanded safe machinery and equipment. In 2001, Milt argued on behalf of a three-year-old quadriplegic child whose car seat broke free from its seatbelt. As a result, infant seats are now required to undergo crash testing.

Milt has proudly supported organized labor for the past 45 years, representing firemen, policeman, correctional officers, California Highway Patrol officers, Naval Weapons Center employees, doctors, educators and senior citizens. A recipient of prestigious awards such as the Presidential Award of Merit by the Consumer Attorneys of California, Bench and Bar Award from the Kern County Bar Association, and honorary doctorate from California State University, Bakersfield attest to Milt's many accomplishments.

Through his public works and relentless community service, fighting on behalf of all injured persons, regardless of socioeconomic background, Milt has accomplished his lifelong endeavor of making the world safer. Known as one of Kern County's most trusted names in law, his significant contributions to the Valley will never be forgotten. Today, I take great pleasure in honoring, through these remarks, a good friend, valued advisor, and public servant Milt Younger.

HONORING DAVID PHILIP ISEMAN, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Philip Iseman, Jr. of Lee's Summit, Missouri. David 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 1391, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years David 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 David Philip Iseman, Jr. for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month and to recognize the important contributions of American Indians to our history and culture.

This year's theme is ''Celebrating Tribal Nations: America's Great Partners.'' For me, this

theme recognizes both the opportunities and the challenges facing Native American communities. The United States Constitution recognizes tribal sovereignty and through treaties, the Federal Government has a responsibility to protect the right to self-determination of tribal nations. Congress must do more to live up to the commitments that have been made. Clearly there is work to be done to improve education, increase access to health care, and support job opportunities.

This month I had the opportunity to visit several pueblos in New Mexico to learn more about how the Federal Government can be a better partner in improving education and access to health care. First hand I saw inspiring examples of Pueblos coming together for the greater good of their children and elders, and I learned of areas of extreme need in their communities.

During the Feast Day, I was invited by tribal members in the Pueblos of Tesuque and Jemez into their homes so I, and others from outside the community, could learn about tribal traditions and share some wonderful food. I saw Head Start centers built by the community to provide the youngest children with educational opportunities. Tribal leaders, teachers and elders shared their plans to implement new language immersion and preservation programs to ensure the continuation of the Pueblo's language, history and culture. Unfortunately, I also saw crumbling school buildings and understaffed health care clinics where it is clear the Federal Government must do more to honor the promises made by treaty. I look forward to working with the tribal communities and my colleagues to address these needs in the next Congress.

In Minnesota our culture has been enriched by the contributions of the Chippewa, Ojibwe and Sioux nations. I have been honored to work with alongside Native Americans to increase funding for Indian Education, reduce health disparities, and strengthen tribal colleges, but there is much more to be done.

As we join our families for Thanksgiving, we must remember the critical role American Indians played in the survival of the first European settlers in America and in influencing our shared American culture. We can also learn valuable lessons about the strength of community and the importance of conservation and good stewardship of our land from our Native American brothers and sisters. This November, and every month throughout the year, I urge my colleagues, friends and constituents to learn more about the heritage, history and art of the tribal nations in Minnesota and across the country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, FY 09 Defense Appropriations as part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: RTD&E Army Electronic Warfare Advanced Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Thales Communication.

Address of Requesting Entity: 22616 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871.

Description of Request: Funded $2.4 million to provide Networked Dynamic Spectrum Access Investigation AN/PCR–148 Joint Tactical Radio System Enhanced Multiband Inter/Intra Team Radios (JEM). The provision will support the investigation of the benefits of Networking Dynamic Spectrum Access for the Army AN/PRC–148 JEM to include evaluation of CONOPS and ability to transition these capabilities to the current force.

HONORING JOSHUA JAMES BLANCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua James Blanch of Liberty, Missouri. 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 1418, 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 James Blanch for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SPC JAMIN Y. MOORE

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those brave men and women who have been wounded while serving our country in the United States Army. SPC Jamin Y. Moore is one such individual who, while serving in Iraq, sustained serious injury after his platoon hit an improvised explosive device. SPC Moore is a graduate of Liberty High School in Bakersfield, California and I wish to honor him and his duty and sacrifice to our country by inserting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a poem he wrote on Saturday, May 20, 2006, on why he joined the United States Army.

I go because . . .

I go for a multitude of reasons; many which make sense to me alone and cannot be expressed in words, for words can never describe the deepest truisms in life.

I go to serve my country and to protect those I love.

I go to honor those who have served and fallen before me, not only those of this country; but of all who paid with blood to make the world better.

I go because I believe that I must be willing to fight and die for what I believe, or I am nothing.

I go because I have been called upon to serve.

I go because I will gain a deeper understanding of who I am.

I go because I realize that a constant battle is raging between good and evil, hope and despair, life and death.

I have chosen my side and go to fight in the War of Life.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN BARACY ON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT AS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Baracy, an exemplary public servant and recently retired Superintendent of Scottsdale Unified School District.

After working in education for 38 years, Dr. Baracy is retiring from a post where he brought leadership, vision and stability. Dr. Baracy thrived and excelled even though he was diagnosed with cancer within three weeks of accepting the Superintendent position.

In his four years, Dr. Baracy helped to stabilize the finances of the district. Under his leadership, 22 of 32 schools now bear the label "excelling," Arizona's top academic ranking. In addition to this, all five of the high schools in the district were renovated under budget and on time.

Throughout this, Dr. Baracy worked on forming a model of partnership for others to follow. Responding to calls to improve communication with parents and community members, Dr. Baracy moved towards more parent and community input into shaping the schools. By drawing upon his business background, Dr. Baracy shared his vision of finding common ground with parents and the community. The effects of his dedication will continue to shape Scottsdale schools for years to come.

Therefore, I urge you Madam Speaker, in rising to congratulate Dr. Baracy on his accomplishments and recent retirement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HERB SCORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Herb Score, revered pitcher and announcer for the Cleveland Indians, and in recognition of his contributions to the Cleveland Community.

Herb Score was a legendary left-handed pitcher for the Cleveland Indians who was admired for his pitching records as much as his humble character. During his rookie season with the Indians in 1955, he secured his place both in baseball history and in the hearts of Cleveland baseball fans when he was named American League Rookie of the Year. He won

16 games and struck out a total of 245 batters, a record he would surpass during his second year as pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, when he struck out 263 batters. Herb would hold this record until 1984 and was the American League (AL) Rookie of the Year in 1955.

Following an eye injury he sustained during a game against the New York Yankees in 1957, Herb went on to play for the White Sox and the Chicago Cubs before retiring at the age of 30 and returning to Cleveland as an announcer for the Indians. Just as he was cherished by fans for his astounding pitching abilities, so too was he loved for his unique announcing style. He remained a play-by-play announcer for the Indians for 34 years and was inducted into the Broadcaster Hall of Fame in 1998.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Herb Score. He will forever hold a place in the hearts of Cleveland Indians fans and in the Greater Cleveland Community.

IN MEMORY OF WALTER WILLIAM HOFFMAN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Walter William Hoffman, who died on Veterans Day after 86 years of a fulfilling life.

Walter and his late wife, Sheila, were longtime personal friends to my wife, Janice, and me.

Walter Hoffman was a native of Ventura County, California. His parents raised him on Rancho Casitas, where they bred thoroughbreds, including Crystal Pennant. He attended St. Catherine's Academy, Thatcher School, Villanova, and USC.

During World War II, Walter served as communications, navigation and executive officer aboard the USS Buchanan and was Officer of the Deck on the day the Buchanan delivered General Douglas McArthur to the USS Missouri for Japan's surrender.

Sheila and Walter married after the war and settled in Ventura County where he began his career in farming, animal husbandry, and petroleum operations. In 1947, he built and operated the Ventura Airpark. In 1956, Walter and his late partners Oather Vance and William Worthington formed that land management firm, Hoffman, Vance and Worthington.

A Renaissance man, Walter skippered and navigated boats in the Transpac Race, the Mazatlan Race and the Bermuda Race. He held a commercial pilot's license, was a licensed amateur radio operator and played the violin and the accordion. As a young man, he traveled around the world with his grandmother.

Walter also served on multiple boards, including the Bank of A. Levy, Santa Anita Consolidated, American Automobile Association, Livingston Memorial Foundation, St. John's Seminary, and Fales Committee at the U.S. Naval Academy.

He was a past chairman of the board of the Automobile Club of Southern California and was a past president of the Ventura Pacific Company, Crestview Water Company, and the Oceanographic Associates at USC. He was a past Commodore of the Transpacific Yacht Club and a founder of the Museum of Ventura County.

Pope John XXIII knighted him with the Order of St. Gregory, Knight Commander.

Walter Hoffman is survived by his two daughters, Katherine Russell and Carol Hambleton; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to Walter's family and all who knew him and called him a friend.

Godspeed, Walter.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID TYSON AND HIS INDUCTION TO THE GREATER HUNTINGTON WALL OF FAME

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and true West Virginian David Tyson.

Mr. Tyson is a lawyer from Huntington, WV who continually puts his community and State first. On October 2, 2008, David Tyson was inducted into the Greater Huntington Wall of Fame by the City of Huntington Foundation. David has worked tirelessly for his community as well as the State of West Virginia.

In April 2002, David was appointed by President Bush to the national advisory board for the Kennedy Center in Washington. He continually serves as an ambassador for the arts. Since becoming a member of that board, David has been interested in restoration; on a local level becoming involved with the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center in Huntington. Mr. Tyson is best known for his involvement in this project, which culminated in the theater serving as the location for the premier of the Warner Brothers major motion picture release "We Are Marshall." Mr. Tyson was also recognized as the Citizen of the Year in 2007 by the Herald-Dispatch, the major news publication in Huntington, West Virginia.

I applaud David Tyson's unending commitment to civic duty.

IN HONOR OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mayors for Peace and in recognition of their 2020 Vision Campaign as they continue their efforts to promote the international abolition of nuclear weapons.

Mayors for Peace is an international organization comprised of over two-thousand cities around the world in over one hundred and thirty countries who are dedicated to raising awareness on the need to eliminate nuclear weapons, affirm international human rights, and promote environmental justice and peace. The organization supports the proposal of the former Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan—Takeshi Araki—who in 1982 proposed an international solidarity program that would focus on the abolition of nuclear weapons during the second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign is an Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons by the year 2020—the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The campaign continues to affirm the need to abolish nuclear weapons and promotes good faith negotiations toward nuclear non-proliferation in all states and cities around the world.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Mayors for Peace, and in recognition of their dedication to promoting true peace and international solidarity. May their efforts serve as an example and inspiration for all of us to follow.

IN MEMORY OF STUDS TERKEL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on October 31st America lost its unofficial historian laureate: Louis "Studs" Terkel.

Because he was so modest, Studs would deny it, but in fact he created a new genre of literature and history—the oral history.

Studs and his tape recorder probed every corner of our collective consciousness with the delicacy and certainty of a brain surgeon.

He interviewed the famous and the infamous, the rich and the poor, the celebrity and the common man and woman.

Invariably he was able to extract something very special, a strand of the grand story which is America. He recorded those stories in books such as Division Street: America, Hard Times: An Oral History of the Great Depression, Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do, The Good War, Race: What Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession, Talking to Myself: A Memoir of My Times, Will the Circle Be Unbroken: Reflections on Death, Rebirth and Hunger for Faith, and Hope Dies Last: Keeping Faith in Difficult Times.

Madam Speaker, we all have conversations of all types every day. But Studs was able to turn his conversations into oral history because he was not just a passive observer of history, he was an active maker of history.

Studs earned a JD degree from the University of Chicago, but he never practiced law. Instead he apprenticed for his future career with a job in a writers project in the Works Progress Administration writing plays and learning the craft of acting.

He went on to become one of the founders of the Chicago school of TV by creating and hosting "Studs' Place" until he was blacklisted during the McCarthy period.

He spoke out for progressive causes, refusing to compromise his principles.

He finally found a home at WFMT, Chicago's classical radio station, where he created his own version of talk radio with great conversation and an eclectic selection of music, signing off each broadcast with Woody Guthrie's classic line, "Take it easy, but take it."

Studs had an irrepressible sense of humor and delighted in composing his own epitaph: ''Curiosity did not kill this cat.''

Studs was as much a part of Chicago as his friends Nelson Algren and Mike Royko but like Mark Twain he is claimed by all America. We will miss him.

IN HONOR OF ANGELO RUSSO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the wonderful life of Angelo Russo, upon the joyous occasion of his 100th birthday.

Mr. Russo was born on November 11, 1908, in the beautiful village of Caserta, Italy, where he farmed his whole life. In 1933, at the age of 25, he married the love of his life, the late Michelina. Together they raised four children, one girl, Giovanna and three boys, Andrea, Gennaro and the late Mario. Angelo and Michelina were married for forty years until her passing in 1973. With an unwavering love and commitment to his family, and the realization of Italy's harsh economic climate, Mr. Russo gave his blessings to his sons as they left home to journey to America in search of opportunities and possibilities. Mr. Russo remained in Italy until 1993, when he packed his belongings and said goodbye to all he held dear within the valleys and hills of his beloved Italian homeland, and at the age of 85, came to live with family in America.

Although adjusting to life in America was difficult at times, Mr. Russo has enjoyed the renewed closeness with his sons and their families. His love for gardening is evident every year, as he assists and directs the planting, maintenance and harvesting of the family garden. Remarkably, even as he was nearing the age of ninety, Mr. Russo was still an avid cyclist, riding his bicycle throughout Greater Cleveland's west side suburbs for ten to fifteen miles at a time. He continues to enjoy gardening, red wine, espresso, homemade Italian cooking and most of all, he continues to covet the love of his family—his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Angelo Russo, as we join him in celebration of his 100th birthday. Mr. Russo is the foundation of his family in America and in Italy—and his wonderful life's journey continues to shine through his frequent smile, wisdom, and kind heart. His life continues to transcend time and distance—spanning an ocean, two continents and one hundred years. We wish Mr. Russo, and his family—in Cleveland and in Caserta, a beautiful birthday celebration e desiderare che lei ama, la pace, la salute e la felicità sempre.

THE AUSTRIANS ARE RIGHT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, many Americans are hoping the new administration will solve the economic problems we face. That's not likely to happen, because the economic advisors to the new President have no more understanding of how to get us out of this mess than previous administrations and Congresses understood how the crisis was brought about in the first place.

Except for a rare few, Members of Congress are unaware of Austrian Free Market economics. For the last 80 years, the legislative, judiciary and executive branches of our government have been totally influenced by Keynesian economics. If they had had any understanding of the Austrian economic explanation of the business cycle, they would have never permitted the dangerous bubbles that always lead to painful corrections.

Today, a major economic crisis is unfolding. New government programs are started daily, and future plans are being made for even more. All are based on the belief that we're in this mess because free-market capitalism and sound money failed. The obsession is with more spending, bailouts of bad investments, more debt, and further dollar debasement. Many are saying we need an international answer to our problems with the establishment of a world central bank and a single fiat reserve currency. These suggestions are merely more of the same policies that created our mess and are doomed to fail.

At least 90 percent of the cause for the financial crisis can be laid at the doorstep of the Federal Reserve. It is the manipulation of credit, the money supply, and interest rates that caused the various bubbles to form. Congress added fuel to the fire by various programs and institutions like the Community Reinvestment Act, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, FDIC, and HUD mandates, which were all backed up by aggressive court rulings.

The Fed has now doled out close to $2 trillion in subsidized loans to troubled banks and other financial institutions. The Federal Reserve and Treasury constantly brag about the need for ''transparency'' and ''oversight,'' but it's all just talk—they want none of it. They want secrecy while the privileged are rescued at the expense of the middle class.

It is unimaginable that Congress could be so derelict in its duty. It does nothing but condone the arrogance of the Fed in its refusal to tell us where the $2 trillion has gone. All Members of Congress and all Americans should be outraged that conditions could deteriorate to this degree. It's no wonder that a large and growing number of Americans are now demanding an end to the Fed.

The Federal Reserve created our problem, yet it manages to gain even more power in the socialization of the entire financial system. The whole bailout process this past year was characterized by no oversight, no limits, no concerns, no understanding, and no common sense.

Similar mistakes were made in the 1930s and ushered in the age of the New Deal, the Fair Deal, the Great Society and the supply-siders who convinced conservatives that deficits didn't really matter after all, since they were anxious to finance a very expensive deficit-financed American empire.

All the programs since the Depression were meant to prevent recessions and depressions. Yet all that was done was to plant the seeds of the greatest financial bubble in all history. Because of this lack of understanding, the stage is now set for massive nationalization of the financial system and quite likely the means of production.

Although it is obvious that the Keynesians were all wrong and interventionism and central economic planning don't work, whom are we listening to for advice on getting us out of this mess? Unfortunately, it's the Keynesians, the socialists, and big-government proponents.

Who's being ignored? The Austrian free-market economists—the very ones who predicted not only the Great Depression, but the calamity we're dealing with today. If the crisis was predictable and is explainable, why did no one listen? It's because too many politicians believed that a free lunch was possible and a new economic paradigm had arrived. But we've heard that one before—like the philosopher's stone that could turn lead into gold. Prosperity without work is a dream of the ages.

Over and above this are those who understand that political power is controlled by those who control the money supply. Liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats came to believe, as they were taught in our universities, that deficits don't matter and that Federal Reserve accommodation by monetizing debt is legitimate and never harmful. The truth is otherwise. Central economic planning is always harmful. Inflating the money supply and purposely devaluing the dollar is always painful and dangerous.

The policies of big-government proponents are running out of steam. Their policies have failed and will continue to fail. Merely doing more of what caused the crisis can hardly provide a solution.

The good news is that Austrian economists are gaining more acceptance every day and have a greater chance of influencing our future than they've had for a long time.

The basic problem is that proponents of big government require a central bank in order to surreptitiously pay bills without direct taxation. Printing needed money delays the payment. Raising taxes would reveal the true cost of big government, and the people would revolt. But the piper will be paid, and that's what this crisis is all about.

There are limits. A country cannot forever depend on a central bank to keep the economy afloat and the currency functionable through constant acceleration of money supply growth. Eventually the laws of economics will overrule the politicians, the bureaucrats and the central bankers. The system will fail to respond unless the excess debt and mal-investment is liquidated. If it goes too far and the wild extravagance is not arrested, runaway inflation will result, and an entirely new currency will be required to restore growth and reasonable political stability.

The choice we face is ominous: We either accept world-wide authoritarian government holding together a flawed system, OR we restore the principles of the Constitution, limit government power, restore commodity money without a Federal Reserve system, reject world government, and promote the cause of peace by protecting liberty equally for all persons. Freedom is the answer.

IN HONOR OF WEST SIDE MARKET

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cleveland's West Side Market on the occasion of its 96th anniversary, and in recognition of it being named one of the Top Ten Great Public Spaces for 2008 by the American Planning Association.

The Cleveland West Side Market was built by the City of Cleveland from 1907 to 1912 and has since been a cultural landmark through which all of Cleveland's diverse ethnic communities can share their culture and food. Throughout the year, over 100 vendors sell fresh, locally produced goods—including fresh seafood, meats and baked goods—at this unique fresh food market located on the corner of West 25th Street and Lorain Avenue. Customers from all over the Greater Cleveland Area come to enjoy a variety of local produce and traditional European, South American and Middle Eastern food among local retail shops, restaurants and apartment buildings. The West Side Market has long been an anchor of community in Cleveland—with vendors boasting stands that have been in their families for generations.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the West Side Market in Cleveland, Ohio on the occasion of its 96th anniversary and in recognition of its inclusion in the American Planning Association's Top Ten Great Public Spaces for 2008.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. DAVE WELDON (FL–15).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: DOD, Other Procurement, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northrop Grumman Corp.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Wilson Blvd, Suite 2300, Arlington, VA 22209.

Description of Request: ALMDS is a major technology innovation in Airborne Mine Countermeasures that will revolutionize the U.S. Navy's ability to rapidly detect and localize near-surface and moored mines in the littorals. ALMDS will provide Navy assured access to Pacific Rim and Middle East Littoral waters by providing wide-area, 3-D imagery capable of detecting and classifying types of mines.

IN HONOR OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and in recognition of their dedication to educating and engaging parliamentarians around the world to promote nuclear non-proliferation.

PNND is an international non-partisan network devoted to establishing channels of communication between parliamentarians around the world and to providing them with current nuclear weapons policies in order to raise awareness for the need to abolish the use of nuclear weapons. Currently, PNND's membership consists of over 500 parliamentarians from over 70 countries worldwide who are engaged in nuclear non-proliferation initiatives. This year, PNND marked the 40th anniversary of the International Non-Proliferation Treaty with the Nuclear Weapons Convention initiative—a declaration presented by the European Parliamentarian section of PNND. The Nuclear Weapons Convention is an initiative dedicated to promoting multilateral negotiations that would lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons. I join with the members of PNND in supporting this important initiative.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and in recognition of their dedication to promoting disarmament and international human rights.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. DAVE WELDON (FL–15).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638 Account: DOD, RDTE.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Northrop Grumman Corp.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1000 Wilson Blvd, Suite 2300, Arlington, VA 22209.

Description of Request: The MP–RTIP radar is modular and scaleable in design enabling the USAF to share development efforts between the smaller radar intended for the Global Hawk and a larger radar for a larger aircraft like the E–8. More importantly, the large radar can detect and track targets with a much smaller radar signature—such as cruise missile or small targets on the ground.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. DAVE WELDON (FL–15).

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: DOD, Procurement—Defense Wide.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Soneticom Inc.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1045 John Rodes Blvd., West Melbourne, FL 32904.

Description of Request: FeC was built to autonomously identify, capture and accurately geo-locate RF Signals of Interest (SOI) used by our enemies. Initial test deployments have provided relevant field information that cannot be easily derived from any other source. This has generated an immediate tactical field need for FeC systems.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (FL–18).

Account: Defense, Research Test and Evaluation (Army).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Miami.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1252 Memorial Dr, Ashe Administrative Building Room 230, Coral Gables, FL 33146.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of $5,000,000 of funding for the Center for Ophthalmic Innovation at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute be used to help develop new modalities of treatment and ensure direct treatment of military personnel through the development of relevant ophthalmic telemedicine initiatives. The Center for Ophthalmic Innovation (ONOVA) is located within the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, which has been rated as the #1 eye hospital in the nation. This funding will aid ONOVA in continuing research on advanced ocular imaging technology enabling more accurate diagnosis of hereditary retinal disease, better monitoring of treatments for wet and dry macular degeneration, rapid and cost-effective screening for diabetic retinopathy, better evaluation of refractive surgical outcomes, and the ability to qualify dry eye disease. Additionally, the Center is developing

new operational systems for ophthalmic telemedicine to bring high quality eye disease screening to military personnel as well as every United States citizen. Eye health is vitally important to the Department of Defense as active military personnel must have perfect visual acuity to carry out their duties effectively. At least 16% of war casualties are due to eye trauma, and millions of retired military personnel suffer from age-related eye disease. A spending plan for the project will include

Spending Plan: Center for Ophthalmic Innovation Budget.

There are three separate programs and we have separated the salaries.

Imaging and Telemedicine	$445,205
Prevention and Restoration	454,797
Retinal Degeneration Florida Eye Disease Project Prevention	245,853
Minor equipment and supplies	120,945
Total Direct Costs	1,266,799
Indirect Costs	653,201
TATRAC 20%	480,000
Grand Total	$2,400,000

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. DAVE WELDON (FL–15).

Bill Number: H.R 2638

Account: DOD, RDTE.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Harris Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1025 W NASA Blvd, Melbourne, FL 32919.

Description of Request: DTP will be a powerful multi-processor for hosting new capabilities such as Time Sensitive Targeting, Multiple Target Tracking, Automatic Target Cueing, and the ability to distribute this target information to other warfighters.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2638, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. DAVE WELDON (FL–15).

Bill Number: HR 2638.

Account: Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: EDC of Florida's Space Coast.

Address of Requesting Entity: 597 Haverty Court, Suite 100, Rockledge, FL 32955.

Description of Request: Construct a permanent Satellite Operations Support Facility (SOSF). The new facility will support existing and future satellite processing operations for GPS II, GPS III, the Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) and future generations of military satellites. The new facility will provide a consolidated location for approximately 140 personnel.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S10681–S10777

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills and twelve resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 13, 16–20, 3709–3717, S. Res. 710–720, and S. Con. Res. 106. **Pages S10742–43**

Measures Passed:

Unemployment Compensation Extension Act: Senate passed H.R. 6867, to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, after agreeing to the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, clearing the measure for the President. **Pages S10701–02**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 89 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. 214), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S10701**

Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 6859, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia, as the "Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building", clearing the measure for the President. **Page S10768**

Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3681, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building", and the bill was then passed. **Page S10768**

Federal Judiciary Cost of Living Adjustment: Senate passed S. 3711, to authorize a cost of living adjustment for the Federal judiciary. **Pages S10768–69**

Technical Correction: Senate passed S. 3712, to make a technical correction in the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008. **Page S10769**

Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 3663, 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, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S10769–71**

Dorgan (for Rockefeller) Amendment No. 5698, to provide for the short-term partial extension of analog broadcasting. **Pages S10770–71**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 435, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall on December 2, 2008, for ceremonies and activities held in connection with the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center to the public. **Page S10771**

Bluefin Tuna Conservation: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 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, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S10771–72**

Stoning Death in Somalia: Senate agreed to S. Res. 711, condemning the tragic and senseless death by stoning of a 13-year-old girl from Somalia. **Page S10772**

Congratulating Philadelphia Phillies: Senate agreed to S. Res. 712, congratulating the Philadelphia Phillies on winning the 2008 World Series. **Pages S10772–73**

Democratic Republic of Congo: Senate agreed to S. Res. 713, calling on all parties to the escalating violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire and work with

the support of the international community toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to the crisis.

Pages S10773–75

Honoring California Firefighters and Emergency Workers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 714, honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008.

Page S10775

Senate National Security Working Group Authority: Senate agreed to S. Res. 715, extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group. **Page S10775**

Measures Considered:

Advancing America's Priorities Act: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3297, to advance America's priorities. **Page S10702**

Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106–398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappointed the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Peter Videnieks of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2010. **Page S10776**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 20, 2008, the Majority Leader, be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S10707**

Tributes to Retiring Senators—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the order from September 27, 2008 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008. **Page S10776**

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Page S10776

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate meet the following days and times for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted: Monday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, November 26 at 10 a.m.; Saturday, November 29 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.; that when Senate recesses on Friday, December 5, 2008, it stand in recess until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2008; that following the prayer and pledge, the journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and Senate be in a period of morning business for up to one hour with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. **Page S10776**

Removal of Injunction of Secrecy: The injunction of secrecy was removed from the following treaty:

Investment Treaty with Rwanda (Treaty Doc. No. 110–23).

The treaty was transmitted to the Senate today, considered as having been read for the first time, and referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed. **Pages S10775–76**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador to Libya.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.)

Ricardo H. Hinojosa, of Texas, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2013.

(Prior to this action, Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration.)

William B. Carr, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2011.

Douglas D. Randall, of Missouri, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

Ray M. Bowen, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

France A. Cordova, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

G. P. Peterson, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring May 10, 2014.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

Alfred S. Irving, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration.)

Kathryn A. Oberly, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration.)

Barbara Ernst Prey, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2014.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.)

5 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral, and a Routine list, except the nomination of Robert E. Day.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration.)

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.)

Routine lists in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration.)

Routine lists in the Public Health Service.

(Prior to this action, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration.) **Pages S10765–68, S10776–77**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S10776**

Messages from the House: **Page S10735**

Executive Communications: **Pages S10735–41**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S10741–42**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S10743**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S10743–57**

Additional Statements: **Pages S10732–34**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S10757–58**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—214) **Page S10701**

Recess: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and recessed at 6:03 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 24, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S10776.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 795 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 7296–7307, and 1 resolution, H. Res. 1531, were introduced. **Page H10856**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H10856–57**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: Security Clearance Reform: Upgrading the Gateway to the National Security Community (H. Rept. 110–916). **Page H10856**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative McNulty to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H10847**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2009: Mr. Michael Wessel of Falls Church, Virginia. **Page H10847**

Recess: The House recessed at 10 a.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H10847**

Congressional Oversight Panel—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Boehner, Minority Leader, in which he appointed Representative Hensarling to the Congressional Oversight Panel, pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110–343). **Page H10848**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H10847.

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 10 a.m. and at 3:02 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 440, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 3, 2009.

Committee Meetings

CREDIT DERIVATIVES ECONOMIC ROLE

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to review the role of credit derivatives in the U.S. economy. Testimony was heard from Ananda Radhakrishman, Director, Division of Clearing and Intermediary Oversight, CFTC; Patrick Parkinson, Deputy Director, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; Erik R. Sirri, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, SEC; and Eric R. Dinallo, Superintendent, Department of Insurance, State of New York.

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT CONDITIONS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "Review of Recent Federal Efforts to Improve Credit Conditions for Small Businesses." Testimony was heard from Randall S. Kroszner, member, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; and Karthik Ramanathan, Acting Assistant Secretary, Financial Markets, Department of the Treasury.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings are scheduled.

HOUSE

No committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Monday, November 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Saturday, January 3

House Chamber

Program for Saturday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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