

to government. H.R. 384, the TARP Reform and Accountability Act, is also critical to restoring the American people's faith in our Government and takes us one step closer to getting our country back on track.

Importantly, H.R. 384 requires that a certain amount of TARP funding be committed to foreclosure mitigation and stipulates that the Treasury Secretary develop a comprehensive plan to prevent and mitigate foreclosures on residential mortgages. This legislation also establishes a program to stimulate demand for home purchases and clear inventory of properties so that qualified home buyers can purchase homes at affordable mortgage rates. We cannot move quickly enough to provide assistance to homeowners across the country.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 384.

RECOGNIZING DR. JOHN B. WEBB'S
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a lifetime of service and community involvement from Dr. John B. Webb, who, on January 24, 2009, celebrates his 90th birthday.

The past 90 years have seen many changes in Dr. Webb's life, most of which was spent practicing veterinary medicine. After graduating from Auburn University in 1957, Dr. Webb returned to his hometown in Pensacola, Florida, to begin his own practice. When he opened his first clinic, Dr. Webb was the fifth veterinarian to begin practicing in Escambia County, Florida, and the 575th to begin practicing in the state of Florida. Today, Dr. Webb serves as one of the oldest licensed veterinarians in Escambia County.

Over the years Dr. Webb has received numerous awards for his ongoing role in the northwest Florida community. He served 15 years on the Escambia County Board of Directors for the Florida Farm Bureau as well as 25 years on the board of trustees for the Langley Bell 4-H Center. He is also a past president of the Escambia County Extension Council as well as the Pensacola Interstate Fair.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Webb for many years now and I am honored to call him a friend. A strong supporter of conservative principles and values, Dr. Webb has always offered his support and friendship to Vicki and me. As he celebrates his 90th birthday, I have much to thank him for from our years of friendship.

For many years to come, the northwest Florida community will continue to benefit from the lasting impression made by Dr. Webb, whose involvement in the community has expanded opportunities to the surrounding area. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Dr. John B. Webb upon his 90th birthday and for his exemplary service in the First District of Florida.

A TRIBUTE TO BISHOP JOHN J.
McRAITH

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop John J. McRaith for his faithful service to the Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky. He has served the church and his community with distinction for over 26 years. Bishop McRaith, the third bishop of Owensboro, resigned from his position on January 5, 2009.

Bishop McRaith graduated from St. John's Prep School in Collegeville, Minnesota, and Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Then, he graduated from the School of Theology, St. Bernard Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, in 1960 and was subsequently ordained a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, on February 21, 1960.

Bishop McRaith began serving the Diocese of Owensboro on December 15, 1982. The diocese encompasses 32 counties and covers approximately 12,500 square miles. It includes 79 parishes, three high schools, two middle schools, and 13 elementary schools. In a testament to Bishop McRaith's dedication, he would typically log more than 25,000 miles a year traveling across the diocese.

Known for his humble spirit, Bishop McRaith is quick to credit others with the successes over the last 27 years, including one of the highest church attendance rates in the Nation. Last week he said, "The good things that have happened while I was here, many, many people made them happen."

Beyond his service to the Catholic Church of Western Kentucky, Bishop McRaith serves the community as a board member for Brescia University, the Daniel Pitino Center, the McAuley Free Clinic in Owensboro, and Lourdes Hospital Foundation in Paducah.

Bishop McRaith's devotion is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Bishop McRaith for his many years of service and commitment to western Kentucky.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, Modern medicine can prevent an inconvenient infection from ballooning into a debilitating illness with a relatively simple physician's visit and subsequent treatment. And here in America, with the best medical practices and practitioners in the history of the world, we have the capabilities to keep our Nation's children healthy and their futures bright.

But we aren't doing it.

Up to now, we've chosen not to guarantee the health of our children, instead forcing upon millions of parents the difficult choice of seeking treatment for an ailing child or buying food. Making that potentially life-saving doctor's visit or keeping the lights on.

Today, we have the opportunity to erase that awful dilemma for the working mothers and fathers of more than 4 million children, including tens of thousands in my home State of Kentucky, by extending the State Children's Health Insurance Program. By supporting the SCHIP expansion we help guarantee the inalienable rights of America's children to survive, thrive, and grow up to become healthy adults.

By expanding SCHIP we can prevent the future health problems of our youngest generation so that they never grow up to be burdens on the system. It makes economic sense, but more importantly, it is our moral obligation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, as we fight to ensure that a sick child in this great Nation never has to go without care.

HONORING MICHAEL TOLLEFSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Tollefson upon his retirement as the Superintendent of Yosemite National Park. After thirty-six years with the National Park Service, Superintendent Tollefson will be honored on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at a party to be held at Curry Village Pavilion, in Yosemite National Park.

Michael Tollefson was raised in Seattle, Washington and graduated from the University of Washington in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and finance. He later returned to graduate school to study park management. As a young adult he served in the United States Army Reserves for eight years, attaining the rank of Captain. His introduction into the National Park Service began early in his career. Mr. Tollefson served as the Chief of Interpretation at Virgin Islands National Park. He also spent time as the Chief of Operations at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, as a District Ranger at Denali National Park and Park Ranger at Katmai National Park all in Alaska. His time in Alaska provided unique challenges in dealing with Alaskan brown bears, fragile coral reefs and endangered humpback whales. He officially began his National Park Service career as a seasonal ranger at North Cascades National Park in 1972.

In 1983, Mr. Tollefson attained his first superintendency position at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska. He managed the 3.3 million acre park for four years. While there, he implemented regulations guiding cruise ship operations in the park for the protection of the Humpback Whales. After four years, he became the Associate Regional Director for Operations in the National Park Service's former Pacific Northwest Region. He was stationed in Seattle and provided support for all aspects of operations to the twenty national park units in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

In 1995, Superintendent Tollefson moved to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California's Southern Sierra Nevada. During his tenure, he was responsible for guiding the restoration of over two hundred acres in the Giant Forest Sequoia Grove to protect the

world's largest organism, the Giant Sequoia Tree. The project involved the removal of over two hundred buildings, and the development of a new hotel complex built outside the grove to replace the visitor facilities. After completing the project, he then served as superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the largest federally protected mountain ecosystem in the Eastern United States, spanning between Tennessee and North Carolina. The primary issues emphasized during his tenure included air quality, traffic congestion, educational programs and scientific studies.

In January 2003, Superintendent Tollefson made his way to Yosemite National Park as Superintendent. Over the past six years he has worked tirelessly to guide a major construction program to repair the old infrastructure, improve visitor services, provide increased resource protection and expand gateway partnerships and outreach educational programs. Some of the projects that have been completed under Supervisor Tollefson include new viewing facilities at the foot of Yosemite Falls, improvements to landmark areas such as the famous view spots near the Wawona Tunnel and at Olmsted Point on the Tioga Road, overhauling the valley visitor center, and replacing a fleet of diesel buses with hybrid busses. With the assistance of the Yosemite Fund, the Superintendent has been able to complete a \$13.5 million restoration of the approach to Yosemite Falls, a \$1.5 million restoration of Olmsted Point and a \$13.5 million campaign to improve trails in Yosemite Valley, Mariposa Grove of Redwoods and in the backcountry. Most recently the \$3.2 million Tunnel View Restoration Project was completed.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Superintendent Michael Tollefson upon his retirement from Yosemite National Park. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Superintendent Tollefson many years of continued success.

REMARKS HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HERALD-DISPATCH

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Thomas Jefferson famously observed that were it left up to him "to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," he would "not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Fortunately, Americans have never been forced to make that choice. Jefferson and his fellow Founding Fathers bequeathed us a democratic government that has made us the envy of the world. And, at the same time, the Nation's free press has shown itself fully worthy of the confidence Jefferson voiced in it.

This year, a great newspaper in my native West Virginia, The Herald-Dispatch, marks a major milestone in its long and distinguished history—its 100th anniversary—and I am proud to offer this salute to it.

The Herald-Dispatch published its first issue in Huntington on January 17, 1909.

The newspaper's roots actually stretch back to 1871, the very year of Huntington's birth,

when printer O.G. Chase arrived by riverboat and soon was publishing the young city's first newspaper. Known as The Independent, Chase's publication merged in 1875 with the Cabell Press to form a new publication called the Weekly Advertiser. When it later became a daily paper, the name was shortened to The Advertiser.

A rival daily, The Huntington Herald, was launched in 1890. Three years later, in 1893, printer Joseph Harvey Long, arrived in Huntington determined to purchase The Huntington Herald, which he did—paying \$100 down and pledging to pay a balance of \$1,700. Long published The Herald for only 18 months before selling it and purchasing The Advertiser.

Floyd S. Chapman, a future several-term mayor of Huntington, was first the city editor of The Advertiser, then editor of The Herald. In 1904, he left to begin his own newspaper, The Huntington Dispatch. In 1909, The Herald and The Dispatch merged to become The Herald-Dispatch.

Flash forward two decades and another historic merger occurred in 1927 when The Advertiser and The Herald-Dispatch merged to form the Huntington Publishing Co., with J.H. Long as president. Known to one and all by his honorary title of "Colonel," Long would go on to become the undisputed dean of West Virginia newspapermen.

The staff of The Herald-Dispatch moved into The Advertiser's handsome new building on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Tenth Street, but the two staffs remained separate and highly competitive. The building's presses published The Advertiser each afternoon, The Herald-Dispatch each morning and a combined edition, The Herald-Advertiser, on Sundays.

Over the years, Colonel Long not only made The Advertiser and The Herald-Dispatch the region's leading newspapers, he and his sons also branched out into broadcasting. In 1923, the company purchased WSAZ Radio and in 1949 founded WSAZ-TV, one of the Nation's first television stations.

Colonel Long died in 1958 at age 95.

In 1971, the Gannett Co., one of the Nation's largest newspaper chains, purchased the Huntington Publishing Co. newspapers.

Under Gannett, the newsroom's typewriters gave way to computer terminals, and the noisy Linotype machines that once spit out lines of hot metal type were consigned to the junkyard.

In 1979, The Advertiser became one of many afternoon newspapers to cease publication, a victim of changing tastes on the part of readers who now prefer morning newspapers. At the same time, the Sunday Herald-Advertiser nameplate was retired and The Herald-Dispatch became a seven-day-a-week publication. Many long-time staffers on The Advertiser moved over to The Herald-Dispatch.

Gannett published The Herald-Dispatch for 36 years, until May of 2007 when the company sold it to another national chain, Gatehouse Media. A month later, Gatehouse in turn sold the newspaper to a Huntington company, Champion Printing, thus returning it to local ownership.

And indeed, the heart and spirit of America's free press, from the beginning, have been individuals dedicated to keeping the public informed, communities educated, and discourse alive and well. Throughout its century

of living, the Herald Dispatch's corps of employees has kept the interest and needs of its neighbors foremost in their writing, coverage and opining.

On this, its 100th anniversary, I extend my hearty congratulations to The Herald-Dispatch. May it continue to inform and entertain its thousands of readers for many, many years to come.

TARP REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 384) to reform the Troubled Assets Relief Program of the Secretary of the Treasury and ensure accountability under such Program, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 384, TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009. This bill makes critical adjustments to the Troubled Assets Relief Program, TARP.

On October 3rd of last year, I voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act in response to the continued economic turmoil across the country. This bill created the TARP initiative to address many of the ills plaguing our economy. However, like many Americans, I have been disappointed in how the administration has managed this initiative. H.R. 384 addresses these concerns by closing loopholes, increasing transparency, and strengthening accountability in the TARP. H.R. 384 strengthens executive compensation restrictions against "golden parachutes" for retiring executives and prohibits bonuses for the 25 highest paid employees of a company receiving TARP funds. This bill also adds new strengthened reporting requirements for companies to detail their planning and use of TARP funds.

While we must continue to work to revive the credit market for consumers, TARP funds also need to be targeted to the thousands of American families facing the prospect of home foreclosure. I am pleased that H.R. 384 mandates that the Treasury Department use up to \$100 billion of the TARP funding to develop a foreclosure mitigation plan. In addition, H.R. 384 includes provisions that lower premiums for consumers that are taking part in the Hope for Homeowners initiative, as well as provisions that will direct the Treasury Department to ensure the availability of affordable mortgage rates for qualified home buyers. These changes benefit the hundreds of thousands of Americans who are facing foreclosure, as well as stimulating the home buying industry and benefiting our struggling economy. Finally, this bill increases confidence in the financial industry by permanently providing Federal deposit insurance for deposits up to \$250,000.

The provisions of H.R. 384 help ensure that the TARP will be better used to address the needs of millions of Americans who are struggling to get credit from lenders, hold on to their savings, and avoid home foreclosures. I support H.R. 384, TARP Reform and Accountability Act of 2009, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.