

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 SEN-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