

Before election to the City Council in 1992, Mr. Baldwin was president of the San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce. Since then, he has been actively involved with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). He served as President of the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA and is currently a board member of the Arthritis Foundation of Southern California, San Gabriel Valley Branch, in addition to being involved with many other organizations.

Mayor Baldwin has been a tireless advocate for the City of San Gabriel and the region as a whole. I ask all Members to join me in thanking Harry L. Baldwin for the years of selfless, dedicated service he has provided to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NOWRUZ,  
IRANIAN NEW YEAR

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Nowruz, which marks the traditional Iranian New Year and dates back more than 3,000 years. Nowruz, literally meaning "new day," celebrates the arrival of spring and occurs on the vernal equinox which this year happened on Friday, March 20th.

Through the ages Nowruz has provided the occasion for renewal and rejuvenation, displaying new resolve in settling old issues, and making new beginnings. Nowruz celebrates the core of our common humanity and our relation to Mother Nature. Although colored with vestiges of Iran's Mazdian and Zoroastrian past, Nowruz celebration is neither religious nor national in nature, nor is it an ethnic celebration. Muslim, Jewish, Zoroastrian, Baha'i, and Christian Iranians as well as many other peoples celebrate Nowruz with the same enthusiasm and sense of belonging.

As an original cosponsor of H. Res. 267, which recognizes the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz, I am pleased that we are using this occasion to reflect on the many contributions Iranian Americans have made to our society. I am proud of the ethnically diverse district that I represent and greatly appreciate all that Iranian Americans have added to the rich and varied culture of New York City.

Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of Nowruz and in its observance, I want to wish Iranian Americans and all those who observe this holiday a happy and prosperous new year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MS. BESSIE SWINDLE AND THE DEDICATION OF THE BESSIE SWINDLE COMMUNITY CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize the life and

contributions of a distinguished member of my Houston staff, a constituent and more importantly a friend who was honored on Saturday, March 21, 2009 with the naming of the Bessie Swindle Community Center in Houston, Texas.

A respected leader and activist, Ms. Swindle has committed her life to serving her community. Over the course of more than thirty years, she has endeavored to serve as the voice for those who have, over the years, found themselves in unfortunate and difficult circumstances. I believe her record of unselfish dedication to her city and community will serve as a bright light for those who dare to follow in her footsteps.

Ms. Bessie Swindle was born in Loreauville, Louisiana and transplanted to Houston. Currently, she is the Outreach Coordinator for Congressman AL GREEN of the 9th Congressional District of Texas. Ms. Swindle was appointed by Mayor Bill White to his Phone Tower Commission and is a former member of the Police Officers Civil Service Commission-City of Houston, which is responsible for reviewing HPD criminal activities.

During her distinguished lifetime of service, Ms. Swindle has earned numerous awards and honors. In 2004, she was a recipient of an Honorary Associate in Arts Degree from Houston Community College System.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not thank Mayor Bill White, City Controller Annise Parker, and the distinguished members of the Houston City Council, including the Honorable Wanda Adams who sponsored this special tribute, for their foresight in honoring my friend, Ms. Bessie Swindle.

SMALL BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 17, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1541.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and has a current business loan portfolio of roughly 220,000 loans worth more than \$50 billion, which makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses. My district is home to many of these businesses, many of which are struggling to hang tough in this trying economy.

In the 110th Congress, several short-term SBA authorization measures were enacted; the latest was signed into law on May 23, 2008. Under that law, authorization for SBA programs is scheduled to expire on March 20. I am hopeful that President Obama continues the recognition and support for small businesses that he demonstrated yesterday. His leadership, along with that of my colleague NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ on these issues could not come at a more important time.

Small business is frequently viewed as an incubator for employment and economic growth, and is a continuing legislative and oversight concern for Congress due to its constitutional role, through the interstate commerce and general welfare clauses, to promote economic well being and prosperity.

While many analysts believe a very significant percentage of the nation's jobs are cre-

ated by small businesses, others note that a great many small businesses fail every year thereby eliminating jobs.

The 111th Congress is likely to consider many small business issues as it debates reauthorization for the many Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that are scheduled to expire in 2009. Our small business owners need certainty to plan for the future and I will continue to work hard for a more permanent solution to complement the authorizations that many businesses have to endure.

A primary issue in the reauthorization is likely to be the cost to the government of various small business assistance programs. The Bush Administration had proposed that certain loan programs be cut back or eliminated, that borrowers in the SBA's basic loan program be charged higher fees, and that interest rates for disaster loans rise to market levels after five years. I hope that a full review of these policies is underway by the new administration.

Ways to insure that small businesses benefit from economic stimulus programs are likely to be considered. Finding ways for small businesses to provide health insurance to employees could be vital in getting elements of the business community to be actively supporting and working with Congress as we press ahead with legislation on health care. I understand that we in Congress cannot run your businesses for you. I just want to be there to help fashion fair and reasonable legislation that affects small business.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes Small Business Administration programs and authority through July 31 and again it is my hope that we continue to engage the business community as this Congress seeks to move America from recession back to prosperity.

NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2009. This legislation makes a technical correction to the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978 created the National Consumer Cooperative Bank, NCB, which is dedicated to strengthening communities nationwide through the delivery of banking and financial services, complemented by a special focus on cooperative expansion and economic development. The same Act established a non-profit corporation to reach further into low income communities and to serve disadvantaged populations. NCB Capital Impact is that non-profit, mission-driven subsidiary of NCB that works to provide housing, education, health care, cultural centers, small businesses and social services in economically distressed communities.

NCB Capital Impact has an impressive track record providing assistance to low- and moderate-income communities. Over time, NCB has invested \$250 million for education facilities; helped finance 137,396 school seats; 33,132 units of multifamily homeownership or

other affordable housing and 8,900 affordable assisted living units for seniors and persons with disabilities; 2.9 million square feet of community health center space serving 350,300 patients annually, and helped created 25,000 jobs for low-income individuals.

Back in my district—the 14th district of New York—NCB Capital Impact has played a significant role in providing financing for much needed housing and community development projects. NCB has facilitated more than 600 loans in my district alone. Most of these loans are for housing, including affordable housing, as well as loans for community facilities and loans to non-profit organizations like the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums. Together, these groups are able to provide assisted living, affordable housing and services to the frail and elderly.

Despite their good work in serving low-income communities and disadvantaged populations, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for assistance authorized under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is administered by the CDFI Fund. NCB Capital Impact meets all of the eligibility criteria on its own and without exception; however the Fund has ruled it cannot certify NCB Capital Impact as a CDFI because of the corporate structure of its parent NCB. In short, NCB Capital Impact is shut off from critical sources of financial awards that are needed to maintain their housing and community development efforts.

The interest of NCB Capital Impact in gaining CDFI certification is two-fold. First, it has a track record that is comparable to other organizations that received CDFI status; its mission is dedicated to working with low income populations and communities. Second, increasingly in the community development finance field, CDFI certification is viewed as a 'good housekeeping seal' of approval in working with other federal agencies and other private and public institutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this technical amendment to the NCB statute so that the non-profit, mission-driven NCB Capital Impact may continue to provide services to distressed and underserved communities throughout New York and the country at-large.

CONGRATULATING LADY TIGERS  
OF BENTON HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Tigers of Benton Harbor High School on their first ever state basketball championship. These outstanding young women have come a long way this past season and have made their community so very proud. It had been 25 years since the Lady Tigers last appeared in the Class A finals . . . and this time they emerged as champions!

Winning a state championship is something that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams in southwest Michigan ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2008–09 Lady Tigers forever. The Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey

know what brought this state title back to Benton Harbor—hard work. It is doing that one extra sprint, that extra drill, shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Lady Tigers champions. Nobody outworked the Tigers and nobody could beat them in the state tournament. And nobody had a greater following or more community support than our Lady Tigers.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Lady Tiger squad: Olivia Askew, Damonica Buford, Tiara Greer-Allen, Andrea Ellis, Iesha Ellis, Deborah Meeks, Rashonda Pargo, Nyesha Winbush, and All-American Destiny Williams, who led the Lady Tigers with 31 points and added 21 rebounds. We salute all of you.

On behalf of all the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Lady Tigers and Coach Harvey and the entire Benton Harbor community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Tiger Pride at its finest. Go Tigers!

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAY FOR  
PERFORMANCE ACT

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, tonight I am proud to introduce the Pay for Performance Act of 2009.

Madam Speaker, this bill is based on two simple concepts. One, no one has the right to get rich off taxpayer money. And two, no one should get rich off abject failure.

An economy in which a bank executive can line his own pocket by destroying his company with risky bets is an economy that will spiral downwards. And a government that hands out money to such executives is a government that fails to protect the taxpayers.

Our job is to act on behalf of taxpayers to fix our economy, and we do so tonight with this bill.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. Government spent \$170 billion to stabilize AIG, and it now owns 80% of that company. Yet recently, AIG paid more than \$165 million in bonuses to 73 employees with this taxpayer money. That is like paying an arsonist to put out his own fires.

The restrictions in this bill apply only to financial institutions that have taken capital investments from the taxpayer, and they are commonsense restrictions. Pay can't be excessive or unreasonable, and bonuses must be based on performance standards. And if the banks want to avoid these common-sense restrictions, there's a very simple solution—just pay the bailout money back to the government, as so many banks claim they want to do. I know the taxpayers in my district will take it back happily.

As I asked the CEO of AIG when he came to testify before the Financial Services committee, is it more important to protect bank executives who have lost billions of dollars, or to protect us? The answer to that question is now before this body.

I know which side I'm on.

I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

CONGRATULATING MAYOR SAM  
JONES FOR BEING NAMED  
MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 23, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mobile Mayor Sam Jones on the occasion of being named Mobilian of the Year for 2008 by the Cottage Hill Civitan Club. The Mobilian of the Year is the city's most prestigious civic honor, and Mayor Jones is most deserving of this award in recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Port City.

A native of Mobile, Mayor Jones graduated from Central High School in Mobile. He attended Florida Junior College and Jacksonville University in Florida before enrolling at the Alabama Interdenominational Seminary, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate.

Mayor Jones started his career in the U.S. Navy where he served for nine years. He served on the USS *Forrestal* where he was a flight deck troubleshooter for A-7 aircraft, an equal opportunity officer, race relations education specialist, and community services coordinator.

From 1980 until 1987, Mayor Jones was executive director of Mobile Community Action, Inc., where he oversaw a 240-person staff and a \$5 million annual budget. He then served as a Mobile County Commissioner for four terms.

In 2005, Sam Jones was elected as the first African American mayor of Mobile. Mobile's Press-Register recently editorialized that "Mobile's first African American mayor has demonstrated to the nation that Mobile is a progressive and inclusive Southern city where all residents have the opportunity for public service."

Mayor Jones is a man known for working 10–12 hour days, including weekends, and is rarely one to take a vacation. As captain of the city of Mobile, Mayor Jones has done yeoman's work helping to recruit several significant economic projects to Mobile, including the biggest economic development project in the history of our state, ThyssenKrupp's \$4 billion state-of-the-art steel plant.

Mayor Jones has an obvious love for Mobile. He has served as the past president of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama; a former member of the National Association of Counties Board of Directors; the National Association of Counties Election Reform Steering Committee; co-chair of Renewal 90 Educational Initiative; steering committee member of the 1988, 1992 and 2000 Education Funding Referendum Initiatives; former member of the Alabama Sentencing Commission; judge, Alabama Court of the Judiciary; former member of the Judicial Inquiry Commission; past member of the Alabama Port Authority; former member of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; former board member of the United Way of Southwest Alabama and 1998 chairman of a \$7 million campaign for the organization; founder of the Mobile County Development Partnership; founder, Prichard Federal Credit Union; former chair of Envision Mobile/Baldwin; member, Underage Drinking Task Force; member, 100 Black Men, Mobile