

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PINELLAS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEDICATES 100TH ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA HOUSE

**HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, The volunteer spirit is alive and well in our nation and it remains one of our country's core values. Habitat for Humanity is one of the programs that capture that spirit by helping our neighbors in need to achieve the great American dream of home ownership.

Pinellas Habitat for Humanity, the chapter I have the privilege to represent, achieved a milestone last November when it dedicated its 100th St. Petersburg, Florida house. Executive Barbara Inman and her entire staff, her Board of Directors, her Advisory Board, and her volunteer team are to be congratulated on their work even during these most difficult economic times to bring affordable housing to our community.

Norm Bungard, one of St. Petersburg's greatest volunteers and champions of Habitat for Humanity, told me that the program typifies the values of a successful society. These include hard work, which is exemplified by the thousands of hours of sweat equity by volunteers and the new homeowners; community involvement, witnessed by the long list of volunteers who help build and finish the homes; government involvement, evidenced by the city's land donations for the homes; corporate and church sponsorship; and common sense business practices that are the result of countless seminars that ensure owners stay in their homes.

Madam Speaker, the spirit of giving, the commitment to hard work, and the joy of homeownership were all evident as Cynthia Ivey and her daughter Chauncey were given the keys to their first home. This was the result of the Habitat for Humanity network of Pinellas staff, volunteers, and community and corporate sponsors. Join me in congratulating all those who made this such a special milestone day for such a special cause.

HONORING DR. MARY ELLEN  
BENZIK OF BATTLE CREEK

**HON. MARK H. SCHAUER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SCHAUER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor today one of Michigan's finest healthcare professionals, Dr. Mary Ellen Benzik of Battle Creek. Dr. Benzik has been a dedicated member of the healthcare community for over two decades and has served our state with honor and distinction. She has shown extraordinary devotion as an Outstanding Volunteer Teacher and Volunteer

Physician, and her efforts have been recognized by the Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies as well as Calhoun County. Dr. Benzik has promoted clean air for our county and state as a member of the Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition, and has served on the Battle Creek Community Foundation to supervise healthcare initiatives and funding for our community. She has done all of this as a loving partner with her husband, David, and mother to her two children, Matthew and Elizabeth. Doctor Benzik is a model of community service and well deserves our respect and appreciation for her service.

HONORING MORRIS HONICK

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of an American hero whose service began around the time of the fall of the Nazi Third Reich and lasted until the time that cracks began to appear in the Berlin Wall before it too, fell. That man is Mr. Morris Honick.

Mr. Honick's military career began in a critical time in the history of the World War Two in the West, the Battle of the Atlantic, when the German submarine fleet threatened to strangle American efforts to keep England free. A member of the U.S. Army Air Forces, Mr. Honick served aboard a convoy bound for Liverpool from New York as U-boats stalked them throughout the 17-day crossing, losing 22 of 62 ships but maintaining the Atlantic Alliance.

Mr. Honick continued to serve with the USAAF throughout the Second World War and later with the newly established U.S. Air Force in Korea as well.

After successfully competing for a position at SHAPE, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mr. Honick quickly stood out, being promoted to Chief of the Historical Section.

The saying is that those who do not remember history are condemned to repeat it and nowhere is there more at stake in remembering history than in military affairs. Mr. Honick, through his writing helped make sure that history would not be forgotten, having written extensively on the history of SHAPE and on NATO-SHAPE affairs. Mr. Honick was also the Command Historian, a key policy function for the NATO Supreme Commander.

Mr. Honick had the distinction of being, at the time of his retirement in 1989, the longest serving member of the staff of SHAPE.

For his service, Mr. Honick was awarded the Efficiency, Honor, Fidelity Medal, with three clasps; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, with Anti-Submarine Campaign Battle Star; the World War II Victory Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal.

For his courage, for his long service to our nation and our alliances, I ask my colleagues

to join me in honoring Mr. Morris Honick and all war heroes of the past, present, and future.

H. CON. RES. 35

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise and join all Americans of good will in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the NAACP.

Others will recall that fate-filled day, February 12, 1909, when 60 prominent Americans, black and white alike, issued "The Call" for a national conference to renew "the struggle for civil and political liberty." They also will reflect upon how, back in 1909, this country was unfair to people of color and, especially for African American men, a very dangerous place.

The organization's founders, however, were people of deep integrity. They created an organization dedicated to achieving social justice, ending racial violence, abolishing forced segregation and promoting equal opportunity and other civil rights under the protection of law.

My gratitude to the NAACP is personal, as well as philosophical. The NAACP—and the movement that its founders created 100 years ago today—transformed my life.

I shall never forget how Juanita Jackson Mitchell and the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP stood up for us as we marched to integrate South Baltimore's Riverside Swimming Pool. It was then that I realized, for the first time in my young life, that I had rights that other people had to respect.

Nor shall I forget how a young Thurgood Marshall (who once lived just blocks from where I live today) convinced a Baltimore judge to integrate the University of Maryland School of Law. My law degree and all that I have been able to accomplish in my professional and public life are living testaments to the value of that achievement.

Moreover, as long as I shall live and be privileged to serve the people of Maryland's 7th Congressional District, I shall remember that our community—that also gave America former Congressmen Parren J. Mitchell and Kweisi Mfume—now serves as the national home of the NAACP.

So it is with deep appreciation and respect that I join millions of my countrymen and women in applauding the NAACP and pledging our continued support in the days and years ahead.

I do so at a historic moment when we have come together to elect a gifted African American to the highest office in the land. Yet, even as we celebrate this victory of competence and conscience, America remains a dangerous and unfair place for far too many of our neighbors, whatever may be the color of their skin.

• 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.

Like W.E.B. DuBois and the other founders back in 1909, we, too, must answer the call. In our own time, we must continue the work of creating a better, more unified nation—an America that will truly assure liberty, justice and opportunity for all.

We, too, have a legacy of justice and opportunity to create—for our children and for the generations of Americans yet to be born.

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HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Today, February 12, 2009, marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the NAACP and the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. For a Nation that is less than 250 years old, the centennial of the NAACP is a major milestone.

I shudder to imagine what this country would look like if our history did not include the stories and struggles of people like Frederick Douglass, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., our own Representative JOHN LEWIS, and many countless others who have fought and continue to fight for equal rights and equal opportunity.

The NAACP's roots date back to the "Niagra Movement" of 1905 when thirty-two prominent African Americans met to organize and call for the end of racial inequality. A forceful agent for change, the NAACP was the leading party behind many accomplishments of the Civil Rights Movement, including the landmark case *Brown v. the Board of Education* which ended racial segregation in our schools.

The Niagra and Civil Rights Movements were not the first calls for freedom and equality in our nation's history and will not be the last. But their success provided a blueprint for future generations to follow, an example of hope to all those who seek to secure the basic freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution.

Today, the NAACP continues to cement its reputation as a trailblazer for basic civil and human rights. Led by its young new president, Benjamin Jealous, the NAACP has refocused its objectives on resolving wide disparities in access to jobs and healthcare among Americans. During the next 100 years, I have no doubt that the NAACP will lead many more breakthroughs in civil and human rights.

This anniversary gives all Americans an opportunity to recognize and learn about African-American history, which is also the history of the United States. I am proud to do my part to promote and honor the contributions made by the NAACP and the African American community to our great Nation.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR  
HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE  
LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as do so many, to honor JOHN DINGELL as he achieves a great milestone: our longest-serving House member.

In December 1955, at the age of 29, JOHN won a special election to replace his father. 19,420 days later, we honor him and his spectacular record in serving the people of the United States and of his Michigan district.

In December 1955—just to give you a sense of the eras, then and now—Rosa Parks took a stand by refusing to give up her seat on a bus home from work in Montgomery, Alabama.

Today, as we honor JOHN, we have an African-American President.

People make change—and JOHN DINGELL has made more than his share.

As Chairman, now Chairman Emeritus, of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, he has carried perhaps the broadest portfolio of any House member in history, from energy, trade and telecommunications to Medicare, Medicaid, consumer protection and government oversight and investigations—Energy and Commerce handled up to 40% of all House legislation in some sessions.

An avid outdoorsman and former forest ranger, JOHN was an "environmentalist" before the word "environmentalist" existed.

He was instrumental in the passage of some of our nation's most important environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the 1990 Clean Air Act.

And JOHN almost single-handedly has created the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which began in 2001 with some 400 acres and has grown since then to encompass over 4,000 acres from River Rouge to Lake Erie.

He has been steadfast in supporting health care for all Americans. Each Congress, he sponsors a national health insurance plan—picking up the baton from his father who first introduced it in 1943. He fought for the Patient's Bill of Rights and the Children's Health Insurance Program. And he was the presiding officer as this House passed Medicare in 1965.

Together, JOHN and I worked on identifying the persistence of the "glass ceiling" which limits the advancement of women in the workplace.

JOHN could not have known in 1955 the changes he would see, and the change he would make, as a member of this body. It has been a career of accomplishment—but now, also, it is a career of longevity.

Martin Luther King once said "It is the quality, not the longevity of one's life that is important." But JOHN DINGELL has had BOTH quality and longevity. May he keep up the great work.

JOHN, please accept my humble congratulations and extend my love to Debbie and your family.

PRODUCED WATER UTILIZATION  
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 469—the Produced Water Utilization Act of 2009—introduced by the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Mr. HALL of Texas. I want to thank Mr. HALL for constructing this thoughtful legislation and for the constant leadership he has provided to both Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science Committee.

Produced water is comprised mainly of salty water that is trapped in reservoir rock below ground. It comes to the surface when drilling for oil or natural gas and usually contains oil and metals from production. Approximately 10 barrels of produced water are captured for every barrel of oil derived, and that results in a total of 15–20 billion barrels of produced water generated here in the United States on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, as the population of the United States continues to grow, additional potable water supplies will be required to sustain individuals, agriculture, and industry all over the country. H.R. 469 represents an innovative way in which we can utilize the produced water resources that would otherwise go to waste.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for research and development to harvest produced water in an environmentally safe way for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes. Once this program is established, we can help address the droughts that are occurring across the country—including in my Northwest Georgia district—simply by providing the public with additional water resources.

Mr. Speaker, I have to commend my colleague from Texas on his leadership on this issue and working in a bipartisan manner to bring it to the floor today.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 469.

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RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICANS TO JOIN THE BALTIMORE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, Black History Month allows this nation to pay homage to pioneering African Americans who have enriched our lives through their leadership and courage. Citizens across the globe are familiar with the legacies of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and now President Barack Obama. However, today I rise to recognize some lesser known, but equally important figures in history: the 41 African American males that integrated the Baltimore City Fire Department in the early 1950's.

On June 19, 1953, the Board of Fire Commissioners voted to hire "Colored" firemen. In

July, 41 African American men were determined to be eligible to be employed by the fire department. These men were appointed in three classes: 10 were appointed on October 15, 1953; 10 were appointed December 20, 1953, and 21 were appointed February 8, 1954. Just a few days ago, we commemorated the 55th anniversary of the completed integration.

These brave men faced very difficult times. They overcame insurmountable challenges and obstacles in order to become great assets to the Baltimore City Fire Department. All of these men have made exceptional contributions; I will take a moment to highlight a few accomplishments. From the 1954 Class, James Crockett re-wrote the department rules and regulations for the Fire Board, served as President of the Board of Fire Commissioners, and now serves as Commissioner of the Baltimore City Fire Department; Charles R. Thomas Sr. helped to start the first Baltimore City Fire Department, was active in starting the community outreach programs and led the charge to integrating the local labor union; and Herman Williams, Jr. became the first African American to be promoted to pump operator (driver), and is the first and only African American to become Chief of the Baltimore City Fire Department.

Madam Speaker, as we champion the presidency of Barack Obama, we must also remember the trailblazers who opened the door of opportunity to many in significant ways. It is with great admiration that these men who have paved the way for diversity within the Baltimore City Fire Department are recognized.

Class Appointed October 15, 1953

Lee D. Babb  
Cicero Baldwin  
Ernest H. Barnes  
Louis Harden  
Earl C. Jones  
George C.W. McKnight  
Charles T. Miller  
Roy Parker  
Charles L. Scott  
Lindsay Washington, Jr.

Class Appointed December 20, 1953

Harvey Brown  
John Butler  
Thomas Chambers  
John Davis  
Randolph Handy  
John Johnson  
William Nesbit  
David Pipken  
Edgar Waddell  
Ben Wood

Class Appointed February 8, 1954

Theodore Baker  
Albert L. Biggers  
Harold Borrows  
Alfred Boyd  
William Brown  
Edward R. Bunch Jr  
Alfred Clinkscales  
James Crockett  
Alfred Daniels  
James Edwards  
Celester A. Hall  
Wade Morgan El  
John T. Murray  
Yeubert L. Poe

Raymond Purnell  
Hilton Roberts  
William L. Spicer  
Charles R. Thomas  
Eugene P. Watson  
Herman Williams Jr.  
Littleton B. Wyatt

#### KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just re-introduced, the Keeping Families Together Act of 2009 (H.R. 938). This bill would reinstate judicial review to the immigration process, end the practice of automatically detaining productive members of our society for minor crimes they committed years ago and for which they have already served with their sentence, and allow immigrants previously deported to appeal that decision.

This law has allowed stable, long-term families headed by legal immigrants to be torn apart because of minor crimes committed years ago—crimes for which the offender has already served their sentence!

You may recall that a basic legislative attempt to fix this law was passed by the House of Representatives in the 106th Congress, but it was never taken up by the Senate. The time has come to reverse the unfair so-called “immigration reforms” instituted by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

Please join me in supporting this critical legislation to restore justice to our immigration process, by co-sponsoring the Keeping Families Together Act of 2009.

#### HONORING MIAMI UNIVERSITY FOR ITS 200 YEARS OF COMMIT- MENT TO EXTRAORDINARY HIGHER EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

### HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as a native of Wisconsin, it may be strange that I am here to honor Miami University. However, this proud Wisconsinite is also a proud graduate of Miami University. I graduated from Miami University in 1992.

One of the reasons why I am here, standing and talking in the well of the House of Representatives, is because of the lessons that I learned at Miami University. I studied both economics and political science at Miami, and the excellent professors I had there—including Dr. Richard Hart—created an environment where intellectual curiosity was rewarded. It also was where I first became involved with politics. In fact, one of my early involvements in politics was working as a college Republican, working door-to-door for a new person running for Congress by the name of JOHN BOEHNER, our now esteemed minority leader, for whom I knocked on doors in Trenton, Ohio.

But, more to the point, Mr. Speaker, this is the bicentennial of Miami University. Two-hundred years of proud history. Founded in 1809, it is a school with such a rich history and proud tradition of top academic and athletic achievement. It is known as the “Cradle of Coaches” due to the high caliber of coaches it has produced, which includes such notables as Ara Parseghian, Paul Brown, and Woody Hayes.

Miami has also gained national recognition as one of the best Universities in the country. Referred to as one of the “Public Ivies,” due to its outstanding academic reputation, Miami ranks as a top school for all academic programs, including its business program, its arts and sciences programs and its architecture program. Importantly, in a time of increasing globalization, it consistently ranks as one of the top schools for study abroad programs, including the outstanding Transatlantic Seminar program.

One of the great things about Miami is its beauty, its aesthetics. It's one of the most beautiful campuses in America. The poet Robert Frost called Miami “the prettiest campus that ever was.”

Miami University has such a rich tradition. It has produced so many great, faithful servants here in the Capitol, in public, in private institutions. It's a real honor and privilege for me to be able to be here to be a part of this resolution, to be a cosponsor of it, and to honor this tradition, I know that Miami's best days are yet ahead.

#### WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 631—the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. I commend my colleague—Mr. MATHESON of Utah—for crafting this thoughtful legislation that was reported to the House on a broad bipartisan basis.

Over the past couple of years, my home State of Georgia—and specifically my district—has experienced significant and historic drought conditions that have brought to the forefront what the future may hold for our local water supply.

In addition to the drought conditions in my district, a number of other states are facing similar challenges. Over the next five years, more than half of the states in our country anticipate some sort of water shortage that will wreak havoc on our environment, as well as our economy. In these currently tumultuous economic times, we need to take every step possible to efficiently use our water supply to assist our struggling economy.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 631 promotes the adoption of emerging technologies to help us make better use of one of our most precious resources—water. This legislation addresses ways in which the Environmental Protection Agency can use its Office of Research and Development to promote technologies that increase water efficiency and conservation via collection, treatment, and reuse of rainwater

and greywater, and research on water storage.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when water shortages are becoming more commonplace in our Nation, I applaud the bipartisan work of the Science Committee under the leadership of Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL on this important legislation. They understand the need for us to work across the aisle on these important issues, and I commend them both for their leadership.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 631.

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DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING  
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 738, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2009. This legislation would mandate prompt reporting of prisoner and immigration detainee deaths in state and local prisons to the Attorney General. Under current law, many families of prisoners and detainees often do not receive timely information regarding deaths in custody. An inmate death in a local and state correctional facility is a serious matter that deserves full reporting to family members as well as federal regulators so that a full and transparent investigation can take place into the causes and circumstances surrounding a death. I applaud this Congress's action on this critical issue and would hope that I can work with my colleagues to implement widespread reform in our Nation's prison system.

For too long, America has turned a blind eye to abuse and neglect in our prisons and detention centers. In particular, immigration prisons have been the focus of great concern as recent deaths in facilities in Virginia and my home state of Rhode Island have made the need for transparency as important as ever. Immigration detainees, many of whom have neither been charged nor convicted of a criminal act and are in custody awaiting a hearing or deportation, often do not receive timely or adequate health care. Others are indiscriminately transferred thousands of miles away from family members and legal counsel. These issues must be addressed in our ongoing efforts to reform our prison system. This legislation lays the groundwork for those reforms and I applaud Chairman SCOTT's leadership on this issue.

I thank Chairman SCOTT, and I would urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

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SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS  
WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 117, to "sup-

port the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes."

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 117 recognizes the need to support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and its aims to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote literacy in math and science; and will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of that community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

New discoveries and technologies are changing the way Americans live and work. Through dedicated research and development, engineers expand our knowledge and lay the foundation for the progress of our country. This week is an opportunity to recognize engineers for their many contributions to our way of life and to encourage young people to pursue their curiosity by studying math and science.

Engineering education began in America under circumstances that differ substantially from those of the other leading professions. Medical schools, for example, were established by individual physicians, and then loosely affiliated with universities.

By contrast, engineers were first trained by apprenticeship, particularly on canal construction projects. This tradition was perpetuated on railroad construction projects, and later in factories and machine shops, long after college engineering programs were established. Eventually, engineering schools in the United States were sponsored by the federal government (the U.S. Military Academy in 1802) and the land-grant colleges (beginning in 1862). They were also fostered by public-spirited citizens who fostered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and from within established universities in response to interest or demand.

The engineering workforce is the driver of society's technological engine, an awesome responsibility. We will not be able to address this responsibility without diversifying the pool of science and engineering talent. This broadening of participation must come from The Land of Plenty, our mostly untapped potential of underrepresented minorities and women—America's "competitive edge" for the 21st century.

We know that more than any other species, humans are configured to be the most flexible learners. Humans are intentional learners, proactive in acquiring knowledge and skills. And, it turns out that we are more successful learners if we are mindful or cognizant of ourselves as learners and thinkers.

The revolution in information technologies connected and integrated researchers and research fields in a way never before possible. The nation's IT capability has acted like 'adrenaline' to all of science and engineering. A next step is to build the most advanced computer-communications infrastructure for researchers to use, while simultaneously broadening its accessibility.

The great state of Texas boasts excellent schools that produce many of the nation's outstanding engineers. Texas Tech University's Whitacre College of Engineering is an internationally recognized research institution ranked among the best in the country. The Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University is one of the largest engineer-

ing colleges in the nation, with nearly 9,000 students and 12 departments. Texas A&M University ranks among the top five producers in the country for undergraduate engineering degrees. Prairie View A&M University's College of Engineering has a rich and well established legacy of producing some of the most outstanding engineers, computer scientists and technologists in the nation.

To date, our knowledge of the "science of learning," is just the tip of the iceberg of what we have yet to learn. Our ultimate goal is truly not to waste a single child and to teach and train a workforce that is well prepared and can adapt and change.

I thank my colleague, Rep. DANIEL LIPINSKI, of Illinois, for introducing this important resolution, to ensure that we continue to cultivate the understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers that will be quite beneficial to society. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

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HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR  
HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE  
LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend and colleague, JOHN DINGELL for becoming the longest serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. DINGELL's service is unparalleled. For 53 years, he has worked diligently for the American people and his legislative accomplishments are unparalleled. Serving alongside Chairman DINGELL, I've come to know why he has earned the deep respect and admiration of scores of House Members, Senators and 11 different Presidents.

A true champion of health care reform, JOHN DINGELL has been at the center of every major health policy reform of the last 50 years. In 1965, he was central to the creation of Medicare, a program that saves millions of elderly Americans from the horrors of poverty and disease every year. Continuing his fight for a healthier country, JOHN has worked on behalf of children, the poor, and many others who can't afford quality health care and has been a visionary in authoring legislation to ensure affordable health care for all.

Today JOHN DINGELL broke a record, but that record won't be why we remember him. It will be his character, his accomplishments, and his unyielding belief that this institution can make a positive impact in the lives of everyday Americans. Today JOHN DINGELL made history, but his lasting legacy will be how he has shaped the history of a great nation through a lifetime of public service.

I consider it one of the true privileges of my lifetime to know JOHN DINGELL as a colleague, a mentor and a close personal friend. His wisdom and his example of leadership will continue to make a difference for American families long after we here are long gone. God bless JOHN DINGELL and the love of his life, his wife, Debra.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-sponsor and strong supporter of H. Con. Res. 35, a resolution to recognize the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and acknowledge the numerous contributions of the NAACP in helping create a more just and equitable society.

The NAACP is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. For the past 100 years, the association has fought actively and fervently for equal justice for all Americans under the idea that all men and women are created equal.

In February 1909, a handful of courageous and fearless citizens—including Ida Wells Barnett, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, William English Walling, Henry Moscowitz and W.E.B. Du Bois—formed the National Negro Committee with the intent of addressing the social, economic and political rights of African-Americans. This organization would later become the NAACP, and for the next century would dedicate itself to eliminating racial hatred and ending racial discrimination.

The NAACP has accomplished and will continue to accomplish great things for our nation. In 1954, the NAACP achieved one of its greatest victories in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case when the Supreme Court overturned segregation in the nation's public schools. This decision rendered "separate but unequal" unconstitutional. More importantly it helped to break down the barriers that divided the nation.

Through nonviolent methods such as protests, marches and media outreach the NAACP was instrumental in moving President Truman's Executive Order banning discrimination in the armed forces. The NAACP also played an active role in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The NAACP continues to fight for the rights of Americans confined to the corners of our society. The NAACP maintains active branches nationwide, including one in the 12th District of New Jersey, located in Trenton. I am grateful to the NAACP members who live in my Congressional District including Edith Savage-Jennings, a pioneer of the civil rights movement. The work they do to continue to advance the struggle for civil rights in our country is an inspiration to us all.

The NAACP gracefully and tirelessly has fought for the political, social, economic, and educational rights of all Americans, and has sought to ensure that our nation recognized the inalienable rights of all citizens, regardless of race, class, or ethnicity. They have paved the way for some of our most celebrated leaders like my good friend JOHN LEWIS and President Barack Obama to accomplish what they have. Moving forward the NAACP will shift its focus to ensure the attainment of human rights for all; a noble, honorable and needed effort. The enormity of the NAACP's contributions these past 100 years is immeasurable, and I

am certain that the next 100 years will produce more accomplishments and milestones for this historic and vital organization. I am proud to join with my colleagues in supporting this resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. PETER  
SMYTH AND THE BORDES FAMIL-  
Y RECEIVING THE 2009 BROAD-  
CASTERS OF AMERICA GOLDEN  
MIKE AWARD

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Peter Smyth and the Bordes Family, for their outstanding dedication to Greater Media of Braintree, Massachusetts, and to mark the great achievement of being presented with the 2009 Broadcasters Foundation of America Golden Mike Award.

Greater Media was co-founded in 1956 by Peter A. Bordes and is one of the last remaining family-owned broadcasting companies in the United States. Now parent company of 23 AM and FM radio stations in the Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, New Jersey and Philadelphia markets, Greater Media continues to be a shining example of good corporate citizenship in the fast paced and ever evolving media industry.

From its beginning, Greater Media has stressed the autonomy of local management, dedication to local community service, and leadership in developing and adapting new technology and services to improve media communications. Greater Media consistently seeks to improve the lives of their listeners and readers, and the communities in which they live.

In 1986, Peter Smyth joined the Greater Media family. In October 2000, Mr. Smyth was named President and Chief Operating Officer, and in March 2002, was promoted to Greater Media's President and Chief Executive Officer. He was named Chairman of the Board in October 2008.

Since his arrival at Greater Media, Mr. Smyth has received such prestigious honors as "America's Best Broadcaster" and has been named one of the 40 "Most Powerful People in Radio" for eight years. Most recently he was honored with the "Radio Executive of the Year" award.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Smyth and the Bordes Family for their commitment to excellence in broadcasting and journalism. I applaud their success, and I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING GEORGE C. WELKER

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today recognize George C. Welker at the close of his 40-year career serving the employees of CWA Local 1108 in Patchogue, New York. His remarkable tenure spans dramatic changes in the telecommunications in-

dustry and labor relations in America. Unwavering and undiminished in that time is Mr. Welker's devotion to the members of CWA Local 1108 and his Long Island community.

In 1969, George Welker joined CWA as Steward for his gang of installers at New York Telephone's St. James garage. He rose through the ranks, serving as Chief Steward of Repair, Area Representative and Business Agent, before being elected President of Local 1108 in 1990 and serving until 2008. He was also a member of the Regional Bargaining Committee, participating in the negotiation of four collective bargaining agreements, and served the CWA National Union as chairman of its Finance Committee.

The most significant of Mr. Welker's many achievements at CWA Local 1108 include negotiating the addition of 3,200 temporary employees to Bell Atlantic's regular payroll in 1998, winning an arbitration case that restored the livelihoods of 215 union members who were wrongfully dismissed in 2002, and overseeing Local 1108's successful merger with Local 1110 in 2004.

Madam Speaker, organized labor deserves much of the credit for the rise of America's middle class. The labor movement and its successes are built on the shoulders of leaders like George Welker. He will be sorely missed by the workers of CWA Local 1108, and I join them in thanking him for his service and offering best wishes for a retirement free of grievances.

HONORING LEE ROY MAYHALL

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Lee Roy Mayhall. Mr. Mayhall passed away on January 26, 2009 at the age of seventy-seven, after a long battle with cancer.

Lee Roy Mayhall took great pride in his hometown of Oakhurst, California. He was one of the original founding members of the Citizens on Patrol (COP) program that was launched in 2000. The COP concept began in 1999, with one car and a couple of volunteers. Mr. Mayhall and his wife, Jean, were among those few original volunteers. Within seven years, the small unit expanded into an entire fleet. With the increase in volunteers, they are able to cover the rural communities of Oakhurst, North Fork, Coarsegold, Chowchilla, Eastside Acres and the Madera Ranchos, all in Madera County. During the summer months the COP volunteers assist the Sheriffs Boat Patrol on Bass Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Mayhall, along with the dedicated COP volunteers, serve as a second set of eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Department. They served as partners in the programs; together they donated countless hours and money to assist in financing critical training. Mr. and Mrs. Mayhall were honored in 2007 by the Madera County Supervisors for their years of service and dedication to the citizens of Madera County. Mr. Mayhall was also the recipient of the "Above and Beyond" award for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Lee Roy

Mayhall. I wish continued success to Mrs. Mayhall and the COP program.

LET'S BE TRULY COMPASSIONATE

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very important bill that I just re-introduced, the Visitors Interested in Strengthening America (VISA) Act of 2009 (H.R. 937). The bill would grant humanitarian visa waivers to children and their parents coming across the border for regular medical appointments, or for educational or cultural events.

In the past, the Port Directors at the border had the authority to grant humanitarian visa waivers to certain children and their accompanying parent. Now, children who come without a visa must be turned away. The fee to enter into the United States for 24 hours is an insurmountable amount of money for these poor children and their families. These children pose no threat to our national security. They are merely trying to receive medical treatment or to enjoy a school field trip to one of our nation's numerous tourist attractions.

This legislation does not affect the number of legal or illegal immigrants living in the United States—the children and accompanying adults visit for one day and then return to their homes. It gives Port Directors the authority to use their discretion, and issue waivers to children that pose no security threat to our country.

This is common sense legislation that allows us to cultivate relations with our Mexican neighbors, while keeping those who would do us harm out of our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this critical legislation, by co-sponsoring the VISA Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, February 11, 2009, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Con. Res. 47, H. Res. 154, and H.R. 448.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 60, on passing H. Con. Res. 47, Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 61, on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 154, Honoring JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 62, on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 448, the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today in support of this resolution recognizing National Engineers Week and the important contributions to society made by engineers. A range of activities and programs highlighting Engineers Week will be taking place across the country. Communities, schools, and museums will host events to excite young people about engineering by helping them see the role this discipline plays in the world around them.

This resolution and National Engineers Week come at a fitting time. We are in a dire economic situation, in part because of a failure to sufficiently support science and engineering in the past. Research and development will be the foundation for the discoveries that will fuel our economic recovery and sustain our long term economic growth. Engineering is often the critical bridge between the basic science and the productive innovation or the marketable product. It is entirely proper that we acknowledge this important field at this critical time.

National Engineers Week is the most visible event in an ongoing, year-round effort by the National Engineers Week Foundation to support and encourage interest in engineering and technology. As Congress supports the excellent programming of National Engineers week, it should follow the Foundation's lead in making a commitment to science, research, engineering, and education. Congress should work to ensure that all individuals who choose to pursue an education in engineering and related fields have the opportunity to do so. And Congress should fully fund the America COMPETES Act and make a sustained investment in our national innovation infrastructure.

This resolution recognizes the value of National Engineers Week and engineering-related disciplines generally. I am delighted to support it.

CELEBRATING FILIPINO AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about a resolution that I have re-introduced along with Congressmen BILBRAY, HONDA, ISSA, and BOBBY SCOTT, my colleagues in the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus (H. Res. 155). This resolution recognizes Filipino American Heritage Month and celebrates the heritage and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to our nation.

The Filipino American National Historical Society established Filipino American History Month in 1988 but I was surprised to learn that the House of Representatives has never recognized this month, which is long overdue!

We are pleased to honor the Filipino American community and pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions that Filipinos make to this nation. Filipino Americans have been part of the American experience, confronting many difficult challenges while being resolute and steadfast in their cultural heritage.

We honor Filipino Americans, from farm workers to nurses and doctors to the brave and courageous soldiers who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with American servicemen. This country is indebted to the Filipino veterans of World War II for their extraordinary sacrifices. We promise that we will not give up. Equity and recognition for World War II Veterans is a moral imperative.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring the history, culture, and contribution of Filipino Americans in the United States by supporting this important resolution.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Center United Methodist Church was founded in 1858 with 17 members convening at the Pleasant Site School in Cambridge, and

Whereas, originally called the Harmony Methodist Episcopal Church, the congregation grew quickly to more than 200 members and in 1869, prompting the congregation to build its structure on the site where it currently stands, and

Whereas, the Center United Methodist Church operated continuously for 150 years under various names, continuously growing and expanding its congregation and its building to better accommodate its service to the community. The church has been an active community presence, initiating and contributing to numerous religious, community, and international; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Center United Methodist Church for 150 years of dedicated service to the practice of the Christian faith and to the good works, both local and international, that have given the congregation a wonderful reputation and a sense of pride.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MERCED ASSEMBLY CENTER

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 129, recognizing the historical significance of the Merced Assembly Center to the Nation and the importance of establishing an appropriate memorial at that site to serve as a place for remembering the hardships endured by Japanese-Americans, so that the United States remains vigilant in protecting our Nation's core

values of equality, due process of law, justice and fundamental fairness. This resolution embodies the ideals and precepts that we hold so dear in the United States. I support this resolution and I strongly encourage my colleagues to do the same.

As a Senior member of the House Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, I know the importance of due process, fairness, and equality. Indeed, as a child of the Civil Rights Movement, I have championed these uniquely American precepts that are the bedrock of our Democracy. We must never forget this fundamental infringement of civil rights that had a deleterious and one-sided effect upon a race of Americans. We must never forget so that we will never repeat the tragic horrors of that era. Spawned by a fear of a race during a time of war, this Great Country was led to do act and behave toward a race in a way that we must never allow again.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the forced internment of both United States citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II. This Executive Order resulted in the largest single relocation of individuals in the history of our Nation. As a result of this relocation, 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced into internment camps by the United States Government in violation of their fundamental constitutional rights.

Japanese-Americans faced tremendous hardships due to their unjust treatment. The hardships this group faced were reminiscent of the days of slavery where families were torn asunder and faced separation. Individuals endured the loss of their homes, businesses, jobs, and their dignity.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 9066, Japanese-Americans in the western United States, specifically Washington, Oregon, California, and southern Arizona were ordered to report to so called assembly centers before being removed to more permanent wartime relocation centers.

The Merced Assembly Center, located in Merced, California, was the reporting site for nearly 5,000 Japanese-Americans. Sadly, as a child, United States Congressman MIKE HONDA and his family were held at the Merced Assembly Center prior to being interned in Amache, Colorado. Through this tragedy and sadness, and in spite of this situation, Representative HONDA forged a public career dedicated to educating and preventing this type of injustice from ever occurring again in this great country.

The Merced Assembly Center Commemorative Committee has been charged with the task of establishing a memorial to recognize the historic tragedy that took place at the Merced Assembly Center. The unveiling ceremony for the memorial at the Merced Assembly Center will take place on February 21, 2009.

I stand today to support this resolution. As a champion of civil rights for all Americans, I will continue to fight to ensure that Americans are treated fairly, humanely, and to the letter of the Constitution. I urge my colleagues to stand with me today to support this resolution and to continue to fight against prejudice in this country. As Members of Congress, we must never forget the injustice of the Japa-

nese internment in this country and all of us need to continue in the fight to ensure that all Americans are treated fairly under law without regard to the race, color, creed, sexual orientation or any other form of differentiation.

Mr. Speaker. I support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS FOR MILITARY RECRUITERS ACT

### HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Fairness for Military Recruiters Act, legislation that supports the efforts of our armed forces to recruit talented young Americans from our nation's high schools. This legislation reaffirms and strengthens existing federal law, enacted in 2001 under the No Child Left Behind Act, that provides military recruiters the same access to high school campuses and basic student contact information that is given to institutions of higher education.

Before the enactment of No Child Left Behind, it was reported that nearly 2,000 high schools across the country either banned military recruiters from their campuses or restricted access to student directories. Since then, despite some early opposition from several school boards and administrators, military recruiters have maintained regular and unrestricted access to high schools nationwide.

Under current law, any high school that receives federal education funding must provide military recruiters access to its campus and student directories—the same access that is provided to colleges and universities. At the same time, schools are required to notify parents and students of their right to “opt-out” of the program. A request from a parent is all it takes for a student not be contacted or approached directly by a military recruiter.

This is a straightforward, balanced approach to ensuring that students are familiar with the education and career opportunities offered by any one of our military service branches. Military service promotes discipline, self-esteem and a strong work-ethic, and young Americans should not be discouraged from serving their country or simply exploring the benefits of serving in the armed forces.

Of course, there are some school administrators and activist groups that oppose the idea of military recruiters contacting high-school students. There are even reported cases of these groups, known as “counter-recruiters,” attending parent-teacher conferences and loitering outside schools with opt-out forms in hand. Likewise, administrators have creatively interpreted notification and consent requirements in the interest of denying recruiters access to student contact information.

Students and parents should make the decision to opt-out on their own, without influence from activists and administrators with anti-military bias. Families that recognize and honor the commitment of our military to defending the freedom of the American people should not be represented by the small minority of those who actively seek to denigrate our armed forces.

The legislation I am introducing today simply reaffirms current law by protecting the right of

parents and students to opt-out while also maintaining military recruiter access to high school campuses and directories. Schools would still be obligated to notify parents and students of their options, ensuring there is a mechanism in place that prevents the contact information of those who wish not to be contacted from being released.

The alternative suggested by some of my colleagues, particularly in anticipation of the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, is to create an opt-in process. In other words, military recruiters would be denied access to student information unless parents send in a release authorization form. They question whether the recruitment provision violates a student's right to privacy, even though it is consistent with federal law and court-tested privacy rights. An analysis by the Congressional Research Services also acknowledges this fact, noting that, unlike medical records, the basic information available to recruiters is no different than the information “typically found in a phone book.”

The legislation specifically prohibits the implementation of an opt-in process and clarifies the notification and consent requirement by placing the personal information and career interests of students firmly in the control of parents. Only parents, legal guardians or students 18 years of age, could make a written request that contact information not be released.

Madam Speaker, our national security continues to hinge on patriotic and talented Americans coming forward and volunteering military service. Restricting recruiter access to high schools would serve to reduce the quality of our armed forces and undoubtedly constrain the ability of students to consider military education and career opportunities.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort as we continue working to strengthen our national security and raise awareness about the education and career benefits provided through military service.

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#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker: Whereas, the Fairmount Presbyterian Church was founded in 1833 by the Nickel family and is celebrating its 175th anniversary in Licking Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of 25 celebrated that milestone with a special service on September 21st and a recreation of a famous photo of the congregation on the mound next to the church taken in 1923, and

Whereas, the founding of the Fairmount Presbyterian Church occurred when one member of the Nickel family passed the spot of land where it now sits and remarked that it was the “prettiest place” he had ever seen. Three years later, the land that serves as the parish's cemetery was donated, creating the Fairmount Cemetery adjacent to the historic church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend

the Fairmount Presbyterian Church 175 years of dedication and service to the Licking township community and their continued remembrance of their founding and occupation of what was called the "prettiest place" the founder had ever seen.

RESTORING OUR AMERICAN  
MUSTANGS (ROAM) ACT

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, in the 19th Century, it is estimated that as many as 2 million wild horses and burros ranged freely across the American West. Some of them were of noble birth, with blood lines stretching back to the horses which carried Spanish explorers into the New World; all of them were part of the fabric of the romance and the history of the American West.

As wild animals living on public land, management of these horses and burros fell to the Federal government, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, BLM. Unfortunately, many decades of underfunding and inhumane management practices combined to destroy these wild herds, leaving fewer than 25,000 wild horses and burros on public lands by the early 1970s.

Starting in the 1950s, the American public became aware of the cruelty, disease and death suffered by these iconic animals, thanks in large part to the actions of one woman, Mrs. Velma Bronn Johnston—better known by the nickname she earned—Wild Horse Annie. The crusade she started—which included a massive letter-writing campaign and eventually a beloved children's book—culminated in 1971 with enactment of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act. The Act stated clearly that:

Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people; and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.

While this landmark legislation resulted in significant improvements in the management of these herds, our experience since 1971 has demonstrated that the law was far from perfect. While the Act identified 53 million acres of public land on which these herds could roam freely, the BLM has removed horses and burros from nearly 19 million of those acres for a variety of reasons. Since 1971, more than 200,000 wild horses and burros have been removed from public land and either adopted or placed in long-term holding facilities. Six states have lost their entire population of wild horses and burros. Recently, the BLM announced that a combination of a lack of funding, facilities and options may require the killing of as many as 30,000 healthy wild horses and burros. Clearly, the laws and policies in place since 1971 need updating.

A recent investigation by the Government Accountability Office identified many of the problems plaguing the wild horse and burro program within BLM. This legislation amends the 1971 Act to implement the changes suggested by the GAO.

This legislation would remove outdated limits on the areas where wild horses and burros can roam freely, allowing the BLM flexibility to find additional, suitable acreage. The bill would strengthen the BLM's adoption program, require consistency and accuracy in the management of these herds, allow more public involvement in management decisions, facilitate the creation of sanctuaries for wild horses and burros on public land and place significant new limitations on the authority to remove these animals from the wild. Finally, the legislation would prohibit the killing of healthy wild horses and burros.

Madam Speaker, introduction of this legislation is the beginning, not the end, of this process. There are many stakeholders—here in Congress, in the agencies and among members of the public—who are invested in this issue. I look forward to working with all parties in an effort to craft a final bill that would make Wild Horse Annie proud.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "STATE  
VIDEO TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF  
2009"

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced, along with my Judiciary Committee colleagues RICK BOUCHER of Virginia, JIM JORDAN of Ohio, and JAMES SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin, the State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation is a consumer-minded effort to prevent States from enacting taxes that may be designed to advantage one form of video transmission over another. This legislation preserves a level playing field between competitors while protecting State revenue prerogatives.

This legislation accomplishes three goals:

First, consumers will benefit from lower prices, because States will impose only fair and nondiscriminatory video transmission taxes, on all providers.

Second, competition will strengthen in the paid television programming industry, because this legislation will ensure that no provider will be unfairly favored by discriminatory tax policies.

Third, States will continue to have the ability to raise revenue, because this legislation does not hinder their ability to do so, as long as they do so in a fair and nondiscriminatory manner.

This legislation incorporates changes adopted by the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law at markup during the last Congress. Those changes include providing grandfather protection to those States that, as of January 1, 2008, had already enacted video programming tax structures that would violate the new requirement. The six States whose tax structures would be protected are Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Utah.

This legislation also includes several technical changes to conform the language to certain State tax laws with respect to the methods by which multichannel video programming distribution services are delivered, and clarifies a tax as discriminatory "if the net tax rate imposed on one means of providing multichannel video service is higher than the net tax rate imposed on another."

This legislation ensures that States could not selectively reduce the effective tax rate by imposing the same tax rate on services, but then reimbursing certain costs borne by specific providers, as some States have done.

The State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009 will give households that pay for television programming service the assurance that they can choose to receive very similar services, such as from cable or satellite providers, without having to wonder whether subscribing to a particular service will entail paying more in taxes than if they had chosen a different service.

I invite my colleagues to join with me and Representatives BOUCHER, JORDAN, and SENBRENNER, by cosponsoring the "State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2009."

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
JEWETT UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Jewett United Methodist Church was founded in 1908 and is celebrating its 100th anniversary in Jewett, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of Quinn Jewett United Methodist Church celebrated this milestone with weekend of events, ceremonies, and services between October 3rd and October 5th, 2008; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for nearly two centuries of dedication and service to the Chillicothe community and their efforts to preach equality and faith among all races and religions throughout the years.

CONGRATULATING ERIN HAMLIN  
ON WINNING THE 41ST LUGE  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young athlete, Erin Hamlin, on her victory in the 41st Luge World Championship in Lake Placid, New York on February 6th, 2009.

Erin snapped a twelve-year German winning streak by posting times of 44.113 and 43.985 seconds, a new Lake Placid track record, for a combined time of one minute, 28.098 seconds. She is one of only two U.S. athletes ever to win a luge world crown.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Erin, who was born in New Hartford and raised in Remsen, both in New York's 24th Congressional District. In 1999, at the age of 12, Erin was introduced to the sport of luge through a Verizon/USA Luge Slider Search in Syracuse, New York. After being selected to a development team, she began training in Lake Placid.

Erin earned two Junior National Championship titles and a collection of Junior World Cup medals as a member of the U.S. Junior National Team from 2003 to 2006 and as a competitor on the Junior World Cup Circuit from 2002 to 2005. After making the World Cup Team in the fall of 2005, Erin earned a spot on the 2006 Olympic Team. At the Winter Games in Torino, Italy she slid to a 12th place finish, and was named to the Senior National Team the following season. Erin is also the reigning 2008 Verizon U.S. National Champion.

The accomplishments of Erin and the entire USA Luge team cannot be applauded without commending the efforts of their coaching staff. Senior National Team Head Coach Wolfgang Schaedler, Assistant Coach Klim Gatker, and Team Manager Fred Zimny guided the USA Luge team to victory this year. On behalf of my colleagues in Congress and all of Upstate New York, I wish to congratulate this team on their success and recognition.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues join me in congratulating Erin Hamlin and the entire USA Luge Team, and to support them in their future endeavors as they continue to inspire athletes across the country.

#### THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the United States Export-Import Bank, chartered by Congress in 1934 with the mission of financing U.S. exports in support of U.S. jobs. The Ex-Im Bank has been an important tool in our effort to preserve and expand American jobs in an era of international competition. In an ideal world, there wouldn't be an Ex-Im Bank. But given the fact that other countries aggressively provide public financing to make their exports more competitive, it would amount to unilateral disarmament not to have a strong and active U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Ex-Im Bank has played an important role in trade finance as a lender of last resort, allowing exports to go forward for projects that would otherwise not get support from private lenders. In support of this mission in recent years, the Bank has launched efforts to support small business exporters, women and minority-owned exporters, and exports in support of development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the midst of the credit and economic crisis we are now working so hard to resolve, it's particularly important that we have the Ex-Im Bank in place. With consumers in the U.S. pulling back, exports will need to play a lead-

ing role in economic recovery. Unfortunately, as in all other areas of private credit, trade financing coming from the private sector has fallen, and as a result, otherwise viable U.S. exports are not able to proceed due to the lack of credit. Ex-Im Bank can and should step in to address this financing gap, just as it did at the time of its Depression-era founding, during the Mexican debt crisis of the early 1980s, and during the Asian crisis of the 1990s. I look forward to working with the Bank to ensure that exporters are adequately financed during this current crisis.

Ex-Im Bank has been able to serve its public mission during times of crisis and in support of underserved areas of trade finance while remaining a good steward of taxpayers' dollars. In its 75 years, the Bank has financed over \$400 billion in U.S. exports with a loss rate of under 2 percent. This is a track record that should be noted and I am pleased to do so today.

#### RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACKS FROM GAZA

### HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, the current conflict in Gaza has drawn international attention. Congress must stand in solidarity with Israel and recognize the operations in Gaza as acts of self defense.

For 8 years, Hamas has conducted rocket and mortar attacks into Israeli communities with increasing intensity and range. Hamas fired without concern for civilian casualties and it is time to put an end to Hamas's attacks.

Israel has had no choice but to take military action in order to protect and defend its people.

A permanent cease-fire must be reached but we must work to create a peace that is "durable and sustainable" and that starts with an end to Hamas's attacks on Israel.

We in the United States must continue to stand in support our friend and ally Israel.

#### A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE QUAKER CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Quaker City United Methodist Church was founded in 1833 by Edward H. Taylor celebrated its 175th anniversary in Quaker City, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation of met in the old cording mill and later in the Odd Fellows Hall for the first 38 years until a new church was erected on West Main street in 1871, and

Whereas, the congregation moved to its current location in 1908 after a campaign to raise money for the building of a church yielded \$12,000—\$7,000 of it donated by the family of Jesse Lingo, and

Whereas, the church was dedicated in February of 1909 and has remained there ever since, and

Whereas, the congregation of only 28 members has grown to more than 65 and is lead by Pastor Wilbur Bragg; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Quaker City United Methodist Church on 175 years of dedication and service to the Quaker City community and their continued devotion to the Methodist faith spanning nearly two centuries.

#### HONORING FIDELITY MANOR SCHOOLS

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Fidelity Manor Schools in the Galena Park Community in my district, for their invaluable education to African-American students for nearly 50 years.

Predating 1955, a building formerly used for white students became an educational institution for African-American students in the Clinton Community, renamed Galena Park in 1936. The building was moved to the Fidelity addition—an area of Clinton named for the Fidelity Shipyard—and became known as the Fidelity School, housing only eight grades and containing one individual who acted as both teacher and principal.

With the growing African-American community Fidelity Manor Schools began to evolve in many ways. Additional classes and teachers were added to meet requirements held by the school district. Fidelity Manor Schools excelled in academics and athletics, winning district and state competitions during its existence.

In 1970 due to desegregation, Fidelity Manor Schools were closed and its students were integrated into the Galena Park School System. Although the Fidelity Manor School buildings were razed in 1986, their history lives on. For its invaluable service to the African-American community and to the Galena Park Community, I extend my deepest gratitude, and honor Fidelity Manor Schools.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD SHAVER AND THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE HUNGER GARDEN

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual who has generously donated his land, his money, and his time to feeding thousands of needy individuals and families in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

For nearly fifteen years, Mr. Richard Shaver, of Madison, Pennsylvania, has operated the "Hunger Garden." The garden is 100 percent volunteer driven, planting and harvesting thousands of pounds of vegetables for the Westmoreland County Food Bank every year. Hundreds of volunteers work evenings and weekends producing sweet corn, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, peppers, and zucchini for

the food bank and its Operation Fresh Express program, which provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families.

Mr. Shaver served his country in the U.S. Army, built a successful career, and at a time when he could sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor, he set out to help those in need.

Mr. Shaver says he began growing vegetables for the food bank because, "Business was good. I went to country clubs, I was even flying my own airplane, but I just didn't feel right. My daughter suggested that maybe I ought to try to help somebody." His determination to "help somebody" has resulted in the donation of over 145,000 pounds of fresh vegetables over the years, greatly assisting Westmoreland County Food Bank and its service to 6,000 local families.

Madam Speaker, in a struggling economy where millions of Americans have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet, it gives me great pleasure to honor people like Mr. Shaver and the volunteers of the "Hunger Garden." Their extraordinary work and generosity has a tremendous impact on the lives of many, and are an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MORRIS K. UDALL SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2009

**HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Amendments Act of 2009. The Morris K. Udall Foundation is an independent federal agency based in Tucson, Arizona, which operates exceptional educational programs focused on developing leadership on environmental and Native American issues. It also includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only program within the federal government focused entirely on preventing, managing and resolving federal environmental conflicts.

The legislation I introduce today would enhance the Foundation's programs and operations, and at the same time honor one of the greatest public servants and conservationists in history, Stewart L. Udall, by adding his name to the Foundation with that of his late brother, Morris K. Udall.

The Udall Foundation was established by Congress in 1992. Initially, the Foundation's mission was to provide educational opportunities for studies related to the environment and Native American tribal policy and health care. In 1998, Congress amended the Udall Foundation's enabling legislation to add a new mission: resolving conflicts related to the environment, natural resources and public lands through services including mediation, facilitation and training. The work of the Udall Foundation has become even more important today, as the nation seeks long-term responses to climate change, sustainable energy supplies, and a sustainable economy for all Americans.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Through its education programs, the Udall Foundation identifies and educates tomorrow's

leaders in fields that are critical to the energy, climate change and economic issues facing our nation. The programs include:

The premier college scholarship and doctoral fellowship for studies related to the environment and a scholarship for Native Americans studying tribal policy or health care. The Obama Administration has committed to creating five million new jobs by strategically investing \$150 billion over the next ten years to catalyze private efforts to build a clean energy future. The 1,000-some Udall Scholar alumni, who are chosen in part for their demonstrated commitment to public service, will clearly be in the forefront of clean energy and climate change response activities both in the private sector and government.

The Native American Congressional Internship program placing gifted undergraduate and graduate students in Congress, the Council on Environmental Quality, and Cabinet offices to learn first-hand how Washington impacts their tribes and communities. My own Washington office has hosted a Udall Native American intern each summer since I first came to Congress in 2003, and I can testify to the talent and commitment of these interns, many of whom have already gone on to positions of leadership in their tribal communities, government and nonprofit organizations. More than 150 young Native leaders will have completed the Udall Congressional internship through this summer.

Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy (NNI), which serves as a self-determination, governance, and economic development resource for tribal nations. Through the impact of its tribal executive leadership program, Indian nations are rebuilding their economies. NNI has three primary program areas: Leadership and Management Training, Strategic and Organizational Development, and Research and Policy Analysis. NNI's activities in these three areas have made it the leading provider of nation-building services and education to the senior leadership of Indian nations and a world-class center for applied research on how indigenous peoples can meet the practical challenges of nation building.

The Parks in Focus program, which connects underserved youth to nature through the art of photography, instilling in them a long-lasting understanding of and appreciation for national parks and other public lands.

THE U.S. INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The Udall Foundation includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the only entity in the federal government dedicated to resolving federal environmental conflicts. The Institute is funded by an annual appropriation from Congress and fees for services. Since its inception in FY 1999, the Institute has been involved in hundreds of conflicts around the country, providing services such as assessment, mediation and facilitation. The Institute also provides leadership on conflict resolution within the federal government and training to federal managers and stakeholders, providing practical hands-on tools to better prevent and manage disputes and engage in collaborative problem-solving. Each year, the Institute engages thousands of stakeholders directly in agreement-seeking processes representing many thousands of constituents. Services are provided by the Institute's small staff, as well as by contracted mediators who

are listed on the Institute's national roster of almost 300 conflict resolution professionals.

The U.S. Institute's work is particularly needed right now, given the need for infrastructure projects, natural resource management, and other important priorities with environmental impacts. Major initiatives by the new Administration related to energy policy and climate change most likely will require considerable multi-sector dialogue and consensus building. The Institute has a 10-year track record of facilitating such dialogue, particularly where multiple federal, state, local and tribal governments are involved. The need for Institute services has already been growing, and will continue to grow with these new energy and climate initiatives.

It is appropriate for Congress to provide solid support for the Udall Foundation's important programs through the legislation I introduce today, while simultaneously recognizing the unsurpassed contributions of Stewart L. Udall by adding his name to the Foundation's title. Stewart Udall served in this House of Congress with distinction from 1955, representing an area that included what is now my district, until he was appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. As Secretary of Interior, Stewart Udall had an unmatched record of environmental leadership, overseeing the creation of 4 national parks, 6 national monuments, 8 national seashores and lakeshores, 9 recreation areas, 20 historic sites, and 56 wildlife refuges. He continued to make substantial contributions to environmental and Native American policy as a lawyer and author following his tenure at Interior.

With the legislation introduced today, the name of the Foundation would change to the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. The legislation also would support the Udall Foundation's important programs into the future by authorizing funding for the education trust fund and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution in such amounts as Congress determines is necessary.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 154, which honors JOHN DINGELL for being the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

JOHN DINGELL came to Congress in 1955 at the age of 29 and in his more than 53 years in the House, including 16 as the chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, has represented energetically and effectively the constituents of his southeastern Michigan district.

Longevity alone, however, does not distinguish JOHN DINGELL, and the Dean of the House has been at the center of almost every major legislative accomplishment of this body since his earliest days in Congress. In 1965,

Representative DINGELL presided over the House chamber when the House passed the Social Security Act of 1965, creating Medicare. Years later, the one-time forest ranger, and avid outdoorsman, helped usher through Congress the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Clean Air Act of 1990.

Throughout his distinguished career, he has led the fight to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care, fought to close corporate loopholes, investigated government waste of taxpayer dollars, and advocated for the safety of consumers. Most recently, Representative DINGELL played a key roll in the passage of the Consumer Products Safety and Improvement Act, which was signed into law last August.

In my few years in the House, I have been honored to have served beside JOHN DINGELL. I have learned a great deal from such a thoughtful, serious legislator, and I look forward to working with him as Congress continues to address the country's economic, health care, and climate challenges.

I join my colleagues in honoring an institution in the House of Representatives, JOHN DINGELL, for his service to his constituents, the Congress, and the country.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SONORA  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Sonora United Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and convened for its first 15 years without a proper church building eventually worshipping in a log structure only as recently as 1823, and

Whereas, the congregation celebrated its 200th anniversary with special services, a potluck dinner, and a performance by the Greater Zanesville Singers on September 21, and

Whereas, the Sonora United Methodist Church operated continuously for 200 years as part of a charge, or cluster of parishes serviced by one pastor, making it part of a larger worshipping community that prided itself in good works and devotion to the Gospel; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Sonora United Methodist Church for 200 years of service and dedication to southeastern Ohio, the community of churches encompassing the charge and, an adherence to the teachings of Jesus Christ. The congregants, past and present, of Sonora United Methodist Church have exemplified the quality of Christian service to the community and deserve the recognition that comes with such dedication.

NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT OF  
2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank Representative LLOYD DOGGETT for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

As a Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I understand the importance of protecting one of America's treasures: the elderly. I fully support the goals of this legislation in helping to keep America's elderly safe from harm.

Last year during the second session of the 110th Congress, Representative DOGGETT introduced, H.R. 6064, the "National Silver Alert Act." I fought hard to amend H.R. 6064 to include language that would strengthen the National Silver Alert Act. My language was incorporated into that bill and it was successfully reported out of the Judiciary Committee.

This term, Representative DOGGETT has included the language from H.R. 423, the "Kristen's Act Reauthorization" into the present National Silver Alert bill. Thus, strengthening the protections in the bill.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that sixty percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50% of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

At least eight states, along with non-profit organizations such as the National Center for Missing Adults, Project Lifesaver International and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, have developed programs to address various aspects of the problem of missing adults, but the need for a coordinated national approach, similar to the Amber Alert Program for children, still exists. In addition, financial support is needed for existing and new local and state programs.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, administered by the Department of Justice, is the only federal program that currently provides grant funding to locate vulnerable elderly individuals who go missing. Authorization for this program ceased in 1998, but Congress has continued to appropriate some monies for it through fiscal year 2008, when it appropriated \$940,000. Another federal law, Kristen's Act, had authorized annual grants in the amount of \$1 million for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to assist law enforcement agencies in locating missing adults and for other purposes. Between fiscal years 2002 through 2006, Kristen's Act grants were

made through the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, primarily to the National Center for Missing Adults, a non-profit organization. In 2006, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose.

A. H.R. 632, THE "NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

H.R. 632 sets forth a comprehensive national program. It directs the Attorney General to establish a permanent national Silver Alert communications program within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors. The bill requires the Attorney General to assign a Department of Justice officer as a Silver Alert Coordinator.

The Silver Alert Coordinator acts as a nationwide point of contact, working with states to encourage the development of local elements of the network, known as Silver Alert plans, and to ensure regional coordination. The bill requires the Coordinator to develop protocols for efforts relating to reporting and finding missing seniors and to establish voluntary guidelines for states to use in developing Silver Alert plans. The bill requires the Coordinator to establish an advisory group (1) to help States, local governments and law enforcement agencies with Silver Alert plans, (2) to provide training and educational programs to states, local governments and law enforcement agencies, and (3) to submit an annual report to Congress. The bill also requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary minimum standards for the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network.

H.R. 632 directs the Attorney General, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide grants to States for the development and implementation of programs and activities relating to Silver Alert plans. The bill authorizes \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 for this purpose. The bill also authorizes an additional \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 specifically for the development and implementation of new technologies. The Federal share of the grant may not exceed 50% and amounts appropriated under this authorization shall remain available until expended.

Importantly, the bill seeks to accomplish three purposes: the creation of a grant program, the promotion of best practices, and an increased awareness of the need for coordinated efforts to locate missing individuals. The bill authorizes a grant program for State-administered notification systems to help locate missing persons suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses. The grants are to be used to establish and implement Silver Alert systems or to make improvements to existing Silver Alert programs.

C. H.R. 423, THE "KRISTEN'S ACT REAUTHORIZATION"

Importantly, H.R. 632 includes the language from H.R. 423, the "Kristen's Act Reauthorization." H.R. 632 reauthorizes Kristen's Act (P.L. 106-468), which had authorized annual grants from 2001 through 2004 for the purpose of finding missing adults. Because of the incorporation of Kristen's Act into H.R. 632, grants are not limited to States, but may be awarded to public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The grants are to be used to (1) maintain a national resource center and information clearinghouse; (2) maintain a national database for the purpose of tracking missing adults who are endangered due to age, diminished mental capacity, or when foul play is suspected or the circumstances are unknown; (3) coordinate public and private programs that locate missing adults and reunite them with their families;

(4) provide assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, nonprofit organizations and other individuals involved in the criminal justice system in matters related to missing adults; (5) provide assistance to families in locating missing adults; and (6) assist in public notification of missing adults and victim advocacy. The bill authorizes \$4 million annually for fiscal years 2008 through 2018.

D. MY PAST AMENDMENTS ON ELDER JUSTICE BILLS

In similar elder legislation, namely the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I co-sponsored amendments with Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California to provide funding to State, Local, and non-profit programs to locate missing elderly. Specifically, my amendment would allow a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. In these particular bills, my amendment would allow the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue grants to states and local government to carry out pilot programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals when they are reported missing.

I also offered an amendment in the elder justice acts that would have allowed the elderly to wear a bracelet so it would make it easier to find a lost elderly patient in the event that he or she was lost. This amendment was accepted and successfully reported out of the House Judiciary Committee last term. If I were provided the opportunity, I would have offered my amendment again and would have required that H.R. 632 contain provisions that would allow for the use of a bracelet pilot program. The bracelet pilot program would allow elderly, at their election, to wear a bracelet that would be used in helping to locate them when they are lost. The bracelet will be unlike existing programs because the bracelets will be electronic and themselves would facilitate finding a missing elderly person.

While this amendment language was accepted and successfully reported out of the House Judiciary Committee, my language was not included in the H.R. 632. Although my language has not been included in this present version of the bill, I still believe that the bill is important.

Elder Legislation Is Important.

Elder legislation such as the legislation before us today and the prior elder bills that I mentioned are important. As elder Americans enter their twilight years, we must do more to protect and ensure their safety. Nothing reminds me more of the necessity of this kind of legislation than my very own experiences in Houston, Texas. A few years ago, the family of Sam Kirk, a native of Houston, Texas, called me to help look for him. Mr. Kirk was elderly and suffered from dementia. He had wandered off and could not be located for several days. His family looked for him for many days but could not find him. In an act of desperation, they called on me to lend my services to help them find him. I helped his family look for him and we found him. When we found Mr. Kirk, he was dead. He died of dehydration. We searched for hours and days to find him. It would have been easier and may have saved a life if there was a bracelet or an electronic monitoring program as I have long championed in previous versions of this bill. Even without my language, legislation that

helps America find and take care of its lost and missing elders is extremely important.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEINER  
CHEESE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Steiner Cheese is the oldest operating cheese maker in southeastern Ohio having celebrated its 175th anniversary this year; and

Whereas, Steiner Cheese was founded by a young Swiss man named Jacob Steiner in 1833. Steiner, who immigrated in search of opportunities in America, brought with him little more than a family bible and an old copper Swiss Cheese kettle, and

Whereas, Mr. Steiner began to make artisan cheeses and word of his cheese making ability spread throughout southeastern Ohio's farming communities reaching dairy farmers and creating a vibrant cheese making industry; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Steiner Cheese company for 175 years of creating high quality cheeses—keeping true to the tenets of quality handed down by Jacob Steiner. I also commend them on playing an integral role in southeastern Ohio's burgeoning cheese industry and leaving its mark on the economy and people of Zanesville.

NATIONAL NANOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 554, the National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2009. As a former Member of the Science Committee, I am pleased to lend my support to this important legislation brought forward today by Chairman GORDON.

Nanotechnology represents the future of science and information technology. These scientific methods have already been responsible for a number of products that are used everyday in our country like car parts, cosmetics, and first aid dressings.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the future of nanotechnology holds a world of possibility in a number of fields—including health care, which is incredibly important to me as a physician Member of the House.

The National Nanotechnology Initiative is a multi-agency federal program aimed at accelerating the discovery, development, and deployment of nanometer-scale science, engineering, and technology. Since its implementation in 2003, the NNI represents the federal government's commitment to harnessing and developing the world's most cutting edge technology to help keep our country competitive in a technology-based global economy.

H.R. 554 is a bill that builds on the successful aspects of the NNI by making some improvements and modifications while keeping much of the Initiative intact. For example, this legislation strengthens the environment, health, and safety research component of the NNI, and it increases the emphasis on nanomanufacturing research and technology transfer. H.R. 554 acknowledges and addresses the need for enhanced research and education in the field of nanotechnology and provides the framework for K-12 education in nanotechnology that will help future generations stay at the cutting edge of scientific advances.

I am very pleased that this legislation moved through the Science and Technology Committee in a bipartisan manner, much like it did in the 110th Congress. I hope that the Senate will act on this legislation in the near future, so this important legislation can be signed into law by the President.

Mr. Speaker, I am very supportive of H.R. 554 and the possibility that nanotechnology has for the future of science. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS  
OF THE PILOT, CREW, AND RESCUERS  
OF US AIRWAYS FLIGHT  
1549

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the actions of the pilot, crew, and rescuers who risked their lives to save the passengers of Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009.

US Airways Flight 1549 lost engine power and began to fail shortly after its take off from LaGuardia Airport in Queens, headed to Charlotte, North Carolina. The lives of 155 passengers and crew were at risk. Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III and First Officer Jeffery B. Skiles acted with immense valor and dexterity to land the plane in the best option available, the Hudson River. The actions of both of these men demonstrate that they were cognizant of the lives on and off of the plane and choose to avoid populated areas. Additionally, the skilful control of the aircraft and decisions made by Sullenberger and Skiles allowed for the effective assistance of flight attendants Shelia Dail, Doreen Welsh, and Donna Dent, to prepare passengers for the impact in a short amount of time. In this time, passengers had to prepare for their landing and from all reports they did so with great discipline and concern for each other. Local ferry boats, official police boats and U.S. Coast Guard craft were incredibly quick in their response, rescuing passengers and crew from the near freezing water in minutes. Thanks to the heroic efforts of all parties responsible for the passengers of Flight 1549, 155 passengers and crew survived without serious injury.

As a result of the courageous initiatives taken place by these individuals, I urge that the House of Representatives give recognition and credit where it is due by passing the Resolution introduced by our colleague from New York, JOSEPH CROWLEY. In doing so we applaud Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III,

First Officer Jeffrey B. Skiles, flight attendants Doreen Walsh, Donna Dent, and Sheila Dail, rescue boats, and private citizens for their quick thinking, and bravery amongst many other heroic actions demonstrated.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF DOVER

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the First United Methodist Church of Dover was founded in 1808 and is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year; and

Whereas, the congregation of First United Methodist Church of Dover began with humble roots, in a series of log cabins in Dover, Ohio, meeting for more than 25 years in the homes of William and Mary Butt, Jacob and Elizabeth Welty, and Christian and Marguerite Deardorff. The congregation slowly grew and in 1833, expanded to a series of community buildings, and

Whereas, the church will celebrate its 200th anniversary with a reenactment of the 1808 founding with present congregants playing the roles of Rev. James Watts, the congregation's first pastor who laid the groundwork for two centuries of faith and dedication to community service, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the First United Methodist Church of Dover for two centuries of dedication and service to the Dover community and recognize their faith in God and determination for worship.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH P.  
ANSTAETT

**HON. JEAN SCHMIDT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kenneth P. Anstaett, a life-long resident of Clermont County who passed away on Wednesday, February 11th. Mr. Anstaett, known by many as Kenny was born on January 28, 1925 in the Ohio River community of Felicity. Kenny later moved and graduated from Owensville High School in 1942.

After the completion of high school, Mr. Anstaett went on to serve our Nation in the United States Army achieving the rank of captain. He served tours in World War II and the Korean War. But Kenny's civic service did not end after his military career. Kenny was later elected to the Batavia Local School Board of Education, twice serving as president. He also served as president of the Batavia Rotary. As a lifelong and active Republican, he founded the Clermont County Young Republican Club with his wife Virginia. He was also an active member in the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3954 and American Legion Post 237.

Kenny Anstaett also owned a small business for roughly 50 years, operating a farm

service equipment company, a Dodge automobile dealership, and a gasoline service station.

Madam Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to Kenneth's lovely wife Virginia, four children, and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO GATEWAY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**HON. GEOFF DAVIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Gateway Community and Technical College.

On December 9, 2008, Gateway Community and Technical College attained Full Regional Accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as a Comprehensive Community and Technical College.

With this regional accreditation, Gateway Community and Technical College has attained a longstanding goal of becoming a comprehensive institution.

Over the years, Gateway has distinguished itself through its dedication to the education and workforce development needs of Northern Kentuckians. The institution has maintained a clear mission to higher education and offers the resources, programs and services to accomplish and sustain that mission. The students and faculty deserve recognition for their diligent multi-year efforts that have resulted in the school's recent accreditation.

I applaud Gateway's commitment to excellence in education and their contributions to Kentucky communities. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating this Kentucky institution on their recent SACS accreditation.

NEW CO-LEADERSHIP IN  
ZIMBABWE

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new leadership body in Zimbabwe, and reaffirm the need for a global commitment to supporting this country on its long road to recovery and stability.

Yesterday, Zimbabwean President Joseph Mugabe swore in his longtime rival Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister. This political marriage was not made in heaven, but in the midst of social unrest, corruption, fuel shortages and unprecedented levels of unemployment, some see this union as a symbol of long-awaited change. Others however, fear that this co-leadership is in name only, and that Mugabe's nearly three decades of oppressive rule have yet to come to an end.

Under the Mugabe regime, voter bribery and intimidation, violence, press censorship and skyrocketing inflation have become all too familiar. Once hailed as the bread basket of Africa, Zimbabwe is now a nation of impoverished millionaires where 10 million dollars buys a loaf of bread if you are lucky, and where the

vast majority are forced to make do with a few crumbs. Cholera, a disease that has not plagued the United States in nearly a century has spread to every area of Zimbabwe, and claimed thousands of lives because of contaminated food and water.

The Shona tribe of Zimbabwe has a famous proverb: water that can be spoiled can also be purified. Madame Speaker, yesterday also marked the 19th anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela's release after 27 years of unjust imprisonment. His freedom signified the beginning stages of the Apartheid era's demise, and Mandela would spearhead reconciliation and equality as the first fully democratically elected President of South Africa.

Although Zimbabwe's fate under the new Administration is uncertain at best, the fact that Mugabe—a man who said that only God could remove him from office—swore in Morgan Tsvangirai as Prime Minister should not go without notice. Whatever the future brings, two things are clear. Years of mismanagement under the Mugabe regime have spoiled Zimbabwe's economy, markets and the everyday livelihoods of its people. And, years of international cooperation will be needed to purge the corruption and violence from Zimbabwe's government, military and industries.

Madam Speaker, Zimbabwe, other African countries and the rest of the world must work to create the incentives and frameworks that are needed to place and keep Zimbabwe on a path to peace, and sustainable development.

THE HISTORY OF SAYING "NO" TO  
ECONOMIC RESCUE EFFORTS  
HAS BEEN A DISASTER FOR OUR  
COUNTRY. JUST ASK HERBERT  
HOOVER.

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, in response to the gravest economic crisis to face our country in generations, Congress is on the verge of approving President Obama's economic recovery package to save or create between three and four million jobs and put our country on a path toward economic growth. That is a good thing. And it is happening despite the opposition of every one of my Republican colleagues in the House. Their opposition is rooted in the history of saying no to government intervention in times of crisis; they were wrong during the Great Depression and they are wrong today.

The public is being told by critics of this plan, which invests in education, renewable energy, transportation, and health care, that it spends too much money and is not the answer to what ails our economy. The critics say that we would be better off relying on the private sector and tax cuts—the same strategy that got us into this mess in the first place. It was this very same Republican strategy that turned a record budget surplus into a record budget deficit and sent the economy into a nose dive.

When the House approved president Obama's plan last week, not a single Republican in the House of Representatives voted

for it. When the Senate approved it this past weekend, only three Republicans there voted for it.

For months now, economists from across the political spectrum have warned Congress and the President that we had to act in a bold and swift manner to rescue the economy. The economy, they said, was literally shutting down.

The housing and banking crises froze the credit markets, sent our economy into a tailspin, and wiped out trillions in personal wealth. Nearly 600,000 Americans lost their jobs in January of this year alone, and 3.6 million Americans have lost their jobs since December of 2007. These numbers are staggering, and they are only going to get worse.

In the face of this crisis, the President called on the nation to heed the advice of the economists and pass his economic recovery plan. It is true, this is a very expensive plan that we will vote on again tomorrow, costing nearly \$800 billion over the next two years.

But the economy will lose far more value than that over the same period of time if we do not act. President Obama has said, and I agree, that doing nothing is not an option. Similarly, he has been honest by saying that he cannot promise that this plan alone will turn our economy around.

The plan we will approve tomorrow over the objections of my Republican colleagues is not a silver bullet. Alone, it will not right the wrecked ship that is our economy. However, along with a strong plan to unfreeze the credit markets and help homeowners afford their mortgages, this plan will help rescue the economy and put people back to work.

Unemployment will continue to rise in the near future no matter what we do. That is always the case in a recession. But if we enact this plan, the unemployment rate will not rise as fast. Fewer people will lose their jobs if we act now, and many more people will have economic opportunity ahead when the economy does recover.

Madam Speaker, it is regrettable that despite the evidence of the need to act, the other party has chosen as their response to America's problems to stay the course and just say "No." They are saying in effect, we will not help you. You are on your own.

They do this much like their predecessors did when they faced the Great Depression. The Republicans were wrong then and they are dead wrong now. And the American people should not for a minute be fooled into thinking otherwise.

If people will remember back to the days before President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a Democrat, rescued the economy from the grips of the Great Depression, President Herbert Hoover looked into the economic abyss and said, don't worry.

For 75 years, Republicans have carried the sad mantle of Hooverism because of their obliviousness to the severity of the coming Depression of the 1930s and the need for government action.

Today, as in the 1920s, Republicans are trying to frame Democrats as wasteful spending interventionists and themselves as guardians of the U.S. Treasury and the private sector.

Not only are they misleading the public and hiding their own record of deficit spending, they are severely misreading the public mood for bold action.

My Republican colleagues, for reasons of antiquated ideology and partisan opportunism,

have failed to appreciate the urgency of the situation.

I encourage my colleagues to dust off the book, *Crisis of the Old Order*, historian Arthur Schlesinger's study of the failures of Hoover leading up to the election of 1932. It is instructive of the mistakes Hoover made then and points to the grave errors the Republicans are making today.

When the country called out for action, the President Obama answered, the Republicans said "No," as reflected by Minority JOHN BOEHNER's instructions to his colleagues to oppose the bill, even as President Obama came to the Capitol to extend his hand and urge their cooperation.

The Minority Whip, ERIC CANTOR of Virginia, said the "no" was going to be the Republicans' strategy to the economic crisis. The Republican national spokesman of late, radio host Rush Limbaugh, added to the "No" strategy by asserting on air that he wanted President Obama to "fail."

From Schlesinger's book, we see that in 1931–32, as the economic crisis was worsening, President Hoover similarly was clueless. "Nobody is actually starving," he said. "The hoboes are better fed than they have ever been. One hobo in New York got 10 meals in one day."

Hoover shunned the idea of strong government action, as Obama is calling for today. "What the country needs is a big laugh," he said in 1932. "If someone could get off a good joke every 10 days, I think our troubles would be over."

In 1932, Hoover asked Will Rogers to think up a joke that would stop hoarding. He told Rudy Vallee, "If you can sing a song that would make people forget the Depression, I'll give you a medal."

And he told Christopher Morley, "Perhaps what this country needs is a good poem . . . Sometimes a great poem can do more than legislation."

Compare those comments to what Roosevelt said. "We need to correct, by drastic means if necessary, the faults in our economic system from which we now suffer . . . The country needs . . . and demands bold, persistent experimentation . . . Above all, try something."

Hoover declared he wanted "to solve great problems outside of Government action." For the federal government to act would undermine "the very basis of self-government."

The Depression, Hoover declared, cannot be solved "by legislative or executive pronouncement. Economic wounds must be healed by the action of the cells of the economic body." Again, suggesting the private sector in all circumstances needs to solve economic crises.

Republicans for generations have stood on the sidelines, and they are doing it again, when the country is calling for their assistance. Tragically, they are deaf to the needs of the American people, they remain locked in ideological indifference and partisan politics, taking as their model the failed Hooverism of the 1930s which let the nation slide into Depression while waiting for poems and songs instead of taking bold action.

They brought nothing but negativism and political posturing to the table when President Obama offered an opportunity to join in a bipartisan effort to rescue the nation.

Their actions are a tragedy. Fortunately, however, my Democratic colleagues in the

House and Senate, and a small number of courageous Senate Republicans, have joined President Obama's call to action and will this week answer the pleas from average Americans for help. We will act now, and we will continue to act until we have turned the economy around for the benefit of every American and our nation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CHALFONT METHODIST CHURCH

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the Chalfont Methodist Church was founded in 1808 and is celebrating its 200th anniversary in Washington Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, the congregation was started by Mordecai Chalfant, a member of the society in Methodism in 1808 but did not have a church until 1811, and

Whereas, in June of 1970, when the East Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church decided to close the parish due to dwindling membership, the building was turned over to another congregation and scheduled to be demolished, the community came together to form the Chalfant Society, raising money to purchase the building and have it named to the National Register of Historic Buildings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the Chalfont Methodist Church for two centuries of dedication and service to the Washington township community and their determination to save the church building and continue the good works of the parish.

HONORING BROTHERHOOD OF THE  
BADGE, INTERNATIONAL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the accomplishments of Brotherhood of the Badge, International based out of Fresno, California. In the organization's short history, its members have successfully completed two trips to Iraq and Afghanistan to deliver law enforcement equipment to the Iraqi Police Officers.

In November 2003, Mike Harris discovered a cause well worth his time and energy. After hearing about Iraqi civilian police and military forces who were without proper gear and equipment, protecting the American soldiers, Mr. Harris came to the realization that he had to find a way to help. He has been in law enforcement for over thirty years and was well aware of surplus and outdated equipment that every law enforcement agency had acquired over the years. This non-serviceable equipment is a burden to the agencies because it cannot be thrown away. To destroy it is extremely costly, and in previous years the old equipment has been found with criminals after the agencies had donated it to Mexican police.

Mr. Harris had previously been involved in another type of assistance to Iraqi officers; a joint venture to financially assist a wounded officer that had been working with the California National Guard. This gave Mr. Harris a good grasp of the short supply of equipment in Iraq and he came up with the idea to take the surplus supplies and send them to the Iraqi government for their police forces. After working through the Iraq government for a waiver of liability, as well as working with the Fresno City Council, the organization came to fruition. In February 2004, five people, including Mr. Harris, traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to donate vests, radios, helmets, leather equipment and riot equipment. The Fresno group outfitted five hundred Iraqi police officers.

In the spring of 2006, the Brotherhood of the Badge, International made a second trip to Iraq, this time the mission was different. The team made the trip to personally assess the needs of the civilian Iraqi police forces in the Salah ad-Din Province. This trip was also made at the invitation of General Turner of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne. The mission of the 101st is to work to help the Iraqis establish the proper local government and police functions that will allow them to function on their own.

Since 2003, the Brotherhood of the Badge, International has gained non-profit status and has established a board that includes members of local law enforcement, the fire department, an elected official and a community volunteer. The organization has sent 20,000 bulletproof vests, thousands of helmets, radios and other protective equipment to Iraq and Afghanistan. Over one hundred law enforcement agencies from across the United States have donated equipment and the group has collected over 2.7 million dollars in private donations for the purchase of new bulletproof vests. U.S. military forces distribute the gear and it is currently being used to protect Iraqi police officers and firefighters.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Brotherhood of the Badge, International for their commitment to serve law enforcement agencies in Iraq and Afghanistan. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the organization many years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF  
FRANCESCO "KID" FRATALIA

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Francesco "Kid" Fratalia, in recognition of his remarkable life and outstanding career in the boxing ring.

Born in 1926 in his beloved hometown of Civitavecchia, Italy, "Kid" Fratalia, nicknamed by his dear friend Rocky Marciano, began his amateur career in 1939 at age 13. As an amateur welterweight, Fratalia had 81 fights in a 10-year period, during which time he became the regional state champion of Lazio, Italy, from 1946 to 1948, and was selected to represent his country in the Olympic Games. He celebrated the joy and endured the agony of a boxing career that stretched 15 years and spanned 3 decades, included 112 fights, and covered 2 continents.

Fratalia's professional career led him to the United States in 1949, specifically, to Brockton, Massachusetts, where he met and began a lifelong friendship with the legendary Rocky Marciano. More importantly in 1949, he met the love of his life, Gloria Vena, of Roxbury. Within 55 days they married and subsequently raised 6 wonderful children; Ernest, Vincent, Stephen, Francesca, Robert, and Christopher.

"Kid" Fratalia's American experience included noteworthy undercard bouts, once to a Joe Louis main event and twice to Rocky Marciano's main events. He returned to fight in Europe in 1951, and in that year solidified his reputation as a fighter's fighter. But it was to America, his new home, that he returned in 1952, to complete his career and raise his family.

When all was said and done, "Kid" Fratalia battled his way to 92 wins against 14 losses, along with 6 draws. In his 112 amateur and professional fights, one thing was certain: he emptied his bucket every time; there was nothing left when the final bell rang. For "Kid" Fratalia, a true warrior, win, lose or draw, it was about effort and valor in the face of a challenge. In October of 2008, Francesco "Kid" Fratalia was inducted into the Massachusetts Ring 4 Boxing Hall of Fame. Bestowed by his peers, this recognition was an honor that he and his family were deeply proud of, and that he cherished to the end.

The real winners in this remarkable life and career were "Kid's" family and friends, both home and abroad, who were so very proud of him. Hard work, fearless determination, respect for others and unwavering devotion to family was what mattered most to him.

Francesco "Kid" Fratalia was truly a man to be reckoned with, a man to emulate, a man to respect, a man to fear, a father and husband to love, a true friend to count on in time of need and a man of character and uncommon kindness. His gifts of family values and his tireless work ethic truly defined him as a man and will be his lasting legacy.

Francesco "Kid" Fratalia passed away on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. He and his kind spirit will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I offer this; to "Kid" Fratalia others of his time and era, may you rest in the eternal peace and light of the Almighty. We thank you for making this world a more interesting and better place.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND  
CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 631, the "Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act." H.R. 631 recognizes the need to increase research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies and practices at the Environmental Protection Agency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of protecting our water resource cannot be overstated. In economic terms, the measurable contribution

of water to the economy is difficult to estimate. In environmental terms, water is the lifeblood of the planet. Without a steady supply of clean, fresh water, all life, including human, would cease to exist.

The quantity, quality and economic problems we face as a result of our use of water are complex but, at least one of the causes of these problems is easy to manage—the way we waste water. And, the solution is straight forward—water conservation. Simply stated, water conservation means doing the same with less, by using water more efficiently or reducing, where appropriate, to protect the resource now, and for the future. Using water wisely will reduce pollution and health risks, lower water costs, and extend the useful life of existing supply and waste treatment facilities.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that water utilities will need about \$277 billion for infrastructure construction, upgrades, and replacement during the next 20 years. In addition, waste water treatment utilities will need multi-billion dollar infrastructure upgrades and expansions, with much of this investment tied to the volume of water needing treatment. By reducing water consumption through efficiency measures, water and wastewater utilities can delay or reduce infrastructure costs, while reducing environmental impacts.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 631 will allow for the leading authorities to conduct the research on water consumption within major economic sectors. The surveys are highly detailed, carefully constructed to be statistically representative of the entire population, and are indispensable analysis and policy planning. In gauging the success of any water efficiency program, data on consumption, price, and product—both prior to and after the research program's implementation—are needed to calculate the change in water use, cost, and product purchase tendencies.

Establishing a baseline of consumption and price levels by sector for a variety of end-uses and customer classes will assist policy planners to better identify the highest-value products to target in designing their programs.

Mr. Speaker, at least 31 water efficiency projects in Texas are ready to go and will create jobs and improve clean water supply, according to a quick survey conducted by the Alliance for Water Efficiency. The projects which provide a sample of water efficiency projects across the state include retro-fitting plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems, upgrading water meters, and planting water wise plants and other vegetation to decrease wasteful water use.

I thank my colleague, Rep. JIM MATHESON, of Utah, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we preserve our planet's most treasured resource, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this H.R. 631.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE  
175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, the First Church of the Nazarene was founded in 1833 and celebrated its 175th anniversary with a "Heritage Days" celebration focusing on missions and culminating in an international celebration, and

Whereas, preparations for the celebration began in 2004 with the writing and translation of materials sent to every Nazarene church around the world with an intention that all 1.6 million members of the church will hear the same sermon, and

Whereas, the First Church of the Nazarene has its roots in Methodism and became the First Church of the Nazarene in 1908, and

Whereas, through its missionary activities, the church now includes graduate theological seminaries in North and Central America and Asia-Pacific, liberal arts colleges in Africa, Canada, Korea and the U.S., and

Whereas, the church is affiliated with more than 40 theological schools worldwide and hospitals in Swaziland, India, and New Guinea; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend the First Church of the Nazarene for 175 years of service to the community and their continued dedication to international cooperation and learning.

RECOGNIZING THE FOUNDER'S  
DAY CELEBRATION AT NEW  
GREATER BETHEL AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to help commemorate the 222nd year since the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The New Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Tennessee—which I am honored to represent in this chamber—is hosting a Founder's Day celebration, beginning today.

Pastor Sabrina Transou and Mr. Parrish Transou Sr. expect to share the event with parishioners from all across the country, including Presiding Prelate, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the first female consecrated as Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I join Pastor Transou in welcoming Bishop McKenzie and their numerous other guests to West Tennessee.

The names of my dear friends Dr. Wesley McClure, President of Lane College, and Shirlene Mercer, who recently retired as our office's long-time Director of Constituent Services, have been submitted to Bishop McKenzie for the Legendary Award for outstanding service within the community. The award will be presented Friday evening. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge all that both of these individuals have done for our community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues in the House join me in honoring the New Greater Bethel African Methodist as it begins this celebration of the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Thank you.

SERGEANT JOHN J. SAVAGE, USA

**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a brave and dedicated hero of the state of Texas and of our nation.

Sergeant John J. Savage was a soldier in the United States Army and a true American hero. John gave his life in the service of his country on December 4, 2008, when an explosives-laden SUV broadsided Sergeant Savage's armored vehicle in Mosul, Iraq.

Assigned to 103rd Engineer Company, 94th Engineer Battalion, Sergeant Savage did his part during a time of war, an action that speaks volumes far greater than words about his character and patriotism.

A native of Weatherford, Texas, John had aspirations for a life in the military from a young age. As stated by his mother, "He loved the military. It was a lifelong dream of his."

John had been on active duty in the United States Army for six years. He spent three years stationed in Germany prior to his first deployment to Iraq in 2005 and was then deployed for a second tour in September of 2007.

Sergeant Savage's three-year-old daughter, Nicole, will continue to learn of her father through family and friends. John's father, who is the son of a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Army himself, commented on his own son by stating, "His family was his number one priority."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Savage's daughter, parents, siblings, and all of his family and friends. His community and nation honor his memory, and we are grateful for his faithful and distinguished service to America.

Sergeant Savage will not be forgotten. His memory lives on through his family and the legacy of selfless service that he so bravely imprinted on our hearts.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR  
HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE  
LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 154, which honors JOHN D. DINGELL for holding the record as the longest serving member of the House of Representatives.

This resolution pays tribute to a man who has given his life to public service. Prior to Congress, JOHN served with dedication as a Congressional page, National Park Ranger, a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and a county prosecutor.

On December 13, 1955, JOHN won a special election to replace his father in the House of Representatives and has been reelected 27

times to represent the families of Michigan. He has served honorably as dean of House of Representatives since the 104th Congress.

I first met Congressman DINGELL when I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. It has been a true honor to serve as a Representative along with such a distinguished gentleman.

Throughout his tenure in the House, JOHN has fought tirelessly for working families. As a member, ranking member, and chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, he has been a leader in protecting the environment and health of all Americans.

As the Congress looks towards reforming our healthcare system, we must thank JOHN for paving the way by increasing access for family and children. Every year since 1957, JOHN has introduced a bill that would provide national health insurance for all Americans. The passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program signed into law in 1997 and an expansion of the program in 2009 could not have been done without him.

JOHN has also been instrumental in the passage of environmental legislation including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

I want to take this time to recognize JOHN's wife Debbie who has been his dedicated partner during his service to our great nation.

Congratulations JOHN. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 10, 2009*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with respect and admiration to honor the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, and support H. Con. Res. 35. The struggle for racial equality has been and continues to be one of the greatest testaments of America's progress throughout its history. The NAACP was founded February 12, 1909 to ensure that the voices of all people of color are heard. The NAACP has a strong legacy of pioneers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Rosa Parks, Mary McLeod Bethune, Mary White Ovington, Joel Elias Spingarn and Roy Wilkins, along with the countless others of diverse ethnicities who have worked tirelessly to fulfill the NAACP's mission. Through tireless work and often great personal sacrifice, the members and leadership of the NAACP have fought for justice, to ensure political, educational, social and economic rights for all peoples. While there is still significant work to be done, these efforts have helped to mold the America we have today.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 35, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE  
SHINGLES PREVENTION ACT

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Shingles Prevention Act. I would like to thank NEIL ABERCROMBIE, TAMMY BALDWIN, DONNA EDWARDS, BARNEY FRANK, AL GREEN, RAUL GRIJALVA, MAURICE HINCHEY, JIM McDERMOTT, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, LOUISE SLAUGHTER, and GENE TAYLOR for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

Many of us have had shingles or know of others, especially over the age of 60, who have. In 2006 a new vaccine was created that prevents occurrence of shingles or dramatically reduces the symptoms and pain of shingles. Experts agree that adults over the age of 60 should receive this immunization.

Half of us will experience shingles by the time we are 80. Shingles is a painful skin rash often accompanied by fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. What is more pressing is that one in five shingles patients will endure post-herpetic neuralgia—severe pain lasting much longer than the rash itself. The pain can be so intolerable that patients are housebound, and there have been cases of suicide from the disease. Shingles is most common among seniors because the immune system wanes with age, making Medicare beneficiaries the best candidates for the vaccine.

Since its development in 2006, the shingles vaccine has been recommended for adults 60 years or older by the Centers for Disease Control. However, current Medicare Part D coverage of the vaccine is insufficient. Not all beneficiaries are enrolled in Part D or another drug prescription plan. More important, seniors are facing high out-of-pocket costs due to a lack of coordination among doctors, pharmacies, and Part D plans. For example, there is no established direct billing method between doctors and plans for Part D vaccines. Because of this, beneficiaries typically must pay the full price up front, which results in out-of-pocket costs that limit access to those that need the vaccine the most—our seniors.

The billing problem, the resulting low utilization of the vaccine, and costly storage requirements are enough to keep many doctors from stocking the vaccine. When doctors do not stock, beneficiaries' only alternative is to obtain the vaccine from pharmacists. But many states do not allow pharmacies to administer Part D vaccines, so the beneficiary has to take the vial from the pharmacy back to the physician's office. Thus, a senior who is thinking about getting vaccinated would have to go first to the doctor's office for a consult, then to the pharmacist, then back to the doctor for the shot.

Not surprisingly, many seniors are not getting immunized against shingles. This low utilization rate contributes to the half a billion dollars of treatment costs per year and, for hundreds of thousands of seniors, many weeks spent suffering from a disease that could have been prevented.

The Shingles Prevention Act will move shingles vaccine coverage to Part B—thus treating it in the same manner as the flu vaccine under Medicare, simplifying the process for physicians and beneficiaries, and lessening the cost

burden for our seniors. This is a common sense and cost effective way to increase access to high quality health care for our seniors, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure its passage.

ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION  
OF INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVO

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Kosovo. February 17, 2008 brought an important measure of clarity and vision to the future of Kosovo—and indeed the entire region—with the resounding declaration by the Kosovar people that Kosovo is an independent republic.

Almost one year to the day, members and supporters of Michigan's Albanian community will gather on February 15 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Rochester Hills, Michigan to commemorate and celebrate the first anniversary of Kosovo's independence. On that day, I will join Dom Anton Kqira and Honorary General Counsel to Albania Ekrem Bardha, and hundreds more to commemorate this historic occasion.

There, we will honor and recognize the determination and perseverance of the Kosovar people, who under the special leadership of President Ibrahim Rugova forged a path for their own future. We will honor and recognize our own community leaders in Michigan, including Dom Kqira and Counsel General Bardha, who tirelessly pressed for official action to address the crisis in Kosovo and we will honor and recognize those leaders of our own country, President William J. Clinton, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and General Wesley Clark (Ret.) among others, who took the action in March of 1999 that laid the foundation for Kosovo independence. Finally, we will honor and recognize the countless members of the Albanian Diaspora community who provided shelter, material and moral support to the nearly 800,000 displaced Kosovars during the crisis.

Madam Speaker, as we mark this occasion of the first anniversary of the independence of Kosovo we hold much hope for the future of an independent Kosovo. But, with sober recognition of the work yet ahead, we stand fully committed to meeting every challenge.

CONDOLENCES TO THE SHURRAB  
FAMILY

**HON. PETER WELCH**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I recently heard the tragic story of Amer Shurrab, a young man from Khan Yunis in Gaza. Amer is a recent graduate of Middlebury College, in Vermont.

On Friday, January 16, Amer's brothers, Kassab and Ibrahim, and father, Mohammad, were driving from their farm near the Israeli

border to their apartment in Khan Yunis. The three men had waited until the daily three-hour calm designated by the Israeli Defense Forces before beginning their journey. They drove the family's jeep through the city and then, without any warning, the car was fired upon by the IDF.

Kassab, a 28-year-old engineer, was killed almost immediately. His father and Ibrahim, an 18-year-old college student, were wounded but survived the initial barrage of gunfire. When the two tried to crawl to safety, the IDF shot the street around them. An ambulance that they managed to call was turned away blocks from the scene. For the next 20 hours, the two were forced to remain in the jeep.

Amer's father spread the word to the immediate family, and the family did all it could to get help. Family members called Israeli government officials, international aid organizations, and human rights groups, while Amer's father, still stuck in the jeep, managed to get through to local radio stations and BBC Arabic to broadcast his pleas for help live on the air. But no help could get through. In the middle of the night, Ibrahim Shurrab bled to death in his father's arms. When relating his story, Amer repeated one word over and over again to describe what happened to his family: cruel. "It was just so cruel," he repeated.

The Israeli government must conduct a full and open investigation of the circumstances regarding this horrible tragedy. I am not sure what kind of explanation can ever account for such suffering, but those responsible for reportedly denying aid to the injured should be held accountable and punished accordingly.

My heart aches for the Shurrab family and all those who have lost loved ones in the most recent round of violence. I will remember their story and pursue peace in the hope that stories like Amer's not be repeated in the future.

REMEMBERING THE SIX VICTIMS  
OF THE 1/31/09 AIRPLANE CRASH  
IN WEST VIRGINIA

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to express my condolences to the family and friends of the six Chicago-area residents who were recently killed in an airplane crash in West Virginia.

On January 31, a twin-engine Piper PA-34 plane carrying four members of Chicago's American Polish Aero-Club and two guests crashed in the woods near Kenova, West Virginia. The plane had taken off from Lake in the Hills Airport and was bound for Charlotte, North Carolina and Clearwater, Florida, where the four members of the club were going to view planes for sale. The club was hoping to purchase a plane to pull glider planes, according to President Chester Wojnicki.

The four club members were all licensed pilots, and all four had immigrated to the United States from Poland. Ireneusz Michalowski of Des Plaines, Kazimierz Adamski of Morton Grove, Wesley Dobrzanski of Niles, and Stanley Matras of Chicago shared not only their cultural heritage but also their love of flying. Also aboard the plane were Monika Niemiec, a reporter for a local Polish radio show, and

her father Stanley Niemiec, both of Harwood Heights.

The Polish American Aero-Club is, by its own claim, the largest Polish flying club outside of Poland. Its approximately 60 members form a close-knit community of enthusiasts who fly both regular planes and gliders. Like the four members killed in the crash, many of the club's members came to the United States from Poland to seek new opportunities.

During this difficult time, Chicago's Polish American community continues to demonstrate strength and resilience as it celebrates the lives of the victims. About 1,000 mourners came together for a memorial service for the victims, held at St. Constance Catholic Church in Chicago, on February 1.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me tonight in remembering the six men and women who were killed in this tragic crash. I wish to express my sincere condolences to the families and all the friends of the victims. Our entire community has been diminished as a result of this tragedy. On behalf of all the residents of the Ninth District, I extend a hand of friendship and a heart filled with sorrow to all those who knew and loved them.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUDGET AUTONOMY ACT OF 2009

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on February 3, 2009, I intended to introduce my budget autonomy bill. I submitted the following introductory statement for the RECORD on that day. It appears that the wrong bill was attached inadvertently. Today, I correct that mistake by introducing the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2009.

As we approach a vote on the D.C. House Voting Rights Act of 2009, it is not too early in the session to begin the next steps necessary to make the residents of the District of Columbia genuinely free and equal citizens. Other than to voting rights, the highest priority for District of Columbia residents in the 111th Congress is their right to control the funds they themselves raise to support their city. Budget control is essential to the right to self-government. Therefore, today, I am introducing the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act of 2009 to give the District the right to enact its local budget without annual congressional oversight.

As a practical matter, permitting the city's budget to become law without coming to Congress would have multiple and immediate benefits for both the city and Congress. For the city, a timely budget means: eliminating the uncertainty of the congressional process that has a negative effect of the city's bond rating, which adds unnecessary interest costs for local taxpayers to pick up; significantly increasing the District's ability to make accurate revenue forecasts; and reducing the countless operational problems, large and small, that result because the city's budget cannot be implemented when enacted by the city. Of the many problems that would be eliminated, none is more important than aligning the school year with the typical state government July 1st

fiscal year, instead of the congressional fiscal year, which starts in October, after the school year has begun.

Leaving the local enactment to the District would bring benefits to Congress as well. The D.C. budget often has had to come to the floor repeatedly before it passes because of controversial attachments, often of interest only to a few members who use the D.C. appropriations to promote their pet ideological issues. Members then complain about the time and effort spent on the smallest appropriations that affect no other members. No budget autonomy bill can eliminate the possibility of riders because there are countless ways to attach riders, but our bill reduces the likelihood that unrelated riders will hold the city's local budget hostage and sometimes the appropriations process itself.

I am gratified that Congress itself has moved toward the position embodied in this bill. Congressional experience with the District's budget has matured, and neither party has made changes in recent years. At the same time, increasing recognition of the hardship and delays that the annual appropriations process causes has led Congress to begin freeing the city from the congressional appropriations network. In 2006, Congress approved the Mid-year Budget Autonomy bill, offering the first freedom from the federal appropriations process, the most important structural change for the city since passage of the Home Rule Act 36 years ago. As a result, the District can now spend its local funds all year without congressional approval instead of having to return mid-year to become a part of the federal supplemental appropriation in order to spend funds collected since the annual appropriations bill. Moreover, during the past few years, appropriators have responded to our concern about the hardships resulting from delays in enacting the D.C. appropriation. I appreciate our agreement that has allowed the local D.C. budget to be in the first continuing resolution, permitting the city, uniquely, to spend its local funds at the next year's level, even though the budgets for federal agencies are often delayed for months. This approach has ended the lengthy delay of the budget of a big city until an omnibus appropriations bill is filed, often months after October 1st.

There is no risk to the Congress passing the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act. By definition, Congress will retain jurisdiction over the District of Columbia under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution because the District is not a state. Since, therefore, Congress could in any case make changes in the District's budget and laws at will, it is unnecessary to require a lengthy repetition of the District's budget process here. The redundancy of the congressional appropriations process is its most striking feature, considering that few if any changes in the budget itself are made.

The original Senate version of the Home Rule Act provided for budget autonomy, and 210 years of redundant processing of a local budget and delays occasioned by the extra layer of oversight offer conclusive evidence that the time is overdue to permit the city to enact its local budget, the single most important step the Congress could take to help the District manage the city.

Members of Congress were sent here to do the business of the Nation. They have no reason to be interested in or to become knowledgeable about the many complicated provi-

sions of the local budget of a single city. In good times and in bad, the House and Senate pass the District's budget as is. Our bill takes the Congress in the direction it is moving already based on its own experience. Congressional interference into one of the vital rights to self-government should end this year with enactment of the District of Columbia Budget Autonomy Act.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF CHIRICAHUA APACHE LEADER GOYATHAY, ALSO KNOWN AS GERONIMO, ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, as Democratic Chairman of the House Native American Caucus, it is my distinct honor to join my friend and colleague Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA in support of H. Res. 132. This resolution honors the life and extraordinary bravery of Geronimo, the great Chiricahua Apache leader, and recognizes the 100th anniversary of his death on February 17, 2009, as a time of reflection and the commencement of healing for the Apache people.

Geronimo, a spiritual and intellectual leader, became recognized as a great military leader by his people because of his courage, determination, and skill. He led his people in a war as the Apache homeland was invaded by citizens and armies first of Mexico, and then the United States. While the Apache people were forcibly removed by the United States and interned at San Carlos, Arizona, Geronimo led some of his people out of captivity and evaded military forces for several years. Upon surrendering to the United States, Geronimo and other Apache prisoners were interned in military prisons in Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma, far from their homeland. Geronimo died on February 17, 1909, and was buried in a military cemetery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The Apache people continue to honor and hold sacred Geronimo's efforts to preserve their traditional way of life and to defend their homeland. While we cannot erase the deplorable history of Indian policy in the United States to terminate tribal nations and their culture, perhaps this resolution will bring about a healing among the Apache people and their children will look back at their history and be proud that the United States paid tribute to Geronimo, a great Apache warrior.

As the San Carlos Apache Tribe and other Apache tribes across the country gather on February 17, 2009, in San Carlos, Arizona to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Geronimo's death, I wish them Godspeed as they begin their journey of spiritual healing.

CELEBRATING ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 200th birthday of our sixteenth

president Abraham Lincoln. We celebrate his accomplishments, not only because he helped create our party but most of all we covet his ability to unite us.

As a member who proudly represents the 10th district of Illinois, today we can stand tall and proudly say we are from the Land of Lincoln.

It was Abraham Lincoln who so famously said, "Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure."

As tough as it is, our parents faced worse. The Depression, World War II, the Cold War. Americans defeated the British Empire and won the Civil War—all tougher times than these. History teaches us that each generation is tested. This is ours.

If we can learn anything from Lincoln it is that we must never lose hope—for we have faced great adversity in the past and emerged the stronger.

As we look to the future and better days, we must not forget the heroes of our past. Abraham Lincoln failed in business, lost his Senate race, and saved the Union. As we all face setbacks, his life is an example encouraging us to get up from setbacks and work to win even against long odds.

HONORING SENATOR RAYMOND LESNIAK FOR WINNING THE MEMORIAL DE CAEN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMPETITION

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak on winning the Memorial de Caen International Human Rights Competition. Senator Lesniak's address, entitled "The Road to Justice and Peace" was chosen by an international panel of judges over a number of entries from all over the world. In his speech, Senator Lesniak makes the case that the death penalty has failed, gives examples of miscarriages of justice and argues that the death penalty "serves no penal purpose and commits society to the belief that revenge is preferable to redemption."

When New Jersey became the first state to abolish the death penalty since the Supreme Court reinstated it in 1976, Senator Lesniak was the prime sponsor and mover of the bill. His passion for justice, combined with his patient, consistent leadership on the issue, had achieved victory for a cause he felt so strongly about.

It was not always the case. Ray Lesniak admits in the Introduction of his book *The Road to Abolition: How New Jersey Abolished the Death Penalty*, that he was not always a death penalty opponent. Early in his legislative career, the Senator voted to reinstate the death penalty in New Jersey. He tells of how he feared the unpopularity of a vote to abolish and was swayed by the argument that he might be perceived as "soft on crime". He gave no thought to the morality of the issue or to the possibility of executing an innocent person. He now says that "The 20 plus inter-

vening years taught me that public service should not be about seeking approval, glory or fame. Trinkets. They're nothing more than trinkets."

When Governor Corzine signed the bill abolishing the death penalty in New Jersey, the Sant'Egidio Community, which is at the forefront of the international anti-death penalty movement, arranged for the lighting of the Colosseum in Rome. The edifice that once was the scene of deadly gladiator combat and executions was bathed for 24 hours in golden light celebrating New Jersey's decision to halt executions. A fitting tribute to the work of Senator Raymond Lesniak.

Ray Lesniak is one of the longest serving and most skilled members of the New Jersey Legislature. First elected to the General Assembly in 1977, he has served in the New Jersey Senate since 1983. His legislative career is filled with initiatives that have become law and ideas that have moved our society ahead. His work has been recognized by numerous organizations. In 2002, Senator Lesniak was named "Humanitarian of the Year" by Community Access Unlimited for his legislative efforts on behalf of people with disabilities and for providing support to working families and the homeless. In 2003 he was awarded "Legislator of the Year" by the Medical Society of New Jersey for working to make health care more affordable and accessible, expanding the PAAD low-cost prescription program to cover more seniors, and expanding cancer and diabetes research and education. He was also honored by the American Cancer Society, the Polish American World and the Department of the Public Defender for his outstanding efforts in the legislature. Ray Lesniak also takes great pride in having been the Grand Marshal of the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City in 2004.

Ray Lesniak is a native of Elizabeth and a life-long New Jersey resident. He was raised in a political household where his mother, the late Stephanie Lesniak, served as a Democratic County Committeewoman for 30 years. She was his biggest fan and supporter and the inspiration for his career in government until her death in 2003 at the age of 85. She would be proud that her son has won international recognition for his achievements, but not surprised.

When Senator Lesniak accepted the award from the Memorial de Caen, he said he was proud as an American to receive this recognition for the defense of human rights. He is dedicating his first place winnings to *The Road to Justice and Peace*, the non-profit foundation he formed to advance the abolition of the death penalty around the globe. Ray Lesniak teaches us that a dedicated public servant, who works tirelessly for a goal, can make a difference that has a far effect. I salute Senator Lesniak for his life's work and congratulate him on winning the International Human Rights Competition. His prize winning entry follows:

I come here today not to plead a case for a victim whose fundamental human rights have been violated. But, rather, to plead the case that the death penalty violates the fundamental human rights of mankind. In my country, the United States of America, over 3,000 human beings are awaiting execution, some for a crime they did not commit. I plead the case that the death penalty in the United States, Iraq, Pakistan, Japan, wherever, exposes the innocent to execution,

causes more suffering to the family members of murder victims, serves no penal purpose and commits society to the belief that revenge is preferable to redemption.

On December 17, 2007, New Jersey became the first state in the Union to abolish the death penalty since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated it in 1976. When Governor Jon Corzine signed the legislation I sponsored into law, he also commuted the death sentences of eight human beings. The Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome, Italy, a lay Catholic organization committed to abolishing the death penalty throughout the world, lit up the Roman Colosseum to celebrate this victory for human rights.

How was this victory achieved? First, by demonstrating that the death penalty creates the possibility of executing an innocent human being. One of our founding founders, Benjamin Franklin, quoting the British Jurist William Blackstone, said: "It's better to let 100 guilty men go free than to imprison an innocent person." Yet Governor Corzine and my legislation let no guilty person go free. It merely replaced the death penalty with life without parole, eliminating the possibility of putting to death an innocent human being. Byron Halsey could have been one such human being. On July 9, 2007, Byron walked out of jail a free man after serving 19 years in prison for a most heinous crime: the murder of a seven year old girl and an eight year old boy. Both had been sexually assaulted, the girl was strangled to death, and nails were driven into the boy's head. Halsey, who had a sixth grade education and severe learning disabilities, was interrogated for 30 hours shortly after the children's bodies were discovered. He confessed to the murders and, even though his statement was factually inaccurate as to the location of the bodies and the manner of death, his confession was admitted into evidence in a court of law. The prosecution sought the death penalty.

Halsey was convicted of two counts of felony murder and one count of aggravated sexual assault. He was sentenced to two life terms: narrowly evading the death penalty by the vote of one juror who held out against it during the sentencing portion of his trial.

After spending nearly half his life behind bars, post-trial DNA analysis determined, with scientific certainty, that Byron did not commit the murders. A witness for the prosecution at his trial is now accused of those crimes.

But for the good judgment of that one juror, Mr. Halsey might have been executed, and the real killer would never have been discovered and brought to justice. Stories like Byron's are not uncommon. Since 1973, 130 human beings on death rows throughout the United States have been released from jail for being wrongfully convicted. During that time over 1,100 prisoners were executed. How many of them were innocent? 3,309 remain on death row throughout the U.S. How many of them are innocent? How many of the innocent will be executed?

It could be Troy Davis. He's been imprisoned since 1989 in the State of Georgia for a murder he maintains he did not commit. In one of Davis's numerous appeals, the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court said, "In this case, nearly every witness who identified Davis as the shooter at trial has now disclaimed his or her ability to do so reliably. Three persons have stated that Sylvester Coles confessed to being the shooter." Coles had testified against Davis at the trial.

On September 23, 2008, less than two hours before Davis was due to be put to death by lethal injection, he received a stay of execution by the U.S. Supreme Court. On October 14 the stay was lifted and the State of Georgia issued an Execution Warrant for October

27. Three days before this execution date, the 11th Circuit Court stayed the execution to consider a new appeal.

Will Troy Davis be the next innocent person saved from execution, or will he be the next innocent person executed? Does the death penalty serve any purpose, other than to do harm to everyone involved, and society in general? Does the death penalty even console the families of murder victims?

Not according to 63 family members of murder victims who stated, in a letter to the New Jersey Legislature: "We are family members and loved ones of murder victims. We desperately miss the parents, children, siblings, and spouses we have lost. We live with the pain and heartbreak of their absence every day and would do anything to have them back. We have been touched by the criminal justice system in ways we never imagined and would never wish on anyone. Our experience compels us to speak out for change. Though we share different perspectives on the death penalty, every one of us agrees that New Jersey's capital punishment system doesn't work, and that our state is better off without it."

Or more specifically stated by Vicki Schieber whose daughter, Shannon, was raped and murdered, "The death penalty is a harmful policy that exacerbates the pain for murdered victims' families."

Some argue that the death penalty is a deterrent to murder, yet more than a dozen studies published in the past 10 years have been inconclusive on its deterrent effect. In testimony before the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee in February 2006, Richard Dieter, Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center, testified that states without a death penalty statute have significantly lower murder rates than their counterparts with the death penalty. Mr. Dieter also testified that of the four geographic regions in the U.S., the South, which carries out 80% percent of all executions in the country, has the highest murder rate. Conversely, the Northeast, which implements less than 1 percent of all executions, has the lowest murder rate in the nation.

Even those who believe the death penalty can act as a deterrent admit that existing research has inconclusive results. Professor Erik Lillquist of Seton Hall University School of Law testified that recent econometric studies conclude that the death penalty can act as a deterrent, but only if the death penalty is implemented in a "sufficient" number of cases. Conversely, he also maintained that other studies suggest that executions can cause a "brutalization effect," in which the murder rate actually increases.

Professor Lillquist stated: "It just may be impossible to know what the deterrent or brutalization effect is here . . . at least as an empirical matter—simply because we're never going to have a large enough database that can be removed from the confounding variables, such that we can come to a conclusion. When scientists run studies in general, we try to do it in a controlled environment. You can't do that with murders and the death penalty."

Jeffrey Fagan, Professor of Law and Public Health, Columbia University and Steven Durlauf, Kenneth J. Arrow Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison wrote in a letter to the editor in the Philadelphia Enquirer on November 17, 2007: "Serious researchers studying the death penalty continue to find that the relationship between executions and homicides is fragile and complex, inconsistent across the states, and highly sensitive to different research strategies. The only scientifically and ethi-

cally acceptable conclusion from the complete body of existing social science literature on deterrence and the death penalty is that it's impossible to tell whether deterrent effects are strong or weak, or whether they exist at all."

The professors concluded: "Until research survives the rigors of replication and thorough testing of alternative hypotheses and sound impartial peer review, it provides no basis for decisions to take lives."

While the death penalty inevitably executes the innocent, exacerbates the pain and suffering of families of murder victims and serves no penal purpose, the worse damage it does is to a society that believes it needs to seek revenge over redemption. The need for revenge leads to hate and violence. Redemption opens the door to healing and peace. Revenge slams it shut.

A society that turns its back on redemption commits itself to holding on to anger and a need for vengeance in a quest for fulfillment that can not be met by those destructive emotions. Redemption instead opens the door to the space that asks healing questions in the wake of violence: questions of crime prevention, questions of why some human beings put such a low value on life that they readily take it from others, questions that help us understand how to help those impacted by violence; questions that take a back seat, and are often ignored, when our minds and emotions are filled with a need for revenge.

Thirty-six states and the federal government of the United States still impose the death penalty. The United States has more human beings in prison and more violence than just about every other civilized country in the world. As long as we continue to choose revenge over redemption, it's likely we will continue to be a leader in the amount of violence and size of our prison population.

It doesn't have to stay that way.

When New Jersey abolished its death penalty, it chose redemption over revenge, healing over hate, peace over war. We need more states and our federal government to make those same choices.

Consider the following headlines which appeared side by side in the New York Times: "Iraqi Leaders Say the Way Is Clear for the Execution of 'Chemical Ali'." The other headline read: "Bomber at Funeral Kills Dozens in Pakistan."

Both Iraq and Pakistan have the death penalty. After the announcement setting the execution date for "Chemical Ali," San Jawarno, whose father and other family members were killed in attacks directed by "Chemical Ali" said, "Now my father is resting in peace in his grave because Chemical Ali will be executed."

The two events, the bombing in Pakistan and the words of the bereaved son whose father was killed, are not unrelated. We must speak up, at every forum, in our homes, our churches, synagogues, mosques and temples, in our legislative bodies, wherever an opportunity exists, to convince political leaders, community leaders, religious leaders, anyone who will listen, that the death penalty has no reason to exist, promotes violence, and brings peace to no one: in the grave or not.

That was to be the end of my plea to abolish the death penalty. Then I read a report from Amnesty International about the 13-year-old girl who was stoned to death in a stadium packed with 1000 spectators in Kismayo, Somalia. Her offense? Islamic militants accused her of adultery after she reported she had been raped by three men. Will this senseless, inhumane killing ever end?

Perhaps. The brutality of the death penalty and of Islamic militants can end, if we

speak out against it, wherever it exists, in any shape, in any form.

The death penalty is a random act of brutality. Its application throughout the United States is random, depending on where the murder occurred, the race and economic status of who committed the murder, the race and economic status of the person murdered and, of course, the quality of the legal defense.

I'm proud of the people of the State of New Jersey for electing political leaders who ended this random act of brutality. And I applaud Amnesty International for alerting the good people of the world to the brutality of the Islamic militants in Somalia who stoned to death that poor girl.

No good comes from the death penalty, whether it's imposed by duly elected governments, or by radical, religious fanatics. No good.

The burden of proof in the Court of Public Opinion should be on those advocating for the death penalty. That burden has not been met.

Just ask Byron Halsey. Or Troy Davis. Or, if you could, that 13-year-old girl.

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#### HONORING THE NAACP ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2009*

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 35, honoring the contributions of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, and specifically to pay tribute to the Fort Wayne/Allen County Branch that serves the citizens of northeast Indiana.

As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP, it is important to take time to look back on its accomplishments. Throughout its history the NAACP has advanced the cause of civil rights and stirred the conscience of our nation. Madame Speaker, whether it was standing side by side with Rosa Parks, helping to outlaw the evil practice of lynching, or helping victims of Hurricane Katrina get back on their feet, the NAACP has stood as a "voice" and a "shield" for minority Americans.

Madam Speaker, from its humble beginnings in a hotel room across from Niagara Falls, to its current operations across the country, the NAACP has grown with our nation. Over the years, it has stayed true to its mission of eliminating racial hatred and racial discrimination.

In northeastern Indiana the NAACP, under the new leadership of the Reverend Bill McGill, has dedicated itself to improving the lives of local minority youth. Madam Speaker, in these difficult economic times the NAACP helps provide these youth with the opportunity they deserve and ensures the promise of our nation extends to all our citizens.

This past January I was pleased to host members of the local branch of the NAACP for the Presidential inauguration, and I was once again struck by their commitment to solving the problems facing our nation. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 35 and urge my colleagues to join me in praising the work of the NAACP and its members in northeast Indiana.

HONORING JOHN D. DINGELL FOR HOLDING THE RECORD AS THE LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 11, 2009*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution and to recognize my dear friend, JOHN DINGELL, on his lifetime of public service.

Over the last 53 years, JOHN DINGELL has stood larger than life. His dedication to his district, state and country has been a tremendous source of inspiration to me and my colleagues. I know that the United States of America is a safer, cleaner and healthier country because of his tireless efforts.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I have had the privilege of serving under Chairman DINGELL. As Chairman, his wisdom and judgment were only outdone by his kindness and generosity. I know that every member in this chamber is a better representative today because of the lessons we have learned from him.

In the 111th Congress, I look forward to continue working with, and learning from, JOHN DINGELL as he continues to fight for American families. This year we plan to work to provide universal health care, improve safety standards in toys, and find a solution to ad-

dress global climate change, and JOHN DINGELL will be a major factor in each of these efforts.

On a personal note I also deeply appreciate the friendship extended to me and my family by John and Debbie Dingell. They are always there for friends who need comfort and care. I congratulate and thank JOHN DINGELL for everything that he has and will accomplish in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE NATION'S MANUFACTURERS' MEETING IN CHATTANOOGA

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 12, 2008*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an exciting event in Tennessee. Next week, the nation's manufacturing interests will gather in Chattanooga, Tennessee to discuss ways to provide U.S.-built products to support a nuclear energy renaissance. Job growth for electricity generation is already underway in Tennessee at Alstom's Chattanooga facility where 300 new jobs are expected to be added.

I congratulate Chattanooga's city leadership, the Tennessee-based sponsoring manufacturing companies, the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Nuclear Energy Institute on their commitment to job growth in

the nuclear industry. A single nuclear plant will create as many as 2,400 jobs during construction and 400 to 700 full-time, high-skill positions during its 60-year operating lifetime.

Electric power companies have filed federal permits to build up to 26 new nuclear plants. This list includes the Tennessee Valley Authority whose interests include potentially two new plants at the Bellefonte site in Northern Alabama. Based on statistics from the existing 104 U.S. nuclear power plants, each year, a new reactor will produce about \$600 million to federal, state and local governments in tax revenue and by expenditures in the economy for goods, services and labor. A four year construction schedule will also provide a substantial boost to suppliers of commodities and manufacturers of hundreds of components.

Recognizing the need for new electricity generation, especially in our region, TVA and other companies are also evaluating the benefits of new carbon-free electricity. The 104 nuclear power plants operating today in the United States produce three-quarters of our carbon-free electricity. Of the emission-free sources, nuclear energy has the most potential for large-scale expansion.

We face tremendous economic and energy challenges in Tennessee. Residents of Tennessee can benefit from deployment of carbon-free nuclear energy technology that creates jobs and stimulates the U.S. economy. I look forward to the progress in Tennessee's growing energy industry as our great country moves ever closer towards energy independence.