

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: