

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO INTERAGENCY COOPERATION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, using the authority granted to Congress under the Congressional Review Act, to overturn last minute regulations promulgated by the Bush Interior and Commerce Departments which give federal agencies an unacceptable degree of discretion to decide whether or not to comply with the Endangered Species Act, ESA.

Joining me in introducing this measure are Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HINCHey, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DICKs, Mr. FARR, and Mr. BLUMENAUER. I thank them for their support.

The Bush Administration has had a long, though one could hardly say proud, history of trying to undermine the Endangered Species Act and the protection it provides our Nation's most imperiled species. For years, high ranking political appointees in the Department of Interior used their positions and influence to meddle in scientific decisions under the ESA and alter outcomes, potentially harming species and most definitely harming the integrity of the law and morale and reputation of the agency charged with implementing it.

The rules we seek to overturn with this joint resolution were rushed through in the final months of the Administration and are the final assault on and insult to one of our nation's landmark conservation laws. They gut what is the cornerstone of the law, the Section 7 consultation process, and allow federal agencies to undertake or permit thousands of federal activities, such as logging or building a dam, on federal land and other areas without obtaining review or comment from federal wildlife biologists at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This incredibly controversial proposal—which could have far-reaching implications on the future integrity of the Endangered Species program—clearly merits more public scrutiny than the Administration provided. First proposed in late August, the Administration rushed a public comment period and environmental assessment and then reviewed more than 300,000 public comments at a rate of more than 6,000 per hour. This last minute, ill-conceived overhaul of the rules governing America's endangered wildlife, brokered behind closed doors, is an affront to the American people who trust their government to do the right thing.

Eleventh hour rulemakings rarely, if ever, lead to good government, and this is not the type of legacy the Bush Administration should be leaving for future generations. Not surpris-

ingly, this is not the first time—though fortunately it will likely be the last—that the Bush Interior Department abdicated their responsibility for ensuring that an agency action will not jeopardize a listed species or harm their habitat. Similar regulations proposed to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to decide whether to consult when licensing pesticides were rejected by the Court in 2006, just as we should reject these regulatory changes now.

As the Bush Administration fades off into the sunset, they leave behind a trail of last minute regulatory changes that represent the worst in public policy and that Congress and the new President will have to undo. In my role as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to correct course and promote a positive resource conservation agenda. We need to invoke the change that is needed to restore the vigor and vitality of America, including the unique natural heritage that has carved our Nation as we know it today. Passage of this joint resolution will be one important step in restoring that natural heritage.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 which will provide health care coverage for an additional 4.1 million children. Every child in America should have the right to health care, and this bill will bring us one step closer to that goal.

It is unacceptable that more than 47 million Americans, including 11 percent of American children, are without health insurance. Many hard-working families in Minnesota and across the nation have lost their jobs, 2.6 million jobs in the last year. For every 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate, it is estimated that as many as 1.5 million Americans will lose their health care coverage. Expanding SCHIP will expand health care access for children at a time when too many American families are losing employer-sponsored health care. In these tough economic times, by helping families gain access to health care, we can give families the resources they need to give their children a better future.

The bill provides access to health care for 4 million children in America who are currently uninsured and preserves the coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP. It is supported by 80 percent of the American people and over 300 organizations—including large majorities of Democrats,

Independents and Republicans. The bill will extend coverage to 4.1 million additional low-income, uninsured children, covering a total of 11 million, and is likely to be one of the first signed into law by President Barack Obama. Last year, President Bush vetoed this vital health legislation that was passed by both chambers of Congress.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children in families that earn too little to afford health insurance for their children themselves but too much to qualify for Medicaid. This bill will give states the resources and incentives necessary to reach and cover millions of uninsured children who are currently eligible, but not enrolled. It will also improve SCHIP benefits—ensuring dental coverage and mental health parity. This bill is largely paid for by increasing the tobacco tax by 61 cents, and will help keep kids and families healthy while saving taxpayers money in the long-run.

Expanding SCHIP is an important step forward, but we still must keep fight to make healthcare available and affordable for all Americans. As we reform our health care system, we need to focus on accessible, patient-centered care that focuses on wellness and prevention, while improving the quality of patient care. We will continue to fight to expand SCHIP and make health care available and affordable for Minnesota children and their parents.

As we start the new Congress and the new administration I can think of no better way to bring about change than by investing in our children's health care. It is morally right, and crucial for the future of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

HONORING TONY DUNGY, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS HEAD COACH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, who after more than 30 years in football has announced his retirement.

Mr. Dungy's stellar career in professional football began on the field, where he won a Super Bowl Championship as a member of the 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers. Years later, this experience led to his hiring as the youngest assistant coach in the NFL at the age of 25.

His respectful coaching style and emphasis on both personal and athletic growth has made Mr. Dungy one of the most successful and well regarded coaches in the NFL. His unique coaching style led the Colts to seven consecutive playoff appearances, including a victory in Super Bowl XLI. In 2012, Indianapolis will host its first Super Bowl, in part because of the prestige that Mr. Dungy has brought to the Colts organization.

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

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

Off the field, Mr. Dungy has been a nationally recognized community activist. Because of his unwavering support of teen mentoring, prison ministry, and other faith based community outreach programs, President Bush appointed him to the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tony Dungy on an incredible career and thanking him for his dedication to the highest level of sport and community service.

IN MEMORY OF M. PAUL REDD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise, with great admiration for a leader of unparalleled strength of conviction and with personal sadness at the loss of a good friend, to pay tribute to the life, achievements, and memory of M. Paul Redd.

Paul Redd's record of civic accomplishment is well-known: his tireless stewardship of the Westchester County Press, his founding of the Westchester Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., his leadership of Westchester/Putnam Affirmative Action, his deep engagement in the work of government and the challenge of politics. These roles and duties have been rightly noted and extolled in the days since Paul's passing, yet they alone do not capture the essence of the man.

It was Paul Redd's fearless character, a trait that infused and informed all of his deeds, that shines most brightly in memory.

Paul Redd moved easily in the corridors of power and counted among his friends men and women of great influence, but Paul was never an insider, because he understood at every moment that he spoke for those on the outside—those who were denied opportunities to achieve their potential, exercise their rights, and enjoy the full fruits of a free and decent society. And if Paul's voice was sometimes loud, it is because so often he gave voice to those without one of their own.

Paul Redd was not interested in making anyone comfortable, nor in employing the empty pleasantries that too often conceal injustice. He understood that wrongs are best addressed directly and forcefully, in the full light of day. And he was willing to confront anyone, big or small, friend or foe, when the duties of conscience demanded it.

It is no wonder, therefore, that his column "M. Paul Tells All" was so unique in its incisive commentary and in the attention it commanded among public officials and citizens alike. It is no wonder that Paul Redd was at the forefront of protests and demonstrations to achieve equal opportunity in housing and employment. It is no wonder that Paul Redd left a lasting mark in law and administration, an edifice of public policy that will outlive us all.

Paul Redd's vocal public leadership was matched by a quiet, dutiful, and often thankless private acceptance of heavy responsibility. Nowhere is this more evident than in the survival and success of the Westchester County Press, sustained almost as an act of will by Paul Redd. He worked often late into the night and then on into the morning to ensure that it never missed an issue, enlisting

friends and colleagues in his labors, and ensuring that the paper of record of Westchester's African-American community would not be silenced.

It goes without saying that Paul was utterly devoted to and fully supported by his loving family, beginning with his partner and dear wife of so many years, Oriah Redd, and continuing with two children who are accomplished in and devoted to service, Paula Redd Zeman and M. Paul Redd, Jr.

Paul Redd surely drew great satisfaction and hope from the progress he witnessed—and often led—over the span of decades. He was proud of the many African-Americans who achieved public office in our county, encouraged by the breaking of barriers that opened the doors of public and private sector leadership to all Americans, and elated by the election of our nation's first African-American President. But Paul Redd never confused movement towards a goal with final attainment of a goal. His eyes were always forward, fixed on the unmet challenge and determined to meet it. Paul knew what our community and nation could and should be and, in life, was unwilling to rest so long as this vision remained distant.

Like Dr. King, whom he revered, Paul Redd was destined to see the promised land, more clearly than most, but not to set foot within it. It must be the mission now of those who knew and loved him to finish the work for which Paul Redd gave every measure of his devotion.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. In 2007, more than 8 million children were uninsured, and with the growing recession, this number will only grow. Passing this bill will ensure that 4 million of those children will receive CHIP, bringing the total number of children covered by CHIP to 11 million.

Expanding health care coverage for our most vulnerable populations, including legal immigrant children and some pregnant women, is an obligation we cannot afford to ignore. Nearly 400,000 legal immigrant children come from families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level and are ineligible for CHIP solely because they are recent immigrants. These families, uninsured and unable to purchase private health insurance on their own, are left to fend for themselves when they desperately need health care for their children. This is unacceptable, and with this legislation, we will reverse this shameful practice by providing States with the option of covering these deserving low-income families.

The passage of this bill is a great start, but we must do better. While this bill extends coverage to an additional 4 million children, including legal immigrants, over 4 million children will still suffer without health care cov-

erage. In addition, nearly 90 million people went without health coverage for all or part of 2006 and 2007, most of them in working families. These numbers are disgraceful. This Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that our children and their families have access to high quality, affordable healthcare as a basic human right, not as a luxury.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. This is a landmark measure which will extend the life-changing benefit of health insurance to an additional 4 million American children. That means millions of parents won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever and have nowhere else to go. Millions of parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Millions of parents who can take care of their children in a way most families take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to 7 million children, and more than 750,000 in California alone. These are children whose families have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid but who do not receive health insurance through their employment and can't afford it on their own. SCHIP is based on a simple premise—that insuring kids' health care is the right thing to do. It's much cheaper to insure children, and this investment will yield healthier generations of adults, improved quality of life, and long-term health care savings. The experience of the 11 years since SCHIP was originally created proves the wisdom and prudence of providing care for prevention and wellness in our children.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, this bill improves SCHIP by creating new incentives to seek out millions of children around the nation who are eligible but not enrolled. Two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid—this bill provides greater funding in grants for new outreach activities to States, local governments, schools, community-based organizations, and others. With this bill, more kids who are eligible will get enrolled and stay enrolled for a benefit that they are entitled.

The legislation is fully paid for by an increase in the tax on cigarettes—a provision that I hope will also help discourage youth smoking.

During these trying economic times, and with rising unemployment, the need for this SCHIP bill has become more critical now than ever before. This recession has forced more and more American parents to face difficult choices—finding affordable health insurance for their children shouldn't be one of them.

A vote for this bill is a vote for an America that takes care of its children. In the richest nation in the history of the world, it is simply

wrong that millions of children, our most vulnerable citizens, go without basic access to health care. With a yes vote, 4 million more children will enjoy the benefits of a healthy future and a real chance in life. I urge a "yes" vote.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives yesterday.

The vote was H. Res. 40, amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each standing committee to hold periodic hearings on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on that question.

BOY SCOUT OF AMERICA'S DISTRICT AWARD OF MERIT

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two constituents from South Texas: Patricia "Cherie" Camacho and Marion Velarde.

These two South Texans have been awarded the District Award of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America, and it is the highest award bestowed upon volunteers in a district that symbolizes their exceptional and noteworthy service to youth in the Boy Scouts of America.

Cherie has served as Scoutmaster for Pack 59 for two years, a commissioner for the Tip-o-Tex District for five years, and as the 2007 Rio Grande Council Scouting Chairman. Her sons Travis and Jordan are currently in Pack 59, and son Ronald has achieved Eagle Scout rank and achieved the Arrow of Light award.

Marion has served as assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 11 for eight years and as an assistant commissioner for the Tip-o-Tex district for three years. She has also held numerous positions with the Rio Grande Council. Marion has been a teacher and administrator for Brownsville Public Schools for over 25 years, and her son Alejandro achieved Eagle Scout rank.

The Boy Scouts of America continue their tradition of providing quality programs for boys and young men. I am proud of both Cherie and Marion for taking an active role in lives of our youth. These parents serve as shining examples of love and duty in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN E. QUINLAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Stop DUI Caucus,

I rise today in tribute to one of the Nation's top traffic safety officials, who has passed away suddenly.

Kevin E. Quinlan was the Chief of the Safety Advocacy Division of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Mr. Quinlan was with the Safety Board for nearly 20 years, serving as the Alcohol and Drug Program Coordinator and Chief of the Safety Recommendations Division. He was instrumental in promoting State action on Safety Board recommendations to reduce fatalities, injuries, and crashes in all modes of transportation. Mr. Quinlan authored five major studies for the Board. Prior to his work with the NTSB, Mr. Quinlan served in the U.S. Army for 29 years, receiving the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal. He has an undergraduate degree from Boston University and graduate degrees from William and Mary, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Air Force Air War College.

Mr. Quinlan loved to travel and was skiing in Vermont when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He was well-respected and admired by everyone in the traffic safety community. He was a mentor to countless traffic safety advocates and an inspiration to the thousands of people who lost loved ones to the preventable crime of drunk driving. One of his greatest passions was the fight to stop drunk driving. His expert testimony led to the passage of many effective countermeasures across this Nation. His work has saved countless lives and I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring him today.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my colleagues on the passage of H.R. 2 yesterday afternoon.

H.R. 2 is a critical piece of legislation that renews and improves the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that ensures health care coverage for over 11 million American children—including the addition of 4 million, previously uninsured.

This legislation also improves SCHIP benefits by ensuring coverage for dental and mental health services.

H.R. 2 will reauthorize SCHIP through FY 2013 and will be fully paid for through an increase in the tobacco tax.

Raising the tobacco tax discourages children from smoking. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, the tobacco tax increase will prevent nearly 2 million children from starting to smoke.

I am hopeful that the Senate will also pass H.R. 2 and I look forward to this important legislation becoming law under the new administration of President Obama.

RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AT- TACKS FROM GAZA

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2009

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, when Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, the Islamic group Hamas—which does not acknowledge Israel's right to exist—took control over the small strip of land. Since then, relations between Gaza and Israel have steadily deteriorated.

On December 19, Hamas ended the 6-month cease-fire with Israel by launching dozens of rocket attacks into southern Israel, randomly targeting civilian neighborhoods. Eight days later, Israel began a counter defensive of large scale air strikes. Hamas has continually used Gaza as a launching pad for rockets against Israeli cities and has contributed deeply to a reduction in the quality of daily life and the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

I deeply support Israel's right to defend themselves against Hamas attacks. I also hope to see a sustainable cease-fire brokered to save the innocent victims of Hamas' continual instigation of Israel's defensive power.

A friend recently sent me this compelling Washington Post article which I would like to submit for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 4, 2009]

AS MY SON GOES TO WAR, I AM FULLY
ISRAELI AT LAST

(By Yossi Klein Halevi)

JERUSALEM.—"I just heard on the news that Gavriel's base has been shelled," my wife, Sarah, said to me last Tuesday, referring to our 19-year-old son, a member of an Israeli army tank unit waiting on the Gaza border for the order to enter. And, she added in a deliberately calm tone, "A soldier was killed." We texted Gavriel, and within five minutes he called, safe. How, Sarah asked, did families survive war before cellphones?

For days we waited for a cabinet decision: Will there be a land invasion or a new cease fire? The politicians began to bicker while our soldiers waited on the border, in the rain and the mud. Anything but this, I said to Sarah. Not another Lebanon War, which, like Gaza, began with an impressive show of Israeli air power but ended with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah predicting the imminent end of "the Zionist entity." If we don't win this time—deliver an unambiguous blow if not topple Hamas entirely—our deterrence will further erode, inviting more rocket attacks and encouraging the jihadist momentum throughout the Middle East.

And then I caught myself: How can I be hoping for an outcome that will send my son into battle? This is my first experience as the father of a soldier, and now, after 26 years of living in Israel, I finally understand the terrible responsibility of being an Israeli. I had assumed that I'd become initiated into Israeliness when I myself was drafted into the army as a 34-year-old immigrant in 1989. But perhaps only now have I become fully Israeli. Zionism promised to empower the Jews by making them responsible for their fate; the price for that achievement is to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for one's commitments.

I know Gaza from a previous conflict. During the first intifada of the late 1980s, when Palestinians revolted against the occupation, I was part of a reservist unit that patrolled Gaza's refugee camps. There I learned

that there is no such thing as a benign occupation, as Israelis had once deceived themselves into believing. Our unit not only arrested terrorist suspects but also dragged people out of their beds in the middle of the night to paint over anti-Israel graffiti and rounded up innocents after a grenade attack just to “make a presence,” in army terminology. At night, in our tent, we argued about the wisdom of turning soldiers into policemen of a hostile civilian population that didn’t want us there and which we didn’t want as part of our society.

A majority of Israelis emerged from the first intifada convinced that we need to do everything possible to end the occupation and ensure that our children don’t serve as enforcers of Gaza’s despair. That was why I initially supported the 1993 Oslo peace process that took a terrible gamble on Yasser Arafat’s supposed transformation from terrorist to peacemaker. And even after it became clear that Arafat and other Palestinian leaders never intended to accept Israel’s legitimacy, I supported the unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, simply to extricate us from that region, knowing that we would not receive peace in return.

And now my son is fighting in Gaza. The conflict he and his friends confront is far worse than my generation’s experience in Gaza. In our time, we were confronted with mere rocks and Molotov cocktails; my son faces Iranian-supplied anti-tank weapons—one more price we will pay, along with the missile attacks on our towns, for the Gaza withdrawal, just as the Israeli right had warned.

Still, I don’t regret that withdrawal. If Israelis are united today about our right to defend ourselves against Gaza’s genocidally minded regime, it is at least partly because we are fighting from our international border. My son and his friends have one crucial advantage over my generation’s experience in Gaza: They know, as we did not, that Israel was ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for peace, uprooting thousands of its citizens from their homes and endorsing a Palestinian state. My son confronts Gaza knowing that its misery is now imposed by its leaders. He knows that his country was even prepared to share its most cherished national asset, Jerusalem, with its worst enemy, Arafat, for the sake of preventing this war. That empowers him with the moral self-confidence he will need to get through the coming days. The face of my Gaza enemy was a teenager throwing rocks; the face of Gavriel’s Gaza enemy is a suicide bomber.

But we are hardly free of moral anxiety. Even as I pray for Gavriel’s physical safety, I pray too for his spiritual well-being: that his tank doesn’t accidentally shell civilians, that he isn’t caught in some terrible mistake, which can so easily happen in a war zone where terrorists hide behind innocent people.

For the past eight years, Israel has fought a single war with shifting fronts, moving from suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to Katyusha attacks on Israeli towns near the Lebanon border to Qassam missiles on Israeli towns near the Gaza border. That war has targeted civilians, turning the home front into the actual front. And it has transformed the nature of the conflict from a nationalist struggle over Palestinian statehood to a holy war against Jewish statehood. Except for a left-wing fringe, most Israelis recognize the conflict in Gaza as part of a larger war that has been declared against our being and that we must fight.

But how? Even some right-wingers are saying that we should have declared a unilateral cease-fire after the initial airstrike and then dared Hamas to continue shelling our towns, rather than risk another quagmire. And even

some left-wingers are saying that we should now destroy the Hamas regime and then offer to turn Gaza over to international control or, if possible, an inter-Arab force led by Egypt. Every option is potentially disastrous. Most Israelis agree on two points: that we cannot live with a jihadist statelet on our border, and that we cannot become occupiers of Gaza again.

The despair of Gaza is contagious. One friend, a Likud supporter, said to me, “I don’t know what to hope for anymore.”

Meanwhile, I try to reassure myself about Gavriel’s safety. Growing up in Jerusalem during the suicide bombings in the early 2000s, he has already known danger, intimacy with death. A 13-year-old acquaintance was stoned to death, and was so mutilated that he could be identified only by his DNA. A friend lost the use of an eye in a bus bombing on his way to school. At least now, Gavriel and his friends can defend themselves. Perhaps one reason most of them volunteered for combat units was because now the generation of the suicide bombings can finally fight back.

Just before the conflict in Gaza began, I happened to visit Gavriel at his base. His unit’s barracks had been turned into what young Israelis call a “zula”—a hangout. There were muddy couches, chairs without backs, a darbuka drum, a TV (Jay Leno was on). It could have been a teenage scene anywhere in the West, except that hanging on the walls were Hamas banners captured by the unit’s veteran members in a previous round of fighting in Gaza. In a corner of the room hung a photograph of a fallen soldier. Across the bottom someone had written, “What was the rush, Shachar? Why did you have to leave us so soon?”

Even now, perhaps especially now, I feel that our family is privileged to belong to the Israeli story. Gavriel, grandson of a Holocaust survivor, is part of an army defending the Jewish people in its land. This is one of those moments when our old ideals are tested anew and found to be still vital. That provides some comfort as Sarah and I wait for the next text message.

Yossi Klein Halevi is a senior fellow at the Adelson Institute for Strategic Studies of the Shalem Center in Jerusalem and the author of “At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew’s Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land.”

CONGRATULATING THE HAMILTON EMERALD KNIGHTS UPON WINNING THE 2008 NEW YORK STATE BOYS SOCCER CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hamilton Central School District Emerald Knights upon winning the 2008 New York State boys soccer class D championship. This was the second state boys soccer championship team in Hamilton Central School’s history, and I am proud to represent them.

On November 16, 2008, the Hamilton Emerald Knights won the New York State class D championship when they defeated the defending state champion Chazy Eagles, also from my upstate New York Congressional District, by a score of 4–3. In that game, the Emerald Knights rallied to come from behind and win

after trailing the Eagles 3–0 with less than 18 minutes to play. Senior midfielder and First-Team All-State selection, Nathan Steward, tallied the Emerald Knight’s first goal in the 63rd minute bending in a 30-yard shot from the right side into the top of the net. Senior midfielder Matthew Broedel cut the Knights’ deficit to 3–2, netting a low shot to the far post with 8:05 left in regulation. Then, with 2:44 remaining, Nathan Steward’s free kick once again found the leg of Matthew Broedel, whose second goal tied the game at 3–3. The game was finally settled only 42 seconds into the sudden death period when sophomore forward Daniel Kraynak scored the game-winner for the Knights on a pass from senior Alex Thompson. William Keever’s three saves in goal and a solid defensive effort helped earn Hamilton its first State championship since 1997. Of note, Matthew Broedel was named championship MVP.

The Hamilton Emerald Knights completed the 2008 season with a record of 22–2. They were coached by Brian Latella and assistant coaches Brian Rose and Trevor Chapman; William Dowland is the athletic director. Other team members were Alex Bowie, Bobby Dick, Phil Douchinsky, James Gorman, Blaine Holcomb, Mikey Jones, Adam MacBain, Brendon Meeks, Daniel Meeks, Jake Smith, Josh Sorsky, Jack Sullivan, Joe Taranto, Drew Thompson, Keith Upton and Tyler White. The scorekeepers were Robert Reed and Tim Noel. The managers were Lucas Ord, Brian Meeks, Ben Knect, and Ryan Tuttle. Team statisticians were Kaitlyn Askew and Alison Hansen.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to recognize the Hamilton Emerald Knights boys soccer team for their significant accomplishment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARITABLE DRIVING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2009

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009 to remove a serious “disincentive that limits the participation of many in charitable activities. Charitable organizations play an important role in our society, and it is important that Congress not stand in the way by penalizing those who wish to offer their services to these groups.

Under current law, individuals that volunteer their time and energy by driving their personal vehicles on behalf of a charitable group can end up with an unpleasant surprise in the form of an unanticipated tax bill. Specifically, volunteer drivers receiving reimbursement for the use of their vehicle are taxed on these payments to the extent that they exceed 14 cents per mile. This treatment stands in stark contrast to the 55 cent allowance for reimbursement for the business use of that same vehicle.

The Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act will equalize the tax treatment of charitable reimbursements with those received for business driving because the point of the payment is essentially the same, that is, to cover the cost

of operating a personal vehicle while performing an important service in the pursuit of a greater good.

To achieve this end, my legislation would exclude from gross income any reimbursement received for the use of a volunteer's car while assisting a charitable group, limited only by the cap the Internal Revenue Service sets each year regarding business driving. This treatment would be available only for services provided without compensation and drivers would be required to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the charitable use of their vehicles. Finally, this bill drops the requirement that charitable groups report these reimbursements to the IRS, removing an administrative and paperwork burden that detracts resources from their larger purpose.

Each day, thousands of Americans lend a hand in providing transportation services to a multitude of organizations engaged in good works. These activities include assisting individuals with their routine grocery shopping, providing the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle to transport home-visit nurses during inclement weather, delivering meals as part of a holiday food drive, helping individuals to keep their medical appointments, and many more similar activities.

These volunteer drivers are donating their time and their talents, not their vehicles, and accepting reimbursement for the use of that car, incidental to their time and talent donation, is a reasonable act, which should not result in an additional tax liability. Today, when it comes to driving a personal vehicle, our tax code makes a distinction between business and charitable uses. This distinction is a mistake; it is a serious disincentive to charitable activities, and it should be corrected. I encourage my colleagues to support the continued efforts of our charity-minded constituents by cosponsoring the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill will ensure that health coverage continues for the 7 million children currently covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and will extend coverage to an additional 4 million children who are currently uninsured. Without the legislation, the CHIP would end on March 31, 2009.

CHIP provides health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. In 2007, more than 240,000 children in North Carolina received health coverage through North Carolina's CHIP, NC Health Choice for Children. Under the legislation, North Carolina's allotment would increase by 81 percent over the current level from \$136 million to \$245 million. North Carolina has 296,000 uninsured children, the sixth-largest number in the country. Two-thirds of uninsured

children in North Carolina live in a home where at least one parent works full time.

As North Carolina's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, I have seen first hand that healthy children are better prepared for learning and success. The Children's Health Insurance Program ensures that America's children are as healthy and productive as possible and that they can grow up to fulfill their potential. Untreated illnesses can have long-term consequences, and access to health care can head off expensive treatments down the road. As a Nation, we must protect our most vulnerable citizens.

I still regret that the bill will be funded by a tobacco-tax increase. The tax in H.R. 2 falls disproportionately on North Carolina, and on the Second District in particular. I understand the burden this will place on farmers who work hard to build a better life for their own children, and I will continue to work to support these families as they adjust to transformations in the global economy. However, with one out of eight children in North Carolina lacking health insurance I will vote for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the children of America's working families.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong, unwavering, and steadfast support of the reauthorization of SCHIP to provide healthcare for millions of uninsured children. SCHIP is a critical safety net for children. As Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall once said, "The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis." Providing healthcare for low-income children, especially during this economic crisis, reflects a commitment to the least among us as well as sound economic policy. A healthy child is prepared for school and life. A healthy child does not require costly emergency room visits. I applaud House leaders for including mental health parity and dental coverage for children.

In Fiscal Year 2007, SCHIP provided health care to over 345,000 children in Illinois. Unfortunately, due to overwhelming need, Illinois faced a shortfall in federal spending last year. This bill does much to address this gap. Specifically, in addition to preserving coverage for the 7 million children currently in the program, this bill expands coverage to another 4 million children in need.

I want to briefly mention the efforts of Chicago Public Schools in helping low income families overcome many of the barriers that often prevent them from enrolling in SCHIP. The Children and Family Benefits Unit assisted approximately 60 schools in a recent 12 month period, helping over 4,200 families' complete applications to enroll into the Illinois CHIP, including Medicaid. I am proud of this effort in Chicago, and I am pleased that this bill will continue to support such programs.

In closing, this bill will provide much-needed health care for low-income children in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation, and I look forward to this bill being signed into law in the near future.

THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT, AND SECURITY
ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL and almost 15 original cosponsors in strong support of the Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2009, a bill which I am reintroducing for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress.

The comprehensive legislation I am introducing today addresses this crisis and the potential security break-down resulting from the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, and also facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

The plight of Iraqi refugees and IDP's is worsening by the day. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of families who fled for their safety, are now unable to work and have subsequently depleted their savings in order to survive.

I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to take the lead and provide a 'humanitarian surge' in responding to this crisis. The future of the Middle East depends on it.

I would like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his continued leadership in the House of Representatives on this issue and for his help in drafting this legislation as well as the other original co-sponsors supporting this bill. As I have said on many occasions, this must not be a partisan issue, but rather Congress and the Administration have an obligation to work together before the Iraqi refugee crisis further destabilizes the region.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will provide much needed relief for Iraqi refugees and IDP's. I call on the leadership of the House to support this bill.

REMEMBERING MAJOR JOHN P.
PRYOR, MD

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Christmas Day, 2008, an enemy mortar round struck the living quarters of Major John P. Pryor, MD, in Mosul, Iraq where he was stationed while on his second tour of duty as an Army Reservist. Major Pryor died of his wounds.

Major Pryor was widely recognized as one of our country's finest trauma surgeons. On the battlefield, he fought to save the lives of

countless soldiers and Marines. Here at home, he served just as valiantly in his capacity as the director of the trauma department at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Throughout his life, Major Pryor demonstrated an uncommon commitment to our community and our country. On 9/11, he hitched a ride to New York City in an ambulance so that he could lend a hand in one of our greatest hours of need. Shortly thereafter, when America went to war, he volunteered for military service because he felt a patriotic duty to heal wounded soldiers. Time and again, Major Pryor was there when we needed him most.

Major Pryor's absence has been deeply felt by his family, his fellow soldiers, the HUP community, and by all those whose lives he touched. Across our country, we share their grief.

Soldiers like Major Pryor remind us that the price of war cannot be measured just in dollars, or in territory, or even in the number of our patriots who never return home. It must also be measured with the valor, the potential, and the devotion of those we have lost. Within our military are heroism and courage beyond measure, and while the presence of these heroes makes our Nation stronger, the loss of any servicemember is all the more painful, for when they give their lives, the promise of their lives is lost as well.

We give thanks for the life of John Pryor. We mourn his loss. We offer our prayers to his family.

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, it was my honor today to be recognized by Global Action for Children with the Champion for Children Award. Launched in 2003, the Global Action for Children is a nonpartisan, results-oriented coalition dedicated to advocating for orphans and highly vulnerable children in the developing world. I intended to give the following remarks, but was unable to do so due to Congressional business. I would like to enter my remarks for this event into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

COMMENTS ON THE CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Good afternoon.

It is an honor to receive this award from Global Action for Children. Long after I am gone from Washington, if there is one thing people say about me, I hope it is "she was a champion for children."

I would like to thank Jennifer Delaney for all of her work and for the hard work of her staff. I first worked with Jennifer in 2003 on the original PEPFAR bill to secure funding for AIDS orphans and vulnerable children. Jennifer's dedication and commitment to fight for children around the world—and to build the partnerships necessary to be successful—is an inspiration. She is a tremendous resource for Members' offices and I am very proud to be here with her today.

I would also like to congratulate my colleagues from the Senate—Senators Lugar and Dodd—on their awards today. Their commitment to children is well known and I look forward to working with them in the 111th Congress to make the needs of our

planet's next generation a priority domestic and foreign policy issue.

I came to Congress eight years ago. During my time as in the U.S. House there have 80 million newborns and young children around the world have died from mostly preventable or easily treatable diseases—80 million children.

Four million mothers have died from pregnancy related causes, most of which could have been averted with access to basic healthcare.

Nearly 10 million more children will needlessly die across this planet from malnutrition, dirty water, treatable infections, and global apathy. This is a tragedy of enormous proportions that we can help to stop—we MUST help to stop.

For all the mothers and fathers in the room today, do you think a mother or father in Bangladesh, Zambia or Guatemala loves their newborn or toddler less than we love our children?

Every parent loves their children and wants them not only to survive but thrive and succeed.

In the 111th Congress, let us work together—policy makers, global health advocates and citizens—to make the policy improvements and funding investments to save the lives of millions more newborns, children and mothers.

Let us work to make child survival and maternal health the global health priority of this Congress.

As President-elect Obama looks at the foreign policy landscape there needs to be some major reforms in the manner in which development assistance is delivered.

We need a new comprehensive strategy and the tools to execute that strategy. We need to invest the hard earned tax dollars of our citizens in building a better world—a safer world—a more peaceful world. And, we need to see outcomes for our investments that can be demonstrated.

Here is an investment idea and an outcome I'd like to see this Congress act upon: How about investing a billion dollars to save the lives of a million newborns and children? Do you think the American people would support a billion dollar investment that saved a million young lives?

I think they would.

Congress, working hand-in-hand with the Obama Administration, needs to refocus our strategy for development assistance to focus on the basics. In addition to focusing on child survival and maternal health, we need to increase investment in agriculture development to reduce malnutrition, increase family incomes and reduce the demand for emergency food aid.

Let us help to expand access to clean water, preventing water born illnesses.

We must maintain our commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS while not backing away from the need to assist orphans and vulnerable children grow up healthy, productive and safe in their communities.

Finally, we need a foreign policy that recognizes that hundreds of millions of children around the world are confronting violence, absolute poverty, hunger and lives of misery on a daily basis.

Think of the children in Gaza, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Zimbabwe and how they are suffering. Their lives will forever be shaped by violence. We need to work to make the world safe for children and that means aggressive, smart diplomacy that works to prevent political crisis and conflicts. If we are truly a superpower we need not simply stand by and watch the escalation of violence and suffering, we must work to prevent it.

Let start making the world safer for children by advancing a child-based development

agenda—such as the emergency presidential initiative for the world's children being proposed by Global Action for Children here today. This is exactly the type of bold commitment the United States should and can make to the world's children.

Let me conclude by speaking about commitment. Every parent knows that bringing a child into this world means a commitment until that child becomes an adult. It means meeting the child's physical needs, creating a safe environment, sharing love and protecting your child from harm. This is universal across all cultures.

A similar type of commitment on the part of states to children is embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yet, the United States, along with Somalia, are the only two nations on the face of the Earth which have not ratified this treaty, not formalized our commitment to our own children and the world's children. This is an embarrassment that I hope is addressed by the U.S. Senate this Congress.

Every child—where ever he or she is born—is a child of God and a blessing.

Therefore, every child should be recognized as possessing the human dignity and basic human rights we all share and we all expect for our own children. If this is in fact true and you believe it, and I know you do—then we've got lots of work to do.

Thank you all for making the world's children a priority and for recognizing that their rights and their well-being are as important as our own children's.

GET AMERICA MOVING AGAIN

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, today I am privileged to be joined by my good friend and co-chair of the Congressional Automotive Caucus, Representative FRED UPTON, in introducing the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

This bill is simple. It provides a tax credit of \$5,000 for any new vehicle purchased from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009. In order to prevent a large drop off in new car sales next year, the tax credit would be cut in half to \$2,500 starting on January 1, 2010. The tax incentive would then expire on December 31, 2010. In addition, the bill provides a tax credit of \$2,000 for any late model used vehicle purchase, as defined as 3 years old or less, from January 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009 so that automobile dealers are not saddled with unsellable used cars. This tax credit would also be cut in half to \$1,000 starting on January 1, 2010 and would also end on December 31, 2010. The tax credit would be limited for vehicles that cost under \$50,000 and would only be allowed for households with an adjusted gross income of \$250,000 or less. I am also working on a second alternative bill that will move this tax credit concept to a voucher system so that consumers can see the immediate benefit of this incentive at the point of sale of a vehicle.

Madam Speaker, I am introducing this bill today because we need to get people thinking now about ways to re-ignite consumer demand for vehicles. Our economy is in crisis today because of insufficient consumer demand for goods and services due to the fear in this country of making a significant purchase. All the economic stimulus plans that

are being discussed deal with bailing out people's mistakes or using taxpayers' dollars for public works projects and more government programs. Some also talk about the government creating "new jobs" but they don't understand that there are still jobs in existence and all they lack is orders from consumers.

We need something easy to understand that is considerably less expensive for the taxpayer than current proposals. We need a proposal that will begin to restore our economy immediately by providing a significant incentive to purchase the second largest purchase a typical consumer will make in their lifetime (after housing) in order to help jump-start the economy.

First, in 2007, about 17 million new vehicles were sold in America. A year later, only 10 million cars were sold. This represents a net loss of 7 million cars. At an average price of \$25,000, this loss of new car sales translated into \$175 billion that was directly removed from the economy in 2008. If we can get back to selling 15 million cars, that would add about \$125 billion directly into the economy. Multiplier effects of between 3 to 7 percent could increase the U.S. economic benefit of selling 5 million more cars up to \$900 billion.

Second, when cars and trucks start selling, it moves inventory from factory lots and dealers showrooms. It pays salaries of all the vehicle assembly workers, dealers, and employees. It replenishes local and state sales tax receipts. It restarts manufacturing and supply chains and the economy begins to boom again because vehicles are the second biggest consumer item (after housing).

Third, by offering a tax credit of \$5,000 for the purchase of a new car or truck, an individual could buy, for example, a new Chrysler Jeep Patriot (assembled in Belvidere, Illinois, which I am proud to represent) for less than \$15,000 or around \$200 a month for 5 years. This incentive is large enough to encourage consumers on the fence to make the decision this year to buy a car.

Fourth, we need to implement this tax incentive immediately while people who still have jobs are able to buy a new car.

We will continue to lose jobs until items are again purchased. Common sense and sound economics have given way to "I want my fair share of the stimulus" mentality. No one is thinking about the massive inflation and the higher taxes that will eventually be necessary to pay for the current stimulus and bailout proposals. Many are unfortunately focused on the pre-eminence of "the government is the only answer" doctrine. There is little regard for restarting our economy from the bottom up.

While government cannot be the answer, it can be part of the solution. We can do things now that will drastically alter the negative course we are on. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join Rep. UPTON and me in co-sponsoring the Get America Moving Again Act of 2009.

IN HONOR OF THE 2008 LAWRENCE
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL MARCH-
ING BAND

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Lawrence Central

High School Marching Band, whose 2008 success catapulted them forward as one of our nation's top high school marching bands.

With hours of dedicated practice, the band developed a musical expertise and performance ability that led them to their first Indiana State Championship since 2000. Following this victory, they were invited to participate in the Bands of America Grand Nationals where they placed third.

Lawrence Central's amazing season culminated with an invitation to the prestigious Annual Fiesta Bowl and Blue Cross/Blue Shield National Band Competition. Competing against the nation's best bands, Lawrence Central was crowned Grand Master Champion, the highest award available.

The band's achievements would not have been possible without the highest quality band staff. Directors of Bands Randy Greenwell and Matthew James and their staff all served as excellent teachers and mentors to their band members. Additionally, all the Lawrence Central fans, and in particular the spirited student body, should be recognized for their enthusiastic support.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Lawrence Central Marching Band, their band staff, classmates and parents on their incredible success in 2008.

A TRIBUTE TO GWEN REGALIA,
MAYOR OF WALNUT CREEK

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honoring Gwen Regalia for her many accomplishments and contributions to the city of Walnut Creek.

Gwen Regalia has provided remarkable leadership as a member of the Walnut Creek City Council since 1987. As Mayor of Walnut Creek, Gwen served for an unprecedented five terms and my congressional district has been greatly enhanced by over two decades of her service. Now, as Gwen retires from public office it is my great privilege to pay tribute to her work in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Gwen's career began upon her graduation from the University of California at Berkeley. She began teaching elementary school when she moved to Walnut Creek in 1958 and now holds a Life Credential in Elementary Education. Gwen's political career began in 1978 when she ran for the Walnut Creek School District board and served for almost ten years; she also served as president for two of those years.

In 1987 Gwen was elected to the City Council, but her duties did not stop at the Walnut Creek boarder. While in office she also served as President of the Kennedy-King Memorial College Scholarship Fund, she was president and former director of the Diablo Valley Foundation for the environment, she is a forty-year member of the American Association of University Women, member of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley, Diablo Regional Arts Association member, as well as other local cultural organizations.

Under Gwen's leadership in the City Council several capital projects were completed, in-

cluding the Leshner Center for the Arts, the Shadelands Art Center, the Iron Horse Trail Bridge, two gyms, five parks and seven ball fields, as well as the acquisition of 305 acres of open space.

Gwen Regalia's twenty-one years of public service is an example to us all, and we are lucky to have her vision and her commitment to the citizens of Walnut Creek. It is my honor to recognize Gwen Regalia as she retires from public service and I wish her success and happiness in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SECRETARY
VALERIE A. WOODRUFF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Valerie Woodruff, Delaware's Secretary of Education. Val will retire this year after a 44 year career in public education and serving the state of Delaware for over 30 years.

During her term as Secretary, Val led the implementation of Delaware's accountability system and worked with Congress and the U.S. Department of Education to implement the federal No Child Left Behind Act in Delaware.

Although Val's work in public education began long before her service in Delaware, Val has had a huge positive impact on Delaware's education system. Val led the development of the first school-based Wellness Center in Delaware that has served as a model for additional Delaware schools. Val served as a Thomson Fellow for the Coalition of Essential States, where she participated in, and conducted workshops in her capacity and was selected as Delaware's Principal of the Year in 1990. Val also serves as a member of several boards including the Delaware Workforce Investment Board and its Youth Council and the State Chamber of Commerce Partnership.

Additionally, Val represents Delaware on the Southern Regional Education Board, serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, and is the first K-12 educator to serve as Vice Chair. She also served as President of the Council of Chief State School Officers from November 2005 to November 2006.

Val was born in Steubenville, Ohio and grew up in West Virginia. She attended Alderson Broaddus College in Philippi, West Virginia and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Secondary Education in English and Social Studies. In 1971, Val began her work in Delaware and received her Master of Education degree in Guidance and Counseling from the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware.

I would like to thank Val for her many years of service and her focus on developing quality teachers and school leaders, as well as the importance of providing an excellent educational experience to all children in Delaware. Val's work has resulted in improved student achievement and positive recognition of Delaware public education.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 553: THE
REDUCING OVER-CLASSIFICA-
TION ACT OF 2009

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, America's first preventers will face an enormous challenge next Tuesday. They must protect key members of this and the next Administration—especially the first families—and manage crowds of millions for the largest American Presidential Inauguration to date, working seamlessly with federal counterparts to do so.

Unprecedented efforts will be made to share information—especially information about threats. Information sharing was a huge problem leading up to 9/11, and 7 years later, we still have work to do.

When the Inauguration is over, local law enforcement shouldn't have to return to business-as-usual—where it is still difficult to get accurate, actionable, and timely information about threats and tactics to police officers in the field.

Though hard to believe, sheriffs and police chiefs can't readily access the information they need to prevent or disrupt a potential terrorist attack because those at the federal level resist sharing information. Over-classification and pseudo-classification—stamping with any number of sensitive but unclassified markings—remain rampant.

Protecting sources and methods is the only valid reason to refuse to share information. It is no exaggeration that people die and our ability to monitor certain targets can be compromised, if sources and methods are revealed.

But classifying information for the wrong reasons—to protect turf or to avoid embarrassment—is wrong. During my 8 years on the House Intelligence Committee, I became incredibly frustrated with this practice—which the Bush Administration elevated to an art form.

And, sadly, the practice has spread to our newest federal agency: the Department of Homeland Security.

Madam Speaker, the next attack in the United States will not be stopped because a bureaucrat in Washington, DC found out about it in advance. It will be the cop on the beat who is familiar with the rhythms and nuances of his or her own neighborhood who will foil that attack.

H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, and which passed the House unanimously in the 110th Congress, is an attempt to establish a gold standard at DHS when it comes to classification practices.

It requires that all classified intelligence products created at the Department be simultaneously created in a standard unclassified format if such a product would help local law enforcement keep us safe. This is unprecedented.

Furthermore, the bill requires portion marking—the identification of paragraphs in a document that are classified—permitting the remainder of the document to remain unclassified.

The measure will promote accountability by requiring the DHS Inspector General to sample randomly classified intelligence products

and identify problems that exist in those samples.

It also directs the Secretary to develop a plan to track electronically how and where information classified by DHS is disseminated so that misuse can be prevented.

Finally, the legislation requires the Secretary to establish extensive annual training on the proper use of the classification regime, and penalties for staff who repeatedly fail to comply with applicable classification policies.

A key to homeland security is personal preparedness. A prepared public is not likely to be terrorized. Access to important non-classified information is essential to ensure preparedness, and this bill protects the public's right to know. It enjoys support by privacy and civil liberty groups.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of first preventers and first responders everywhere, I urge passage of this essential bipartisan legislation, and its prompt consideration in the Senate.

SCHOOL BUILDING ENHANCEMENT
ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the School Building Enhancement Act, legislation that would help schools implement energy saving measures to reduce their energy costs.

According to the Department of Energy, DOE schools spent over \$8 billion on energy in 2007—\$2 billion more than they spent just two years earlier. Sky-rocketing energy costs have forced schools to spend more annually on heating and electricity than they spend on textbooks and computers combined. Energy is the second-highest operating expenditure for schools after personnel costs. Schools across the country are already facing tight budgets; rising energy costs will only worsen their budget situation and could lead to the loss of important school programs.

Fortunately, there are ways for schools to offset the soaring price of energy. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, 30 percent of energy consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently. By understanding where energy is used unwisely and implementing simple changes in the operations and maintenance of school buildings, a school's operating costs can be reduced by 5 to 25 percent. Schools that are seeking even greater long-term savings can retrofit their buildings with more efficient systems and replace old appliances. The \$2 billion saved could be used for purchases that directly benefit our nation's students—such as hiring 30,000 new teachers or purchasing 40 million additional textbooks.

However, cash-strapped school systems often are unable to find the necessary financial resources to invest in these energy efficient upgrades. The School Building Enhancement Act would assist schools in making these improvements by providing grants to states and local educational agencies through the Department of Education for energy efficiency upgrades. These improvements would need to follow the guidelines of the EnergySmart

Schools Program of the Department of Energy or the Energy Star for K–12 School Districts program at the Environmental Protection Agency.

If enacted, the School Building Enhancement Act would provide the needed funding for schools in my home state of New Jersey, and throughout the country, to implement energy efficiency measures that would help schools save thousands of dollars annually.

Schools that already have implemented energy efficiency measures have succeeded in achieving significant savings. For example, the Summerfield Elementary School in my home state of New Jersey has implemented energy efficiency measures that have reduced their consumption by 32 percent, allowing Summerfield to save \$41,000 annually on energy costs. Summerfield is just one of many schools that are being built to use energy smarter and more efficiently. According to the EPA more than 800 schools have been Energy Star certified, saving an average of 40 cents per square foot in operating costs annually.

Twenty-five of my colleagues have joined me in introducing this important legislation to help cash-strapped schools achieve significant savings on their energy costs and protect the environment. I urge my colleagues to support the School Building Enhancement Act.

INTRODUCING THE SAVE OUR
CLIMATE ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague JIM McDERMOTT to reintroduce the Save Our Climate Act, a bill to place a tax on carbon. A carbon tax is the most straightforward and efficient way to end our addiction to fossil fuels and confront global climate change.

While I have introduced this proposal in years past, I am more confident than ever that the time for action has arrived. We have a President-elect who consistently acknowledges that our planet is in peril. The upcoming economic recovery package will focus on creating "green jobs" and investing in clean energy.

The best solution is to place a tax on what we want to reduce—pollution; and to put that revenue into what we want to increase—work, income, and investment in new technology. A carbon tax is the best way to do that.

Under the Save Our Climate Act, carbon based fuels—coal, petroleum and natural gas—are taxed at a rate of \$10 per ton of carbon content. The tax will increase by \$10 per ton of carbon every year, making it less affordable to burn fossil fuels as time goes on. When the United States reaches the International Panel on Climate Change's standard of reducing CO₂ emissions by 80 percent, the tax will be frozen.

A tax provides certainty for businesses, as they will know what the level of tax will be from year to year and can make adjustments in their business plans. This legislation is also simple to administer and will require no new bureaucracy to implement. For these reasons, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, concluded last year that a carbon tax is the most

economically efficient policy for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

This bill does not prescribe how the revenue will be spent, but it is appropriate that we consider relief for low- and middle-income consumers who may face modestly higher energy costs, and investments in alternative energy sources, health care, and education.

The Save Our Climate Act will generate a small energy price increase each year, equal to about 2 cents per gallon of gas annually. Consumers over the past year have endured increases 100 times that. The only difference is that the increase in price went to overseas coffers, not to build our transportation networks, provide relief for workers, and health care for our citizens. As the tax rate increases, fossil fuel prices will increase. Producers will have an incentive to invest in cleaner alternative energies, and those alternative energy sources will become more competitive.

For businesses, the carbon tax is direct, creates price certainty, and signals that it is time to take bold action and invest in business models that utilize low pollution technology. Even the CEO of Exxon commented last week calling a carbon tax a "direct and transparent approach." I don't normally find myself on the same side as the oil companies, but in this case, I agree. The Save Our Climate Act is a first step toward a sensible tax code that incentivizes innovation and rewards responsibility. I encourage all to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I was unable to make a number of votes because I was at the hospital with my wife for the delivery of our first child. I am pleased to announce that we had a healthy, beautiful baby girl named Molly Hannah.

Had I been present I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 14; "nay" on rollcall No. 15; "yea" on rollcall No. 16 in support of H.R. 2, the bill to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, of which I was proud to be an original cosponsor; "yea" on rollcall No. 17, which allowed the House to proceed with a bill improving the TARP program; and "yea" on rollcall No. 18.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 16 to H.R. 2 taken on January 14, 2009, and had I been present for this vote, I would have voted "nay."

I am opposed to H.R. 2 because I believe this legislation is one more step toward forcing Americans into a Washington controlled, one-size-fits-all health care system by creating another fiscally irresponsible entitlement to be supported by American taxpayers. Also, an expansion of SCHIP should not encourage people to drop their private coverage in order

to get free or subsidized public health care coverage.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUPERFUND REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Superfund Reinvestment Act," which would reauthorize the corporate taxes that fund the Superfund trust fund. This bill will reestablish the polluter pays principle and our commitment to cleaning up the Nation's most hazardous sites.

The Environmental Protection Agency's, EPA, Superfund program was created in 1980 to provide money to clean up the nation's worst hazardous waste sites where the party responsible for polluting was out of business or could not be identified. Before they expired in 1995, the money for the Superfund trust fund came mainly from taxes on the polluters themselves. The program has contributed to the cleanup of over 1000 sites around the country. Because Congress has not reauthorized the taxes, the burden of funding cleanups of toxic waste sites now falls on the shoulders of taxpaying Americans. Reauthorizing the Superfund tax would ensure that polluters—not the American public—pay to restore public health.

Superfund sites contain toxic contaminants that have been detected in drinking water wells, creeks and rivers, backyards, playgrounds, and streets. Communities impacted by these sites can face restrictions on water use, gardening and recreational activities as well as economic losses as property values decline due to contaminated land. In the worst cases, residents of these communities can face health problems such as cardiac impacts, infertility, low birth weight, birth defects, leukemia, and respiratory difficulties.

Until they expired in 1995, the superfund taxes generated around \$1.7 billion a year to clean up these hazardous areas. The "Superfund Reinvestment Act" would simply reinstate the taxes as they were before they expired. This will provide a stable source of funding to continue cleaning up sites around the country as well as give the EPA the tools it needs to clean up sites and then recover the costs from liable parties who do not undertake the work themselves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working to strengthen the Superfund program and ensure that it continues to help keep our communities and our families safe, healthy, and economically secure.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a Co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus,

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 41, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month.

A mentor by definition means a trusted friend or guide. Mentoring relationships between adults and youths are very important, especially because of the focus on the needs of our young people. Caring parents, teachers, counselors, and religious leaders are all mentors, and are in a position to positively influence a child's present and future.

We all have an important role to play in improving the lives of children in our communities—after all, it takes a village. Our youth are yearning for guidance and direction from caring adults and mentoring enables everyday Americans to make a difference and help children grow up to become responsible and productive citizens and meet their full potential. A study by Big Brothers Big Sisters showed mentored youth are 46 percent less likely to begin using illegal drugs, 53 percent less likely to skip school, and 33 percent less likely to get in fights.

National Mentoring Month was conceived as a means to recruit mentors and help close the mentoring gap. Last year, more than 375,000 individuals sought information about local mentoring programs that need more volunteers.

I am proud to announce Joellen Gonder-Spacek, executive director of the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, MPM, has been honored with the Manza Excellence in Leadership Award by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership. She was recognized for her leadership and commitment to service through MPM's community initiative to promote mentoring for at risk youth in Minnesota. This program has made significant improvements in the lives of children and, over the past 14 years, MPM has become a mentoring leader in the State and the Nation.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution and to look for opportunities to be mentors as well.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I voted yesterday in support of our Nation's children and for passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, H.R. 2.

More than 7.1 million children have health insurance because of the creation, a decade ago, of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. However, these children will lose access to good, affordable health insurance if Congress does not act to reauthorize the SCHIP program by March 31, 2009.

Yesterday, the House approved the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, which would expand the SCHIP program to ensure even more children have access to the health care their parents cannot afford or who work in jobs that do not provide health care benefits. The House of Representatives has passed similar legislation twice before to extend and expand SCHIP,

only to have those bills vetoed by President Bush. I hope that on the third consideration of this legislation to improve children's health that this bill will be signed into law.

The expansion of this program is even more important today as many workers are losing their health insurance and face great economic hardships during the recent recession. The Kaiser Family Foundation projects that the current unemployment level of 7 percent would increase Medicaid and SCHIP enrollment by 2.4 million people and an additional 2.6 million people would become uninsured. The number of uninsured will rise higher should the unemployment rates climb even further. This legislation would reduce the size of this uninsured population by expanding SCHIP to include an additional 4 million children who currently have no health insurance. Sending a child to the emergency room is not an alternative to having comprehensive health insurance. Especially at a time when millions of families are facing economic hardships, we must ensure that children have the care they need.

This bill would provide parity for mental health for children. I long have fought for mental health parity, and was pleased that last year we could improve mental health coverage for private insurance plans and Medicare. I am encouraged that we have now extended this to the SCHIP program.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 45 million Americans lack health care coverage, including more than 16 percent of New Jersey's residents. Many of these Americans are children, the vast majority of whom come from working families. It is simply unconscionable that here in the United States of America millions of children are uninsured. The reauthorization and expansion of the SCHIP program presents an historic opportunity to put an end to the morally unacceptable fact that 8.6 million American children live every day without insurance. It is time for Congress to preserve and expand this program that has proven successful at insuring our nation's most vulnerable children.

The SCHIP program is strongly supported by our nation's governors who have managed the State-run programs over the past decade and understand that SCHIP allows States to cover low-income children who lack health insurance in families of the working poor. This bill also would provide the tools needed and create incentives for States to reach the millions of children who are eligible but not currently enrolled in the SCHIP program.

New Jersey uses its SCHIP funds to run a program called FamilyCare. Our State is a leader in extending FamilyCare eligibility. Currently, 150,000 children and approximately 100,000 low income-parents are enrolled in New Jersey's program. Without SCHIP, all of these residents of New Jersey would again be uninsured.

This legislation would allow States like New Jersey to continue to set income eligibility for SCHIP. Because the cost of living is so high in New Jersey, it is important that our State has the flexibility needed to establish realistic eligibility guidelines.

Additionally, this bill would allow New Jersey to continue to enroll parents along with their children. According to research by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, one highly effective way of boosting coverage among low-income children is to

broaden health insurance to their parents. Currently, New Jersey is one of 11 States to cover low-income parents.

Because we are committed to balanced budgets and opposed to deficit spending, this bill pays for this historic commitment to our children with an appropriate increase in the Federal tobacco tax and by imposing restrictions on self-referral to physician-owned hospitals. According to the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, the 61 cent-per-pack increase in the cigarette tax that is included in this bill would result in substantially fewer youth smokers, as every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes would reduce youth smoking by approximately 7 percent. This would improve their health and result in longterm healthcare savings.

There are 11 million reasons to vote for this bill, each one a child who will move out of the ranks of the uninsured with the health care provided in the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. A measure of a nation's greatness is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. By making health insurance available for 11 million children, we live up to our moral obligation to keep children healthy and we make our society stronger.

BLACK JANUARY—JANUARY 19–20,
1990

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, few Americans have heard the term "Black January," yet it is imbedded in the memory of all Azerbaijanis. Black January marks the evening of January 19, 1990, when at midnight 26,000 Russian troops stormed the capital city of Baku with tanks. Armed with a state of emergency declared by the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium and signed by then President Mikhail Gorbachev, the incursion was intended to suppress a growing independence movement. The net result was the opposite. This incident inflamed Azerbaijani nationalism and contributed to the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Leading up to Black January, the national independence movement had reached a remarkable momentum with hundreds of thousands demonstrating for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Emerging democratic groups were leading the political agenda and were projected to succeed in upcoming Parliament elections in March 1990. The Soviet Union sought to "restore order" by indiscriminately firing on peaceful demonstrators in Baku, including women and children. The protesters were calling for independence from the Soviet Union and the removal of Communist officials. More than 130 people died that night and in subsequent violence, 611 were injured, 841 were arrested, and 5 went missing.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch entitled "Black January in Azerbaijan," "among the most heinous violations of human rights during the Baku incursion were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals." The report concluded that "indeed the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 . . . constitutes an exercise in collective pun-

ishment . . . The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union."

In the days after the invasion, thousands of Azerbaijanis surrounded Communist Party headquarters demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership. The Baku City Council demanded that Soviet troops be withdrawn. The Soviet legislature in Azerbaijan condemned the occupation as "unconstitutional" and threatened to call a referendum on secession unless Soviet troops were withdrawn within 48 hours. And, Azerbaijani oil tankers blocked Soviet naval vessels from reaching the Baku harbor.

Soviet troops were eventually withdrawn from Baku, but political control was maintained for almost another 2 years until Azerbaijan's parliament declared independence in October 1991. The Republic of Azerbaijan has maintained its independence for more than 17 years, despite lingering economic and social problems from the Soviet era and the military occupation of 20 percent of Azerbaijan by Armenia. Today, Azerbaijan has developed into a thriving country with double digit growth, in large part due to a freely elected president and parliament, free market reforms led by the energy sector, and, most importantly, no foreign troops on its soil.

While January 20 has been inauguration day in the United States every 4 years since 1937, in Azerbaijan it is the day on which Azerbaijani citizens stood up to Soviet equipment and martyrs gave up their lives for freedom from communism and dictatorship. Indeed, January 20, 1990, in Baku, Azerbaijan, the fate of the Soviet empire was sealed.

THE SAFE COMMISSION: LETTERS
TO TREASURY SECRETARY
PAULSON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I continue to be deeply concerned about America's mounting deficit spending and Federal debt and have been working for the past several years to engage this administration in embracing a bipartisan plan to reverse course and get our country on a sound and sustainable financial path.

I introduced the SAFE Commission concept for the first time during the 109th Congress on June 7, 2006. In the 110th Congress I teamed with JIM COOPER, and we introduced the bipartisan SAFE Commission legislation again. A similar Senate effort was led by Budget Chairman KENT CONRAD and ranking member JUDD GREGG.

Following the SAFE bill's introduction, I reached out to Treasury Secretary Paulson about getting our fiscal house through more than a dozen letters from July 12, 2007, to April 10, 2008, updating the administration on progress that was being made with the bill. I submit for the RECORD a sample of that correspondence.

I have been encouraged with the growing support for the SAFE proposal from leading newspaper editorials to think tanks to syndicated columnists to business organizations. I

remain deeply disappointed that this idea was not embraced by Secretary Paulson. I hope that the Obama administration will understand the urgency for bipartisan action to address this nation's long-term budget challenges, especially as we deal with the current financial crisis, for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Secretary, Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As you know, Senator VOINOVICH and I reintroduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act in January. I wanted to follow up with you and share the enclosed letter I wrote to the president asking that the administration embrace this idea.

I think about our children and grandchildren and it is disheartening that critical issues are falling by the wayside because Congress today is so polarized. I believe that a bipartisan commission operating outside the halls of Congress that would mandate action is the answer to getting our fiscal house in order and diverting financial crisis in this country.

The SAFE Commission bill has 32 cosponsors to date. I am committed to continue working with my colleagues to enact this legislation on a matter of such importance to our nation's future.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 3, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: I read your recent comments about reaching the statutory debt limit as early as October. I have always voted for the limit increase but am seriously considering voting against it this year because of the lack of leadership by the administration in taking steps to change the country's current financial path. I truly believe that this administration has the ability to change our course.

I am not writing to you today as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a father and grandfather. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understand the enormity of this issue and the impact that will be felt for generations to come. It's disheartening that the partisan political divide in Congress is so consuming that issues with such high stakes continue to languish.

That's why I have introduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, which would establish a bipartisan commission and put everything—entitlement, tax policy, and other federal spending—on the table for review.

This administration can offer hope and start to remedy our fiscal prognosis, brightening the horizon for our children and their children. It is critical that they have all the opportunities the Greatest Generation made possible for you and me. Our grandchildren should set ambitious goals, and believe that hard work will be met by opportunity.

We have a moral obligation to address the long-term fiscal challenges ahead.

I know you are a good person and want what is best for America. With your leadership and vision, progress can be made.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 22, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Just wanted to update you on the SAFE Commission legislation since I reintroduced the bill with Jim Cooper three weeks ago.

The measure has gained bipartisan support with over 40 cosponsors—split evenly between Democrats and Republicans from members of the Republican Study Committee to three of the four Blue Dog Coalition co-chairs I believe that support for this measure will continue to grow.

You may have read that the first baby boomer signed up for promised Social Security benefits last week. Our nation's "long term" deficit problem has arrived.

We should be concerned that last Monday the U.S. dollar hit an all-time low in the wake of a major housing recession and enormous trade deficits. We should care that the value of the dollar has been dropping against the Canadian dollar, the Euro and the Japanese yen.

What will it take for us to address these issues?

The SAFE Commission fits into what this administration claims to stand for and will ensure sound financial footing for generations to come. I have enclosed information on the bill since its reintroduction including a list of current cosponsors.

Please give serious consideration to the SAFE Commission Act.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Secretary, Department of the Treasury,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As meritorious as the Administration's argument is with regard to the \$21 billion in discretionary spending it is relatively insignificant compared to the massive entitlement spending problem. It is like comparing a mouse to an elephant.

Our SAFE Commission bill represents all that the Administration says it cares about, including more than 50 bipartisan cosponsors (see list).

Failing to address this issue is like driving a car toward the edge of a cliff with no brake pedal.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: I am deeply troubled that this Administration is missing an opportunity to do something so powerful for our children and grandchildren.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: As a follow up to our conversation last week about the SAFE Commission. I want you to know that Roy Blunt has also signed onto the bill.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission has over 50 bipartisan cosponsors including Republican leadership in the House (see enclosed).

We are waiting for the Administration to support this effort to rein in entitlement spending.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2007.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Enclosed is a letter I recently received from Ben Bernanke about our nation's fiscal imbalance, reiterating: "... if early and meaningful action is not taken, the U.S. economy could be seriously weakened, with future generations bearing much of the cost."

Your administration deserves credit for its work in the past to address the entitlement reform issue. Our parents told us that if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I am asking that the SAFE Commission be that second try.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 17, 2008.

Hon. HENRY PAULSON,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PAULSON: Between July 19 and December 10, 2007, I wrote to you nine different times about the unsustainable financial path our country is on, and the bipartisan SAFE Commission as a potential way forward to rein in entitlement spending. I have respectfully asked for the administration's support because of the critical importance of taking action now.

I am disappointed that the administration is missing this opportunity to bring about a renaissance in America, giving hope to future generations and ensuring that our children and grandchildren can live in a world where hard work will be met by opportunity.

Best wishes.
Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

SGI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Whereas, SGI President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda visited Chicago in 1960, witnessed the discriminatory mistreatment of an African-American boy in Lincoln Park, and made a vow in his heart, "I promise you that I will build a society truly worthy of your love and pride!"; and

Whereas, this year marks 49 years of Dr. Ikeda's dedication to the peace and happiness of all humanity through peace, culture and education; and pledge to construct a peaceful world where individuals from all walks of life feel safe and secure while developing their fullest potential for the sake of their families and the greater good of society; and

Whereas, on January 19th we honor and celebrate a noble and heroic life of Martin Luther King Jr., whose legacy was to secure not

only civil rights but human moral rights for all people as expressed in his own words, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

Whereas, 40 years after the passing of Dr. King, we witness on this day the inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama as 44th President of the United States, filled with confidence in the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the prayers and efforts of countless ordinary heroes who believed that this day would one day be possible, expressed in President Obama's words, "This is your victory!"

Whereas, in my capacity as a member of the United States Congress, I would like to acknowledge these behind the scenes efforts of one such extra-ordinary hero by recognizing, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, as an Emissary of Peace and Justice.

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
BENJAMIN KRAMER

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee will soon bid farewell to our Congressional Fellow, Benjamin Kramer, as he begins his next assignment as Special Agent for the U.S. Secret Service. Special Agent Kramer has proven himself to be an energetic and thoughtful contributor to the work of this Subcommittee, bringing with him the experience he has gained with the Secret Service and before that as a criminal investigator with the D.C. Inspector General.

Working as a member of my subcommittee staff, Ben helped the Subcommittee navigate what was often a frenetic path as we crafted our 2009 appropriations bill, and assisted in our work in overseeing the agencies and programs under our jurisdiction. In particular, Ben had lead staff responsibility for oversight of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General.

Ben's unqualified professionalism, great sense of humor and cool head have helped our Subcommittee and the Congress address a wide range of policy and budgetary challenges. During his time with the Subcommittee, Ben researched issues for various programs, coordinated committee travel, and compiled materials on amendments. Ben also assisted in managing the database of requests to the Committee from Members of Congress, and in preparing for hearings and briefings. I am grateful for his hard work.

Special Agent Kramer has served me, this Subcommittee, and the House well. While we are sorry to see him leave, each of us on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee wishes Ben all the best as he resumes his Secret Service career, and expect to continue to see great things from him.

CONGRATULATING THE PINK
HEALS TOUR FOR BREAST CAN-
CER RESEARCH AND FOUNDER
DAVID GRAYBILL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pink Heals Tour, which covered over 10,000 miles in 2008, to support the fight against breast cancer.

Breast cancer occurs in one out of every eight women in our country, and this cross-country tour in a decorated pink fire truck aimed to increase awareness of this disease and to raise funding for cancer research. In particular, this journey reached out to typically male-dominated organizations, such as police and fire departments, to encourage them to wear pink clothing in support of this cause. A second tour is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2009. The upcoming Pink Heals Tour will cross the United States in three pink fire trucks throughout September and October.

I am particularly proud, Madam Speaker, to recognize David Graybill, who founded the Pink Heals Tour to inspire citizens and community leaders to join in local breast cancer fundraising organizations and events. When I taught high school back home in Arizona, David was one of my students. So far, his efforts have had an enormous impact on his community and on millions of people across 21 states and 40 different cities.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Pink Heals Tour and its founder, David Graybill, for their selfless work to raise awareness and support the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE FIRST PARISH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF SCITUATE, MA

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in recognizing the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Scituate, MA on its 375th Anniversary.

The rich spiritual tradition of the First Parish Church dates all the way back to seventeenth-century London, when the Puritan separatist, the Rev. Henry Jacob, joined with others to establish the first non-Anglican church in England. In 1624, Jacob was succeeded by the Rev. John Lothrop, who led a small congregation in worshipping secretly in taverns, homes and fields. When the Bishop of London learned of their activities, Rev. Lothrop and his followers were arrested and imprisoned in the notorious jail, the Clink.

Upon his release two years later in 1634, Rev. Lothrop and a number of his congregation left England bound for Boston, thirsting for the freedom to worship that the New World promised. On January 8, 1634, Lothrop came together with 11 other men and women to officially form the First Church of Scituate. Rev. Lothrop's distinguished lineage has included

U.S. Presidents, Supreme Court justices, diplomats and prominent businessmen and women.

It is fitting that the anniversary of the Church's founding falls so close to the day we honor Martin Luther King, Jr., the greatest champion of civil rights and equality our Nation has known. Under strong ministerial and lay leadership, the Church has maintained a steadfast commitment to worship, provided spiritual guidance to parishioners, and sounded a clarion call for justice and human dignity.

In colonial times, the Church's ministers and laity fought for religious tolerance on behalf of Quakers and Baptists. They spoke out against the shackles of slavery, and provided care for Union soldiers during the Civil War. During the 19th century, Church leaders advocated vociferously for the economic rights of workers. As an integral part of our community and the global public square, the First Parish Church of Scituate has left an indelible mark for generations to come.

On this momentous occasion, I congratulate the Church's current leader, Rev. Richard M. Stower, and its entire congregation. I wish them all the best for continued success in the years ahead.

EGMONT KEY CELEBRATING 150
YEARS OF "LIGHTING THE WAY"
INTO TAMPA BAY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Tampa Bay community I represent celebrated the 150th anniversary of one of the key aids to navigation on all of Florida's west coast last November, the Egmont Key Lighthouse.

The Lighthouse has a rich history and includes being destroyed once by a major hurricane, being rebuilt and staffed by a long list of dedicated keepers, being at the center of civil war intrigue, and now being home to a national wildlife refuge. Throughout its storied history it has stood tall as the only lighthouse between Key West and the Florida Panhandle and marks the entrance to Tampa Bay, one of our Nation's busiest waterways.

Because its history is so interesting Madam Speaker, I will include, following my remarks a column from the Tampa Bay Soundings newspaper by Captain Richard Johnson, the past President of the Egmont Key Alliance. He and the members of the alliance have not only worked hard to share the history of Egmont Key and the Lighthouse, but also to preserve structures on the island. Also I will include with my remarks further information about the legacy of Egmont Key from the Web site LighthouseFriends.com.

Madam Speaker, we continue to protect Egmont Key and the lighthouse, which was added to the Register of National Historic Places in 1978, by providing Federal funds to renourish the shoreline surrounding the island and by studying a way to provide a long-term solution to protect the island's original buildings.

In the meantime, the Egmont Key Lighthouse will continue its mission to ensure the safe navigation along the Gulf of Mexico and

into Tampa Bay just as it has throughout the past 150 years. Please join me in thanking all those who have served to keep its beacon lit and who continue to serve today with President Jim Spangler and the Egmont Key Alliance to keep its history alive and its structures sound.

LIGHTING THE WAY: THE EGMONT KEY LIGHTHOUSE, TAMPA BAY SOUNDINGS

(By Captain Richard Johnson)

It has been 150 years since light keeper Sherrod Edwards first carried cans of lamp oil up the spiral staircase of the lighthouse on Egmont Key. But this magnificent beacon, rebuilt "to withstand any storm" after a hurricane in the late 1840s, still stands guard at the entrance to Tampa Bay, welcoming mariners and visitors.

The 71-foot-high lighthouse has been vital to the safety of commerce on Florida's west coast for more than a century. First constructed in 1848 to support commercial trade along the nation's Gulf Coast, it was the only lighthouse between the Panhandle and Key West. While guiding ships along the coast, it also marked the entrance to the increasingly important port of Tampa.

The first lighthouse was built with brick and cost \$10,000. It was located about 100 feet northeast of the existing structure on the north end of the island. The keeper's house, also brick, was constructed nearby for Edwards and his family. The lighthouse was first lit in April 1848 when they moved in. Less than six months later, in September, a hurricane ravaged the lighthouse. Stories say Edwards and his family took refuge in a rowboat tied to a palm tree as water rose over the island.

With the first tower damaged beyond repair, a new, taller lighthouse—which still stands today—was constructed in 1858 for \$16,000. Other buildings were added over the years. A small brick building was constructed in 1895 near the lighthouse to store lamp oil; a larger brick building erected in the 1920s housed the island's radio transmitter.

Other structures have since been torn down. Two large sheds near the bayside dock served as a depot for navigational buoys along Florida's Gulf Coast in the late 1800s. For a time, all buoys between St. Marks and Key West were maintained and stored on Egmont Key. An assistant light keeper's house was added in 1899. All that remains of that house is a cistern, which is still used today.

Over the years, numerous improvements were made to the light station and the dock was rebuilt several times. Almost every recorded annual report to the Lighthouse Board includes some reference to repairs, improvements or rebuilding, mostly to mitigate damage from storms.

The life of the lighthouse keeper was not easy. For the most part, the light keeper, his assistant and their families were the only people on the island. Bulk supplies like oil for the light were brought in just once a year, and the families raised much of their own food, while traveling by small boat to Bradenton or Tampa for other supplies.

Maintaining a lighthouse with an oil lamp required constant attention to trimming and adjusting wicks, cleaning the chimney and lenses, and washing the windows of the lantern room. While the light was bright and well-focused for an oil lamp, it was not nearly as bright as an electric light, and scrupulous attention to maintaining the cleanliness of every part of the system was necessary to ensure that the light would not be obscured. Each day they worked from dawn until about 10 a.m. just cleaning up and preparing the light for the next night's work.

Curtains hung from dawn until dusk to prevent discoloration of the lens glass.

In 1939, the Coast Guard took over the lighthouse service and converted the newer light-keeper's house into a barracks for a small crew. A few years later, the lighthouse was renovated. With the upper portion of the brick tower deteriorating, the tower was trimmed several feet for stabilization, and an aircraft-style rotating beacon replaced the original oil lamp. Illumination surged from 3,000 candlepower to 175,000 candlepower, visible on a clear night from as far as 22 miles away.

But it wasn't until the late 1980s that the light was fully automated and the Coast Guard personnel reassigned. Shortly after that the Florida State Park Service joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in caring for the island's natural resources.

Through the years, a series of light keepers about whom we know very little, worked through heat and hurricane, battling mosquitoes and winter gales, to keep the Egmont light working and the station in good order. Even with modern advances in navigation, the light remains an important aid to mariners and aviators destined for Tampa Bay.

Capt. Richard Johnson, president of the Egmont Key Alliance, teaches sailing at the St. Petersburg branch of the Annapolis Sailing School. For more information on Egmont Key or the Egmont Key Alliance, call 727-867-8102.

EGMONT KEY, FLORIDA,
LIGHTHOUSEFRIENDS.COM

Description: When Florida was under British control, surveyor George Gauld named the small island found at the entrance to Tampa Bay Egmont Key, after John Perceval, second Earl of Egmont and First Lord of the Admiralty. Through the years, the island has served as home to two lighthouses, a fort, a movie theater, a cemetery, boat pilots, and a radio beacon. Today, all that remains on the island is a truncated lighthouse, crumbling remains of the fort, a small colony of gopher tortoises, and a park ranger to interpret the island's history.

In 1833, the Secretary of the Treasury received multiple petitions for a lighthouse at Egmont Key to assist vessels transiting Florida's Gulf Coast between Key West and the Panhandle. However, it wasn't until after Florida achieved statehood in 1845 and its legislature petitioned Congress in December of 1846, that funds were granted for the Egmont Key Lighthouse. Francis A. Gibbons of Baltimore signed a contract with the government to provide a lighthouse and dwelling at a cost of \$6,250.

The contract called for a 40-foot, brick tower, topped with an octagonal lantern that would shelter 13 lamps backed by 21-inch reflectors. The lighting apparatus was supplied by Winslow Lewis at a cost of \$1,330. The St. Marks customs collector, a Mr. Walker, who oversaw the construction, recommended that "in consequence of the heavy gales of wind in this country," the 34 x 20, one-story, brick dwelling should "be placed at least 100 feet from the tower, so in case of its prostration, the house and lives would not be endangered." Walker also insisted that the tower be built on a foundation of driven pilings rather than on a foundation of "dry shells and sand" as promoted by the frugal Stephen Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury.

Work began on the lighthouse during the summer of 1847, and the lamps were to be lit by January 1, 1848 according to the contract. However, the supply ship Abbe Baker, which was transporting bricks from New York for the lighthouse, ran aground on Orange Key, and roughly half of the bricks had to be tossed overboard to refloat the ship. By Feb-

ruary of 1848, the tower stood at a height of twenty feet, but work was halted until a new shipment of bricks arrived. The tower was officially certified on April 19, 1848, and shortly thereafter Sherrod Edwards, the first keeper of the Egmont Key Lighthouse, activated the light. At that time, the lighthouse was the only one between Key West and St. Marks.

On September 23, 1848 a powerful hurricane covered Egmont Key with several feet of water. Keeper Edwards and his family, according to local legend, survived the storm by seeking refuge in a small boat tethered to a Palmetto tree. Shortly thereafter, Keeper Edwards rowed his family ashore and resigned. It was likely due to Walker's pile foundation that the tower survived the storm. The lighthouse was subsequently struck by lightning, which opened cracks in the tower. In 1854, a concrete pad was poured around the base of the tower, but by 1856, it was apparent that a replacement tower was necessary.

A new tower, twice as tall as the original, was completed in 1857 near the northern end of Egmont Key, and probably ninety feet inland from the previous tower. A fixed-light produced by a third-order Fresnel lens was exhibited from a focal plane of eighty-six feet starting in 1858.

In 1861, keeper George V. Rickard found himself caught in a struggle for control of the lighthouse. The collector in Key West was loyal to the Union, while the collector at St. Marks sided with the Confederates. Rickard feigned allegiance to Union blockaders near the island, until their absence allowed him to flee the island. After crating up the Fresnel lens, Rickard absconded to Tampa with the lens and as many supplies as he could transport.

The lighthouse soon fell under Union control and was reactivated using a makeshift light. After the war, a fourth-order lens was used until 1893, when it was replaced by a third-order lens with a red sector.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Fort Dade, part of a comprehensive coastal defense system, was constructed on the island. Named for the army commander, who along with his detachment, was killed by Seminole Indians in 1835, the fort, along with Fort DeSoto on Mullet Island to the northeast, stood watch over the entrance to Tampa Bay. The fort was staffed during World War I as well, and by the time it was deactivated in 1923, a movie theater, bowling alley, tennis courts, and miles of brick roads were found on the island.

In 1944, the upper portion of the lighthouse was removed along with the Fresnel lens, and a Double Head DCB-36 Rotating Beacon was placed on top of the capped tower. The remaining keeper's dwelling was demolished in 1954 and replaced by a one-story barracks. In 1974, Egmont Key became a National Wildlife Refuge, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The island was also added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, due to the lighthouse and remains of Fort Dade. The lighthouse was automated in 1989 when the present optic, a DCB-24 Rotating Beacon was installed, and today the Florida Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service work together to manage the island.

In November of 2008, a celebration was held on the island to commemorate the 150th birthday of the Egmont Key Lighthouse. In preparation for the event, the lighthouse received a new coat of paint thanks to the Tampa Bay Rough Riders and volunteers from the Coast Guard. A new plaque was unveiled at the base of the lighthouse during the festivities, and birthday cake was served to over 200 people. For the past several years, Christmas lights have been placed on

the tower by volunteers from the Egmont Key Alliance to bring a little holiday cheer to the island.

100 YEARS WELL SPENT—MARTIN
WISENBAKER TURNS 100 YEARS
OLD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this Saturday in Humble, TX, the eight children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Martin Lewis Wisenbaker are celebrating his 100th birthday. This Texan has played many roles in his accomplished life including athlete, farmer, deacon, husband, and father and he doesn't seem to be slowing down anytime soon.

Martin Wisenbaker was born in Graham, TX on January 17, 1909, and by the age of 16 he

had settled in Humble, TX. He started out working in the rice fields of southeast Texas until he was hired by Hughes Tool in 1929.

Just 4 years later Martin met the woman he would marry and spend his life with, Miss Wesley Belle Lee. Over the years they had eight children, including two sets of twins. In addition to his job at Hughes Tool, Martin had his own dairy farm and sold milk to local families.

In 1944 the family joined the First Baptist Church in Humble. Martin would go on to be baptized in the church and even serve as a deacon starting in 1960. Even with all of his commitments, Martin still found time to pursue another passion: sports. You could find him playing tennis or baseball and he even won a local tennis tournament and played 3rd base for the company baseball team.

After 38 years with Hughes Tool, Martin retired at the age of 62. His retirement years were spent with the church bowling league. Over the years Martin added numerous bowling trophies to his tennis and baseball awards.

After winning many times over at the Senior Olympics and a bowl of 200 on his 92nd birthday, Martin was forced to give up the sport when he was 99 years old due to knee problems.

In July of 2008 Martin lost his wife, Wesley, just after their 74th anniversary. They spent their last days together in the Park Manor facilities in Humble, where he still resides.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday that room will be filled with Martin Wisenbaker's loved ones who are no doubt celebrating the life of a great man who was born before the Titanic sailed, experienced the Great Depression, saw the first Olympic Games, lived through two world wars, entered the new millennium and watched as the U.S. was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001.

I want to commend Mr. Wisenbaker on a long life of hard work and service to his community. Congratulations to him and his family on this extraordinary achievement.