come and go, but every one of them has known Marvin. Marvin's first firefighting experience was as a high school student. As his school bus passed by a grass fire, members of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asked the bus driver to help put the blaze out.

As the close-knit community expanded, the fire department was established and its responsibilities grew. They started with grass fires and are now trained to handle natural disaster and domestic terrorism. In a way familiar to many Ham Lake residents, Marvin explains, "The fire department is advancing further and further and further than just putting the wet stuff on the red stuff."

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marvin Buchholz for demonstrating honor and loyalty to the Ham Lake Fire Department for 40 years. As a District Chief, Marvin has seen more calls to service than any other department firefighter and deserves our sincerest appreciation.

HONORING PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RECIPIENT EDWARD J. TINNEY OF SPRING HILL, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Marvin Buchholz for demonstrating honor and loyalty to the Ham Lake Fire Department for 40 years. As a District Chief, Marvin has seen more calls to service than any other department firefighter and deserves our sincerest appreciation.

Since its inception in 1941, the Citation has been awarded fewer than 100 times to include the Second World War, the Korean War, the Cold War, the war in Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan and only five units as small as Mr. Tinney's have received the Citation. Today, the party stands for the same political goals that it stood for thirty years ago; to defend their people and to create a free and democratic Iraq. The movement calls for the recognition of the rights of all Assyrians and to unify the various individual identities, including Chaldean, Syrian and Assyrian.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Assyrian Democratic Movement on thirty years of commitment to creating a free and democratic Iraq. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian Democratic Movement many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING STUDENTS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of several students in Northern Virginia. These students have participated and excelled in programs administered by their local Parent Teacher Associations and Parent Teacher Student Associations.

Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA) serve a critical role in helping to provide the best possible educational environment for our students. The Northern Virginia District PTA consists of a region with more than 220 schools. Schools located throughout Northern Virginia are consistently recognized as being among the very best schools in our country. I strongly believe one factor in the excellent education received by our students is the high level of involvement and encouragement provided by parents through the PTA and PTSA. At its annual meeting and dinner, the Northern Virginia District PTA recognized the following students for their outstanding achievements:

In the category of District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—High School Division the winners are Paul Capp, a senior at McLean High School, and Lisa Pang, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

In the category of District PTA Citizenship Essay Awards—Middle School Division the winners are Cali Willcockson, a seventh grader at Liberty Middle School, and Ji Soo Song, an eighth grader at Rocky Run Middle School.

A separate special congratulations goes to Paul Capp of McLean High School for placing 3rd in the Virginia State PTA Citizenship Essay Contest—High School Division and to Ji Soo Song who won 1st place in the Virginia State PTA Citizenship Essay Contest—Middle School Division.


The Frieda M. Koonz Scholarship Award has been awarded to Monica Choudhury, a senior at James Madison High School in Virginia. This scholarship awarded by the Virginia PTA will provide $1,200 to Ms. Choudhury as she begins her studies at the University of Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to recognize the outstanding achievements of these students. I also ask that we recognize the Northern Virginia District PTA, in partnership with the Virginia PTA, as they work diligently to develop the diversity of talents and skills of students attending schools throughout Northern Virginia. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the achievements of these students and the Parent Teacher Associations that support them.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF HON. VIRGINIA FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, "The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act," which is before us today, contains a so-called "special rule for cigarettes" in Section 907 of the bill that would ban flavored cigarettes—with the exception of menthol flavored cigarettes.
Since the legislation allows the sale of menthol cigarettes, which are produced in the United States and in my home State, while banning clove cigarettes, which are imported primarily from Indonesia, the Indonesian Government has made it clear that it considers this provision an attempt to discriminate against clove cigarettes, a product in favor of a competing U.S. product—and thus section 907 in the bill runs contrary to the free-trade commitments the United States has made as part of the WTO.

According to WTO rules Mr. Speaker, an important principle is that the U.S. (and clove cigarettes) should receive treatment that is “no less favorable than that provided to a domestic good.” Adhering to this principle would appear to require that clove cigarettes be treated no less favorably than menthol cigarettes and thus under this bill both should be exempt from the prohibition on flavored cigarettes or both should be banned in order to ensure there is no unfair discrimination in the treatment of the two products. The latter option is not an option at all in my opinion but neither is ignoring the concerns of our ally Indonesia, a country well known to our President.

For years now, senior officials of the Indonesian Government have repeatedly and doggedly attempted to communicate their country’s concerns to U.S. legislators and executive branch policymakers alike—to no avail. The communiqué from the Indonesian Ambassador to Chairman Waxman, as well as the Indonesian Trade Minister’s dispatch to former Chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Dear Chairman Waxman,

I extend my personal best wishes for your continued service in the United States House of Representatives and assure you of the full cooperation of the Indonesian Government in the implementation of the World Trade Organization and other international trade agreements.

Section 907 of the proposed bill.

In my opinion but neither is ignoring the concerns of our ally Indonesia, a country well known to our President.

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Members, such as Indonesia. Similar obligations exist under the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A stated purpose of the standards in the proposed U.S. legislation is to restrict advertising and promotional practices most likely to entice youth into tobacco use, while affording ample opportunity to market tobacco products to adults. Like menthol cigarettes (and unlike other flavored cigarettes), clove cigarettes are not targeted at youth smokers. Clove cigarettes are estimated to account for only 0.1% of the total number of cigarettes consumed in the United States and only 0.8% of youth smokers have smoked clove cigarettes and that number of youths is declining based on recent studies. Menthol cigarettes, on the other hand, are estimated to account for approximately 26% of the cigarettes consumed in the United States and approximately 29.7% of youth smokers smoke menthol cigarettes. Moreover, there is no scientifically supportable evidence or risk assessment establishing specific human health risks associated with menthol cigarettes that would justify regulating these cigarettes while continuing to permit the sale of menthol cigarettes.

These facts are compelling. Imports of Indonesia’s clove cigarettes are prohibited for no other reason than they contain a natural herbal additive, while U.S. cigarettes containing menthol—a processed herbal additive—are explicitly exempted from the prohibition. The Government of Indonesia firmly believes that such discriminatory treatment is inconsistent with the United States international obligations and, if enacted, will have a significant adverse effect on Indonesian trade.

The Government of Indonesia therefore respectfully asks that you carefully consider our concerns and, in the interest or our positive trade relationship, ensure that both the spirit and the requirements of the WTO agreements are observed. Further, absent elimination of the prohibition on imports of clove cigarettes, pursuant to Article 2.5 of the TBT Agreement and Article 5.8 of the SPS Agreement, we ask the United States to explain how that prohibition is justified.

As you know, Indonesia has expressed concern over the Bill at previous meetings of the Indonesia-U.S. Trade and Investment Council.

We trust that your government would understand the difficulties we are facing, as well as the severity and the urgency of this matter to our people whose livelihood very much depends on the existence of the cigarettes industry. We would be very appreciative of your attention to this matter and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with you, at your convenience.

We see this opportunity in building and strengthening the robust relation between our two countries. Thank you.

Your sincerely,

MARI ELKA PANGESTU.

TEXAS’ PORTABLE HOSPITALS

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas, Madam Speaker, over the past several years, Southeast Texas has been the target during Hurricane Season. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita hit in 2006 and the very recent Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Not to mention Hurricane Gustav, which did not cause a disaster in Texas, many believe it was just a trial run before Hurricane Ike. Hurricane Ike came along two weeks later on September 13, 2008.

These hurricanes have taught emergency management officials to be prepared in time of a disaster. Through their preparedness they are able to assist and help other individuals evacuate the city in a timely manner. The most recent development is the Portable Inflatable Hospital presented by the East Texas Regional Trauma Advisory. With the help of the emergency management officials, numerous area hospitals and others, this incredible development was established. State and federal Grants help fund the hospital that cost around 1.5 million. This portable hospital is a great way for medical personnel to assist patients during a disaster and for the patients to get the quick response medical help they need. The medical assistance can range from distributing medications to on site emergency care. The hospital can operate as one or more self-sufficient separate facilities. It is equipped with beds, living areas, and other units. This project has had a great response from individuals willing to donate, but still needs any help it can get from our local Southeast Texans. The medical personnel and emergency officials are very grateful for this new facility. It will be located in Southeast Texas and can be set up across the state. The hospital will cost five thousand dollars to operate daily plus an additional twelve thousand dollars to generate the portable hospital.

Emergency preparedness is very crucial in time of a disaster. With our great response teams in Southeast Texas the portable hospital will be ready in time of need. I would like to thank the individuals who spend endless hours preparing for Hurricane Season.

HONORING MR. JACOB TANENBAUM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jacob Tanenbaum, an outstanding constituent and educator from the 17th Congressional District of New York, for his exemplary efforts in bringing real scientific research to the classroom.

Jacob Tanenbaum, an elementary school teacher at the South Orangetown schools in Rockland County, New York, was chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Teacher at Sea Program to participate in a two-week research cruise in the North Atlantic this past fall to study Atlantic fisheries while aboard NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow.

Embarking from Newport, Rhode Island, Mr. Tanenbaum’s research cruise followed a track off the United States’ northeastern coast. Mr. Tanenbaum not only researched fisheries, but was also invited to participate in a two-week research cruise in the North Atlantic this past fall to study Atlantic fisheries while aboard NOAA Ship Henry B. Bigelow.

From his work aboard the Bigelow, Mr. Tanenbaum has been able to enrich his curriculum and excite his students about science.

I commend Mr. Tanenbaum on his spirit of adventure in the name of education, his willingness to try new things, and his ability to bring this experience back into the classroom.

NOAA’s Teacher at Sea program has afforded Mr. Tanenbaum an unparalleled opportunity to provide his students with hands-on scientific education, grounded in an oceanic experience. The lessons he learned on the Bigelow will stay with Mr. Tanenbaum for the rest of his teaching career, acting as a source from which he will always be able to draw inspiration and creativity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONFLICTED INVESTMENT ADVICE PROHIBITION ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Conflicted Investment Advice Prohibition Act of 2009, CIAPA, which would restore the Employee Retirement Income Security Act’s, ERISA, prohibition on self-interested investment advisers providing advice to employer-sponsored retirement accounts, thereby, safeguarding the retirement savings of millions of hardworking Americans.

On the eve of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Bush administration attempted to finalize a regulation concerning the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, ERISA, that raised substantial questions of law and policy. Essentially, the final rule issued would have allowed conflicted financial advice to workers with regard to their 401(k) and other types of defined contribution plans. Fortunately, thanks to letters of opposition from Chairman Miller and me, as well as several other Members of Congress, as well as consumer advocacy groups and several financial industry insiders who serve in the interest of investors, the Obama administration has delayed the effective date of the regulation for further examination of its intent.

I believe in the value of providing American workers with access to investment advice, so long as the advice is independent and free from conflict—serving in the interest of the worker, rather than the interest of the financial advisor. During a time when American workers have already lost $2 trillion in assets due to last year’s market downturn, exposing their hard-earned retirement savings to greater risk by allowing advisers to offer them conflicted