

greater were it not for the skill, dedication, compassion and sacrifice of these emergency responders.

I also extend my best wishes to law enforcement authorities as they investigate the causes of this tragedy. Unfortunately, preliminary investigations indicate that some of the fires may have been deliberately lit. I have full confidence that the Australian authorities will bring anyone responsible for this death and destruction to justice, and take such other action as is necessary to minimize the likelihood of future calamities of this nature.

Madam Speaker, the fires that continue to burn in Southeast Australia have caused loss and destruction on a catastrophic scale. The Australian people will truly be in my thoughts and prayers over the coming weeks. I wish the affected communities the very best as they fight to retain and rebuild their lives, and encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Speaker PELOSI for agreeing to block the next scheduled congressional pay raise.

As government acts to cap executive compensation, and as millions of Americans watch their incomes shrink, a pay raise for Members of Congress would have seemed glaringly out of touch.

If we are going to talk the talk of fiscal discipline, we must also walk the walk of self-restraint. The American people are not getting a raise this year. Neither should Congress.

I also wish to thank Dr. RON PAUL and 107 of our colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—who were willing to support H.R. 156, the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act. Without the leadership of these Members—so many of them new Members—we may not have taken this important step.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, February 10, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1, H. Res. 114, H. Res. 60, H. Res. 143, H. Res. 128, and H. Res. 134 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 54, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees to H.R. 1, stating that the Economic Stimulus bill must be made available for 48 hours before a final vote, I would have voted "aye." It is unbelievable to me that we are more than likely going to be asked to vote on an \$800 billion piece of legislation, that will be drafted behind closed doors, after having less than 24 hours to review it. We owe it to our constituents to take our time with this bill, study it extensively and ensure that the stimulus will actually create jobs.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 55, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 114, Supporting the goals and ideals of "National Girls and Women in Sports Day," I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 56, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 60, Recognizing and commending University of Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford for winning the 2008 Heisman Trophy and for his academic and athletic accomplishments, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 57, on a motion to table H. Res. 143, the personal resolution offered by Rep. JOHN CARTER to ensure that Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL steps aside during his ethics investigation, I would have voted "no." Over the past couple of years we have had an unbelievable number of ethics violations by Members of Congress that have deteriorated the trust that the American people had for its Representatives and it is about time we took a hard line on ethics violations. Rep. RANGEL has admitted that he has made mistakes and the House ethics committee is currently investigating him on numerous separate cases. To make clear to the American people that this is a House of integrity, I must ask Chairman RANGEL to step aside until the ethics committee can complete its work.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 58, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 128, Honoring Miami University for its 200 years of commitment to extraordinary higher education, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 59, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 134, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to India, and the positive influence that the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi had on Dr. King's work during the Civil Rights Movement, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH MONGIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Judith Mongin of Ames Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Judith Mongin on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Judith in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

CONGRATULATING THE "MISS MADISON"

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, February 14, 2009, the *Miss Madison* will be crowned the 2008 National Championship Winner by the American Boat Racing Association in Madison, Indiana. I regret that I will not be able to attend the event, but want to reiterate my heartfelt congratulations to those responsible for the win and the entire Madison community.

Miss Madison is a real source of pride to Southern Indiana, and rightfully so. As the only city-owned hydroplane race boat, the *Miss Madison* is not only this year's champion, but holds the record for most consecutive seasons run at 47. *Miss Madison* has been racing since 1961 and can boast of a Turbine Engine motor capable of reaching about 19000 rpms.

Congratulations, again, to the *Miss Madison*, its fans and supporters. I look forward to attending award banquets in the future for this powerful boat.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2009

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Congressman MIKE PENCE in introducing the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009. We are joined by Judiciary Committee Chairman JOHN CONYERS, Judiciary Committee Vice Ranking Member BOB GOODLATTE, and 35 other original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan legislation provides a privilege in federal court proceedings for reporters to refrain from revealing their confidential sources of information.

The privilege is similar in nature to that currently offered by 36 states and the District of Columbia. Such broad-based support for assuring the confidentiality of journalists' sources at the state level lays bare the glaring lack of similar protection at the federal level.

The ability to assure confidentiality to people who provide information is essential to effective news gathering and reporting on highly sensitive and important issues.

Typically, the best information about corruption in government or misdeeds in a private organization will come from someone on the inside who feels a responsibility to bring the information to light.

But that person has a lot to lose if his or her identity becomes known. In many cases, the person responsible for the corruption or the misdeeds can punish the source through dismissal or more subtle forms of punitive action if the source's identity becomes known.

It is only by assuring anonymity to the source that a reporter can gain access to the information in order to bring it to public scrutiny.

I have long thought that the ability to protect the confidentiality of sources is so essential to

effective news gathering that a privilege to refrain from revealing sources should be interpreted to be extended to reporters by the 1st Amendment.

Unfortunately, to date the 1st Amendment has not been so interpreted. Furthermore, in the past few years more than thirty reporters have been subpoenaed or questioned in federal court proceedings about confidential sources, and several have been handed or threatened with jail sentences. The time has clearly arrived for the Congress to enact this statutory privilege to address the increasing use of subpoenas to extract confidential source information from reporters.

Our legislation sets criteria which must be met to compel the disclosure of information from reporters in any federal criminal or civil matter, with heightened protection for the identities of confidential sources. While extending a broad privilege, we have included some exceptions for instances in which source information can be disclosed where a strong public interest compels the disclosure. Provisions have been incorporated to allow disclosure to prevent imminent death or significant bodily harm, to determine who has disclosed trade secrets or personal health or personal financial information in violation of law, and to assure that national security interests are protected.

An exception to the privilege will only apply if the court determines that the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in the gathering and dissemination of news and information.

The bill is a carefully constructed measure which will provide a broad new and much needed privilege for reporters to refrain from revealing confidential sources.

The measure protects the public's right to know, and its passage should be a priority in this Congress. The measure we are reintroducing today is identical to the measure which passed the House in 2007 by a large, bipartisan majority of 398 to 21.

I want to commend MIKE PENCE who has devoted substantial personal time and attention to this effort.

He has done much to bring the need for the privilege to public attention, and he is a highly effective advocate for the cause.

It was a pleasure coauthoring a similar bill with MIKE in the last two Congresses and in writing with him the bill we are introducing today.

I also want to thank Chairman CONYERS for his helpful suggestions and his support in moving the bill through the Judiciary Committee.

Given the broad bipartisan support this measure enjoys, I am optimistic that we will be able to enact the legislation into law during the course of this Congress.

I hope my colleagues will join with us in enacting into law the Free Flow of Information Act of 2009.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROBERT (BOB) NESTA MARLEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and contributions of

Robert (Bob) Nesta Marley and the impact that he has had on the world. This is a man whose music has inspired the world over and whose lyrics began a movement of revolution not just in actions and words but in the core being of individuals and he made his contribution and achieved his wonderful legacy in a short life cut off by cancer at the age of thirty-six. On his birthday on February 6th of this year he would have been only sixty-four.

Bob Marley's humble beginnings in a small town in Jamaica instilled in him an appreciation of the various stations in life and especially that of the most unfortunate. His early life influenced the majority of his music which heralded the strength of the worker and denounced the unfortunate plight of the disenfranchised. Throughout his life Bob Marley strove to create music that would inspire people for generations to come. His music was born in a time of turmoil and heavy racial prejudice throughout the world and his music absorbed the hatred and bigotry only to release lyrics that spoke of reconciliation and harmony.

One of his most celebrated songs, "One Love" is a perfect example of his music that seeks to find the beauty in the midst of darkness. He sings of a nation with "one love" and "one heart" that is united towards the achievement of harmony and peace. This song is rightfully acclaimed as a global anthem and recognized as one of the most influential songs of the 20th century. Bob Marley asks "Let's get together and feel all right, I'm pleading to mankind", and in so doing, he challenges us all to respond to our better selves.

HONORING WILLIAM BERLINER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor a friend of the Petaluma Community, William "Bill" Berliner, who passed away at his home in Petaluma, California, on January 21, 2009.

Bill was a central figure in his adopted community of Petaluma, California, while remaining true to his Chicago roots. After visiting his brother Andy in Petaluma, Bill moved to town in 1973 and noticed the absence of any place serving a good deep-dish pizza, a style invented in Chicago. In 1978 he opened Old Chicago Pizza in the heart of downtown where it has provided locals with an authentic and tasty food in a warm and family-friendly environment.

The restaurant has also provided opportunities for jobs for young people and long-term work for trusted employees. My son Michael worked at Old Chicago as a youth learning his way in the workforce, as did my daughter-in-law Lisa. Happily the restaurant, under the ownership of two employees who have been with the restaurant for well over 20 years, will continue in business.

Bill was active in the Petaluma Downtown Association and supported nonprofits such as the Carousel Fund which assists children battling serious illnesses. He always spoke his mind about the issues of the day in Petaluma, while he continued to root for Chicago sports teams. As a former drag racer and pianist in

a jazz ensemble, Bill used his wide-ranging interests and hands-on style to create a special place and a special spirit for the community.

Madam Speaker, Bill Berliner's passing has left an empty space in our town and in his family. He is survived by twin daughters Angela and Jordana and his mother Clarice Saltiel as well as his brother Andy Berliner. Petaluma will miss Bill's involvement, but we are grateful for his imprint on our community, as well as for the delicious Old Chicago pizza.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER PARSONS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Jennifer Parsons of Ames Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Jennifer Parsons on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Jennifer in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT (NREPA) OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with my friend Mr. GRIJALVA, I am pleased to reintroduce the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, NREPA, in the 111th Congress.

NREPA differs from traditional state-by-state wilderness bills by offering a variety of designations that work in concert to achieve one goal: the protection of entire functioning ecosystems on federal public lands. These are lands that belong to all American taxpayers, and we have a right and responsibility to protect our precious resources.

First, NREPA protects over 24 million acres of America's premiere roadless lands as wilderness. It also protect the rivers and streams that are the last habitats for many of America's wild trout stocks, by protecting 1800 miles of river and streams as wild and scenic rivers.

Importantly, NREPA emphasizes that all of these wild places are linked together in the most vital ways possible. By protecting natural