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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COSTA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 12, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM COSTA to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

REPAYMENT OF TARP FUNDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my speech builds on two themes.

The first is the continuing effort of administrations of both political parties to turn Congress into a mere advisory body. One of the more effective ways of doing this is to embrace those statutory sections that they like and to ignore those statutory sections that they don't like.

The second theme is, it's not illegal if Wall Street wants it.

Now let us illustrate these two themes on the TARP legislation, the legislation that provided $700 billion to bail out Wall Street and provided the Secretary of the Treasury with enormous authority and discretion as to how that money would be used.

Now I thought $700 billion was more than enough. For many reasons I voted against this bill. But there was at least one code section in the bill that seemed to make sense, and that was a provision that stated clearly and unequivocally that whatever money came back from whatever investments were made by the Secretary of the Treasury would go to the general fund, would pay down the national debt, would go into the same fund that our money went into on April 15 when we mailed in our tax returns.

And that's why section 106(d) of the bill that created the act states very simply, ''Revenues of, and proceeds from the sale of troubled assets purchased under this Act, or from the sale, exercise, or surrender of warrants or senior debt instruments acquired under section 113''—and here are the key words—''shall be paid into the general fund of the Treasury for the reduction of the public debt.''

How is this code section relevant? How does it fit into the overall statute? Well, the statute envisions the idea that the Secretary of the Treasury would use our $700 billion to purchase certain investment assets defined in the bill as troubled assets, and then at some subsequent point those assets would be sold. Whatever money we got from that sale or from the redemption, when we traded in those assets, whatever we got would go into the general fund.

It is being widely accepted in the press, in Washington and on Wall Street that whatever the Secretary of the Treasury gets back from the banks will instead be part of some revolving fund from which the Secretary of the Treasury may make additional bailouts in addition to the first $700 billion of expenditures.

Well, the statute is very clear to the contrary. Whatever is returned to the Treasury goes into the general fund.

Now one thing to keep in mind is this statute uses the term ''troubled assets'' so that the Secretary of the Treasury might say, well, what we're selling is the preferred stock that Secretary Paulson originally invested in. These aren't troubled assets. They're happy assets, and therefore, section 106(d) would not apply.

This is a complete misreading of the statute because if you turn to section 3(9)(B) of the statute, ''troubled assets'' is defined as, ''any other financial instrument that the Secretary, after consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, determines the purchase of which is necessary to promote financial market stability, but only upon transmittal of such determination, in writing, to the appropriate committees of Congress.''

The preferred stock that we are about to sell or that the companies are about to repurchase from us is exactly this kind of troubled asset. It was purchased by the Secretary of the Treasury after a determination that doing so was necessary to promote financial stability, and to make it very clear that they were relying on section 3(9)(B), which defines troubled assets, the Secretary of the Treasury sent the appropriate committees a written determination.

So when we bought the assets, they were defined by the Treasury Department as being troubled assets. They are clearly subject to this code section.

But one more thing, if for some reason the preferred stock wasn't within the ambit of the definition of troubled assets when it was purchased, then the purchase was illegal to begin with because the only code section in the bailout bill that allows for that purchase is section 101(a)(1), which authorizes only the purchase of troubled assets.

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Make sure when we get back the money, it's not a revolving fund, that it goes into the general Treasury to pay off the national debt.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Americans are very concerned about our economy right now, and one of the things that gives them a lot of concern is where we are in terms of price for energy.

The Republicans have a group called the American Energy Solutions Group that has been working on this issue, and I want to share some information that they have put together. Republicans, despite what our colleagues on the other side have said, have alternatives to the problems that we're facing in this country, but often these alternatives are not getting the attention from the majority party they deserve.

Despite the President's campaign promise not to raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans, his energy plan is nothing more than a $646 billion national energy tax on every American family and small business. As families and businesses struggle in these difficult times, it's unconscionable to make the pain worse by forcing taxpayers to pay ever-higher energy bills.

The President's energy plan will force family energy costs to rise by more than $3,100 per year and will pull $860 billion out of family budgets and put it into the Federal budget. And this is being optimistic. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates the real cost to be as high as $3 trillion over the next 10 years. That means $1,000 in energy tax hikes for every man, woman and child.

The President's own budget director, Peter Orszag, has testified that a tax on carbon emissions would ''impose costs on the economy,'' and that consumers will pay these costs through higher energy prices. The President himself has admitted that his plan will cause energy prices to skyrocket.

The poor will be hit the hardest by this national energy tax. Experts agree that poor families spend a larger portion of their income on energy costs. Not even the President's modest Make Work Pay tax credit is enough to cover the high energy costs that will be forced on American families.

Instead of providing solutions to keep energy costs low, the President and Democrats in Washington are proposing a national energy tax that will hit every worker, family and business across our country. Republicans support helping American families through these difficult times through immediate tax relief, not increased taxes.

Since the current economic recession began in December of 2007 with the Democrats in charge of Congress, more than 5 million jobs have been lost. Yet the President proposes an energy plan that could result in anywhere between 1.8 and 7 million additional jobs being lost. The only jobs that are going to be created are for more government bureaucrats.

Republicans support keeping energy prices low at home and at the pump through American energy by American workers. Instead of creating American energy made by American workers, the President's energy plan keeps us dependent on foreign oil.

Republicans support more American-made energy through the creation of new and renewable energy sources, conservation and more domestic energy production. Giving American workers the resources to create American-made energy will keep the cost of energy low for American consumers.

The President and the Democrat-controlled Congress are using this economic crisis as an opportunity to force dramatic change on the American people. As the President's own chief of staff has said, ''You never let a crisis go to waste.''

As Robert Samuelson noted in March, the President says he is focused on the economy, ''but he's also using the crisis to advance an ambitious long-term agenda.'' One thing is certain, it's an agenda that will lead to more taxes, fewer jobs and less energy.

The Republicans have an alternative. It's called all of the above. We should develop all the resources that we have in the United States. We should conserve, we should look for alternatives, and we should use this opportunity to create more jobs and grow the economy, not kill jobs and slow the economy down even more.

Mr. Speaker, we need the Republican plan to be paid attention to. The American people want it, and they deserve it.

TIME TO PASS CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Americans have not faced this level of economic stress since the Great Depression. Nearly a decade of ideologically driven deregulation sent the foundation of financial market regulation asunder and enabled the housing market bubble and subsequent financial crash. The same deregulators created an energy market that rewarded old polluting technologies while increasing greenhouse gas emissions and other kinds of pollution. The same Gilded Age politics that wreaked our financial system laid waste to our environment.

Today the same people who let Wall Street run amok claim that we cannot afford to make investments in energy independence or create new jobs with renewable energy generation. In fact, we just heard such remarks. They claim that economic and environmental renewal is somehow too costly to undertake at this critical juncture in our Nation's history. In reality, with a contracting economy and expanding global warming pollution, we cannot afford inaction.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is considering draft legislation that would make historic investments in clean energy and job creation while dramatically reducing global warming and pollution. According to the Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, this legislation would help spur economic growth by creating powerful incentives to invest in renewable energy.

This legislation also presents Congress with an opportunity to make polluters pay while directing money to consumers who have suffered as a result of the economic policies of the prior administration.

Although the committee's bill is in discussion draft with some details still unresolved, let us consider the economic math for American families.

If Congress enacted this legislation, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, and made polluters pay through a 100 percent auction of carbon credits for all of their greenhouse gas emissions, we could write a check in theory to every American for $2,150 per year.

□ 1245

Due to inaction by the previous administration, polluters do not have to pay for the impacts of greenhouse gas pollution and its impacts on communities all across the United States. From rising sea levels to increased incidence of severe weather, the costs of global warming are increasing each year.

The minority party seems to believe that average Americans should bear that cost, not those who create the pollution in the first place.

The business community understands we cannot bear the economic costs of inaction. Companies including eBay, Nike, Starbucks, Levi Strauss, Symantec, Johnson & Johnson and others have formed a Business for Climate and Innovative Energy Policy Coalition, known as BICEP, to advocate for clean energy legislation that reduces greenhouse gas pollution. It auctions 100 percent of pollution permits, establishes a renewable electricity standard and invests in job creation. Those businesses support clean energy jobs legislation both to spur economic growth and to avoid the costs associated with global warming, which will reach at least $271 billion, it is estimated, by 2025 if we do not act.

Now is the time to pass legislation that spurs jobs creation, reduces greenhouse gas pollution and puts money back in the pockets of the people who are suffering as a result of the failed economic policies of the Republican administration that just left town.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the American Clean Energy and Security Act, we must ensure that we will make polluters pay and use the revenue to invest in job creation here at home and give a climate rebate to all Americans.

INFORMED CONSUMER CHOICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, as we work to ensure every American has access to affordable choices of public or private health care coverage, we must also give them the tools to make informed choices about that coverage, to make sure that we will truly provide adequate protection in case they ever get sick.

We have all heard stories, sometimes tragic stories, about Americans who thought their health care coverage was comprehensive, only to realize that it had huge gaps once they actually got sick. Take the story of Jim Stacey, from Fayetteville, North Carolina. In 2000, Mr. Stacey and his wife bought a plan with a lifetime maximum payout of up to $1 million per person. Then he learned he had prostate cancer. But the policy paid only $1,480 of the more than $17,000 in treatment costs.

The simple fact is that right now, what you see is not what you get as a customer trying to decide on a health care plan. According to one recent study from Georgetown University, health insurance plans that look similar up front with similar copays, deductibles and so-called ''out-of-pocket limits'' can actually result in drastically different out-of-pocket expenses at the end of the day. And yet because that information is buried in legalese, or simply left out altogether, the consumer cannot tell the difference before it is too late.

Mr. Speaker, when we buy cars, computers, even cereal, we know what we are getting and how much it will cost. And yet when it comes to purchasing health care coverage today, families are too often kept in the dark about what kind of care their plan covers or what out-of-pocket costs they may face in the case of a serious illness.

Health insurance is one of the most expensive products Americans buy. Consumers and employers pay on average over $12,000 for it every single year. And yet we still expect them to make critical decisions about their health and well-being without all the information they need. You or I would never buy a car without first looking at its crash test ratings or knowing what kind of safety features it had. It is all laid out right on the sticker. Yet when it comes to health insurance, the most important information is simply not there.

And in a system where costs continue to skyrocket, the consequences have been devastating. Bad coverage and hidden exclusions can bankrupt people. Sixty-one percent of working age adults who had problems paying medical bills or were paying off medical debt in 2007 actually had health insurance at the time the care was provided.

That is why I plan to introduce the Informed Consumer Choices in Health Care Act to promote transparency in coverage and to provide crucial data to consumers and health care providers.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, the American Heart Association, Families USA, and the Campaign For America's Future endorse this legislation to promote consistent information standards, provide long-overdue data and resources for consumers and create a new Office of Health Insurance Oversight within the Department of Health and Human Services to administer accountability and transparency initiatives in coordination with State insurance regulators.

It is a simple idea that better information makes better consumers, and in the end, healthier families as well. That is what the Informed Consumer Choices in Health Care Act is all about. I hope you will join me in empowering consumers to make the right choices for themselves and their families to make sure that they can truly count on their health care coverage.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

For us to approach You in prayer, Lord, does not mean we have exhausted all of our own energies and so now are forced to turn to You. You do not exist only on the edge of our outer limits.

Rather, Lord, You are at the very center of all existence. In prayer we simply become more aware of Your presence at every moment and in everything we do.

Lord, through our prayer, all reality and all our responsibilities take on new dimensions. In the midst of everything we discover the joy of Your creative presence and faithful love.

You bless the day. You bless Congress and this Nation both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. RICHARDSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THOU SHALT NOT ASK

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. With the rash of crime by foreign nationals in the city of Houston, coupled with the recent shooting of two Houston police officers by illegals that were previously deported, the Houston Police Officers Union wants to end the archaic, absurd policy of not questioning people about their immigration status.

President Gary Blankenship of the union bluntly says, ''My guys are tired of dealing with criminal aliens. The severity of the crime is escalating''. He advocates weeding out dangerous criminals from the illegal community. He clearly says he doesn't want to round up the 400,000 illegals in the Greater Houston sanctuary community—just capture criminal illegals.

But whoa there! You can't do that, saith the mayor and the open border crowd. That's insulting. That's probably racial profiling. The nerve of the police to ask people their legal status. That might scare them. And that's the Federal Government's job.

So Houston will continue the policy of ''Thou Shalt Not Ask'', and, for political expediency, prefer the desires of the illegal community over the safety of the police, the citizens, and the legal immigrants.

And that's just the way it is.

NO RAISE FOR SENIORS, BUT THE ONE FOR CONGRESS STAYS?

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. For the first time in more than 30 years, Social Security recipients will not get a cost of living adjustment in 2010 or in 2011, yet most will pay increasing premiums for part B and D of Medicare. This is the first Social Security check cut since 1975!

So let me get this straight—no raise for seniors on a fixed income, but an automatic pay raise for Congress. What's wrong with this picture?

We're telling our seniors to make it on less while we are shelling out millions to protect animals such as the Brolga crane and the Iberian lynx—species not even found in the United States.

We're forcing our seniors to choose between food and medicine, but we are approving $3 trillion in spending and budgets that will double the national deficit in 5 years and triple it in 10 years. On top of this Social Security pay cut, we are raising utility costs to seniors by an average of $250 a month through cap-and-trade.

Where are the priorities among the liberals in this country? Certainly not with the elderly and disabled on fixed incomes.

A REAL DISCUSSION ON HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. The American people want both sides of the aisle working together to help lower the cost of health care. However, according to a story in today's New York Times, even all but a few Democrats, in addition to Republicans, are being left out of the talks.

Some Washington Democrats are more concerned with implementing a government-run, bureaucratic health care system than achieving real solutions. Working together, we can lower the cost of health care in America while increasing access to a doctor and high-quality care.

Both sides have good answers, which we should consider. However, a silver bullet does not exist to solve all the problems. Compromise and common sense could produce results—such as lower costs, better access to a doctor, and coverage for all. And that's what we should be working toward.

Health care is a complex issue that affects individuals and businesses, young and old—everyone. And that's why it's more important than ever to work together to come up with good policies that will help the American people. They want us to work together to achieve real solutions—and that's what we should be working to, Madam Speaker.

THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REHBERG. Across the country, we're seeing problems with the so-called ''stimulus package.'' When I voted against this bill, I warned that time would reveal its inherent flaws.

While Americans were told that spending almost $1 trillion would create jobs, unemployment continues to rise. It would make sense to spend stimulus money in the hardest hit counties, but the Associated Press reports that's not what's happening.

Instead, the massive and inflexible bill is causing waste. The Billings Gazette reported that a new Federal courthouse in Billings, Montana, will cost taxpayers an additional $45 million as a result of the stimulus rules.

And now, Americans are denied the transparency we were promised. USA Today reports that the Web site meant to allow us to track every dime of stimulus spending won't be up and running for another 5 months. How many more jobs will we lose while we're waiting? How much more money will we waste? We can't afford any more of these flawed policies.

□ 1415

NEWS REPORTERS JOIN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the news industry faces a new threat to its job force—the Obama administration.

A senior producer at CNN announced last week that she will take a press secretary position in the Obama administration. She joins at least nine other reporters from such news outlets as The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Time magazine, CBS, ABC News and CNN who have left their jobs to join the administration.

It will be an easy transition for these former journalists since their primary job responsibility, supporting the Obama administration, remains essentially the same.

The bad news for Americans is that the line between objective journalism and partisan politics continues to be blurred. If the media wants to restore their credibility, they should act as objective observers, not seek jobs in the Obama administration.

MISSILE DEFENSE FUNDING CUTS

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, missile defense is critical to the protection of our Nation. It requires constant improvement and innovation in order to meet the growing challenges by those who may wish to destroy us.

Iran is currently focused on developing nuclear weapons, and North Korea is hard at work, extending its military capability into space and, correspondingly, achieving a status where they can pose a threat to the security of the United States.

Some 25 countries and counting are acquiring domestic missiles, many capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction. Despite all this, the Obama administration plans to cut the Missile Defense Agency's budget for fiscal year 2010 by $1.4 billion.

The reduction in missile defense should be of concern to all Americans. Without an investment in missile defense today, given the complexity of the science and engineering involved in developing new systems, we will not be able to respond to the threats to the United States of tomorrow.

TARP FRAUD

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, with $590 billion or 84 percent of the authorized troubled asset relief funds having already been handed out to Wall Street, the TARP Inspector General, Neil Barofsky, issued a 250-page report that recommended transparency and that all TARP recipients be made to detail how they will use bailout dollars and safeguard a new mortgage rescue effort against scams.

But 84 percent of the funds have already been given away. To call for greater transparency at this stage in the game is well beyond a day late and a dollar short.

However, what is encouraging is that the Inspector General, amid reports of rampant fraud, has realized and embraced his legal power and has instituted 20 criminal investigations and six audits.

In addition, he has begun to ask tough questions and look into who, quote, sought to influence decision-making by Treasury or bank regulators. Bold and encouraging words as The New York Times reported that Secretary Geithner has more than cordial relationships with many of the TARP recipient CEOs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 11, 2009 at 2:33 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Updated Summary Tables, the Analytical Perspectives, and the Historical Tables to his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

TRANSMITTAL OF ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET DOCUMENTS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111–3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred

to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the following volumes, which together complete my Fiscal Year 2010 Budget: Analytical Perspectives, Historical Tables, and Updated Summary Tables.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 11, 2009.*

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING IEEE ENGINEERING THE FUTURE DAY

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 413) supporting the goals and ideals of ''IEEE Engineering the Future'' Day on May 13, 2009, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 413

Whereas IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society, with more than 375,000 members, including more than 210,000 members in the United States;

Whereas IEEE members are engineers, scientists, and other professionals whose technical interests are rooted in electrical and computer sciences, engineering, and related disciplines;

Whereas IEEE's core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity;

Whereas IEEE traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) on May 13, 1884;

Whereas renowned inventor and entrepreneur Thomas Alva Edison was a founder of AIEE;

Whereas notable presidents of the IEEE and its founding organizations include Alexander Graham Bell, Charles Proteus Steinmetz, Lee De Forest, William R. Hewlett, and Ivan Getting;

Whereas AIEE merged with the Institute of Radio Engineers in 1963 to form IEEE;

Whereas IEEE maintains a vast library of technical publications;

Whereas more than 100,000 technical professionals attend the more than 300 conferences sponsored or cosponsored by IEEE each year;

Whereas IEEE is a leader in the development of international standards that support many of today's products and services, with an active portfolio of nearly 1,300 standards and projects under development;

Whereas IEEE provides learning opportunities within the engineering sciences with the goal of ensuring the growth of skill and knowledge among the technical profession;

Whereas IEEE provides a forum for professionals to interact, collaborate, and generate new ideas and concepts;

Whereas IEEE seeks to attract the best and brightest to use their skills and experience and apply technology to benefit society and help solve humanitarian issues;

Whereas ''IEEE Engineering the Future'' Day will be held by IEEE on May 13, 2009, to recognize the contributions and impact that IEEE, its members, and engineering and technology professionals have made and to raise public awareness of the diverse opportunities available in different technology fields;

Whereas revolutionary advances in information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and other fields are reshaping the global economy; and

Whereas the United States must continue its efforts to maintain its leadership in science, technology, and innovation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of engineering and technology to meeting our Nation's most pressing challenges;

(2) congratulates IEEE on its 125th anniversary; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of ''IEEE Engineering the Future'' Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 413, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 413, supporting the goals and ideals of IEEE Engineering the Future Day on May 13, 2009.

I want to thank my good friend from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for working with me to introduce this resolution. Mr. STEARNS holds a degree in electrical engineering and served in the Air Force as an aerospace engineer. So I think his sponsorship of this resolution is very appropriate.

The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society, with more than 375,000 members worldwide, including 210,000 in the United States. It is made up primarily of engineers, scientists, engineering professors, computer and technical professionals. The organization's core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

IEEE supports programs that improve K–12 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and technical literacy. Its vast library of technical publications, worldwide conferences and global standards make it a powerful force for technological leadership.

To celebrate its 125th anniversary, IEEE will hold the IEEE Engineering the Future Day tomorrow, May 13, 2009, to recognize the contributions and impact that IEEE, its members, and the engineering and technological professions have made, and to raise public awareness of the diverse opportunities available in different technological fields.

I ask my colleagues to help pass H. Res. 413, to recognize the importance of engineering and technology in meeting our Nation's most pressing challenges; congratulate IEEE on its 125th anniversary; and support the goals and ideas of the IEEE Engineering the Future Day on May 13.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to support House Resolution 413, supporting the goals and ideals of IEEE Engineering the Future Day on May 13, 2009.

IEEE, as the Chairman has said, is a nonprofit organization and the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. It's a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers, telecommunications, biomedical engineering, electrical power and consumer electronics, just among many.

Today IEEE has more than 375,000 members, including nearly 80,000 student members in more than 160 countries around the world. These members rely on IEEE as a source of technical and professional information. They rely on them for resources and also for a number of different services.

IEEE Engineering the Future Day will be held by IEEE tomorrow, May 13, 2009, to recognize the contributions and impact that that organization, its members, and engineering and technology professionals have made over the last 125 years, and to raise public awareness, Madam Speaker, of the diverse opportunities available in many, many different technological fields.

Madam Speaker, I would then ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, honoring this special day and anniversary.

At this time I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend from Florida (Mr. STEARNS), a cosponsor of this resolution.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Tennessee, the Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, for his hard work and his kindness and for letting me have this bill on the floor so promptly.

I also thank my colleague from Florida for his introduction and kind words.

This legislation, which I introduced with my good friend Chairman GORDON, obviously congratulates the IEEE on its 125th anniversary and recognizes

May 13, 2009, as the IEEE Engineering the Future Day.

My colleagues, IEEE is a renowned international not-for-profit professional organization whose core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

As mentioned, with more than 210,000 members in the United States and more than 375,000 members in over 160 countries, the IEEE is the world's largest professional society for the advancement of technology. Their membership includes engineers, scientists and other professionals whose technical interests are rooted in electrical and computer sciences, engineering and related disciplines.

The IEEE as we know it today was formed by the merger of the Institute of Radio Engineers, which was founded in 1912, and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, which was founded on May 13, 1884 by renowned inventor and distinguished entrepreneur Thomas Edison. Other notable past presidents of the IEEE and its founding institutions include well-known scientists Alexander Graham Bell, Charles Steinmetz, Lee De Forest, William Hewlett and Ivan Getting.

The IEEE's name was originally an acronym for the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Today the organization's scope of interest has expanded into so many related fields that it is simply referred to as the letters IEEE.

Through its global membership, IEEE is a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics, among others. Most IEEE members are electrical engineers, computer engineers and computer scientists, but the organization's wide scope of interest has attracted engineers in a lot of other disciplines, including mechanical and civil engineering as well as biologists, physicists and mathematicians.

The IEEE's constitution defines the purpose of this organization as, quote, scientific and educational, directed toward the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical, electronics, communications and computer engineering, as well as computer science, the allied branches of engineering and the related arts and sciences, all encompassing.

□ 1430

My colleagues, in pursuing these goals, the IEEE serves as a major publisher of some 144 scientific journals and magazines and a sponsor of more than 300 conferences annually. It is also a leading developer of industrial standards that support many of today's products and services, with an active portfolio of nearly 1,300 standards and projects under development in a broad range of disciplines, including electric power and energy, biomedical technology and health care, information technology, information assurance, telecommunications, consumer electronics, transportation, aerospace, and most importantly, nanotechnology, the wave of the future.

IEEE also develops and participates in educational activities such as accreditation of electrical engineering programs in all of our institutes of higher learning in this country. To foster an interest in the engineering profession, IEEE serves student members in colleges and universities around the world with more than 1,600 student branches in almost 500 student branch chapters at colleges and universities in 80 countries.

The goal of the IEEE educational program is to ensure the growth, the skill and knowledge in the electricity-related technical professions and to foster individual commitment to continuing education among IEEE members, the engineering and scientific communities, and, of course, the general public.

As mentioned by the distinguished chairman, I am an electrical engineer. I was a member of IEEE in college, and I'm now presently a member. I was an aerospace engineer in the Air Force, a captain in the Air Force during launching of satellites from Vandenberg Air Force Base. I'm very proud of the background I have. It sometimes helps me in trying to understand the intricacies in analysis here in Congress.

So I urge my colleagues to join me and recognize the simple and powerful contributions and impact the IEEE has in this country and its members and engineering and technology professionals who have made accomplishments here in the United States and continue to support their goals and ideals of IEEE engineering, the future day, on May 13, 2009.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. We have no further speakers. I reserve the time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, after listening to the words of the sponsor, I don't think anything else needs to be said, so I will yield back the remaining part of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I will conclude by thanking Mr. STEARNS, my friend from Florida, for introducing this resolution. 125 years is a long time in the history of this country, and certainly to originate out of Thomas Edison demonstrates this is a very important organization. I thank Mr. STEARNS for bringing this to our attention.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this resolution put forth by my colleague Representative CLIFF STEARNS. H. Res. 413, ''Supporting the goals and ideals of 'IEEE Engineering Future' Day on May 13, 2009'' will recognize the importance of engineering and technology in meeting the nation's most pressing challenges.

This institution has a rich history, which traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) on May 13, 1884. The renowned inventor and entrepreneur Thomas Alva Edison was the founder of AIEE. Other notable presidents of the IEEE and its founding organizations include Alexander Graham Bell, Charles Proteus Steinmetz, Lee De Forest, William R. Hewlett, and Ivan Getting.

Through its global membership, IEEE is a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power, and consumer electronics among others.

As technologies and the industries increasingly transcended national boundaries, IEEE kept pace and became a truly global institution. Over the years, IEEE used the innovations of the practitioners it represented to enhance its own excellence in delivering products and services to members, industries, and the public at large. Publications and educational programs were delivered online. IEEE's member services such as renewal and elections were also delivered online.

The IEEE publishes nearly a third of the world's technical literature in electrical engineering, computer science and electronics. This includes about 130 journals, transactions and magazines and over 400 conference proceedings published annually. In cooperation with John Wiley and Sons, Inc., the IEEE also produces technical books, monographs, guides and textbooks. IEEE journals are consistently among the most highly cited in electrical and electronics engineering, telecommunications and other technical fields.

IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. By 2008, IEEE had 375,000 members in 160 countries and more than 210,000 members in the United States. The United States must continue its efforts to maintain its leadership in science, technology, and innovation as revolutionary advances in information technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and other fields are reshaping the global economy.

IEEE's core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. As a leader in the development of international standards that support many of today's products and services, with an active portfolio of nearly 1,300 standards and projects under development, this non profit organization attracts the best and brightest to use their skills and experience and apply technology to benefit society and help solve humanitarian issues. In addition, IEEE provides learning opportunities within the engineering sciences with the goal of ensuring the growth of skill and knowledge among the technical profession as well as a forum for professionals to interact, collaborate, and generate new ideas and concepts.

This Congress should recognize that IEEE is essential to the global technical community and to technical professionals everywhere. The IEEE is universally recognized for the contributions of technology and of technical professionals in improving global conditions. I congratulate IEEE on its 125th anniversary and support the goals and ideals of 'IEEE Engineering the Future' Day and I urge my colleagues to support them as well.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 413, which recognizes the goals and ideals of IEEE Engineering the Future Day. IEEE traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) on May 13, 1884, at a time when

the ability to harness electricity for useful purposes was in its infancy. Since then, electrical power has become central to our way of life, and technologies based on electronics have become ubiquitous. The AIEE evolved to reflect these changes, first by joining with the Institute of Radio Engineers to become the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and later by shortening the organization's official name to IEEE in recognition of the fact that technical fields were transcending traditional definitions and boundaries. Still, the overarching goal of the organization—to apply technology and innovation for the benefit of humanity—has remained constant from the beginning. IEEE has become a global professional organization with 375,000 members in 160 countries. It sponsors hundreds of conferences and professional meetings annually, maintains an electronic library of technical publications, develops international technical standards, hosts educational and professional development programs, and provides a forum for professional interactions and collaborations. As we look to the future, we will rely increasingly on science, engineering, and technology to help us meet our energy challenges, safeguard our environment, grow our economy, and improve our quality of life. I hope that IEEE's Engineering the Future Day will raise awareness about how science and technology affects our daily lives and about the many opportunities available to technical professionals. I congratulate IEEE and its members on the organization's 125th anniversary and past achievements, and I look forward to all of its future contributions.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 413.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 387) supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 387

Whereas the Atlantic and central Pacific hurricane season begins June 1, 2009, and ends November 30, 2009, and the eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15, 2009, through November 30, 2009;

Whereas an average of 11 tropical storms develop per year over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, and an average of 6 of these storms become hurricanes;

Whereas in an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States, sometimes resulting in multiple deaths, and 2 of these hurricanes are typically labeled ''major'' or ''intense'' category 3 hurricanes, as measured on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale;

Whereas millions of Americans face great risks from tropical storms and hurricanes, as 50 percent of Americans live along the coast and millions of tourists visit the oceans each year;

Whereas the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season included 16 named storms, including 8 hurricanes, 5 of which were category 3 or higher;

Whereas during a hurricane, homes, businesses, public buildings, and infrastructure may be damaged or destroyed by heavy rain, strong winds, and storm surge;

Whereas damage from a hurricane is usually substantial, as debris can break windows and doors, roads and bridges can be washed away, homes can be flooded, and destructive tornadoes can occur well away from the storm's center;

Whereas experts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center and the National Weather Service agree that it is critical for all people to know if they live in an area prone to hurricanes, to figure out their home's vulnerability in the event of a storm surge, flooding, and heavy winds, and to develop a written family disaster plan based on this knowledge;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a personal evacuation plan that identifies ahead of time several options of places to go in the event of evacuation, the telephone numbers of these places, and a local road map;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in areas prone to hurricanes prepare a disaster supply kit before hurricane season begins that includes a first aid kit with essential medications, canned food, a can opener, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day for 3 to 7 days, protective clothing, rain gear, bedding or sleeping bags, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members, and written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas, and water in the event authorities advise these actions;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center recommends that citizens know that a ''hurricane watch'' means conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 36 hours, and a ''hurricane warning'' means hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area, usually within 24 hours;

Whereas in the event of a hurricane warning, the National Hurricane Center recommends people listen to the advice of local officials, evacuate if told to do so, complete preparedness activities, stay indoors and away from windows, be alert for tornadoes, and be aware that the calm ''eye'' of the storm does not mean the storm is over;

Whereas in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, inland flooding was responsible for more than half the deaths associated with tropical storms and hurricanes in the United States;

Whereas the National Weather Service recommends that when a hurricane threatens the United States, people in potential flood zones evacuate if told to do so, keep abreast of road conditions through the news media, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water, develop a flood emergency action plan, and do not attempt to cross flowing water in an automobile, because as little as 6 inches of water may cause one to lose control of the vehicle;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides more detailed information about hurricanes and hurricane preparedness via its website, http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/; and

Whereas National Hurricane Preparedness Week will be the week of May 24 through 30, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week;

(2) encourages the staff of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, especially the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center, and other appropriate Federal agencies, to continue their outstanding work of educating people in the United States about hurricane preparedness; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the work of the National Hurricane Center in forecasting hurricanes and educating citizens about the potential risks of the storms.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 387, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on June 1, hurricane season begins in the Atlantic Ocean. Noted hurricane forecasters at Colorado State University have predicted an above-average year for tropical storms and hurricanes for 2009. It is, therefore, very timely to consider this resolution recognizing the importance of Hurricane Preparedness Week. As the tragedy of Katrina in 2005 showed us, it is not just the strength of the storm that determines the destruction on the ground. Just as important is the preparedness of the communities that are impacted.

Katrina took almost 1,500 lives and caused damages totaling $81 billion. It was the one of the costliest natural disasters in the Nation's history. However, Katrina, a category 3 storm at landfall, was not an especially powerful storm. In fact, there were three other category 3 storms that struck the U.S. in 2005, but none of them caused the same level of damage and destruction.

This is a sobering lesson in the importance of hurricane preparedness. It is vitally important that Federal, State and local governments work together to better prepare the coastal

communities for these powerful storms. And I want to thank my friend from Florida who has firsthand knowledge of these problems, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for introducing this important resolution.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I talk about this issue, I would like to thank Chairman GORDON, once again, and also Ranking Member HALL and also their staffs for allowing this timely resolution to move forward so quickly. As the chairman has just said, the time is right for this resolution once again.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 387, which is to support the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week as established by the National Hurricane Center. Hurricane Preparedness Week begins on the 24th of May and lasts through the 30th of May of 2009. Now, in less than 2 weeks, Madam Speaker, on the 1st of June, unfortunately, we mark the beginning of yet another hurricane season in the Atlantic and central Pacific Oceans. Hurricane season lasts a long, long 6 months until November 30.

The goal of Hurricane Preparedness Week is to inform the public about hurricanes, their hazards, and to provide knowledge that, frankly, we can use and that hopefully all of us can use to take action now, to be ready now before the hurricanes hit. We must be ready. This information can be used to save property and, most importantly, it can be used to save lives. As the chairman himself said, we have too often seen what these storms can do.

Now, although the Federal Government plays a critical role before and after a storm, we have to do our part. We have to be ready ourselves. And it is the hope that the residents, particularly in areas that are hurricane prone, will prepare themselves and their families for this before this hurricane season starts.

History teaches us that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are, unfortunately, common threads among all hurricanes and major disasters. For instance, one of the biggest lessons learned from the recent wave of hurricanes is that the residents need to have enough supplies to take care of themselves and their families for at least 3 days after one of these storms makes landfall. Oftentimes, local governments are trying to keep order. They are trying to take care of really basic essentials right after a storm, so, therefore, it is important that each and every one of us have a plan, that we prepare and that we can be self-sufficient for those 3 days. Again, millions of Americans face great risk from tropical storms and hurricanes. More than 50 percent of all Americans live along the coast, which again just shows you how grave that risk can be.

Now, the statistics associated with hurricanes are staggering. An average of 11 tropical storms develop each year over the Atlantic Ocean or the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. Six of these storms will, unfortunately, become hurricanes. Now, look, we just hope that they don't make landfall, and they can just slide by, and we can just kiss them goodbye. But we can't be sure that will happen, so we have to be ready.

Last year, unfortunately, several storms made landfall along the eastern and gulf coast, including Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricanes Gustav, Hanna and Ike. And as we have learned in the past few years, hurricanes pose, again, a serious, serious threat to our country. These massive storms can result in casualties and millions of dollars or, frankly, billions of dollars in economic damage and destruction.

During a hurricane, homes and businesses and other buildings can be damaged by heavy rain, by strong winds and by storm surge, which is one of the worst problems and a real killer. Tornadoes can strike after these storms or during the storms, and oftentimes power can be wiped out for days, if not weeks.

Experts at the NOAA's National Hurricane Center agree that there are some critical things that have to be done. Obviously, first, is to determine if you live in a hurricane-prone area, then know your home's vulnerabilities to either storm surge or flooding or wind and develop a written, a real family disaster plan based on this knowledge. And make sure that everybody in the family knows how to make that plan work and knows about it.

Once you determine, again, how vulnerable you really are to a hurricane, the National Hurricane Center recommends that people in hurricane-prone areas assemble a disaster supply kit before the hurricane season, not before a storm comes, but now before the hurricane season is even upon us; a first aid kit and essential medications, nonperishable food items such as canned goods, at least 3 gallons of water per person per day, again for at least 3 to 7 days, at least 3 days, preferably more; obviously, a battery-powered radio, a flashlight, extra batteries, special items including medications if you need them for infants, for the elderly or for disabled family members, and also making sure that you take care of pets, as well.

As we have learned in south Florida, the forecasters, the meteorologists and the hurricane specialists at National Hurricane Center who become, frankly, every year, heroes to all of us who are in hurricane-prone areas are often the source of the most valuable information on hurricane preparedness. They spend countless hours and days providing valuable information and warnings to all those Americans located in a potential path of a hurricane. Millions of Americans have come to rely on their steady advice and counsel, on their skill, and we thank them for their vital services.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Americans living in hurricane-prone areas to use this Hurricane Preparedness Week as an opportunity to learn more about the approaching hurricane season, to prepare before—before, I repeat—a storm threatens.

Once again, I need to thank the chairman for allowing this resolution to come here quickly, timely. It is important, and I want to thank him for his cooperation, as well as the ranking member and both staffs.

And with that, I do not think I have another speaker. I yield back the remaining part of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I want to again thank Mr. DIAZ-BALART for introducing this legislation. He understands this in a very personal way. This resolution can help save lives.

I urge adoption of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2020) to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2020

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PROGRAM PLANNING AND COORDINATION.

(a) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—Section 101 of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) PERIODIC REVIEWS.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B) shall—

''(1) periodically assess the contents and funding levels of the Program Component Areas and restructure the Program when warranted, taking into consideration any relevant recommendations of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(2) ensure that the Program includes large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities, including activities described in section 104.''.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after subsection (d), as added

by subsection (a) of this Act, the following new subsection:

''(e) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The agencies identified in subsection (a)(3)(B), working through the National Science and Technology Council and with the assistance of the National Coordination Office established under section 102, shall develop, within 12 months after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, and update every 3 years thereafter, a 5-year strategic plan to guide the activities described under subsection (a)(1).

''(2) CONTENTS.—The strategic plan shall specify near-term and long-term objectives for the Program, the anticipated time frame for achieving the near-term objectives, the metrics to be used for assessing progress toward the objectives, and how the Program will—

''(A) foster the transfer of research and development results into new technologies and applications for the benefit of society, including through cooperation and collaborations with networking and information technology research, development, and technology transition initiatives supported by the States;

''(B) encourage and support mechanisms for interdisciplinary research and development in networking and information technology, including through collaborations across agencies, across Program Component Areas, with industry, with Federal laboratories (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)), and with international organizations;

''(C) address long-term challenges of national importance for which solutions require large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development;

''(D) place emphasis on innovative and high-risk projects having the potential for substantial societal returns on the research investment;

''(E) strengthen all levels of networking and information technology education and training programs to ensure an adequate, well-trained workforce; and

''(F) attract more women and underrepresented minorities to pursue postsecondary degrees in networking and information technology.

''(3) NATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE.—The strategic plan developed in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by milestones and roadmaps for establishing and maintaining the national research infrastructure required to support the Program, including the roadmap required by subsection (a)(2)(E).

''(4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The entities involved in developing the strategic plan under paragraph (1) shall take into consideration the recommendations—

''(A) of the advisory committee established under subsection (b); and

''(B) of the stakeholders whose input was solicited by the National Coordination Office, as required under section 102(b)(3).

''(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit the strategic plan required under paragraph (1) to the advisory committee, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—Section 101(a)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) encourage and monitor the efforts of the agencies participating in the Program to allocate the level of resources and management attention necessary to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (e) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the Program are met;''.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 101(b)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(b)(1)) is amended by inserting after ''an advisory committee on high-performance computing,'' the following: ''in which the co-chairs shall be members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and with the remainder of the committee''.

(e) REPORT.—Section 101(a)(3) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(B) by striking ''each Program Component Area;'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104;'';

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking ''each Program Component Area,'' and inserting ''each Program Component Area and research area supported in accordance with section 104,'';

(B) by striking ''is submitted,'' and inserting ''is submitted, the levels for the previous fiscal year,''; and

(C) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (G); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

''(E) include a description of how the objectives for each Program Component Area, and the objectives for activities that involve multiple Program Component Areas, relate to the objectives of the Program identified in the strategic plan required under subsection (e);

''(F) include—

''(i) a description of the funding required by the National Coordination Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the next fiscal year by category of activity;

''(ii) a description of the funding required by such Office to perform the functions specified under section 102(b) for the current fiscal year by category of activity; and

''(iii) the amount of funding provided for such Office for the current fiscal year by each agency participating in the Program; and''.

(f) DEFINITION.—Section 4 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (7) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

''(1) 'cyber-physical systems' means physical or engineered systems whose networking and information technology functions and physical elements are deeply integrated and are actively connected to the physical world through sensors, actuators, or other means to perform monitoring and control functions;'';

(3) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(B) by striking ''supercomputer'' and inserting ''high-end computing'';

(4) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking ''network referred to as'' and all that follows through the semicolon and inserting ''network, including advanced computer networks of Federal agencies and departments;''; and

(5) in paragraph (7), as so redesignated, by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program''.

SEC. 3. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 104. LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH IN AREAS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall encourage agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B) to support large-scale, long-term, interdisciplinary research and development activities in networking and information technology directed toward application areas that have the potential for significant contributions to national economic competitiveness and for other significant societal benefits. Such activities, ranging from basic research to the demonstration of technical solutions, shall be designed to advance the development of research discoveries. The advisory committee established under section 101(b) shall make recommendations to the Program for candidate research and development areas for support under this section.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Research and development activities under this section shall—

''(A) include projects selected on the basis of applications for support through a competitive, merit-based process;

''(B) involve collaborations among researchers in institutions of higher education and industry, and may involve nonprofit research institutions and Federal laboratories, as appropriate;

''(C) when possible, leverage Federal investments through collaboration with related State initiatives; and

''(D) include a plan for fostering the transfer of research discoveries and the results of technology demonstration activities, including from institutions of higher education and Federal laboratories, to industry for commercial development.

''(2) COST-SHARING.—In selecting applications for support, the agencies shall give special consideration to projects that include cost sharing from non-Federal sources.

''(3) AGENCY COLLABORATION.—If 2 or more agencies identified in section 101(a)(3)(B), or other appropriate agencies, are working on large-scale research and development activities in the same area of national importance, then such agencies shall strive to collaborate through joint solicitation and selection of applications for support and subsequent funding of projects.

''(4) INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS.—Research and development activities under this section may be supported through interdisciplinary research centers that are organized to investigate basic research questions and carry out technology demonstration activities in areas described in subsection (a). Research may be carried out through existing interdisciplinary centers, including those authorized under section 7024(b)(2) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110–69; 42 U.S.C. 1862o–10).''.

SEC. 4. CYBER-PHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT.

(a) ADDITIONAL PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS.—Section 101(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(J) provide for increased understanding of the scientific principles of cyber-physical systems and improve the methods available for the design, development, and operation of cyber-physical systems that are characterized by high reliability, safety, and security; and

''(K) provide for research and development on human-computer interactions, visualization, and information management.''.

(b) TASK FORCE.—Title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended further by adding after section 104, as added by section 3, the following new section:

''SEC. 105. UNIVERSITY/INDUSTRY TASK FORCE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, the Director of the National Coordination Office established under section 102 shall convene a task force to explore

mechanisms for carrying out collaborative research and development activities for cyber-physical systems, including the related technologies required to enable these systems, through a consortium or other appropriate entity with participants from institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The task force shall—

''(1) develop options for a collaborative model and an organizational structure for such entity under which the joint research and development activities could be planned, managed, and conducted effectively, including mechanisms for the allocation of resources among the participants in such entity for support of such activities;

''(2) propose a process for developing a research and development agenda for such entity, including objectives and milestones;

''(3) define the roles and responsibilities for the participants from institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, and industry in such entity;

''(4) propose guidelines for assigning intellectual property rights and for the transfer of research results to the private sector; and

''(5) make recommendations for how such entity could be funded from Federal, State, and non-governmental sources.

''(c) COMPOSITION.—In establishing the task force under subsection (a), the Director of the National Coordination Office shall appoint an equal number of individuals from institutions of higher education and from industry with knowledge and expertise in cyber-physical systems, of which 2 may be selected from Federal laboratories.

''(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, the Director of the National Coordination Office shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the findings and recommendations of the task force.''.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

Section 102 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5512) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 102. NATIONAL COORDINATION OFFICE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a National Coordination Office with a Director and full-time staff.

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—The National Coordination Office shall—

''(1) provide technical and administrative support to—

''(A) the agencies participating in planning and implementing the Program, including such support as needed in the development of the strategic plan under section 101(e); and

''(B) the advisory committee established under section 101(b);

''(2) serve as the primary point of contact on Federal networking and information technology activities for government organizations, academia, industry, professional societies, State computing and networking technology programs, interested citizen groups, and others to exchange technical and programmatic information;

''(3) solicit input and recommendations from a wide range of stakeholders during the development of each strategic plan required under section 101(e) through the convening of at least 1 workshop with invitees from academia, industry, Federal laboratories, and other relevant organizations and institutions;

''(4) conduct public outreach, including the dissemination of findings and recommendations of the advisory committee, as appropriate; and

''(5) promote access to and early application of the technologies, innovations, and expertise derived from Program activities to agency missions and systems across the Federal Government and to United States industry.

''(c) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The operation of the National Coordination Office shall be supported by funds from each agency participating in the Program.

''(2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The portion of the total budget of such Office that is provided by each agency for each fiscal year shall be in the same proportion as each such agency's share of the total budget for the Program for the previous fiscal year, as specified in the report required under section 101(a)(3).''.

SEC. 6. IMPROVING NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Section 201(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) the National Science Foundation shall use its existing programs, in collaboration with other agencies, as appropriate, to improve the teaching and learning of networking and information technology at all levels of education and to increase participation in networking and information technology fields, including by women and underrepresented minorities;''.

SEC. 7. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) SECTION 3.—Section 3 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5502) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(2) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology'';

(3) in subparagraphs (A) and (F) of paragraph (1), by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(4) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''high-performance computing and'' and inserting ''networking and information technology and''; and

(B) by striking ''high-performance computing network'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

*(b) TITLE I.—The heading of title I of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''.*

(c) SECTION 101.—Section 101 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5511) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''NATIONAL HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING'' and inserting ''NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT'';

(B) in paragraph (1) of such subsection—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''National High-Performance Computing Program'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research and development program'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing, including networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(iii) in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (G), by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end''; and

(C) in paragraph (2) of such subsection—

(i) in subparagraphs (A) and (C)—

(I) by striking ''high-performance computing'' each place it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(II) by striking ''development, networking,'' each place it appears and inserting ''development,''; and

(ii) in subparagraphs (F) and (G), as redesignated by section 2(c)(1) of this Act, by striking ''high-performance'' each place it appears and inserting ''high-end'';

(3) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' both places it appears and inserting ''networking and information technology''; and

(4) in subsection (c)(1)(A), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(d) SECTION 201.—Section 201(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5521(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and all that follows through ''networking;'' and inserting ''networking and information research and development;''.

(e) SECTION 202.—Section 202(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5522(a)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(f) SECTION 203.—Section 203(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5523(a)(1)) is amended by striking ''high-performance computing and networking'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(g) SECTION 204.—Section 204(a)(1) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5524(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''high-performance computing systems and networks'' and inserting ''networking and information technology systems and capabilities''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(h) SECTION 205.—Section 205(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5525(a)) is amended by striking ''computational'' and inserting ''networking and information technology''.

(i) SECTION 206.—Section 206(a) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5526(a)) is amended by striking ''computational research'' and inserting ''networking and information technology research''.

(j) SECTION 208.—Section 208 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 5528) is amended—

*(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING**'' and inserting ''**NETWORKING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**''; and*

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''High-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''Networking and information'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''high-performance computing'' and inserting ''networking and information technologies'';

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking ''high-performance computers and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''; and

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking ''high-performance computing and associated'' and inserting ''networking and information''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2020, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2020 is a good bipartisan bill which I and Mr. HALL introduced along with a number of our committee colleagues. H.R. 2020 continues to improve and update a program that was originally created in the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991.

The NITRD program, as it is known, involves a collaboration of more than one dozen Federal research and development agencies for a current total Federal investment of approximately $3.5 billion. This may sound like a lot, but the European Union is investing $7 billion over the next 5 years in cyberphysical systems alone.

To ensure we make the most effective use of our own resources and to remain a leader in these fields, it is critical that these many agencies come together to develop common goals and well-defined strategies.

H.R. 2020 strengthens the interagency planning, coordination and prioritization for NITRD by requiring the development and periodic update of the strategic plan, informed by both industry and academia. This plan is meant to create a vision for networking and information technology, R&D, across the Federal Government, and provides specific metrics for measuring progress toward that vision.

Next, the bill calls for an increased support of large-scale, long-term interdisciplinary research in networking and information technology that will help us tackle national challenges. These large-scale, long-term investments can provide substantial benefits to society, such as improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our health care and energy delivery systems.

Finally, H.R. 2020 promotes partnerships between the Federal Government, academia, and industry to foster technological transfer. It makes certain that the existing independent advisory committee will have the technical knowledge necessary to guide the program, and it ensures that the education of the future NITRD force remains an important component of the program.

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Many organizations support this legislation, including IBM, Association of Computing Machinery, Computing Research Association, IEEE-USA, and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Our nearly 20-year investment in the NITRD program has helped create jobs across all sectors of our economy and contributed immeasurably to our economic and national security.

Given how rapidly these fields evolve, a comprehensive look at the NITRD program by Congress is timely. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2020.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2020, the Network and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009. The NITRD program is the main Federal R&D investment portfolio in unclassified networking, computing, software, cybersecurity, and related information technology.

Networking and information technology, that technology that is vital but obviously sometimes drives us all crazy, sometimes outright batty, but it plays a critical role in our everyday lives, often in ways we do not even realize. Federal R&D investment in NIT has produced such computer breakthroughs as ARPAnet, the forerunner of the modern Internet, communications protocols to transmit data over networks, supercomputing, the Web browser, and the computer mouse, just to name a few. Multidisciplinary innovations include the decoding of the human genome, modeling and simulation of complex physical systems for aircraft, automobiles, power grids and pharmaceuticals, near real-time weather forecasting and climate models, and unmanned aerial vehicles and search and rescue robots.

Cybersecurity is one of the biggest security challenges facing our Nation today. It goes throughout all of our Federal agencies and even onto our private computer systems. This is just one area that the NITRD program helps to coordinate our Federal R&D, but it indicates just how imperative it is that we continue to support critical and collaborative research efforts such as this.

This bipartisan bill, and I again thank the chairman and also the ranking member for this, this bill authorizes one of the few formal interagency R&D activities within the Federal Government and one that has been viewed as a model of interagency cooperation and coordination. It is a culmination of recommendations from the 2007 PCAST Report on the program, feedback from numerous organizations, and hearing witness testimony. Technology has changed since this program was initiated in the early 1990s. This legislation updates the underlying statute to reflect those changes and helps prepare us for future innovative opportunities in NIT.

I want to thank the chairman for working on this important measure in such a bipartisan manner. Madam Speaker, he tends to do that. He is one of those Members that always tries to listen to all members of his committee.

I encourage my colleagues to join me, along with Chairman GORDON, Ranking Member HALL, and other members of the Science and Technology Committee in supporting H.R. 2020.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his kind remarks and associating with his description of this very good bill.

I also want to say a special thanks to a former staff member of our committee, Jim Wilson, who was the staff director for the Research, Science and Education Committee. One of his last pieces of work before he left our committee was to put the framework for this bill together, and then working together with the good bipartisan staff that we have now, we have even a better bill. I thank him and I thank our current staff.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2020: the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009.

Advanced computer networks are the wave of the future.

As technology has improved, we are better able to predict the paths of hurricanes, the force of tsunamis, or even the trajectory of comets.

Advanced computing is a broad area of active research. The Texas Advanced Computing Center, in Austin, has scientists who are using supercomputers to simulate airflow and manage shock waves for next-generation, hypersonic aircraft.

Other researchers there have been working to understand the process by which enzymes convert plant matter into energy, with the goal of creating more efficient enzymes. Then we could more quickly convert waste to energy.

High speed computers have also enabled scientists to develop realistic models of the human lung.

Teams of Texas researchers are working to develop a new tool to image, understand, and diagnose how air flows through the thousands of branching passageways of the lung, and how abnormalities can lead to illness.

There are so many useful applications for high speed computers and advanced networks.

The federal government invests more than $3 billion on the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program.

It is essential that such a large investment is spent wisely.

The President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recently provided recommendations on how to improve our federal efforts in computer network research.

A key recommendation was to support high-risk, multi-disciplinary research. I support this suggestion.

For far too long, federal investments have been made in "safe research," or research that has a certainty of getting a result.

The negative consequence is that science moves along at an incremental snail's pace.

Investments in high-risk research may never come to fruition or payoff. However we must support research of this nature.

Scientists must be unfettered to think more creatively. Then, they have the freedom to tackle big questions that sometimes take more time and more experimentation to answer.

As a previous chair of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, I have long been a strong supporter of this kind of research.

I support H.R. 2020 and urge my colleagues to support it also.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2020, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 192) recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 192

Whereas since 1999, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Recognition Day for Nurses, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality healthcare;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the healthcare profession, with an estimated population of 2,900,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and their work encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide culturally and ethnically competent care and are increasingly being educated to be sensitive to regional and community customs of persons needing care;

Whereas nurses are best positioned to provide leadership to eliminate healthcare disparities that exist in our Nation;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate the public to improve the practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for;

Whereas the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) released preliminary survey data showing that enrollment in entry-level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by only 2 percent from 2007 to 2008, and though this marks the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in 4-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 when enrollment was up by 16.6 percent;

Whereas United States nursing programs were forced to reject almost 100,000 qualified applications to nursing programs according to the National League for Nursing's most recent survey of all prelicensure nursing programs;

Whereas the nationwide nursing shortage has caused dedicated nurses to work longer hours and care for more acutely ill patients;

Whereas nurse educators work on average more than 57 hours per week in order to ensure that each and every new registered nurse receives an excellent education, advancing excellence among the next generation of nurses;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as they help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for; and

Whereas increased Federal and State support is needed to enhance existing programs and create new programs to educate nursing students at all levels, to increase the number of faculty members to educate nursing students, to create clinical sites and have the appropriately prepared nurses to teach and train at those sites, to create educational opportunities to retain nurses in the profession, and to educate and train more nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the Nation's diverse population: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the healthcare system of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 192, a resolution that honors the important contributions of nurses in the United States health care system.

There are nearly 3 million registered nurses nationwide. Nurses represent the single largest group of health care professionals. They are involved in every aspect of care. They are researchers. They help inform and educate the public, and they also help educate doctors, especially those freshly out of medical schools or residencies. They monitor the health and safety of their patients. They work to provide culturally competent care.

Earlier this spring at an Energy and Commerce hearing, witnesses highlighted the important role that nurses play in improving access to primary care, particularly among the underserved populations.

I would like to thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, a nurse, for her leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Representative CAPPS, who is also a nurse, for her continued support of nursing issues and for her work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution that observes the important role that nurses play in the lives of their patients.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 192 recognizing National Nurses Week from May 6 through May 12, 2009. Not only is today the last day of National Nurses Week, but it is also the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. I hope that my colleagues here at the House of Representatives have had an opportunity to reflect over the last week on all of the contributions that nurses have made to ensure safe and high-quality health care to those under their care.

In each of our communities, nurses work collaboratively with patients and other health professionals to improve the safety of patients and advance care in a myriad of settings. Nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession with nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of million of patients under their care.

I applaud the work that nurses have contributed and because of the ailing economy, we are seeing more nurses filling the shortage that exists. Many are going back to work, or putting off planned retirement to help maintain their family income during tough economic times. Many of those jobs are also being filled by better recruiting tactics by hospitals that have increased wages, offered potential hires signing bonuses, and efforts have been made to retain older nurses by making their jobs less strenuous. But as past economic indicators have shown, nurses shortages occur in times of healthy economic expansion and as baby boomers get older, we hope that hospitals will continue to provide incentives for nurses to fill vacant health care positions.

I would like to thank Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, the sponsor of this resolution, and the American Nurses Association for raising public awareness about the contributions that nurses give to our communities. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague and physician from the Virgin Islands for yielding to me. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 192, a resolution in recognition of National Nurses Week.

I too would like to thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this bill, along with Representative LOIS CAPPS and Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, all nurses in this body, for sponsoring this resolution and for their steadfast commitment to honoring nurses and highlighting the importance of estimated 2.9 million nurses to our health care system.

As we move forward with health care reform discussions, we must continue to listen to nurses. Nurses will fight for improving patient access to quality care. And it is nurses who will advocate for more preventive and primary care providers to help reduce the need for costly inpatient care. And it is nurses who will fight for appropriate nurse staffing ratios to reduce medical error and to cut down on the number of readmissions to hospitals.

We all know about the shortages in primary care professionals, especially nurses right now; and as we move toward health care reform and bring more people into the system, we certainly are going to need more nurses.

There are about 500,000 nurses out there who have left the profession for many, many reasons, but one of them is because they have very stressful working conditions.

So as we celebrate National Nurses Week, we need to think about that. One of those issues is to reduce the number of patients that each nurse has to take care of these days. The patient/nurse ratio is so high, there are so many patients that they have to take care of, that many have just said, Can't do it.

And so I think the best way we honor nurses is to look at ways we make conditions in the hospitals, in their workplace, much more amenable to them because they are the frontline people.

Right now when our loved ones have to go to the hospital, many feel they need to have an advocate with them because when the button is pushed calling for the nurse, sometimes they are not there, not because they don't want to be there, but because they are in the next room or the next room and not able to get to their patients.

Madam Speaker, it is important that Congress recognize and celebrate our nurses during National Nurses Week and throughout the year, and throughout the years to come. Our nurses stand up for us, and I am honored to stand up for them.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the sponsor of the resolution, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me thank my colleagues who are managing this bill today.

It really is a delight and a privilege to offer a resolution recognizing National Nurses Week, which is May 6 through today, the 12th.

I began my professional career as a nurse and as a registered nurse with a master's degree; I have 15 years of hands-on patient-care experience. I served as the chief psychiatric nurse at the VA Hospital in Dallas. During times of war, we see so many men and women suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. They need prompt and compassionate care.

Just yesterday, the New York Times reported that an American soldier in Baghdad shot five of his fellow comrades. The attack took place in a clinic for soldiers who were seeking help for stress. Another such incident occurred last September.

I have great empathy for our brave members of our military who suffer from emotional distress, and I admire the nurses and other health care professionals who work to assist them. Nurses are a key component of our health care system; and whether on the battlefield, at sea, in a skilled nursing facility or in a hospital, the care that a nurse provides is very, very valuable.

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Nurses are the patient's primary advocate. They are intelligent people who most often have to make quick decisions in an effort to save the life of a patient. Nurses are tough guardians. They often do their work under duress and under difficult conditions.

My colleagues, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS and Congresswoman CAROLYN MCCARTHY, are also nurses. They have worked with me to promote this resolution, and they are champions in the nursing profession.

I want to thank my many congressional colleagues who cosponsored this resolution honoring nurses. We recognize that although more than 2.9 million registered nurses work in the United States, our Nation continues to suffer from a nursing shortage. Congress should invest in the title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Program to help address this challenge. We cannot do health care reform without addressing the shortage of nursing.

Congress must also increase support for nurse faculty education, particularly for advanced practice nurses and advanced education in nursing. Further, hospitals need to establish valid, reliable and adjustable unit-by-unit nurse staffing plans. These plans should link staff to quality outcomes and should involve direct input of nursing staff based on each area's unique characteristics and needs. The nursing community has provided valuable recommendations on policies to support the nursing profession, and I encourage my colleagues to review these suggestions.

Several nursing organizations were engaged in developing this resolution, and I would like to thank them. They are the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association, the National Black Nurses Association, and the National League for Nurses.

Today's resolution honors the good work that all nurses do, the profession that has more patient support than any other. Along with my many supportive colleagues, I want to thank the House leadership for bringing up this important resolution and I urge support for the resolution.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the American Nurses Association and the National Black Nurses Association, as well as the other nursing associations, for the leadership that they provide on behalf of nurses, and to take this opportunity to congratulate all the new nurses who will be receiving their pins and their caps later this month and joining this noble profession.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to thank my colleague EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for sponsoring National Nurses Week.

Nurses are America's national heroes. Day after day, they deliver life saving health care in nursing homes, hospitals, community clinics, and public schools across this nation. They deliver our babies, take care of the disabled, and make sure that senior citizens receive the tender loving care and attention they need when they are sick and infirm.

Sadly, too many nurses are working in hospitals, clinics and other health care work settings that are stressful, inhumane, and not conducive to safe patient care. Many nurses experience painful and debilitating work related injuries from lifting patients—injuries that could be avoided if there were mechanical lift devices in hospitals which could safely assist nurses in the lifting of patients.

Nurses across the nation rightfully complain of working too many hours, supervising too many patients at one time, and having to spend endless hours filling out paper work. Much of the paper work is related to private insurance billing.

Many nurses leave the profession early because of stressful and difficult work conditions. This is contributing to a growing nursing shortage in America. Unfortunately, patients across this nation are getting less quality care from nurses because there are simply not enough nurses to provide the care that patients need and deserve. America must address the nursing crisis now, especially as we move towards major health reform.

We must thank President Obama for having the vision and courage to address our dysfunctional health care system by calling for passage of a major health reform bill this year. I believe that creating a national health insurance system would be the most cost effective and humane way to achieve universal health care in America. This is why I have introduced HR 676, "The United States National Health Insurance Act," in every Congress since 2003.

We as a nation must ensure that we have the best trained and optimal number of nurses possible. However, if we are to achieve this very important goal, the President and the Congress must have a "federal national nurse policy" that reflects the needs of the nursing profession.

This can be best accomplished by having members of Congress and the President listen to the many challenges that our over worked nurses experience every day, and then passing meaningful federal nurse reform legislation that can substantively address the nursing shortage in this country, and improve their work conditions.

Our nurses deserve the best work conditions possible, and so do the millions of patients they care for in America.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 192, recognizing national nurses week on May 6 through May 12, 2009. I thank Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for introducing this important resolution which recognizes and acknowledges the dedication of our nursing community across America.

This resolution is important because nurses represent the largest single component of the healthcare profession, with an estimated 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States. In Texas alone, according to the Texas Board of Nursing, there are 162,163 registered nurses through out the state.

In Harris County, the county encompassing my district, there are 24,480 registered nurses. Nurses are patient advocates and act fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care. Nurses care for patients, but participate in a wide range of needed scientific research, and fight cultural and ethnic disparities, and treat all patients as equals. Nurses are also teachers, not only to future generations of nurses, but to the public, educating us on health and safety.

It is necessary that we acknowledge the outstanding contribution to society by nurses because nurses can be strong allies to Congress as they help inform, educate and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for.

Federal and State support is needed to enhance existing programs to educate nursing students at all levels, to increase the number of faculty members to educate nursing students, to create clinical sites and have the appropriately prepared nurses to teach and train at those sites, to create educational opportunities to retain nurses in the profession, and to educate and train more nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the Nation's diverse population. The services nurses can provide are linked directly to the availability, cost and quality of healthcare services, which are at the center of health reform discussions.

In a year where health care reform is a top priority, it is significant to acknowledge that 33 national nursing organizations have endorsed a consensus statement from the Nursing Community that complement five of President Obama's tenets outlined in his Transforming and Modernizing America's Health Care System plan. Nurses protect families and financial health and make health care coverage affordable by providing cost-effective care at all levels of nursing practice. Nurses play a key role in the success of the President's aim for universality. Without a strong investment in the nursing workforce, the goal of reaching universality will be unattainable, particularly for rural communities and underserved populations. When the Administration and Congress invest in prevention and wellness, existing practice and care models, such as the Nurse Family Partnership, derived from nursing science will serve as national exemplars for wellness and prevention. The strength of the nursing profession lies in its contribution to improve patient safety and quality care. Nursing care is critical to improving healthcare quality and safety to ensure better patient outcomes.

Unfortunately, there is a continuing shortage of professional Registered Nurses. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing released preliminary survey data showing that enrollment in entry level baccalaureate nursing programs increased by only 2 percent from 2007 to 2008. While this makes the eighth consecutive year of enrollment growth, the annual increase in student capacity in 4-year nursing programs has declined sharply since 2003 which enrollment was up 16.6 percent. Due to a lack of nurse educators over 100,000 qualified nursing candidates have been rejected to nursing programs across the U.S. according to the National League for Nursing most recent survey. These shortages have caused the current nurse educators to work on average more than 57 hours per week as well as dedicated nurses to work longer hours and care for more acutely ill patients. The nursing field needs more money invested in its future.

It is only fitting that the end of National Nurses Week is the birthday of Florence Nightingale. She once said ''I attribute my success to this—I never gave or took any excuse.'' So today in her honor we must give no excuse to keep from honoring the noble and important profession of nursing, if anything we should fight to improve its condition because with improved nursing, and funds for nurses, we get a better health care system. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution and acknowledge and support our country's nurses.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 192 and in support of National Nurses Week. I commend my friend and fellow nurse, Ms. JOHNSON, for introducing this resolution.

As we observe Nurses Week, we have a perfect opportunity to highlight the importance of addressing nursing issues in the context of health reform.

Nurses must have a seat at the table for the discussions and nurses must be part of the solutions. After all, nurses are the best advocates for their patients.

I would like to propose that we use National Nurses Week 2009 to not only thank the nurses who have helped us in our own lives, but to learn more about the roles that they play in our community at-large.

Whether it is the nurse at a patient's hospital bedside, the nurse tending to children at an elementary school, the nurse midwife delivering a baby or the nurse faculty instructing a new generation of nurses, they all play an important part in our health care delivery system.

As we proceed with comprehensive health reform, we need to take into account the various roles that nurses perform so that we can ensure a viable nurse workforce well into the future.

Health reform will be impossible without a nursing workforce to support the primary and acute care needs of all Americans and I encourage my colleagues to join me in making a commitment during Nurses Week to advocate for nurses during our health reform debate.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 192—Recognizing National Nurses Week. I'd like to particularly thank my colleague Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas for offering this resolution, and to honor my colleagues Representative LOIS CAPPS of California and Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY of New York, three Members of Congress who worked as nurses before holding public office and who continue to be strong advocates for nurses and patients.

The men and women who work as nurses in the United States are some of the most important—but also some of the most unsung—heroes who serve in our communities. We all probably have a personal story about a nurse who either cared for us or a close family member or friend during a time of need. They are superb in their skill sets; tender in the care they provide; and deserving of our utmost respect.

When you become a nurse, the conventional wisdom and continuing tradition is that you go into the field because you have a genuine interest in and passion for helping those in need. You don't do it for the money; you don't do it for the glamour; and you certainly don't do it for the hours.

But it's time to encourage men and women to pursue a career in nursing by showing them that we respect and value the careers of the approximate 3 million nurses across America. We can do this by increasing pay for nurses and by making nursing education more affordable and more accessible.

We're facing an unprecedented nursing shortage across this country that could lead to a shortfall of up to 500,000 nurses by 2025. And nursing isn't a job that can be downsized or outsourced. That is why I support the inclusion of $215 million for the Nursing Workforce Development program in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and why I worked to help secure $500 million in the stimulus package for training programs for primary care providers, including nurses.

In my own district in California I fought to keep the Registered Nursing Program alive and funded at L.A. Southwest College, and am happy to announce that this year they will receive a $285,000 appropriation to improve nursing education through state-of-the-art technology.

Nurses are a precious asset we cannot afford to be without.

With major health care reform on the horizon, we must remember that nurses will be at the center of any meaningful reform. Let us honor their service, their dedication, and their profession by passing this resolution.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 192.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 204) congratulating the American Dental Association for its 150th year of working to improve the public's oral health

and promoting dentistry, supporting initiatives to improve access to oral health care services for all Americans, and emphasizing the benefits of prevention of disease through support of community prevention initiatives and promotion of good oral hygiene.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 204

Whereas access to good oral health care is a vital element of overall health;

Whereas the American Dental Association works to improve access to oral health care services that are essential to help ensure the health of the American public;

Whereas the American Dental Association supports community prevention initiatives and promotion of good oral hygiene;

Whereas the American Dental Association continually works to improve dental technologies and therapies through research and adherence to sound scientific principles;

Whereas ''The Journal of the American Dental Association'' is recognized internationally as a leader in peer-reviewed dental science;

Whereas the American Dental Association encourages its membership of more than 157,000 dentists to donate their time, resources, and services to providing charitable and uncompensated care;

Whereas dental practices provide over $2,000,000,000 in charitable and uncompensated care to specific underserved populations annually; and

Whereas the American Dental Association advocates sufficient funding for Federal dental research and military readiness programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the American Dental Association for its 150th anniversary;

(2) commends the American Dental Association's work to improve the public's oral health as well as access to oral health care for all Americans, especially low-income children;

(3) recognizes the tens of thousands of dentists who volunteer their time and resources to provide charitable and uncompensated oral health care to millions of Americans; and

(4) commends the American Dental Association's efforts to keep American dentistry the best in the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to extend and revise their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 204, a resolution that congratulates the American Dental Association on its 150th anniversary.

The American Dental Association is the largest and oldest professional association for dental providers. Its more than 157,000 members play a vital role in improving access to oral health services.

Former Surgeon General David Satcher has noted that oral health is integral to general health. The American Dental Association has been a lead advocate in ensuring that these important health services are not forgotten.

I would like to thank and applaud my colleague, Representative SIMPSON, for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution that commends the American Dental Association for its important work to promote good oral hygiene and community prevention strategies.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer this resolution congratulating the American Dental Association on its 150th year of advancing the art and science of dentistry and advocating on behalf of the oral health of the American people. I know many of you join me in offering those congratulations, as the resolution before the House today has 104 cosponsors.

The ADA is the professional association of dentists committed to the public's oral health, ethics, science, and the advancement of the dental profession.

The ADA traces its origins to the mid-19th century, when representatives of eight regional dental societies and two dental colleges came together in Niagara Falls, New York, to establish a representative body of stability and character. They called their fledgling organization the American Dental Association. Today, seven out of 10 U.S. dentists belong to the ADA, with membership of more than 157,000 dentists. The ADA has 53 State and territorial and 545 local dental societies. It is the largest and oldest national dental association in the world.

The association has long been a leader, advocating for improved health care and access for underprivileged Americans. Even today, as Congress wrestles with the issue of health care reform, the ADA is continually reminding us that oral health is an integral part of overall health. The ADA's health care reform principles focus on three things; prevention and wellness, fixing Medicaid, and improving the public oral health infrastructure.

The Association is active in cutting-edge dental research. At the Paffenbarger Research Center, housed on the National Institute of Standards and Technology campus just outside of Washington, D.C., ADA scientists are working on improving dental materials, tissue engineering, and cavity-repairing therapies. Some of Paffenbarger's research accomplishments include the development of modern high-speed dental drills, panoramic x-ray machines, protective tooth sealants, tooth-colored composite filling material, calcium phosphate, bone cements, and more.

The ADA's Give Kids A Smile is an annual centerpiece to the National Children's Dental Health Month. It is observed every year on the first Friday in February. At more than 1,600 sites nationwide this year, some 45,000 dental professionals provided free services to more than 450,000 children. I can tell you, the spirit behind that one-day event carries over throughout the year. The ADA encourages its members to donate time and services to the underserved. In fact, dentists provide more than $2 billion in charitable and uncompensated care to specific underserved populations each year. That's $2 billion worth of free dental work.

I congratulate them on this 150th year of their founding of the American Dental Association. I hope that Members will join me in congratulating the ADA by voting in favor of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my good friend from Indiana, who has been a supporter of the dental profession for many years, Representative BUYER.

Mr. BUYER. I thank my dentist friend for yielding, and I thank him for bringing this resolution to the floor.

I come from a family of dentists. My grandfather is a dentist, my father is a dentist, my brother is a dentist, my sister is a dentist, my uncle is a dentist. I chose not to follow halitosis, so I became a lawyer, which means that I sit in the kitchen with the children at Christmas and Thanksgiving.

I come to the floor to honor my grandfather, Dr. Clarence Cornelius Buyer, my father, Dr. John Buyer, Sr., who on February 24 turned 80 and 4 days later retired from his dental practice. That's a lot of years, isn't it, practicing dentistry?

My deceased uncle, Dr. Earl Moore, was an orthodontist in Indianapolis. My sister, Dr. Diane Buyer, practices dentistry on the north side in Indianapolis. And my brother, Dr. John Buyer, Jr., is a periodontist and recently retired in January from the United States Army.

One thing I note about growing up in a family of dentists that has helped me is when you mention the words ''prevention'' and ''wellness,'' when I think of the professions in health that are out there, dentists take the lead. It is almost to the point where I believe that anthropologists, a thousand years from now, are going to dig us up, and they are going to look at our bones and say, look at the stress on those bones, but look at those teeth. They've got to

be Americans. Because, see, Americans, what has happened to us? I will eat what I want, I will drink whatever I want; by golly, the health system better be there to take care of my body, but I'm going to take care of my teeth because my smile means everything to me. I just wish the people would put the same focus they have in their teeth that they also place in their bodies. If we were to do that, how much better in wellness as a society would we be?

The contribution that dentistry has had to me, as a leader in health policy for the country, even goes back to the 1990s, when we began to examine Medicare, for example, and we noted that one-third of our Medicare expenditures was diabetes-related. Well, I spoke up and said, I come from a family of dentists, and we focus on preventive medicine. If we spent billions of dollars on the front end, we wouldn't be spending the multibillion dollars on the back end. So it's about wellness of the whole body. So I want to compliment the dentists.

Now I want to pause and talk about military dentistry, too, for a second. If we are going to compliment the ADA, it is not only in their contributions to our society, but also to military dentists. Military dentists are combat multipliers because there are so many non-battlefield casualties, individuals who are taken off the battlefield because of what happens with regard to the deterioration of their dental hygiene. It is those dentists that put them back in, and I want to truly applaud them.

Let me close with the infinite wisdom of the United States Army. I came out of The Citadel. I received my commission as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. My first assignment in the United States Army was with a dental clinic. I did everything I could, dad, to get away from dentistry, but for whatever reason, it totally consumes me, even in my life today.

Let me say congratulations to the ADA and to all the dentists and the dental assistants and the dental hygienists and the specialties for which the ADA represents. Thank you, and good job.

Mr. SIMPSON. I appreciate the gentleman's comment. I should note that I also come from a family of dentists; I just couldn't escape. I ended up going into the dental profession where he went into the law profession. We will argue for some time who made the better choice. But I appreciate everyone's support and would encourage their positive vote on this resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 204, which honors one our nation's oldest African-American medical professional organizations, the National Dental Association. For nearly 150 years, the NDA has committed itself to opening the doors to the dental profession—a profession that has traditionally been dominated by the privileged few who could afford dental training—to men and women of color.

Even more importantly, the NDA has been a voice for the under-served in our society, often speaking out about disparities in access to dental care when others in the provider community would not. The dentists who make up the NDA, like I, believe that the right to dental care must be a fundamental human and civil right—not a privilege. In the wealthiest nation in the history of the world, there is no reason that some Americans lack access to a dentist or oral surgeon.

We all mourn the loss of Demonte Driver, a young African-American boy who died in 2007 as the result of not getting timely and medically necessary dental care because his family was uninsured. I am committed to working with the NDA and all other provider groups to ensure that our country reaches a point where stories like Demonte's will become increasingly rare and, eventually, cease to exist. We must work to ensure that young dental students who wish to practice in communities served by Medicaid have the fiscal flexibility to do so. This necessarily means addressing the $145,000 debt the average dental student incurs during the course of his or her education.

To this end, I will soon introduce legislation that expands funding for the National Health Service Corps. The program provides for medical and dental students' reasonable educational expenses and a monthly stipend for room and board. After school, the student must apply for pre-approved positions in underserved areas. By increasing the funding levels between 2009 and 2019 by $100 million each year, my bill will ensure that every citizen in every community has access to the doctor and dentist of their choice.

I applaud the NDA for their 150 years of excellence and compassionate advocacy and I wish them 150 more. Together, we will end dental access disparity once and for all. I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 204.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT OF 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 23) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States Merchant Marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 23

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION FUND.—Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 533. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund

''(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—(1) There is in the general fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the 'Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund' (in this section referred to as the 'compensation fund').

''(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, amounts in the compensation fund shall be available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation to make payments to eligible individuals in accordance with this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—(1) An eligible individual is an individual who—

''(A) during the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009, submits to the Secretary an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require;

''(B) has not received benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law 78–346); and

''(C) has engaged in qualified service.

''(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has engaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, the person—

''(A) was a member of the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crewmember of a vessel that was—

''(i) operated by the War Shipping Administration or the Office of Defense Transportation (or an agent of the Administration or Office);

''(ii) operated in waters other than inland waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays, and harbors of the United States;

''(iii) under contract or charter to, or property of, the Government of the United States; and

''(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

''(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise documented for service as a crewmember of such a vessel by an officer or employee of the United States authorized to license or document the person for such service.

''(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall make a monthly payment out of the compensation fund in the amount of $1,000 to an eligible individual. The Secretary shall make such payments to eligible individuals in the order in which the Secretary receives the applications of the eligible individuals.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to the compensation fund amounts as follows:

''(A) For fiscal year 2010, $120,000,000.

''(B) For fiscal year 2011, $108,000,000.

''(C) For fiscal year 2012, $97,000,000.

''(D) For fiscal year 2013, $85,000,000.

''(E) For fiscal year 2014, $75,000,000.

''(2) Funds appropriated to carry out this section shall remain available until expended.

''(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in documents submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the President's budget for each fiscal year, detailed information on the operation of the compensation fund, including the number of applicants, the number of eligible individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the compensation fund, the administration of the compensation fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

''(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe the regulations required under section 532(f) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 532 the following new item:

''533. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 23, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009, a measure, frankly, whose passage is six decades overdue.

I think today we are on the verge of doing a great deed, providing a way to finally give the heroic Merchant Mariners of World War II the belated compensation they so richly deserve. Congress has a responsibility to correct the wrongs of the past, and this is one of the grave injustices that deserve rectifying.

I thank all the cosponsors of the resolution, including some 40 Republicans. I know that many of you were trying to be added as cosponsors after the report was filed. I just would like to name for the record Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. MEEK, Ms. JENKINS and Mr. KILDEE.

□ 1515

For the remaining Members of the House who are not cosponsors of the amended version which passed unanimously out of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, let me tell you the sad history of these forgotten heroes.

The merchant mariners of World War II traversed the dangerous U-boat-laden waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific, faced down fierce attacks from enemy aircraft, and were instrumental in every theater of war by carrying 95 percent of all the tanks, supplies, and troops during World War II.

As a result, they suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the military branches. It is indisputable that the Allied Forces would not have been able to begin, sustain, or end World War II without their valiant and selfless service. It is also indisputable that these men now are entitled to be compensated for that service. After the war, they did not receive recognition as veterans that they deserved or the benefits of the unprecedented GI Bill of 1944, which they had earned and were promised. Eight million military families were able to take advantage of that GI Bill, entering the middle class, but the merchant mariners were not.

When the GI Bill was signed in 1944, as I said, which gave unprecedented education, housing, small business loans, and health benefits to World War II servicemembers, President Roosevelt declared, after losing the fight to have the merchant mariners included in the original bill, ''I trust Congress will soon provide similar opportunities to members of the Merchant Marine who have risked their lives time and time again for the welfare of their country.'' Congress never did. My friends, promises made should be promises kept.

Their fight for equity continued for over 40 years when they finally attained veteran status after a lengthy court battle, Schumacher, Willner, et al. v. Secretary of the Air Force Edward C. Aldridge, Jr. By then, over 125,000 mariners had died. As the judge ruled in that case, the mariners had ''every reasonable expectation that they would be treated as veterans'' entitled to the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights of 1944, based on the service they performed, not happened to perform. History supports this conclusion.

I had the distinct privilege of receiving the heart-wrenching testimony, during a full committee hearing, of one of the named parties to this lawsuit, a merchant mariner named Stanley Willner. Stanley was captured, interned, beaten, starved, and tortured as a POW for 3 years. He was actually one of the unfortunate groups of Allied Forces forced to build the infamous bridge over the River Kwai. Upon release, he weighed 74 pounds, and when he returned home, even his wife did not recognize him. And neither did his country. He received just 2 weeks of medical care and little else for his service. What a miscarriage of justice.

Madam Speaker, it was only due to a sad confluence of powerful events after the war that this country did not bestow the brave men of the World War II Merchant Marine with veteran status until 1988. I think that if the mariners would be on the floor today, they would say they should not have been subject to a ''process'' to determine whether they were veterans.

The mariners and many others thought that they would get these benefits since many thought they were enlisting for duty. They were denied this status unjustly and in violation of the assurances that they would partake in the GI Bill of 1944. Their valiant service was recognized by all the leaders of the Allied Forces from Generals MacArthur to Eisenhower.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of quotes by President Roosevelt regarding their courageous service.

RELEVANT HISTORICAL QUOTES ON THE ROLE OF UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE DURING WORLD WAR II

QUOTES FROM PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

May, 1942: ''The war is now five months old and we have had our answer. Two million men have been called to the colors. In far places and near, our soldiers, our sailors, our air pilots, the beleaguered men of the Merchant Marine, have shown the stuff of heroes. Everything we have asked of them they have delivered. Everything—and more.''

December 12, 1942: ''It is with a feeling of great pride that I send my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the officers and men of the new U.S. Maritime Service Training Station at Sheepshead Bay. New York. Ten thousand apprentice seamen in training at one station is a magnificent achievement, and the entire country joins me in wishing you every success and in paying tribute to you men of the Merchant Marine who are so gallantly working and fighting side by side with our Army and Navy to defend the way of life which is so dear to us all.''

1943: ''The men of our American Merchant Marine have pushed through despite the perils of the submarine, the dive bomber and the surface raider. They have returned voluntarily to their jobs at sea again and again, because they realized that the life-lines to our battle fronts would be broken if they did not carry out their vital part in this global war . . . In their hands, our vital supply lines are expanding. Their skill and determination will keep open the highway to victory and unconditional surrender.''

September 19, 1944: ''It seems to me particularly appropriate that Victory Fleet Day this year should honor the men and management of the American Merchant Marine. The operators in this war have written one of its most brilliant chapters. They have delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult and dangerous transportation job ever undertaken. As time goes on, there will be greater public understanding of our merchant fleet's record during this war.''

June 22, 1944 (during signing of GI Bill): ''I trust Congress will soon provide similar opportunities to members of the merchant marine who have risked their lives time and time again during war for the welfare of their country.''

QUOTES FROM DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, GENERAL OF THE ARMY

Date Unknown: ''Every man in this Allied command is quick to express his admiration for the loyalty, courage, and fortitude of the officers and men of the Merchant Marine. We count upon their efficiency and their utter devotion to duty as we do our own; they have never failed us yet and in all the struggles yet to come we know that they will never be deterred by any danger, hardship, or privation. When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit more deservedly than the Merchant Marine.''

May 8, 1945 (From his Tribute on V–E Day): ''The truly heroic man of this war is GI Joe

and his counterpart of the Air, Navy, and Merchant Marine.''

1945: ''The officers and men of the merchant marine, by their devotion to duty in the face of enemy action, as well as the natural dangers of the sea, have brought us the tools to finish the job. Their contribution to final victory will be long remembered.''

QUOTES FROM DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, GENERAL OF THE ARMY

Date Unknown: ''I wish to commend to you the valor of the merchant seamen participating with us in the liberation of the Philippines. With us they have shared the heaviest enemy fire. On this island I have ordered them off their ships and into fox holes when their ships became untenable targets of attack. At our side they have suffered in bloodshed and in death. The caliber of efficiency and the courage they displayed in their part of the invasion of the Philippines marked their conduct throughout the entire campaign in the southwest Pacific area. They have contributed tremendously to our success. I hold no branch in higher esteem than the Merchant Marine.''

October 14, 1945: ''They have brought us our lifeblood and they had paid for it with some of their own. I saw them bombed off the Philippines and in New Guinea ports. When it was humanly possible, when their ships were not blown out from under them by bombs or torpedoes, they have delivered their cargoes to us who needed them so badly. In war it is performance that counts.''

FLEET ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ, U.S. NAVY, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

War Shipping Administration Press Release PR 1839, April 23, 1944: ''The Merchant Marine Service has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team. Its efforts have contributed in great part to our success. Well done.

There is one quote that is particularly telling of the broken promise, made by then General Dwight D. Eisenhower, delivered on May 8, 1945, during his tribute on V-E Day: ''The truly heroic man of this war is GI Joe and his counterpart of the Air, Navy, and Merchant Marine.''

Madam Speaker, how do you measure the loss of the GI Bill benefits that helped build the middle class of the United States, the missed opportunities and the dreams unrealized? That is what H.R. 23 will do, create a semblance of equity for the mariners of World War II. Undo this broken promise and unmitigated travesty of justice by providing this monthly benefit to the remaining 10,000 qualifying mariners.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition. I rise in opposition, and I would say to the chairman, as a history professor, I know that you must embrace history and not be a revisionist of history.

I'm greatly disappointed with regard to this legislation. I'm disappointed because this is an attempt to say that he wants to resolve an inequity through discrimination so that your bias towards one specific group is so strong among the veterans community that you will discriminate against others. And I will even use your example of your friend with regard to his service as a merchant mariner, as a prisoner of war building the bridge over the River Kwai. It means that other POWs who served with him would not be entitled to the special monthly payment, that you believe that that merchant mariner is so special that all other prisoners of war should not receive such payment.

You see, there's a reason that those of us who have worn the uniform do not do this. The only time we have provided a service pension, a service pension, are for Medal of Honor recipients. We do not provide service pensions, and that's exactly what this is. So we're paying $1,100 to Medal of Honor recipients, and you want to pay now $1,000 to merchant mariners. Yet there are 28 groups of whom are similarly situated, individuals of whom were contractor status during the war.

Now, we need to stop and pause and think about what we are doing here. Ever since the American Revolution, our government has utilized contractors as our combatants go to war. Whether it was in the Revolution, whether it was the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the first Gulf War, and, in fact, the present wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we all used contractors. So after World War II, we created a process whereby these contractors then could be granted that ''veteran status.'' So for merchant mariners, the question of their valor, even the question of their status has now been resolved.

What's before the House is now with regard to a particular group of veterans that we're going to treat them differently, that we're going to say that you have such unique status that we are going to give you a $1,000-a-month payment, a service pension, when, in fact, we don't even do that for anyone else.

So I am greatly disappointed that this type of legislation is brought to the floor. This is legislation that should never have been done. Members are just flying back now, so they aren't even sure about this legislation or what it's about, and they're thinking that, well, because it came out of the committee, it must be great legislation. It must be veterans legislation. We all must be arm in arm and let's go ahead and pass it. Time out. I think we should be very cautious and careful.

Like I said, we don't even give a specialty payment to prisoners of war, and we're going to select a particular group of individuals to give them.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time because I have further comments I would like to make.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to one of our new Members who has been very active on our committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE).

Mr. NYE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of our merchant mariners from World War II and to urge this House to provide them with the compensation that is many years overdue.

I would first like to thank Chairman FILNER for his tireless work and his commitment to this issue. As a representative from an area with a long maritime tradition, it means a lot to me personally.

The Merchant Marines were an integral part of our fighting forces during the Second World War. Just like our war fighters, they answered the country's call. And just like those brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, many of our merchant mariners made the ultimate sacrifice.

Over 1,500 Merchant Marine ships were sunk during the war, many of them by German U-boats during the perilous crossing of the North Atlantic. By the end of the war, our merchant mariners had suffered the highest casualty rate of any service. Of the approximately 250,000 Americans who served on our Merchant ships, more than one out of every 26 was killed.

But despite these sacrifices, they were not granted the same benefits that other veterans received. They were promised benefits by President Roosevelt, but they were systematically cut out of the GI Bill, health care, loans, and the other tools that our grateful Nation provided to our ''Greatest Generation.''

Even though many of our merchant marines were eventually granted veteran status many years later, the effects of their unequal treatment put them at a disadvantage that continues to this day.

That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 23. This bill will provide each qualifying merchant mariner with a $1,000 monthly stipend, a small step in the right direction of acknowledging the great sacrifices that these brave men made.

Madam Speaker, this is an injustice that should never have happened. It should have been fixed long ago. But with every year that passes, there are fewer and fewer of these men left among us. It is now 2009, over 63 years after the end of World War II, and it is long past time for us to right this wrong.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This conversation we are having here on the floor with regard to degrees of valor is off the mark. Merchant mariners exhibited valor. They have been granted their veteran status. The question is whether we should now give them a service pension, which we do not do for any other veterans groups except the most highly decorated veterans, our Medal of Honor recipients.

The argument being made is that merchant mariners were shortchanged because they did not receive GI Bill benefits, unlike the members of the Armed Forces who then served in

World War II. However, 28 other groups that also provided military-related service in the U.S. during World War II have received veteran status in the same manner as merchant mariners and, likewise, did not qualify for GI Bill benefits.

If equity were really the issue, this bill would help these groups, too. But H.R. 23, as amended, does not. This bill unfairly ignores them and, thus, does not provide full equity. It creates an inequity among veterans, distinguishing the value of one group over and above someone else, something that we don't do in the military. We're very cautious and very careful not to do that type of thing, to say that, well, if you're a combatant and you're on the front line, then your service is more important than someone who is in a rear echelon, or, gosh, if you were back in the home States or in the National Guard, then your service isn't as important as somebody who is on the battlefield. Time out. We don't do that in the military.

The reason we don't do that is we look at everybody as a team, as one team. So when we go to a theater of operations, it may take seven to actually put one combatant on the field of battle because everybody is important, from the theater Army all the way to the actual combatants. And as a matter of fact, when they fall on the battlefield, maybe when they go to Landstuhl, Germany, they come back to the States. Everybody is an important part of the team, and we don't then make discriminatory judgments that someone's military service is more important than another and, thereby, Congress then awards a service pension.

I'm just appealing to the Members do not do this. It will have consequences among the ranks and the services of our military.

I would like to talk about the other 28 groups. One of these other groups of veterans of whom are being discriminated here against if this legislation passes is the American all-volunteer group famously known as the Flying Tigers. They were American P–40 pilots and ground crews who worked for the Chinese Government in the air defense of Rangoon and other parts of China before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Flying Tigers are credited with destroying an impressive 297 enemy aircraft and had one of the best kill ratios of any air group in the Pacific theater. There were approximately 80 pilots that flew for the Flying Tigers, of which 21 died in service.

□ 1530

An amazing 19 of them were credited with five or more air-to-air victories, making them aces. Nineteen out of the 80 pilots were aces. But they are not worthy for this service pension, okay, because we are not going to do that. Of the over 300 original members of the Flying Tigers, 18 of them are still alive today.

Another one of the groups that is being discriminated against here today I would like to highlight is the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the WASPS. There is even a colleague of mine who has legislation to get them the Congressional Medal of Honor. Yet a vote in favor of this legislation today discriminates against the Women Airforce Service Pilots. These were female pilots who flew every type of mission that an Army Air Force male pilot flew during World War II, except combat missions.

They freed up their male pilots for combat by flying planes from factories to air fields and flew over 60 million miles in every type of aircraft in the Army Air Force arsenal, from the fastest of fighters to heaviest of bombers. More than 25,000 women applied for WASPS service and less than 1,900 were accepted. After completing months of military flight training, 1,078 of them earned their wings and became the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. Thirty-eight of these brave women died while serving their country.

Madam Speaker, these are just some of the stories of two of these groups out of the 28 who all served loyally, selflessly, and courageously. Yet their service also contributed directly to victory in 1945, but they are being ignored and discriminated against by the legislation before us.

In May 11 of this year, a letter to all Members opposing H.R. 23, as amended, the Veterans of Foreign Wars stated with respect to the Merchant Mariners of World War II that ''singling out this group, no matter how valiant their service, will create inequities. Congress should not single them out for special benefits when they are not provided to other groups.''

Madam Speaker, I offered an amendment at the full committee of H.R. 23, as amended, to include these other 28 groups, who are similarly situated. It was rejected on a 15–14 vote.

I would like to insert the May 11, 2009, letter from the VFW and the names of the other 28 groups who have been granted veteran status of World War II to be placed into the RECORD.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington DC, May 11, 2009.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: This week, the House of Representatives is expected to take action on H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Marines of World War II Act. This legislation would grant a $1,000 monthly benefit to individuals who served in the Merchant Marines between December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946, The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. has serious concerns with the equity of this bill, and we urge you to oppose it.

The VFW has no doubt about the dedication and bravery the Merchant Marines demonstrated during World War II. Their contributions to the war effort in transporting cargo to keep forces supplied enabled the Allied forces to win the War. They suffered heavy casualties. with nearly one-in–26 dying in the Atlantic theater. We value and salute their efforts.

However, the VFW cannot support a special monthly benefit for this single group. Merchant Marines are just one of 28 civilian groups that have been awarded Veterans status by virtue of their military-related service. Not one of these other 28 groups receives a special monthly benefit such as this. In fact, the only group of veterans that receives a special monthly benefit is Medal of Honor recipients.

Singling this group out—no matter how valiant their service—would create inequities. Congress should not single them out for special benefits when they are not provided to other groups, such as the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) or those honorably discharged members of ''The Flying Tigers.'' Further, many World War II veterans who served on the front lines are not receiving any form of compensation, and certainly not a $1,000 monthly benefit. We cannot put one group ahead of all others.

The VFW is also concerned about the funding for this proposal. The special monthly benefit would consume almost $500 million of the VA's budget over the next five years. With waves of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and presenting challenges for the entire VA health care system, especially for those who are grievously wounded, taking away money to give a special bonus to one segment of veterans is not right. This is especially true because the vast majority of the Merchant Marines covered under this bill are already entitled to VA health care and most veterans' benefits.

The VFW greatly respects their bravery and their dedication, but we cannot support legislation that singles them out above other deserving groups. We ask you to keep these issues in mind, and to oppose this bill's passage.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT E. WALLACE,
Executive Director.

WORLD WAR II SERVICE BY PARTICULAR GROUPS

A number of groups who provided military-related service to the United States can receive VA benefits. A discharge by the Secretary of Defense is needed to qualify. Service in the following groups has been certified as active military service for benefits purposes:

RECOGNIZED GROUPS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 95–202

	Date of recognition	Recognized group
1	8 Mar 79	Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) (WWII).
2	18 Mar 80	Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) (WWII).
3	22 Jan 81	Civilian Employees, Pacific Naval Air Bases, Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Wake Island during WWII.
4	17 Jul 81	Male Civilian Ferry Pilots (WWII).
5	7 Apr 82	Wake Island defenders from Guam (WWII).
6	27 Dec 82	Civilian Personnel Assigned to the Secret Intelligence Element of the OSS. (WWII).
7	10 May 83	Guam Combat Patrol (WWII).

RECOGNIZED GROUPS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 95–202—Continued

	Date of recognition	Recognized group
8	7 Feb 84	Quartermaster Corps Keswick Crew on Corregidor (WWII).
9	7 Feb 84	U.S. Civilian Volunteers Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Bataan (WWII).
10	18 Oct 85	U.S. Merchant Seamen Who Served on Blockships in Support of Operation Mulberry in the World War II invasion of Normandy (WWII).
11	19 Jan 88	American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the Period of Armed Conflict, December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945 (WWII).
12	2 Aug 88	Civilian U.S. Navy IFF Technicians Who Served in the Combat Areas of the Pacific during World War II (December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945) (WWII).
13	30 Aug 90	U.S. Civilians of the American Field Service (AFS) Who Served Overseas Under U.S. Armies and U.S. Army Groups in World War II During the Period December 7, 1941 through May 8, 1945 (WWII).
14	5 Oct 90	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of American Airlines Who Served Overseas as a result of American Airlines' Contract with Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
15	8 Apr 91	Civilian Crewmen of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who performed their service in areas of immediate military hazard while conducting cooperative operations with and for the United States Armed Forces within a time frame of December 7, 1941 to August 15, 1945 (WWII) (Qualifying vessels are: the Derickson, Explorer, Gilber, Hilgard, E. Lester Jones, Lydonia Patton, Surveyor, Wainwright, Westdahl, Oceanographer, Hydrographer and Pathfinder).
16	3 May 91	Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Who Served During the Period December 7, 1941 to July 18, 1942 (WWII).
17	12 May 92	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of United Air Lines (UAL), Who Served Overseas as a Result of UAL's Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
18	12 May 92	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA's Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
19	29 Jun 92	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation (Convair Division), Who Served Overseas as a Result of a Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period (WWII) U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support during the Period December 7, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
20	17 Jul 92	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Pan American World Airways and its subsidiaries and affiliates, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Pan American's Contract with the Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
21	29 Jun 92	Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Guard, Eritrea Service Command during the Period June 21, 1942 to March 31, 1943 (WWII).
22	13 Dec 93	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northwest Airlines, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Northwest Airlines' Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).
23	13 Dec 93	U.S. Civilian Female Employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps While Serving in the Defense of Bataan and Corregidor During the Period January 2, 1942 to June 12, 1945 (WWII).
24	2 Jun 97	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division, who served overseas in the result Northeast Airlines' contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 7, 1941, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).
25	2 Jun 97	U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing as a result of a contract with Air Transport Command during the period February 26, 1942, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).
26	30 Sep 99	Approximately 50 Chamorro and Carolinian policemen, who received military training and under the command of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion, to accompany U.S. Marines in combat patrol activity from August 19, 1945, to September 2, 1945.
27	27 Aug 99	Operational Analysis Group of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, who served overseas from December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945.
28	9 Aug 00	Service as a member of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II of any individual who was honorably discharged under section 8147 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2001 (P.L. 106–259).

Now, while I am disappointed with regard to the outcome, I am encouraged that when the vote was concluded that Chairman FILNER had agreed to consider separate legislation with regard to these groups. Immediately following the markup, I introduced H.R. 2270, the Benefits of Qualified World War II Veterans Act of 2009, which provides equity to those other groups by providing them the same type of payment as sought here today.

Now that this whole issue is becoming better understood, it is my hope that other Members will join me in supporting H.R. 2270 to ensure fair treatment for all of these groups equally deserving.

H.R. 23, as amended, much like the legislation that comes to the floor, is certainly well meaning, but I must oppose it. I oppose it because you cannot resolve an inequity through discrimination, and that's exactly what this bill does.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 23, as amended, would provide an unprecedented $1,000 monthly payment to World War II Merchant Mariners.

There is no dispute that these mariners braved great danger and suffered great loss in their service to the Allies.

This service has been recognized. These Merchant Mariners were given veteran status in 1988 and have VA healthcare and benefits. This bill would grant them a non-service connected pension unlike anything Congress has authorized, with one exception: the service pension of $1,100 for recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Thus, the conversation about the Merchant Marines' degree of valor is off the mark. They were valorous. They have been granted veterans' status. The question is whether we should now give them a service pension, which we do not do for other groups of veterans except our most highly decorated veterans, our Medal of Honor recipients.

The argument begin made is that the Merchant Mariners were shortchanged because they did not receive G.I. Bill benefits, unlike the members of the Armed Forces who served in World War II. However, twenty-eight other Veterans groups who were also contractors and mercenaries that also provided military-related service to the U.S. in World War II have also received veteran status as the Merchant Mariners, and likewise did not qualify for the G.I. Bill.

If equity was really the issue, this bill should help these groups, too; but H.R. 23, as amended, unfairly ignores them and thus does not provide full equity. It creates an inequity among veterans, diminishing the value of one group's service about others'. It is not possible to resolve an inequity through bias to Merchant Marines by discriminating against similarly situated veterans groups.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the names of these 28 groups be inserted into the RECORD with my statement so that the discriminations against these veterans by this Congress will be noted.

One of those other groups of similarly situated veterans are members of the American Volunteer Group, famously known as the Flying Tigers. They were American P-40 pilots and ground crews who worked for the Chinese government in the air defense of Rangoon and other parts of China before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Flying Tigers are credited with destroying an impressive 297 enemy aircraft and had one of the best kill ratios of any air group in the Pacific theater. There were approximately 80 pilots that flew for the Flying Tigers, of which 21 died in service.

An amazing 19 of them were credited with five or more air to air victories, making them aces.

Of the over 300 original members of the Flying Tigers only 18 of them are still with us today—yet the chairman has chosen to discriminate against them.

Another one of these groups that I would like to highlight are the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPS). These were female pilots who flew every type of mission that any Army Air Force male pilot flew during World War II, except combat missions.

They freed up male pilots for combat by flying planes from factories to airfields and overall flew 60 million miles in every type aircraft in the Army Air Force arsenal—from the fastest fighters to the heaviest bombers.

More than 25,000 women applied for WASP service, and fewer than 1,900 were accepted. After completing months of military flight training, 1,078 of them earned their wings and became the first women in history to fly American military aircraft. Thirty-eight of these brave pilots died while serving their country—yet the chairman has chosen to discriminate against them.

Madam Speaker, these are just the stories of two of these groups who all served loyally, selflessly, and courageously.

Their service contributed directly to victory in 1945 and yet they are ignored by this bill.

In their May 11th letter to all members opposing H.R. 23, as amended, the Veterans of Foreign Wars agreed with this argument and stated with respect to the Merchant Mariners of World War II that, "Singling out this group—no matter how valiant their service—would create inequities. Congress should not single them out for special benefits when they are not provided to other groups . . .".

Madam Speaker I offered an amendment at the Full Committee markup of H.R. 23, as amended, to include these other 28 groups but it was rejected by a vote of 15–14.

I am very disappointed by this outcome.

Immediately following the markup, I introduced H.R. 2270, the Benefits for Qualified World War II Veterans Act of 2009, which provides equity to these other groups by providing them the same $1,000 a month pension that H.R. 23, as amended, would provide to Merchant Mariners. Now that this whole issue is becoming better understood, it is my hope that other members will join me in supporting H.R. 2270 to ensure fair treatment for all of these groups who are equally deserving.

H.R. 23, as amended, like much of the legislation that comes to this floor, is certainly well-meaning. It may well pass the House, although I have opposed it. And if it does, then it will behoove us to also provide full equity and pass H.R. 2270 as soon as it can be brought to the floor. I urge all members to oppose H.R. 23, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. I urge all Members to oppose this legislation before us, and I appeal to them, do not create a service pension that will differentiate members' service from others. This is the wrong approach.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, without a doubt these men, now octogenarians, average age almost 85, fought the good fight and gave our country their all. And H.R. 23 will provide them with the compensation they earned or was promised them and has been denied for decades, not just in words but in deeds.

Madam Speaker, I ask that letters of support from the American Maritime Officers, the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, and the Seafarers International Union expressing their strong support for H.R. 23, as amended, be included in the RECORD.

MAY 5, 2009.

Hon. BOB FILNER,
Chairman, House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We are writing on behalf of the undersigned American maritime labor organizations to express our strong support for H.R. 23, the ''Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009'' and to urge your Committee to favorably report this legislation. The organizations we represent have the privilege of including among our retired members individuals who served our country with honor and distinction during World War II. These World War II merchant mariners are truly representative of the ''Greatest Generation'', and we are extremely proud of them and the example they have set for all merchant mariners who continue to respond to our Nation's call whenever and wherever they are needed.

General Colin Powell, following the Persian Gulf War, said that: ''Since I became Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have come to appreciate first-hand why our Merchant Marine has long been called our Nation's fourth arm of defense. The American seafarer provides an essential service to the well-being of our Nation as was demonstrated so clearly during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm . . . ''

We agree wholeheartedly with you that the enactment of H.R. 23 is necessary ''to correct an injustice that has been inflicted upon a group of World War II veterans, the World War II United States merchant mariners.'' We sincerely thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your initiative in working to address this injustice by sponsoring legislation to provide long-overdue recognition and benefits to World War II merchant mariners. We are also grateful to your colleagues who have cosponsored H.R. 23 and for their decision to add their names to the bipartisan supporters who are committed to working with you and with us for the enactment of H.R. 23 this year.

There is not, nor should there be, any debate as to the invaluable service given by American merchant mariners during World War II. In fact, World War II merchant mariners suffered the highest casualty rate of any of the branches of the Armed Forces other than the United States Marine Corps, as they delivered troops, tanks, food, fuel and other needed equipment and material to every theater of World War II. Enemy forces sank more than 800 merchant vessels between 1941 and 1944 alone.

As General of the Army, Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, Dwight David Eisenhower stated, ''When final victory is ours there is no organization that will share its credit, more deservedly that the Merchant Marine.'' Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief, Pacific Theater, said that ''The Merchant Marine . . . has repeatedly proved its right to be considered as an integral part of our fighting team.''

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, speaking of the merchant seamen who supported the liberation of the Philippines, stated that ''With us, they have shared the heaviest enemy fire. On these islands I have ordered them off their ships and into foxholes when their ships became untenable targets of attack. At our side they have suffered in bloodshed and death . . . They have contributed tremendously to our success. I hold no branch in higher esteem than the Merchant Marine Service.''

Finally, President Franklin Roosevelt eloquently and accurately summed up the contributions of World War II merchant mariners, telling the country and the world that they ''have written one of the most brilliant chapters. They have delivered the goods when and where needed in every theater of operations and across every ocean in the biggest, the most difficult and most dangerous job ever taken.''

Yet, despite this record of exemplary, indispensable service to America's war efforts, merchant mariners were not given the formal recognition and benefits granted other services by the Congress through the GI Bill of Rights in 1945. In fact, no legislation to recognize the contributions made by World War II merchant mariners was enacted until Congress extended limited veterans' status to these gallant American citizens in 1988.

We believe, as you have stated Mr. Chairman, that it is time to correct this injustice. We believe our country has an obligation to the remaining World War II merchant mariners, to fully acknowledge their service and to give them the measure of benefit called for in H.R. 23. We ask you and your Committee to take the first step in righting this wrong by favorably reporting H.R. 23 to the House of Representatives for its consideration.

We note that during the consideration of H.R. 23 in the last Congress, changes were made to the legislation that would, among other things, reduce its overall cost. For example, it no longer provides any payment of benefits to survivors' spouses and revised the legislation so that it is no longer self-funded. Rather, it sets up a Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund and leaves it to Congress to later determine funding within its spending caps. Finally, those who have received benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (the GI Bill—PL 78–346) are not eligible for benefits under H.R. 23. The bill, with these changes, is the legislation that was adopted by the House of Representatives on July 7, 2007 and we continue to support H.R. 23 with these changes.

We again thank you and your colleagues for the support you have shown for the World War II merchant mariners and we stand ready to work with you for its enactment this year.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bethel, President, American Maritime Officers; Timothy Brown, President, International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots; Don Keefe, President, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association; Anthony Poplawski, President, Marine Firemen's Union; Gunnar Lundeberg, President, Sailors' Union of the Pacific; Michael Sacco, President, Seafarers International Union.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES®,
Springfield, VA, May 11, 2009.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS:

On behalf of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), celebrating its 41st year representing all ranks, branches and components of the uniformed services, their spouses and survivors, I write to ask you to approve H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009. NAUS strongly urges you to recognize finally, completely, and honorably, the service given in harm's-way during World War II by members of the U.S. Merchant Marines.

Despite recent arguments against this bill, H.R. 23 does not, repeat, not put one group ahead of all others nor does it take funding away from any other veterans groups or programs. History shows that the Merchant Mariners of World War II had every reasonable expectation that they would be treated as veterans for their service in World War II.

When President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill in 1944, he said, ''I trust Congress will soon provide similar opportunities to members of the Merchant Marine who risked their lives time and again during the War for the welfare of their country.'' Unfortunately, Congress did not act until 44 years later, long after other war veterans had used the generous benefits our nation provided and had received the medical care necessary to treat their wounds.

For all those years, the U.S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans received no help from the Government they served and little to no recognition for wartime service to our country. They missed out on the GI Bill for their education, the GI Home Loan Program for purchase of their family home, and related earned benefits, not to mention the cost of the medical care they underwent for the wounds, injuries and illnesses they experienced. Their service was shelved and taken for granted.

Nearly 300,000 men answered the call to train and serve in the U.S. Merchant Marine during WWII. Many never returned home and many others who did return came back with both physical and mental wounds. These men put their lives on the line for their country with 9,521 killed (or died from wounds), 12,000 wounded, 663 taken as Prisoner of War, and 66 who died in POW camps.

Fewer than 10,000 of these brave men, who challenged our enemy at sea and willingly

risked life to help win the war, survive today. We ask you to support those now almost-ancient mariners whose heroic contribution as members of the ocean-going Merchant Mariners struggled to help secure the American victory in World War II.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I urge you to honor these brave men with your vote for H.R. 23, The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariner Combat Veterans of World War II. Time is running short for a final thanks to the Merchant Mariner of World War II. Let us not squander this opportunity. As always, thank you for your leadership and continued support of America's veterans.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. MATZ, Jr.,
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES,®
Springfield, VA, May 5, 2009.

Hon. BOB FILNER,
Chairman, Veterans' Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS), I write to offer our support for H.R. 23, The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009, a bill to recognize the honorable service these brave and courageous individuals gave in wartime to their country.

By establishing a Merchant Mariners Equity Compensation Fund, the bill would provide monthly payments of $1,000 to qualifying members of the United States Merchant Marines who, motivated by a deep love of country and personal sense of patriotism, faced enemy action and contributed decisively to the war's final victory.

NAUS commends your strength of leadership in recognition of the heroic service put forth during World War II by the thousands of young men who volunteered for service in the U.S. Merchant Marine. These forgotten heroes have struggled for more than six decades for honorable recognition by the nation they proudly served and their recognition is long overdue.

Once again, the National Association for Uniformed Services fully supports The Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act. We appreciate working with you and thank you for your leadership in recognizing the vital role these brave men served in helping to win the war.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. MATZ, JR.,
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired,
President.

Madam Speaker, William Matz, Jr., major general of the U.S. Army, retired, who is president of the National Association for Uniformed Services, wrote to all Members of Congress that ''on behalf of NAUS celebrating its 41st year representing all ranks, branches and components of the uniformed services, their spouses and survivors, I write to ask you to approve H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009. NAUS strongly urges you to recognize finally, completely, and honorably, the service given in harm's way during World War II by members of the U.S. Merchant Marines.

''Despite recent arguments against this bill, H.R. 23 does not, repeat, not put one group ahead of all others nor does it take funding away from any other veterans group or programs. History shows that the Merchant Mariners of World War II had every reasonable expectation that they would be treated as veterans for their service in World War II.

''When President Roosevelt signed the GI Bill in 1944, he said, 'I trust Congress will soon provide similar opportunities to members of the Merchant Marine who risked their lives time and time again during the War for the welfare of their country.' Unfortunately, Congress did not act until 44 years later, long after other war veterans had used the generous benefits our Nation provided and had received the medical care necessary to their wounds.

''For all those years, the U.S. Merchant Marine Combat Veterans received no help from the government they served and little to no recognition for wartime service to our country. They missed out on the GI Bill for their education, the GI Home Loan Program for purchase of their family home, and related earned benefits, not to mention the cost of the medical care they underwent for the wounds, injuries and illnesses they experienced. Their service was shelved and taken for granted.

''Nearly 300,000 men answered the call to train and serve in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Many never returned home and many others who did return came back with both physical and mental wounds. These men put their lives on the line for their country with 9,521 killed (or died from wounds) 12,000 wounded, 663 taken as prisoner of war, and 66 who died in POW camps.

''Fewer than 10,000 of these brave men, who challenged our enemy at sea and willingly risked life to help win the war, survive today. We ask you to support these now almost-ancient mariners whose heroic contribution as members of the ocean-going merchant mariners struggled to help secure the American victory in World War II.

''On behalf of a grateful Nation, I urge you to honor these brave men with your vote for H.R. 23, the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariner Combat Veterans of World War II. Time is running short for a final thanks to the merchant mariner of World War II. Let us not squander this opportunity.''

Madam Speaker, that was the letter from the president of the National Association for Uniformed Services, Major General William Matz of the U.S. Army, Retired.

I can say it no better, and I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 23, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 23, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GAO STUDY OF CIVIL AIR PATROL IN HOMELAND SECURITY MISSIONS

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1178) to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1178

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CIVIL AIR PATROL STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the functions and capabilities of the Civil Air Patrol to support the homeland security missions of State, local, and tribal governments and the Department of Homeland Security. In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall review the process by which the Civil Air Patrol may provide assistance to the Secretary of Homeland Security, other Federal agencies, and States to support homeland security missions by—

(1) providing aerial reconnaissance or communications capabilities for border security;

(2) providing capabilities for collective response to an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other man-made event by assisting in damage assessment and situational awareness, conducting search and rescue operations, assisting in evacuations, transporting time-sensitive medical or other materials;

(3) providing assistance in the exercise and training of departmental resources responsible for the intercept of aviation threats to designated restricted areas; and

(4) carrying out such other activities as may be determined appropriate by the Comptroller General in the conduct of this review.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Committees on Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a). The report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the feasibility and cost effectiveness of using Civil Air Patrol assets for the purposes described in subsection (a); and

(2) an assessment as to whether the current mechanisms for Federal agencies and States to request support from the Civil Air Patrol are sufficient or whether new agreements between relevant Federal agencies and the Civil Air Patrol are necessary.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall review and analyze the study and submit to the Committees on Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on such review and analysis, which shall include any recommendations of the Secretary for further action that could affect the organization and administration of the Department of Homeland Security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 1178.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairman THOMPSON regarding H.R. 1178.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 7, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing you regarding H.R.1178, a bill ''To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes,'' introduced on February 25, 2009, by Congressman Charles W. Dent. This legislation was initially referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and, in addition, to the Committee on Homeland Security.

In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important legislation, I will waive further consideration of H.R. 1178. However, agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving, altering, or otherwise affecting its jurisdiction over subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Homeland Security conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, WASHINGTON, DC,
MAY 7, 2009.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for your May 7, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1178, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions.

I agree that provisions in H.R. 1178 are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Homeland Security. I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 1178 to ensure the timely consideration of this legislation, and I acknowledge that through this waiver, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction over this legislation or similar language. Further, I will support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Homeland Security has jurisdiction in H.R. 1178.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of H.R. 1178 in the House.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the gentleman from Pennsylvania's legislation, H.R. 1178. It does direct the Comptroller General to do a smart study of the Civil Air Patrol's ability to support the Nation's Homeland Security and emergency response activities.

Specifically, H.R. 1178 requires the Government Accountability Office to issue a report within 180 days of enactment that will describe the current functions and capabilities of the Civil Air Patrol to support emergency response and Homeland Security missions.

GAO is required to assess how the Civil Air Patrol may provide assistance for border security and a variety of threats and hazards, such as damage assessment, search and rescue operations, evacuations and transporting time-sensitive medical materials.

In addition, the report must focus on the cost-effectiveness of using the Civil Air Patrol to support a security mission, as well as whether mechanisms and agreements are sufficient, or whether new agreements between Federal agencies and the Civil Air Patrol are necessary to request support. The report must be reviewed and analyzed by the Secretary of Homeland Security and presented to Congress within 90 days with any recommendations for further action.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1178.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota, for his kind comments about my legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1178. This bill, which I introduced in February of this year, is similar to the Civil Air Patrol legislation that was passed by this House during the 110th Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support. I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring this bill before the House for consideration once again.

I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for their cooperation and support in bringing this legislation to the floor today. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON and Ranking Member PETER KING and the Committee on Homeland Security for their continued support for this initiative. Additionally, I would also like to thank Chairwoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, on which I serve as ranking member, for her support as a cosponsor of H.R. 1178.

This bill, H.R. 1178, directs the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to determine how the Civil Air Patrol or CAP can help support Homeland Security missions. The GAO will generate a report based on the findings of the study. Once complete, the report will be reviewed by both the Homeland Security Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Specifically, this study will examine the ways in which the Civil Air Patrol may assist State, local and tribal governments and the Department of Homeland Security by providing aerial reconnaissance or communications assistance for border security, augmenting the Department's situational awareness in search and rescue capabilities in the aftermath of an act of terrorism, natural disaster or other catastrophic event, and providing other assistance deemed appropriate by the Comptroller General.

Once the study is completed and the GAO publishes its report, DHS must review and analyze that report, and within 90 days submit recommendations to Congress for further action. Aviation assets traditionally have played an important role in border security, in the interdiction of contraband and in search and rescue operations, evacuations and after-action analysis that must be performed in the wake of a catastrophic event.

We watch as communities continue to deal with fires or tornados, hurricanes, and floods that turn families' lives upside down. We continue to witness drug cartel violence on the Mexican border.

H.R. 1178 will allow for further explanation into the use of the Civil Air Patrol capabilities for delivering needed relief in such situations. The Civil Air Patrol has a long history of service to this Nation. The organization was founded at the outbreak of the Second World War, during which it served as a vital watchdog along the coastlines of America, protecting us from the threat of German U-boats that patrolled our shores. I even believe they got a few back then.

Since that time, the Civil Air Patrol has regularly assisted States in search and rescue operations and emergency response, including action during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Civil Air Patrol deployed 1,800 members to the devastated areas, logging more than 50,000 volunteer hours and distributing over 30,000 pounds of relief supplies.

Today our Civil Air Patrol force of approximately 57,000 volunteers from varying professional backgrounds, with over 500 aircraft across the country, stands ready to assist in the aforementioned missions. In the Commonwealth

of Pennsylvania alone, we have over 2,300 volunteers, over 1,000 of which are cadets between the ages of 12 and 18.

I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation as we help to ensure the effective use of all available resources for securing our Homeland Security. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say here today that the Civil Air Patrol enthusiastically supports this legislation.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1178 originally introduced by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT. The bill directs the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study to determine how the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) can help support homeland security missions and to report to Congress on his findings.

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a Congressionally-chartered, federally-supported, non-profit corporation that serves as the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force (USAF). First organized over sixty years ago at the beginning of World War II, the Civil Air Patrol is a 57,000-member volunteer cadre that flies 500 planes nationwide.

In addition to its aerospace education mission for youth and the general public, the Civil Air Patrol handles 90 percent of inland search and rescue missions. Its members are responsible for approximately 75 lives saved each year.

Civil Air Patrol planes have been among the first to survey the aftermath of such disasters as the attacks of September 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina, Texas and Oklahoma wildfires, and North Dakota flash flooding. The Civil Air Patrol has also assisted in humanitarian missions along the U.S. and Mexican border.

Border security, drug interdiction, search and rescue are just a few missions in which airborne reconnaissance and tracking would give homeland security officials valuable information critical to carrying out their objective.

The Civil Air Patrol is eager to further assist in Homeland Security missions. This bill will help better define how the Civil Air Patrol may be used more extensively to aid in homeland security missions.

Mr. DENT. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1178, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

COMMENDING FLOOD FIGHTING EFFORTS IN NORTH DAKOTA AND MINNESOTA

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 415) commending the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 415

Whereas 47 of the 53 counties in North Dakota and 28 of the 87 counties in Minnesota have been declared Federal disaster areas;

Whereas wide swaths of North Dakota and Minnesota have faced unprecedented flooding crises, including cities along the Des Lacs, Heart, James, Knife, Missouri, Little Missouri, Park, Pembina, Red, Sheyenne, Souris, and Wild Rice Rivers and Beaver Creek;

Whereas the people of North Dakota and Minnesota have suffered tremendous damage to their homes, livelihoods, and communities;

Whereas the ranchers of North Dakota and Minnesota are estimated to have lost nearly 100,000 head of livestock;

Whereas many of the roads and bridges, and much of the other infrastructure, in North Dakota and Minnesota are in need of repair;

Whereas, despite terrible conditions, the people of North Dakota and Minnesota have shown the strength of their shared bond, coming together in large numbers to save their cities, towns, businesses, farms, and ranches;

Whereas stories of exceptional efforts abound, from people filling millions of sandbags on short notice, to people saving lives and effecting rapid emergency evacuations;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have provided outstanding leadership and effective service throughout the crisis in North Dakota and Minnesota; and

Whereas the response of the people of North Dakota and Minnesota to the disaster has shown the world how communities can unite, fight, and win in a crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of North Dakota and Minnesota for their heroic efforts in fighting the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota;

(2) commends the many people from around the United States who assisted the people of North Dakota and Minnesota during this time of need;

(3) expresses appreciation to the officials of the numerous Federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, working on the ground in North Dakota and Minnesota for their consistently rapid, efficient, and effective response to the disaster; and

(4) continues to stand with the communities of North Dakota and Minnesota in the efforts to recover from the flooding during 2009, and to improve protections against flooding in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 415.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in the strongest support of H. Res. 415, a resolution to commend the heroic efforts of the people fighting the recent floods in North Dakota and Minnesota.

In October of 2007, the House passed H. Res. 657 to express sympathy for the victims of the devastating flooding that occurred in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. I spoke on the House floor then to commend our fellow citizens in the wake of Mother Nature's wrath, and to thank the men and women who serve this Nation as National Guardsmen, police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and others, who put themselves in danger every day to protect us. These dedicated professionals were once again called in the wake of the Red River floods.

In April 2009, several counties in Minnesota were greatly affected by flooding along the Red River. The Red River flows between North Dakota and Minnesota. Flooding along the Red River, combined with extremely cold weather, caused severe ice damage. Flooding conditions along the river were the result of one of the wettest springs, where winter stream flows were 300 percent above normal.

Twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, all over this country, when any type of tragedy enters our lives, from a medical emergency facing a neighbor to a large-scale national disaster, terrorist attack, or other incident, our Nation's emergency responders and charitable organizations are the first on the scene to provide professional services, expert help, aid and comfort. These well-trained, highly skilled individuals are truly on the front lines in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating damages from a variety of hazards.

In addition to the heroic acts of neighbors and friends, we rise today to also acknowledge and praise the support of local businesses and many charitable organizations whose boundless generosity and caring are just one of the pillars of recovery on which we come to rely. I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in March, both Minnesota and North Dakota, as the gentleman just said, began experiencing severe storms and flooding. As a result, major disaster declarations were issued for a number of counties in those States pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide for Federal assistance.

But the numbers are staggering. Forty-seven of 53 counties in North Dakota and 28 of 87 counties in Minnesota

have been declared Federal disaster areas. That just tells you the scope and the size of these floods.

As a Member representing a State that has seen, unfortunately, its fair share of storms, I can tell you that there are so many people that really allow the people of these States to move forward and to, frankly, survive this and, hopefully, prosper from it.

There's so many people not only from North Dakota and Minnesota, but from around the Nation, who assisted in fighting these floods, and hundreds of volunteers chipped in to help one another to fill sandbags and to do whatever it takes to make sure that they can help their fellow citizens.

Demolition crews freed up ice jams and ice dams to get water moving up the Missouri River to minimize flooding—to try to minimize flooding after, obviously, so much had already taken place.

Reportedly, there were so many volunteers who offered to help, some of them actually had to be turned away. That says a lot about the greatness of the American people.

So this resolution commends the people of North Dakota and Minnesota for their heroic actions, as the gentleman just said, along with those volunteers from around the country who also came to assist. It also expresses appreciation to FEMA—the Federal Emergency Management Agency—and other Federal agencies for their work with the State and local officials.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman for this resolution. People are hurting and struggling, but the American people have a way to come together to help each other. This is just one more example.

I urge the approval and passage of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. I thank the gentleman from Florida for those kind words. At this time I yield such time as he may consume to the author, the gentleman who introduced this, the gentleman from North Dakota, who, along with his constituents, we share a common border, and we share far more than that—a culture and a friendship—and his leadership of making sure that all possible steps were taken is a real great example.

So with that I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY).

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the gentleman, my friend, for yielding, and appreciate very much the kind comments of Mr. DIAZ-BALART as well. Maybe sometime we can get the gentleman from southern Florida up for one of our ice storms. In turn, we can go down for a hurricane. We will all have kind of a better understanding one with another. It certainly does underscore the national dimension of how we hang together as a country. You get hit, we help; we get hit, you help. That's how it works. I want to speak to that for a moment or two in my remarks today.

The entire country, Madam Speaker, watched the compelling news coverage of the massive record flooding in North Dakota and Minnesota this spring that resulted from huge accumulations of snow and dangerous spring ice.

Having witnessed this flood fight firsthand, I understand what made these television images so compelling. From all walks of life, neighbors were helping neighbors. The Nation got to see the character of North Dakota and Minnesota as our communities responded to this disaster.

In my entire life, I have never seen a time when so many of our North Dakota communities faced disaster threats—from one end of the State to the other, and so many places in between.

Take a look at this picture. This is rural Cass County, actually outside of the city limits of Fargo. The next picture, a city a couple hundred miles north, Pembina, North Dakota.

These images are like so many small towns across North Dakota where all you see is water. Water, water everywhere. One of the operating heads of the disaster programs in the State observed to me that it has become a place where our ditches are streams, our streams are rivers, and our rivers are lakes. That's certainly what it felt like during much of the ordeal of this spring.

Record snow, in the end, wasn't the only threat. This next picture illustrates what happens when, as the gentleman illustrated, we had ice jams on the Missouri River, backing water into the southern part of Bismarck, known as Fox Island. It required, as we mentioned, demolition to blow up that ice jam to move this flood out of a place that has not had a flood threat since the construction of the Garrison Dam 60 years ago.

In the middle of all these fights, Fargo Mayor Denny Walaker observed, If we go down, we're going to go down swinging. That absolutely captured the determination of local leadership and the citizens that responded as they fought like crazy to keep their city from becoming inundated by rampaging waters.

Federal, State, and local officials came together with folks from all walks of life. And we're very grateful to President Obama for moving swiftly to declare North Dakota and Minnesota Federal disaster areas, unleashing the help that comes with that designation.

Acting FEMA administrator Nancy Ward stood with our local leaders, ensuring they had the Federal disaster assistance to respond to community flood threats. Governor Hoeven ended calling up more than 2,000 National Guardsmen to respond to the threats. We observed many times that it was good having him work in our sand instead of desert sand, as threats this spring unfolded.

The Corps of Engineers were present—and even senior leadership present in our communities time and time again. We could not have built the kind of emergency levees that were required without the Corps' expertise. They are true partners in this fight.

Throughout these ongoing flood fights I have had the opportunity and the honor of working with local, city, and community officials as they led the battle against the rising waters. While I have always been impressed with the caliber and commitment of our local leadership, I'm now in complete awe after witnessing these individuals lead their communities in times of real crisis.

Make no bones about it, city leaders have been instrumental, instrumental in keeping their residents and their communities safe.

When Federal agency heads came to North Dakota in the middle of all of this, seeking to provide advice and direction, what they got back was an understanding of just how thorough the planning had been and how competent the local response was as leaders led the fight against this. I think it underscores a lesson we need to keep in mind in terms of disaster—Federal support, subject to local leadership, because no one knows the ground better than local leaders.

But we all know the heart of our flood fighting efforts comes down to the people themselves. And our people stepped up, bore down, and worked furiously—neighbor helping neighbor in this struggle to save their homes and communities.

This is a picture of the Fargodome. Now that's an indoor football facility where Division I North Dakota State University Bison play their football games. It was turned into sandbag central. In a town of 90,000, over the course of this ordeal, more than 80,000 volunteers came forward, built millions and millions of sandbags around the clock at the Fargodome. I was there. I've never seen anything like it.

In addition to that, National Guard, local volunteers shown here took those sandbags in the middle of blizzards and everything else, built dikes, sometimes on top of snow banks, sometimes through some of the toughest snow storms we have had in the winter.

Having lived this flood fight for several weeks, I have seen more examples of heroism than I can begin to recount, but the impressions will be with me always. We will never be able to adequately thank the thousands of National Guard, tens of thousands of volunteers, and all the countless government agencies who brought to bear their assistance to fight this record fight.

I think President Obama put it best in his radio address which featured our State's disaster and response in our region, because there's lessons we can learn from all this. The President said, ''At moments like these we're reminded of the power of nature to disrupt lives and endanger communities. But we're also reminded of the power of individuals to make a difference.

''In the face of incredible challenge, the people of these communities have rallied in support of one another. And their service isn't just inspirational—it's integral to our response. It's also a reminder of what we can achieve when Americans come together to serve their communities.

''In facing sudden crises, or more stubborn challenges, the truth is we are all in this together as neighbors and fellow citizens. That is what brought so many to help in North Dakota and Minnesota and other areas affected by the flooding.''

Some may see these images of snow and rain and sand and mud and water and say to themselves, Why would anyone want to live there? But to each of us who played our respective part in this fight, experienced the strength of our community, mobilized together, shoulder to shoulder, helping one another, we say, Why would someone want to live anywhere else?

This congressional resolution is a well-deserved way to express our deep appreciation as a Congress and recognize North Dakotans and Minnesotans publicly for their courage and resilience. They are a true inspiration, and I am committed to standing with them during the long recovery process that now lies ahead. I thank you very much for allowing me this kind of time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I want to thank the gentleman for that great illustration of what the people are facing. I recall that after Hurricane Andrew, I ran into a number of—obviously—volunteers. And something that really struck me was, I ran into two people who were there on vacation, and they were actually helping in a day care center for children that had lost their homes, because the gentleman just talked about how we all need to see that and how we all here need to come together as well.

□ 1600

But because of that experience, I did go to Missouri in the nineties after some floods. I had some days off. I was in the State legislature in those days. I volunteered, and I went down there. I spent a few days sandbagging. And you really see the best of the country when people are really hurting and the people are really struggling.

Again, we've received the kindness of the American people in Florida multiple times. You also see how heroic the American people are. You are seeing it now with these storms.

I want to, again, thank the gentleman for bringing up this resolution. It's timely. It's so important to make sure that we recognize that tough times are to be had, but the American people do step up.

In both of those States, they're going to do better than they ever were. They're going to be stronger, and the people are going to survive and prosper.

With that, Madam Speaker, I would yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. WALZ. I thank the gentleman from Florida for his words, and I thank the gentleman from North Dakota for his inspirational description. Both of them did a wonderful job of explaining, when we come out of these most difficult situations, it's the best that we have.

I think, as the gentleman from North Dakota mentioned, when we saw Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we all became Floridians. And when the Red River was flooding, we were all Minnesotans and North Dakotans. A commonality in this Nation and the ability to pull together is truly inspirational.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 415, a resolution to commend the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota.

In October of 2007, the House passed H. Res. 657, to express sympathy for the victims of the devastating flooding that occurred in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin in August of 2007. I spoke on the House floor then to commend our fellow citizens in the wake of Mother Nature's wrath, and to thank the men and women who serve this nation as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel and who place themselves in great danger every day in order to protect each one of us. These dedicated professionals were once again called to duty last month in the wake of the Red River floods.

In April of 2009, in my district in Minnesota, the counties of Cook and Lake were greatly affected by flooding along the Red River. The Red River flows north between North Dakota and Minnesota. Flooding along the Red River, combined with extremely cold weather, caused severe ice damage in Cook and Lake counties. Wadena county was declared a disaster area and a small section of Beltrami county was declared eligible for individual and public assistance. Flooding conditions along the river were the result of one of the wettest springs where winter stream flows were up to 300 percent above normal.

Twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year, all over this country, when any type of tragedy enters our lives, from a medical emergency facing a neighbor to a large-scale natural disaster, terrorist attack, or other incident, our Nation's emergency responders and charitable organizations are the first on the scene to provide professional services, expert help, aid and comfort. These well-trained, highly-skilled individuals are truly on the front lines in preparing for, responding to, and mitigating damages from a variety of hazards.

In addition to the heroic acts of our neighbors and friends, we rise today to also acknowledge and praise the support of local businesses, and many charitable organizations whose boundless generosity and caring are just one of the pillars of recovery on which we have come to rely.

I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the people of Minnesota and North Dakota for the hard work and community spirit they displayed fighting last month's Red River flooding. When the water started to rise, people came from all around to feed the volunteers and help out in any way they could. Now, these communities are continuing to work together all across my district to rebuild, recover, and get life back to normal.

When I've been back home, I've seen the recovery effort firsthand. Neighbors all over my district, in Clay County, Fargo-Moorhead, and throughout the Red River Valley are working with one another to repair the damage. Schools, businesses, and towns are getting back on their feet.

It's impressive, Madam Speaker, but things aren't back to normal yet in North Dakota or Minnesota. Although we've come a long way since the flood crested a little over a month ago, we still have a ways to go.

Floods don't do many good things, but this flood has shown just how strong our communities are in the Midwest. In the face of the toughest odds, Minnesotans and North Dakotans united to fight for our community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Minnesota and North Dakota National Guards. They were mobilized to assist in the flood relief efforts and did a great job. Their readiness to help out their neighbors is what the National Guard is all about. In addition, 300 soldiers from the Minnesota Guard were deployed to North Dakota to provide additional support for its flood fighting efforts.

We aren't out of the woods yet. There is much more to do, and even when we recover from this flood, we'll need to start thinking long-term to prepare for the next one. I commend the people of Minnesota and North Dakota for what they've done in the recovery efforts. They deserve our thanks.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, as the House considers H. Res. 415, I rise to honor the members of the Civil Air Patrol's Minnesota Wing for their response efforts to the flooding in the Fargo-Moorhead communities this spring. The area saw some of the worst flooding in decades and the fact that so many homes and families were protected is a direct result of courageous and caring volunteers like those of the Civil Air Patrol.

The Minnesota Wing sent 122 volunteers into the area to fill and place thousands of sandbags in an unprecedented protection effort. These volunteers also flew aerial damage assessment missions and staffed a mission base in Fargo just when the worst flooding fears were coming true. As the Red River rose higher than anyone expected, these men, women and teenage cadets stepped up their efforts to help their neighbors in their most desperate time of need.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, to support H. Res. 415 and to honor the members of the Minnesota Wing of the Civil Air Patrol who crossed flooded and snow-covered roads to answer their neighbors' call for help. The motto of the Civil Air Patrol is ''Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond'' and I can think of no group that embodies this slogan better.

Mr. WALZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 415.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 370) expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as ''National Healthy Schools Day,'' as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 370

Whereas there are approximately 54,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's 120,000 public and private schools;

Whereas over half of schools in the United States have problems linked to indoor air quality;

Whereas children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

Whereas an average of 1 out of every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;

Whereas the Nation's schools spend approximately $8,000,000,000 a year on energy costs, causing officials to make very difficult decisions on cutting back much needed academic programs in efforts to maintain heat and electricity;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, provide cleaner air, improve lighting, and reduce exposures to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas new building construction, especially new school buildings, should be designed to optimize energy efficiency, lower energy costs, and reduce carbon dioxide emissions;

Whereas Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and our Nation; and

Whereas April 27, 2009, would be an appropriate date to designate as ''National Healthy Schools Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, in the coming months we will address critical problems in the areas of education, energy and health care. National Healthy Schools Day promotes positive changes in all three areas.

I'm pleased to present the amended version of House Resolution 370 for consideration. This legislation expresses the support of Congress for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

House Resolution 370 was introduced by my colleague and friend Representative PAUL TONKO from the Empire State of New York on April 27, which is actually the day that National Healthy Schools Day is annually commemorated.

The measure has the support of over 50 Members of Congress and has met requisite criteria for approval by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Madam Speaker, I am sure you will agree that it is important to ensure that our public schools are places that advance intellectual growth and provide healthy environments for our children to learn and to thrive.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that only 22 percent of public schools in America have effective indoor air quality management programs. More stringent regulation of indoor air quality in public schools would protect students against dangerous environmental hazards such as carbon dioxide, radon and even asbestos.

The National Healthy Schools Day initiative encourages new efforts to combat these hazards and limits the prevalence of indoor environmental asthma triggers that have been reported to account for more than 14 million missed school days each year.

Steps to improve the indoor air quality of our public schools should work in conjunction with efforts to make our schools more energy efficient. Through the use of new ventilation systems and the construction of high-performance so-called green schools, we can make certain that our educational facilities are using less energy while providing a healthier environment for our students.

Through efforts to enhance healthy environments within our school systems, we can improve educational environments as well. Improved energy efficiency in our schools will reduce energy costs and allow more resources to be devoted to other areas, such as hiring new teachers and the acquisition of new educational tools.

Madam Speaker, the health and well-being of all American students is paramount. Therefore, let us take one step forward in providing a high-quality learning environment for our children by expressing our support for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of House Resolution 370, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Some 54 million children and 7 million adults, Madam Speaker, spend a large part of their day in our 120,000 public and private schools. These hard-working teachers and students deserve a healthy school environment.

We share a great responsibility in shaping the future for our children, and it is critical that it is done in a clean and safe environment.

When these elements are in place, everyone's performance improves, test scores rise, and attendance levels increase. Our Nation's children, parents and educators deserve to know that their schools provide the safest and healthiest environment possible.

A National Healthy Schools Day will help promote school environments that are conducive to learning and protect student health.

In order to express support for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day, I also urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 370.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I appreciate the gentleman's words.

At this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the chief sponsor of this resolution, the one who has brought it to the floor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 370, a resolution I was proud to introduce to recognize National Healthy Schools Day.

National Healthy Schools Day recognizes the importance of having a clean, healthy and safe indoor environment for our Nation's schools.

Fifty-four million children, Madam Speaker, and 6 million adults spend their days in our Nation's schools. The EPA estimates that up to one-half of those schools have problems, problems with indoor air quality. Some 32 million students attend schools that have self-reported environmental problems with their facilities that can affect students' health and certainly students' learning.

Some of the hazards common to schools include overcrowding, indoor air pollution, mold infestation, airborne fiberglass particles, lead and copper-contaminated drinking water, playgrounds and classrooms with high levels of pesticides, unchecked furnaces and buses leaking carbon monoxide, chemical spills, renovation fumes, demolition dust, exhaust from gasoline-powered equipment and emissions

from hazardous facilities next door to their school campus.

These problems can contribute to absenteeism, the need for medication use amongst students and can contribute also to learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover and liability issues for our school districts across this great country.

Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards in their schools simply because of their developing immune systems and small bodies. Poor indoor environmental quality has been linked to asthma and other illnesses in our children. With one out of every 13 children suffering from asthma, the number one cause of missed school days, it is very important that we address these issues and address them boldly.

Research shows that simple steps can be taken to make our Nation's schools healthier. Heating and ventilation equipment can be improved upon to enhance indoor air quality. New schools can be built with a healthy design and can be located at nonpolluted sites. Nontoxic products can be used for cleaning, for maintenance and for teaching. The use of natural light should be encouraged. Certainly we can improve on that dynamic heavily.

Many States have adopted guidelines for building healthy high-performing schools that incorporate these steps and more. H.R. 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public Schools Facilities Act, which we will be considering in this body later this week, would do just that. It would require States to adopt similar guidelines.

I was very proud to work with my colleagues at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to develop New York State's High Performance Schools Guidelines. I would suggest that they are some of the most effective and most rigid guidelines in the country and will score wonderful opportunities for our students.

National Healthy Schools Day draws attention to the importance of having a safe and a healthy school environment for all of our Nation's children.

National Healthy Schools Day is supported by the Healthy Schools Network, the EPA, the National Educational Association and many more organizations.

I am proud to be counted as a supporter of National Healthy Schools Day and look forward to working with my colleagues here to ensure that every student has a healthy environment in which to learn. Our students require that, and our students deserve that.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, again, let us join with the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and send a strong message to the public that we are committed to ensuring the development and growth of healthy learning environments and schools for our children by supporting House Resolution 370.

With that, I ask my colleagues to join us.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 370, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''Resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 84) supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 84

Whereas the vigilance of the members of the Armed Forces has been instrumental to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard;

Whereas the role of the United States as a world leader requires a military force that is well-trained, well-equipped, and appropriately sized;

Whereas the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation;

Whereas service in the Armed Forces entails special hazards and demands extraordinary sacrifices from service members and their families;

Whereas the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families;

Whereas, on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33 (106th Congress), entitled ''Designating May 1999 as 'National Military Appreciation Month' '', calling on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month in May 1999, to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace;

Whereas, on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 328 (108th Congress), entitled ''Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month'', and on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent; and

Whereas it is important to emphasize to the people of the United States the relevance of the history and activities of the Armed Forces through an annual National Military Appreciation Month that includes associated local and national observances and activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and

(2) urges the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 84, sponsored by my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP), a resolution supporting the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month.

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Each May since 1999, Congress has taken the time to honor our Nation's bravest men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Throughout our history, they have put themselves in harm's way all over the world in order to protect and defend our country. They continue to do so today, and they deserve our gratitude.

In the wake of the tragic shooting yesterday at Camp Victory in Baghdad, we are reminded of the perils and the stress that our Armed Forces face constantly during periods of deployment. It is important, I think, that we always show our appreciation for their service, but as we continue to face two long wars, they need and deserve our support now more than ever. I am glad we are taking the time today to thank them for their service, and I know that all my colleagues keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

This measure was introduced this year on March 26 by Representative WAMP of Tennessee and was referred to

the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee reported the bill by unanimous consent on May 6, and it comes to the House floor today with the bipartisan support of over 75 cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, every single day our soldiers, sailors, airmen and air women, marines, and their families, make tremendous sacrifices in service to our country. I have seen this firsthand on many, many deployments by these soldiers during my regular visits to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our country is at war, and our military is certainly deserving of our support now more than ever. Today I ask my colleagues to join all Americans in giving thanks to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 84 gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation and respect to members and veterans of the armed services, men and women that hail from all walks of life but are bound together by one noble characteristic and take one simple but profound act. They have put on the uniform of our country, and they are together committed to protecting Americans and their liberties that we hold so dear.

Thus, to the military personnel from my own congressional district and to those of every congressional district represented in this body, we sincerely thank you, our men and women in uniform, for your service to our country.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 11th anniversary of National Military Appreciation Month, which was first passed as Senate Resolution 33, designating May 1999 the first National Military Appreciation Month.

Although it is important that we recognize our servicemembers every year, it is during times of conflict when one can truly put their sacrifices into greater perspective. These outstanding men and women sacrifice much so that we may continue to reap the many benefits of freedom in our land. While we enjoy the comfort of our homes and families, these brave soldiers are stationed far from home across our country and throughout the entire world.

Those who serve are our mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, cousins and closest friends. These are the individuals who comprise our Nation's Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, and we salute them and pledge to them our gratitude. While expressing our gratitude to the military, it is also important to recognize the thousands of families who often endure hardship and loneliness while their loved ones are serving our country. They must relocate, often putting additional strain on the family.

On this day, we must also remember and show appreciation for those who served our country in the past and have played a critical role in making America the great country that it is today.

Mr. Speaker, we live in the greatest Nation in the world, and we owe much of our success to the men and women in uniform who answered the ultimate call of duty to serve and protect our Nation's citizens. Although this concurrent resolution serves to honor and support the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month during the month of May, I hope our soldiers realize that their service is appreciated each and every day of the entire year.

I ask all Members, therefore, to join me in unwavering support of our military by supporting House Concurrent Resolution 84.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time; however, I will continue to reserve.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to urge my colleagues to join with Mr. WAMP, the gentleman from Tennessee, who is the chief sponsor of this resolution, to show our support for our men and women in uniform by supporting this measure.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 84, "Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month." I would like to thank Representative ZACH WAMP of Tennessee for introducing this resolution. We often take our National Military for granted, and I welcome this opportunity to reach out and recognize the importance of the National Military in the United States.

I do not believe there is a person in this body, or a person in this building, who does not feel a remarkable pride in the presence of the men and women who serve in our nation's military. The success of the Armed Forces depends on the dedicated service of its members, their families, and the civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

In the Iraq War, Texas has suffered over 222 resident casualties, second only to California. As a Representative for the 18th District of Texas, H. Con. Res. 84 is very close to the hearts of those I represent. Many Texans hold a passion for protecting the integrity and strength of their nation, and as the recruitment numbers show, they often exercise their passion, by joining the military. In past studies, Texas has been the number one state for military recruitment; therefore, recognition of military involvement is an important issue in Texas and in Houston.

Texas is home to more than 194,965 military personnel including a number of Army, Navy and Marine, Air Force, and Coast Guard bases. H. Con. Res. will encourage the citizens of Texas to reach out to those whom are involved with the military and extend their gratitude for all that they do for our nation. Because there is a large population of military personnel in Texas, it is critical that we show them the support of their nation and their state for all the positive contributions they have brought. I firmly believe that H. Con. Res. 84 is a positive step for the recognition, acknowledgement, and gratitude that should be given to our military personnel, and I hope to see the National Military Appreciation Month become a special time for the state of Texas to recognize the national contributions.

My City of Houston stands as an example of America's relationship with its military. Just outside the city stands Ellington Air Force Base, which has recently been renamed Ellington Airport. It was established in 1917 during the height of World War I, when aviation was in its infancy. In Word War II, it served as a pilot training center. In the Cold War, the base proved useful in a number of pilot training programs and for a number of famous NASA missions, as well as serving briefly as a naval base for antisubmarine aircraft.

As my city works with our active military, so do we do our part in the aid of our Nation's veterans. Within city limits stands the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. It was awarded the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award in 2005, the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Quality Award in 2007, and re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services in 2008.

The MEDVAMC serves as the primary health care provider for more than 120,000 veterans in southeast Texas and over 13,000 from Houston. Veterans from around the country are referred to the MEDVAMC for countless medical services, and their outpatient clinics logged nearly 900,000 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2008 alone. All this in a state with over 1.7 million veterans, 247,000 of which are disabled and over 25,000 buried in her soil.

Because of this undeniable fact of our Nation's existence, the Federal Government has a responsibility to raise awareness of and respect for this aspect of the heritage of the United States and to encourage the people of the United States to dedicate themselves to the values and principles for which Americans have served and sacrificed throughout the history of the Nation—the ultimate sacrifice of paying for our freedom and expectation of freedom with their lives.

Beyond helping to make Americans more aware of something so central to our country's liberty and prosperity, the observance of events recognizing the contributions of the Armed Forces is a tangible and highly effective way of sustaining morale and improving quality of life for service members and their families. Given that the support of the families of service members enhances the effectiveness and capabilities of the Armed Forces, this is more than enough reason for us to act today.

It is for these reasons that this Congress has made this resolution many times before. Ten years ago, on April 30, 1999, the Senate passed S. Res. 33, designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month". For that month, Congress called on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe this remembrance, and to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom and peace.

Less than 5 years later, on March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives passed H. Con.

Res. 328, "Recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month", a bill I gladly supported. Less than a month later, on April 26, 2004, the Senate passed H. Con. Res. 328 by unanimous consent.

I have sought to do my part as well; earlier this year, I introduced to this body H.R. 228, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility.

And so I join once again in not only giving my support for the goals and objectives of National Military Appreciation Month, but in urging the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States, all Federal departments and agencies, States, localities, organizations, and media to annually observe a National Military Appreciation Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to H. Con. Res. 84, a bipartisan resolution I authored, supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month. First, I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman CHET EDWARDS, for being the lead cosponsor of this resolution and for his efforts in helping move this resolution forward. Congressman EDWARDS is a strong advocate on Military Quality of Life issues in Congress and I am pleased to have the opportunity to work with him on the vital issue of raising awareness of National Military Appreciation Month. In addition, I would like to thank the National Military Appreciation Month organization for their grassroots efforts in building support for the resolution. It truly has been a collaborative effort for an important cause. It is one of the highest honors of my career to pay tribute and recognize these great patriots who serve and defend our Nation.

National Military Appreciation Month provides a period encompassing both the history and recognition of our armed services with an in-depth look at the diversity of its individuals and achievements. It allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through the participation of the community with those who serve encouraging patriotism and love for America.

This month gives the nation a time and place on which to focus and draw attention to our many expressions of appreciation and recognition of our armed services via numerous venues and also to recall and learn about our vast American history.

It recognizes those on active duty in all branches of the services, the National Guard and Reserves plus retirees, veterans, and all of their families—well over 90 million Americans and more than 230 years of our nation's history.

Congress and the American people continue to stand by our service men and women. These brave warriors are working nonstop to protect our freedom and to keep every American safe. We should be grateful for their sacrifices and that of their families. We must do everything we can for the men and women who are put in harm's way for the sake of our nation. Let us celebrate them just as we celebrate the other important entities that make up this wonderful country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of this important resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 84.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 388) celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 388

Whereas Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of each May;

Whereas the first official Mother's Day was observed on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

Whereas 2009 is the 101st anniversary of the first official Mother's Day observation;

Whereas in 1908, Elmer Burkett, a U.S. senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday;

Whereas in 1914, Congress passed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 82,000,000 mothers in the United States;

Whereas mothers have made immeasurable contributions toward building strong families, thriving communities, and ultimately a strong Nation;

Whereas the services rendered to the children of the United States by their mothers have strengthened and inspired the Nation throughout its history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and mothers in the United States when we revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the home and family as the true foundation of the Nation;

Whereas mothers continue to rise to the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding, and compassion, while overcoming the challenges of modern society; and

Whereas May 10, 2009, is recognized as Mother's Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the role of mothers in the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are fewer great honors, I think, in Congress than to stand in support of this bill which affirms the goals of Mother's Day and celebrates the role of mothers in the United States. I first would like to thank Mr. FORTENBERRY, the gentleman from Nebraska, for his courage in going out on a limb here and introducing this legislation. I would also like to commend Chairman TOWNS and my colleagues on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for bringing this resolution to the floor by unanimous consent in their infinite wisdom.

On Sunday, we celebrated the 101st Mother's Day. It may come as a surprise to some, particularly our own mothers, that it took our country over 130 years to officially designate a day praising motherhood. Nevertheless, it is important to annually pause and recall that our lives and our country's history would have been much different but for the contributions of our mothers to our families and to our country.

I would not presume, nor am I brave enough, to speak on behalf of America's 82 million mothers; instead, I would simply like to speak to their importance in shaping our society and our future.

Mothers are indeed the backbone of the American family. With great love and compassion, they lay the foundation for all children to grow into honorable citizens. It is no stretch to say that our sustained national character of goodwill and moral strength is the result of dedicated motherhood.

Many of our greatest national heroes attribute their own successes to the guidance of their mothers. While examples are numerous, I will quote President Abraham Lincoln who once said of his own angel mother, "I remember my mother's prayers, and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life."

I am sure that similar thanks and acknowledgements are appropriate for

the mothers of every American. I am sure of that.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues would agree that it is inadequate to spend just 1 day a year celebrating the contributions of America's mothers, but as our small measure of gratitude, I urge this body to join its 56 cosponsors and agree to House Resolution 388.

And I reserve our time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his poignant remarks about motherhood. We appreciate that. And, Mr. Speaker, I also have the pleasure of rising today to call attention to this time-honored celebration of Mother's Day.

This past Sunday, I, along with millions of Americans, paused to uplift the women who have shaped our lives and our country because, as the House of Representatives declared in 1914, the service rendered to the United States by the American mother is the greatest source of the country's strength and inspiration. Mothers have been celebrated throughout history in many languages, religions, and cultures.

Few traditions have withstood the test of time as the social celebration of motherhood. From its earliest roots in Egyptian society to our modern American holiday, the commemoration of mothers is timeless. On May 10, we celebrated the 101st anniversary of the first observance of the modern American Mother's Day when a woman from Grafton, West Virginia, named Anna M. Jarvis, held an observance in her mother's honor at St. Andrew's Methodist Church.

Afterward, when the junior Senator from Nebraska, Elmer Burkett, rose before Congress in 1908 to propose the establishment of Mother's Day at the request of Ms. Jarvis and the Young Men's Christian Association, he, interestingly, was originally met with opposition due to sensitivities concerning the role of women in society and the role of the Federal Government in honoring them.

It took until 1914, but Congress eventually passed a resolution declaring the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. President Woodrow Wilson then issued a proclamation directing the flying of the flag as a ''public expression of the love and reverence for the mothers of our country.''

Mr. Speaker, we now honor all mothers for their immeasurable contribution to the very core of our society. Mothers sustain and strengthen our Nation through their leadership in the family and community. And despite the dynamics of modern society, the ability of mothers to meet the challenge of raising their families with love, understanding and compassion remains constant. As we commemorate mothers for the integral role they play in shaping the course of our Nation's past, present and future, we also revere and emphasize the importance of the role of the family and the home as the true and ever-present foundation of our country.

Mr. Speaker, some may question why Congress is considering this matter at all, but I would like to say that each day here we tirelessly debate the challenges and nuances of modernity becoming mired in such a dizzying array of interventions that it is easy to lose sight of our ever-enduring core values. We don't often take the time to reflect on the essential philosophical foundations that have guided this Nation through many turbulent times, so I think it is refreshing that we now take time to pause and consider a resolution such as this that is timeless.

So I encourage my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join in support of this resolution today honoring the 101st celebration of the modern Mother's Day.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I join and support the gentleman's words.

We have no further speakers on our side at this time, so I will continue to reserve.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I just want to ask all Members to join with Mr. FORTENBERRY, the gentleman from Nebraska, in support of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 388 ''Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day.'' I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Representative FORTENBERRY from Nebraska for introducing this resolution, and today, I rise today in order to recognize and celebrate all of the mothers in our nation.

Mothers are the nurturers, and caregivers that prepare our Nation's young for the challenges that life may hold. Their work may be inside or outside of the home, or both, and their contributions to this society can never be fully appreciated or valued. Jane Sellman definitely hit the needle on the head when she said, ''The phrase 'working mother' is redundant.''

Our mothers are our first teachers and they should be celebrated everyday. However, like many things we can take them for granted. This Mothers Day, take a moment to call your mother or to visit with her if you can. I must pay special tribute to my mother Ivalita Jackson and my late aunt Valrie Bennett who was like a mom.

Remember that being a mom is no easy feat. Our mothers are strong, determined, with big hearts and always loving. A mother must be able to juggle three things at once and still manage to make dinner and read bedtime stories. No doctor can take away all the ailments of a sick child or even an adult for that matter, like a mother can. Mothers are caring and courageous women who make a difference in the lives they touch. As the Jewish proverb says, ''God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.''

Mother's Day is also a celebration for grandmothers, mother-in-laws, stepmothers, foster mothers, godmothers, mothers who take in children, mothers who adopt, those who act as mothers, for those women who have no relations by blood but who give the gift of mothering to children.

Mothers bring a unique and valuable perspective to all aspects of American life. Today, thousands of mothers in this country have become active and effective participants in public life and public service, promoting change and improving the quality of life for men, women, and children throughout the Nation. They serve with distinction as legislators, mayors, judges, doctors, lawyers, and administrators, and their impact in these areas has proved to be monumental.

I could not find words descriptive enough to fully express the depth of admiration that I feel for women who fill this important role in our society. They are committed to their families and community not for public acclaim, but for love. As American author Washington Irving put it best, ''A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts.''

My heart goes out to those mothers with children who are away at war, I cannot even imagine the fear that they must feel daily. I want to recognize the First Lady, Michelle Obama, who is striking a balance between motherhood and her duties as the First Lady. I want to congratulate and praise all of the mothers in America for all of their hard work. Another former First Lady, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis once said, ''If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do well matters very much.''

I hope that we can all reflect on all the sacrifices our mothers made for us throughout the years. A mother's love is unending and her arms are always open. This resolution will ensure that Mothers throughout this nation are formally recognized, and the United States House of Representatives will acknowledge their importance and all that Mothers contribute to our society. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 388 as well. There are few things more important than celebrating the gift of having a mother. Finally to my mom—I love you for giving me my foundation.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 388.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HERBERT A LITTLETON POSTAL STATION

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2162) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in

Nampa, Idaho, as the ''Herbert A. Littleton Postal Station''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HERBERT A LITTLETON POSTAL STATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, shall be known and designated as the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

□ 1630

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over the United States Postal Service, I am pleased to present H.R. 2162 for consideration. This legislation will designate the United States postal facility located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the Herbert A Littleton Postal Station.

Introduced by my colleague, Representative WALTER MINNICK, on April 29, 2009, and reported out of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 6, 2009, by unanimous consent, H.R. 2162 enjoys the support of both members of the Idaho House delegation.

Marine Private First Class Herbert A Littleton was born on July 1, 1930, in Mena, Arkansas, to his loving parents, Paul and Maude Littleton. He attended high school in Sturgis, South Dakota, where he played both football and basketball and was subsequently employed by the Electrical Appliance Corporation in Rapid City, South Dakota.

On July 29, 1948, Private First Class Littleton enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18. He completed boot camp in San Diego, California, before receiving additional training at nearby Camp Pendleton, which was then responsible for training the country's fighting force for the Korean War.

Private First Class Littleton was deployed to Korea in December of 1950, bravely serving with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Artillery Forward Observation Team, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. His distinguished service and tremendous bravery during the conflict quickly earned him the admiration of his comrades and eventually resulted in his posthumous receipt of the Medal of Honor, the United States military's highest decoration. Private First Class Littleton also posthumously received the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with one bronze star, and the United Nations Service Medal.

As recounted by the citation accompanying Private First Class Littleton's Congressional Medal of Honor, the young soldier exhibited conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life and above and beyond the call of duty, in action against enemy aggressor forces on April 22, 1951, in Chungchon, Korea.

Specifically, in response to a violent night attack against his company, Private First Class Littleton quickly alerted his forward observation team and immediately moved into an advantageous position in order to assist in calling down artillery fire on the hostile force. Shortly after the arrival of other team members, an enemy hand grenade was thrown into PFC Littleton's vantage point. Without hesitation, the 21-year-old private sacrificed his life by hurling himself on the grenade and absorbing its full impact. PFC Littleton's Medal of Honor citation goes on to recognize that through his prompt action, he not only saved the other members of his team from serious injury or death, but also enabled them to carry on their vital mission which resulted in their ability to resist the hostile attack.

Mr. Speaker, Private First Class Littleton's dedicated service is a testament to all of the brave men and women in the United States Armed Forces who have offered this Nation the ultimate sacrifice. It is for this reason that the community of Nampa, Idaho, Private First Class Littleton's residence at the time of his death, marks every April 22 by holding a flag ceremony at the city's Herbert A Littleton flag pole in remembrance of his brave act. And it is for this reason that the city of Nampa has also named the road adjacent to PFC Littleton's grave in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, let us further this brave soldier's remembrance by passing this legislation to rename the Nampa postal facility after him. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2162.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in strong support of H.R. 2162, a bill designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue in Nampa, Idaho, as the Herbert A Littleton Postal Station.

Mr. Speaker, many of my words here will repeat the commemoration the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) just gave, but I think it is worth repeating because today we are honoring a man who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of his fellow soldiers and on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Herbert Littleton was a private first class in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was born in 1930 in Mena, Arkansas, and attended high school in Sturgis, South Dakota, where he played basketball and football. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on July 29, 1948.

Upon joining the Marines, he trained in San Diego and at Camp Pendleton before he was shipped out to Korea on December 17, 1950, fighting in South and Central Korean operations.

Serving as a radio operator with an artillery forward observation team, he was in action against enemy aggressor forces. Private First Class Littleton was standing watch when a well-concealed and numerically superior enemy force launched a violent night attack from nearby positions against his company. He quickly alerted the forward observation team and immediately moved into an advantageous position to assist in calling down artillery fire onto the hostile force.

It was during this fierce battle that an enemy hand grenade was thrown into his vantage point shortly after the arrival of the remainder of his fellow soldiers. As Mr. LYNCH pointed out, Private First Class Littleton unhesitatingly hurled himself on the grenade, absorbing its full, shattering, and explosive impact. Because of his quick action and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice, he saved the other members of his team from serious injury or death and enabled them to carry on the vital mission which culminated in the repulse of that hostile attack. His unflinching valor in the face of almost certain death reflects the highest credit upon Private First Class Littleton and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

In addition to being awarded the Medal of Honor for ''conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty,'' Private First Class Littleton was awarded the Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with one bronze star, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill in which a grateful Nation honors a man who courageously traded his life for the lives of his fellow soldiers and in service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I do want to say on behalf of WALTER MINNICK, who is the lead sponsor of this resolution who is flying in right now and did not have an opportunity to speak on

the floor, on his behalf I ask all Members to join with us. It is fitting, I think, that in this month of May, which marks Military Appreciation Month, let us join together once again to show our appreciation for all men and women in uniform by voting in favor of this resolution which would name this post office in memory of Private First Class Herbert A Littleton and pass H.R. 2162.

Mr. MINNICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask our nation to honor the ultimate sacrifice made by Idahoan and American hero Herbert A. Littleton. I offer today H.R. 2162, a bill to rename Littleton's hometown post office in his honor. Private First Class Littleton, or "Herbie", as he was known by his fellow soldiers, was killed in Korea on April 22, 1951, when he hurled himself without hesitation on a deadly grenade, absorbing its full impact and thereby saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

Littleton's actions enabled them to carry out their vital mission and repel an enemy attack. For that act, Littleton was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman. It is my hope that my colleagues will support today H.R. 2162 and the efforts of my constituents to remember Private First Class Herbert A. Littleton and all those heroes who serve our nation in uniform.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2162.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

REPORT ON H.R. 2346, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

Mr. OBEY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–105) on the bill (H.R. 2346) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF MARGARET THATCHER

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 378) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 378

Whereas May 4, 2009, marks the 30th anniversary of the first woman sworn in as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Margaret Hilda Thatcher;

Whereas Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990 and at the time of her resignation, was the longest continuously serving Prime Minster since 1827;

Whereas Prime Minister Thatcher was Leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990 and the only woman to ever hold that post;

Whereas Margaret Thatcher is the only woman to have ever held the post of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom;

Whereas Margaret Thatcher is the only Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in the 20th century to win three consecutive terms;

Whereas Margaret Thatcher gave birth to a new distinctive ideology known as "Thatcherism" which emphasized individual responsibility in the United Kingdom's monetary and social policies;

Whereas Time Magazine named Margaret Thatcher one of the 20 most influential leaders of the 20th century;

Whereas the strong, cooperative stances held by Prime Minister Thatcher, President Ronald Reagan, and Pope John Paul II are widely acknowledged to have been key forces in the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union;

Whereas the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom was greatly strengthened under the tenure of Prime Minister Thatcher;

Whereas, on January 19, 1976, Prime Minister Thatcher delivered a bold speech against the communist regime of the Soviet Union, which prompted the Soviet Union Army's newspaper, the Red Star, to coin her the "Iron Lady";

Whereas in 1990, Margaret Thatcher was honored by Queen Elizabeth II with the Order of Merit, one of the United Kingdom's highest distinctions; and

Whereas in 1992, Queen Elizabeth II bestowed a life peerage upon Margaret Thatcher, conferring upon her the title of Baroness and providing a lifetime seat in the House of Lords: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom;

(2) pays tribute to the remarkable professional achievements of Margaret Thatcher;

(3) recognizes Prime Minister Thatcher's dedicated work in promoting individual rights and free markets around the world; and

(4) appreciates the strong diplomatic relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom fostered by Prime Minister Thatcher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 378, which pays tribute to the distinguished political career of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for introducing this measure that enables the House to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of her election as the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

On May 4, 1979, Margaret Thatcher was sworn in as Prime Minister. Holding this position until 1990, she became the U.K.'s longest continuously serving Prime Minister since 1827, and the only Prime Minister in the 20th century to win three consecutive elections.

The special relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States was strengthened during her tenure, particularly through her cooperative working relationship with President Ronald Reagan in addressing the threat of the Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Thatcher spoke in this House to a joint session of Congress on February 20, 1985. In her remarks, she cited the three occasions on which Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed Congress. Those were worth remembering, she said, "because they serve as lamps along a dark road which our people trod together, and they remind us what an extraordinary period of history the world has passed through between that time and ours; and they tell us what later generations in both our countries sometimes find hard to grasp: why past associations bind us so closely."

Her words are as true today as they were during the height of the Cold War and World War II. We again find ourselves living in extraordinary times. And, thankfully, the United States and the United Kingdom stand shoulder to shoulder as we confront today's challenges together, just as we did throughout the last century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the 30th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's historic election and paying tribute to her professional achievements. We should also use this occasion to reaffirm the enduring friendship and partnership between our two nations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman BERMAN bringing this before the House for consideration today. Time Magazine named Margaret Thatcher one of the 20 most influential leaders of the 20th century, and for good reason. She is the only woman to have ever held

the post of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She is a fearless leader, an advocate for democracy around the world, and a steadfast friend of the United States.

This resolution recognizes the 30th anniversary of her election as the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Margaret Thatcher served as Prime Minister of Great Britain for 11 years, from 1979 to 1990. At the time of her resignation, she was the longest continuously serving Prime Minister of the United Kingdom since 1827.

This resolution pays tribute to her remarkable professional achievements. In addition to being the only woman to have ever held the post of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, she was also leader of the Conservative Party for 15 years, from 1975 to 1990, and was the only woman to ever hold that post.

In the 20th century, she was the only Prime Minister to win three consecutive terms, a testament to her bold and tenacious leadership. This resolution also recognizes Prime Minister Thatcher's dedicated work in promoting individual rights and free markets throughout the world.

□ 1645

During her time in office, Prime Minister Thatcher fostered the dawning of a new distinctive type of politics called ''Thatcherism,'' which emphasized individual responsibility and fiscal and social policies.

When she came into office, the state of the United Kingdom's economy was in deep despair. There were pickets; there were strikes; there were food shortages; pregnant women were denied medical services and the country had double-digit inflation. Margaret Thatcher represented a literal end to socialized government and the reinstitution of the free market philosophy.

Through plain speaking and sheer determination, she persuaded city after city to contract out public services to private companies, saving taxpayers $30 billion every year. Company by company, she denationalized the entire economy. Family by family, she taught the nation the importance of living within their means. What a novel concept.

During her tenure, 3 million families moved from public housing and became homeowners under her Right-to-Buy program. Homeownership under her administration jumped from 53 percent to 71 percent.

This resolution also recognizes Margaret Thatcher's robust and principled approach to foreign policy during the long Cold War. Prime Minister Thatcher and President Ronald Reagan were key forces in the collapse of communism under the former Soviet Union. As a matter of fact, in 1976, Prime Minister Thatcher delivered such a bold speech against communism in the Soviet Union that the Soviet Union Army's newspaper started calling her the ''Iron Lady,'' and it stuck. The Iron Lady helped bring down the Iron Curtain, Mr. Speaker.

Finally, this resolution acknowledges the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom fostered by Prime Minister Thatcher. Under her direction, the United States and the United Kingdom worked to overcome communism, encourage free markets around the world, curb terrorism, and promote democratic and individualistic values.

My grandmother used to tell me that ''there was nothing more powerful than a woman who had made up her mind,'' and my grandmother was right. Margaret Thatcher is one of those remarkable women who has led a remarkable life, characterized by courage, determination, intellectual integrity, and she had made up her mind.

She has not only inspired women all over the world to aspire towards positions of leadership, she has inspired an entire generation to promote policies that value economic freedom and individual responsibility.

I am proud to be the sponsor of this resolution today.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LYNCH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 378, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING NEED FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN BOSNIA

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 171) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU), as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 171

Whereas a brutal conflict marked by aggression and ethnic cleansing, including the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, was brought to an end by the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the ''Dayton Peace Accords''), which was agreed to at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995, and signed in Paris, France, on December 14, 1995;

Whereas in the 13 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked in partnership with the international community to achieve considerable progress in building a peaceful and democratic society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have agreed to significant reforms of public administration and broadcasting, the creation of state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions, the establishment of a unified armed services and Ministry of Defense, and the creation of an Indirect Taxation Authority;

Whereas the United States has continued to support the sovereignty, legal continuity, and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders as well as the equality of the three constituent peoples and others within a united, multi-ethnic country in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas the full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States and important for the stabilization of southeastern Europe;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina committed to the shared values of democracy, security, and stability by joining the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2006;

Whereas NATO recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in achieving political and defense reforms by inviting the country to begin an Intensified Dialogue at the Bucharest Summit in April 2008;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina took the first step on the road toward European Union (EU) membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in June 2008;

Whereas NATO successfully preserved peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords through its Stabilization Force (SFOR), which was succeeded by a European Union Force (EUFOR) in December 2004;

Whereas the Office of the High Representative (OHR) has similarly promoted peace and stability by facilitating implementation of the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Accords, including through use of the extensive powers given it by the international Peace Implementation Council (PIC), with the goal of transitioning to a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) at the appropriate time;

Whereas, these notable accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges in their efforts to progress toward Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas the Dayton Peace Accords included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life that have hindered efforts to develop efficient and effective political institutions;

Whereas the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become more effective and democratic if the country is to move toward EU membership;

Whereas the ''April package'' of reforms, agreed upon by five major political parties in 2006, failed to achieve the requisite two-thirds majority in parliament;

Whereas in February 2008, the PIC stipulated five objectives (resolution of state property, resolution of defense property,

completion of Brcko Final Award, fiscal sustainability, and entrenchment of rule of law) and two conditions (signing of SAA with the EU and a ''positive assessment'' by the PIC) that must be met before the OHR is closed; and

Whereas in March 2009, the PIC determined that Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet met the five objectives and two conditions that will determine when the OHR should be closed and oversight power transferred to the EUSR: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) it is increasingly urgent that Bosnia and Herzegovina work toward the creation of an efficient and effective state able to meet its domestic and international obligations with more functional institutions, including a state government capable of making self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requirements;

(2) any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina should take as its basis the Dayton Peace Accords, advance the principles of democracy and tolerance, rectify provisions that conflict with the European Charter of Human Rights, include the general public in the process, provide the conditions to enable economic development and the creation of a single economic space, and be consistent with the goal of EU membership;

(3) continued efforts should be made domestically and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) to achieve justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups;

(4) the United States should continue to provide assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to build effective state-level law enforcement and judicial institutions that can combat and investigate international terrorism, organized crime, and corruption;

(5) the United States should appoint a Special Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership with the EU and political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to facilitate reforms at all levels of government and society, while also assisting the political development of other countries in the region;

(6) the Office of the High Representative (OHR) should not be closed until the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) can definitively determine that Bosnia and Herzegovina has met the five objectives and two conditions;

(7) the EU should carefully consider any future plans for the reduction or redeployment of the European Union Force (EUFOR) given the psychological reassurance of security and deterrence of violence provided by its continued presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

(8) the United States should work closely with and support the EU in the transition to a European Union Special Representative (EUSR) to ensure that the EUSR has the authority and tools to manage effectively post-OHR Bosnia and Herzegovina, including a clear set of EU candidacy and membership conditions with explicit and objective yardsticks and a precise list of benchmarks to increase the functionality of the Bosnian state to be achieved by constitutional reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 171, which calls for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as sustained American engagement in partnership with the European Union.

In the 13 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords brought an end to a brutal conflict, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked closely with the international community to make considerable progress in building a peaceful and democratic society that is built upon the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy.

Within the last year, the country has taken important steps along the path to Euro-Atlantic integration, beginning an intensified dialogue with NATO and signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union.

Notwithstanding these notable milestones, there are troubling signs of backsliding as political rhetoric grows confrontational, reforms unravel, and ethnic tensions increase. Bosnia seemingly faces the prospect of stagnation at best, and a return to violent conflict at worst.

While Bosnia's future clearly lies in the Euro-Atlantic community, the country must first develop an efficient and effective state with functioning institutions that are capable of making self-sustaining reforms and managing the responsibilities of EU and NATO membership. H. Res. 171 does not prescribe the types of constitutional reforms that are required. Indeed, such decisions can only be made by the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the United States and the European Union can help create conditions that are conducive to efforts by Bosnian citizens to develop a functional political system.

First, the Peace Implementation Council should remain firm in its commitment to maintain the Office of the High Representative until Bosnia has definitively met the five conditions and two principles. Only then should the office be closed and responsibility transitioned to the EU Special Representative. The recent dialogue among some political leaders that led to the adoption of an agreement on the status of Brcko District was a helpful development. Hopefully, similar progress can be made on state property and other issues.

Second, the European Union should provide Bosnia with a clear set of EU candidacy and membership conditions. These should include explicit and objective benchmarks regarding constitutional reforms that will increase the functionality of the Bosnian state. The EU should also carefully reconsider its plans for the drawdown or redeployment of its 2,500 European Union force, as the continued presence of those troops deters violence and provides citizens with a psychological reassurance of security.

And, finally, there is a need for sustained, high-level U.S. engagement with the EU on the development and implementation of common policies that will stabilize and strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina. H. Res. 171 advocates the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Balkans which would signal American commitment to the region. In addition to working directly with political leaders on the ground, this official could seek to develop a consensus among the EU and its member states about the way forward in southeastern Europe.

The visit by Vice President BIDEN to Bosnia, Serbia, and Kosovo next week is an encouraging sign of renewed American interest in the Balkans. As he and other senior officials in the Obama administration were personally involved in efforts to establish peace in the Balkans 13 years ago, they know firsthand the importance of preserving this hard-won stability and the considerable cost of letting it slip away.

Although the United States and the European Union are consumed by other foreign policy priorities, we must not lose sight of our unfinished business in the Balkans or waiver from our commitment to consolidating peaceful progress across Europe.

I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for bringing House Resolution 171 to the floor. This resolution expresses support for the progress made by the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina toward stability and greater international cohesion.

Bosnia has come a long way in the 14 years since the signing of the so-called ''Dayton Accords'' that ended the terrible ethnic-based conflict there.

While this short resolution speaks to much that has been accomplished in Bosnia, much work needs to still be done. Some would suggest, for example, that greater constitutional reform within Bosnia is necessary for its future growth and its stability for the progress of democracy and tolerance in that country.

Another important issue confronting the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the burden placed on its economic progress by its extensive bureaucracy that is now in place in that country. That bureaucracy reportedly consumes

a great deal of that small country's revenues, confronting its economy with serious obstacles to growth.

This measure, as considered on the floor today, does include a short statement that was added after agreement by the majority and the minority that I believe makes an important point. Among its resolved clauses, H. Res. 171 now specifically calls for continued assistance to Bosnia to help it investigate al Qaeda activities and those of related networks. That is an important point when we consider the reported increase of Islamic militant extremism in the broader Balkan region. Such reports should serve as a warning that Islamic extremists may be looking at the Balkan region as a potential launching platform for future attacks somewhere else.

I am pleased that the Bosnian Government is working to address important issues such as the reports of the use of Bosnian passports by Islamic militants. I am also pleased by reports that some leaders within the Bosnian Muslim community are combating Islamic extremism and have been strong advocates for peace and reconciliation.

The call for continued support for Bosnia and such important efforts enhances the other important statements this resolution makes with regard to our policy toward Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, many of us would like to ensure that Bosnia becomes a greater anchor for stability in the Balkans region. This resolution is an important message of encouragement and support for all the people of Bosnia as they seek to promote stability, peace, and prosperity. I support its adoption by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) will control the time of the gentleman from California.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 171. I, too, want to thank Chairman BERMAN and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and their staffs for their time and efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

I have advocated for increased attention in the Balkans, and especially to the needs of Bosnia Herzegovina, a country with a long, rich tradition of multiethnic communities living and working together. I asked Secretary Clinton about this just a few weeks ago when she appeared before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I think she, too, agrees that there needs to be renewed attention to this country. I hope this resolution is another step toward U.S. reengagement in the region and offering Bosnia the support that it needs.

This resolution recognizes the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and highlights the importance of sustained U.S. engagement in partnership with the European Union.

As a founding member and co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Bosnia with my colleague, CHRIS SMITH from New Jersey, and having the distinct pleasure of representing a growing, vibrant community of Bosnian-Americans in the St. Louis, Missouri, region, one of the largest communities of Bosnian-Americans in the country, I am pleased to support this resolution.

I especially want to highlight two clauses in this resolution that I think are of particular importance. First, we need to continue our efforts, both here and at the ICTY, to achieve justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, as well as to promote reconciliation among ethnic groups.

Secondly, that the appointment of a Special Envoy to the Balkans who can work in partnership with the EU, Bosnia, and other leaders will help redirect the U.S. commitment to the region.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health of the Helsinki Commission and co-Chair of the House Bosnia Caucus.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 171, a powerful statement calling for meaningful constitutional reform and strengthened U.S. engagement in Bosnia. I want to thank Chairman BERMAN for authoring this legislation, and I am very proud to be one of the cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes all the important points on the need for real constitutional reform. It notes that the Dayton Accords, notwithstanding their merits in stopping the war and the genocide, ''included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life that have hindered efforts to develop efficient and effective political institutions.''

Everyone involved in the Dayton Accords understood that they were not intended to be more than a tourniquet designed to halt the genocide and to act as a bridge towards good governance and a workable constitution. And the time for meaningful, sustainable and just reform has come.

Importantly the resolution notes the progress Bosnia has made since 1995. And by almost all accounts, that progress is truly remarkable. I visited Bosnia again in July of 2007 and was deeply impressed by the economic and social recovery that has taken place within the past 12 years.

□ 1700

On the constitutional arrangements, Mr. Speaker, the resolution points to the history of strong U.S. support for the ''legal continuity and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina'' and notes that the current Dayton-based constitutional arrangements are ''neither efficient nor rational.'' The resolution praises the value of a ''united multiethnic country'' and ''full incorporation into the Euro-Atlantic community'' in stabilizing the Balkans.

Mr. Speaker, efficient and rational arrangements to unite the multiethnic country and enable it to be fully incorporated into NATO and the EU can only mean a major reform that abolishes the ''entity'' voting system so that the vote of every Bosnian citizen will be of equal weight. Under the current Dayton-based system, only 22 percent of the deputies can block any proposed legislation. And, in fact, this happens all the time. In the past 13 years such a ''super-minority'' has blocked over 260 bills. To put this number in context, in the same period, the national legislature passed less than 150 laws. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious problem. It is the reason that we are here today talking about constitutional reform in Bosnia.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman or co-chairman for 12 years of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known around here as the Helsinki Commission, and co-chairman of the Bosnia Caucus with my friend and colleague from Missouri, and chairman of the House Human Rights Committee for 8 years, I've had the opportunity to chair numerous Bosnia hearings and author congressional resolutions on Bosnia, including H. Res. 199 on the Srebrenica genocide.

My most recent trip to Bosnia was in July of 2007, and I joined relatives of those killed, murdered—massacred—in the Srebrenica genocide in a ceremony interring hundreds of the approximately 8,000 Bosnian Muslims who were killed in what the U.N. euphemistically designated to be a ''safe haven.'' It wasn't. The ceremony was solemn, it was holy, and it was numbing. Reis Ceric, the Grand Mufti, gave a very powerful talk, a sermon, to all of those who had gathered. Reis Ceric is a great man of peace and faith, and, I'm honored to say, a good friend. Dr. Haris Silajdzic, the President of Bosnia, is likewise a good friend, and spoke very eloquently about the huge loss of life, the importance of justice as well as about the future. Seeing hundreds of caskets with exhumed victims left an indelible impression on me.

During that visit and after meeting here as well as in Europe with members of the Bosnian community, it has become abundantly clear that while Bosnia needs to move forward, that there needs to be an accounting for the atrocities committed. And to move ahead they need constitutional reform.

Sometimes we get reports or hear that ethnic tensions are rising in Bosnia and that, therefore, the constitutional reform process has to be slowed for a while—put on the back burner. That would be a big mistake. Bosnia is in a position similar to that of Poland,

Romania, and other countries of Eastern Europe in the 1990s. When we debated their admission to NATO, for example, some said that their admission would destabilize the region. They were flat wrong. What could have dangerously destabilized Eastern Europe was continuing uncertainty about whether these countries would join the West or whether they might remain in the Russian sphere of influence. We resolved that uncertainty and further stabilized Eastern Europe by welcoming them to the West.

Likewise, with Bosnia, it's long past time to send a strong, unambiguous signal that Bosnia does not have to remain a country forever preserved in the amber of the Dayton Accords. With this resolution, we invite the Bosnians to reform their constitution, become a one-person, one-vote democracy, and join the Euro-Atlantic community.

Mr. Speaker, our country has played a constructive role in Bosnia through both Democrat and Republican administrations, and I know the Bosnians appreciate that very much. The great majority of them will welcome strengthening our engagement to complete the American legacy of spreading democracy and security in Bosnia.

This is a good resolution, and I urge its passage by all Members of the House.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to state my strong support for House Resolution 171, expressing our support for constitutional reform in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as for U.S. engagement in the Western Balkans region. I want to thank our colleague from California and the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. BERMAN, for introducing this resolution, inviting me to be an original co-sponsor, and working the text through the committee.

This resolution is timely and important. The international community, under U.S. leadership, has invested heavily in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We did so not just for that country's sake, nor just to end the tremendous suffering faced by its people. We did so because the threat it faced in the mid-1990s constituted war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. To have acquiesced to the realities presented on the ground in 1995 would have been to abandon the very principles on which the world is expected to operate. We had the ability to stop that from happening in the Balkans and to make a difference, so we did, through NATO intervention and the negotiation of the Dayton Agreement.

Bosnia's considerable recovery a decade after the conflict has been stalled in recent years, as the additional reforms necessary for Bosnia's European integration are perceived to be a threat to the outdated notions of ethnic exclusivity which were resurrected during the war. It is also a threat to some who currently rely on these notions as the basis for their power and authority.

I believe this resolution makes clear that all the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina—Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats and others—must find a common agreement on how to move forward, but it opposes efforts to block a broad consensus in order to maintain the status quo. The reforms supported by this resolution are critical to making Bosnia a functional, modern, European state.

This resolution also calls for greater U.S. engagement in Bosnia and throughout the Balkans. European integration is the goal for Bosnia and all the countries of the region. It is not enough, however, to say "here's your goal now find your own way to it." The European Union has done tremendous work in the Balkans, but its own lack of decisiveness leads to mixed signals in the region and undercuts more vigorous efforts to resolve outstanding issues. The United States has a high degree of credibility in the Balkans that can help influence developments in the region but we also must make sure the EU itself stays on course.

This does not mean going back to the days of a heavy U.S. troop presence in the Balkans and significant aid to the countries of the region. The resolution does not call for going back to the 1990s. Instead, the resolution reflects what seems to be an obvious piece of wisdom—namely that a bit more attention now can actually preclude a situation where greater involvement might become a necessity later. This will allow the United States to maintain its strong focus on other regions of the world, as it should, while Europe and its full integration moves forward.

I think the Vice President's current plans to visit Sarajevo, Pristina and Belgrade reflect this wisdom, and I wish his trip to be a successful one that will lead to additional efforts in the future.

As the Co-Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I have continued to follow the situation in the Western Balkans closely. In early April, the Commission held a hearing on the challenges to the United States and Europe in the region. I would commend to my colleagues the transcript of that hearing, which can be found on the Commission's website, because it makes clear the challenges we face in the Balkans today. While there is little chance of going back to the days of horrific conflict in the Balkans that we saw in the 1990s, there continues to be a need for the peoples of the region to find a way to put the 1990s behind them. That's easier said than done, and we cannot expect people to erase what was obviously such a traumatic period in their lives just because we tell them to do so. With U.S. and European support, however, we can give them the confidence and hope that will enable them to move forward. That benefits everyone. For this reason, I support this resolution.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution.

Over 13 years ago, the U.S. brought an end to Bosnia's war through the Dayton Peace Agreement. This conflict lasted over three years, and was marked by brutal ethnic cleansing and genocide. As a result of this tragic conflict, at least 97,000 people perished, and over 2.3 million people were driven from their homes, creating the greatest flow of refugees in Europe since World War II.

Since this time, the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have painstakingly worked with the international community to make progress towards building a peaceful, democratic, and multi-ethnic society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

I congratulate Bosnia for joining the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2006 and for taking the first step on the road toward European Union (EU) membership by signing a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) in June 2008.

However, despite these important steps forward, challenges remain. The Dayton agreement did its job by ending the war, but left a governmental structure in place that is bloated with bureaucracy and multiple layers of government. To be a functioning state, Bosnia needs to build functional institutions, including state-level institutions that are capable of self-sustaining reforms and fulfilling European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) requirements.

The success of Bosnia is essential to the stability of the region, and the United States cannot afford to ignore this strategically important country. This work must be done in concert with the international community, who should continue to play a role in Bosnia. To this end, the international body charged with implementing the Dayton Peace agreements, known as the Peace Implementation Council or the "PIC", should ensure that the Office of the High Representative (OHR) remains open until the objectives and the conditions set forth by the PIC are met.

As in 1995, resolve and U.S. and European Union involvement are needed in Bosnia and Herzegovina if we are to ensure that we do not get involved in another crisis in the Balkans. I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 171, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE HOUSE SHOULD IMPEACH SAMUEL B. KENT, A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 424 and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 424

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary shall inquire whether the House should impeach Samuel B. Kent, a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

SEC. 2. The Committee on the Judiciary or any subcommittee or task force designated by the Committee may, in connection with the inquiry under this resolution, take affidavits and depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, pursuant to notice or subpoena.

SEC. 3. (a) For the purpose of the inquiry under this resolution, the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to require by subpoena or otherwise—

(1) the attendance and testimony of any person (including at a taking of a deposition by counsel or consultant of the Committee); and

(2) the production of such things;

as it deems necessary to such inquiry.

(b) The Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, after consultation with the Ranking Member, may exercise the authority of the Committee under subsection (a).

(c) The Committee on the Judiciary may adopt a rule regulating the taking of depositions by a member, counsel, or consultant of the Committee, including pursuant to subpoena.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, as you know this resolution authorizes the Committee on the Judiciary to undertake an investigation to determine whether Samuel Kent should be impeached. I know that we are all appalled by the behavior that led to Judge Kent's guilty plea, and can agree that moving forward with an eye to removing him from the bench is the right thing to do.

While we have no objection to most of the resolution, I note that section 3(c) authorizes staff deposition authority, something we have been consistently concerned about due to the potential for abuse. My understanding is that the Judiciary Committee intends tomorrow to adopt a resolution putting in place the same safeguards on staff deposition authority that they currently have in place for their investigation into Judge Porteous. Those rules follow the model rules suggested by the Rules Committee and contain adequate protections for the Minority.

I am inserting the text of the relevant resolutions for the RECORD.

Our agreement to this unanimous consent request is dependent on the commitment from the Judiciary Committee that they will extend their existing rules on staff deposition authority to this investigation before engaging in staff depositions. Without similar assurances in the future, we will oppose efforts to grant unelected staff unfettered deposition authority.

RESOLUTION

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.

There is hereby established in the House Committee on the Judiciary (hereinafter referred to as the ''Committee'') a task force (hereinafter referred to as the ''Task Force'') to conduct an inquiry into whether United States District Judge G. Thomas Porteous should be impeached.

SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS.

The Task Force shall conduct such hearings and investigations relating to the inquiry described in section 1 as the Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, determines to be warranted.

SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.

The members of the Task Force shall be chosen from among the members of the Committee as follows:

(1) 7 members shall be chosen by the Chairman of the Committee.

(2) 5 members shall be chosen by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

SEC. 4. CHAIRMAN; RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.

The Chairman of the Committee shall designate one member of the Task Force to be the Chair of the Task Force. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall designate one member of the Task Force to be the Ranking Minority Member of the Task Force.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this resolution, the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to standing committees and the rules of the Committee shall govern the Task Force.

(b) DEPOSITION AUTHORITY.—

(1) CHAIRMAN MAY ORDER.—The Chairman of the Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of Committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena. Consultation with the Ranking Minority Member shall include three business days written notice before any deposition is taken. All members of the Task Force shall also receive three business days written notice that a deposition has been scheduled.

(2) MODE FOR TAKING.—Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination. Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member of the Task Force or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths. The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify that the witness was duly sworn. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their rights. No one may be present at depositions except members of the Task Force, Committee staff or consultants designated by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons may not attend.

(3) CONDUCT OF DEPOSITION.—A deposition shall be conducted by a member of the Task Force or by Committee staff or consultants designated by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee otherwise agree. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the persons conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. When depositions are conducted by staff or consultants, there shall be no more than two persons permitted to question a witness per round, one to be designated by the Chairman of the Committee and the other by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. Other Committee staff or consultants designated by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness during that round. In each round, the person designated by the Chairman of the Committee shall ask questions first, and the person designated by the Ranking Minority Member shall ask questions second.

(4) OBJECTIONS.—The Chairman of the Committee may rule on any objections raised during a deposition, either during the deposition or after the deposition has been concluded. If a member of the Task Force appeals in writing the ruling of the Chairman, the appeal shall be preserved for Committee consideration. A witness that refuses to answer a question after being directed to answer by the Chairman may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the Chairman is reversed on appeal.

(5) TRANSCRIPTION OF TESTIMONY.—Committee staff and designated consultants shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness may submit suggested changes to the Chairman of the Committee. Committee staff or designated consultants may make any typographical and technical changes requested by the witness. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition transcript submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, DC. The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member shall consult regarding the release of depositions. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee for resolution.

(6) DEEMED PLACE OF TAKING.—Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, DC, as well as the location in which actually taken, once filed there with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use.

(7) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE COPY OF RESOLUTION TO WITNESS.— A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of this resolution and the resolution of the House of Representatives authorizing and directing the Committee to make the inquiry described in section 1.

SEC. 6. EXPIRATION.

The Task Force shall expire at the end of the 111th Congress.

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This resolution shall take effect on January 22, 2009.

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That the resolution adopted in the Committee January 22, 2009, establishing the task force to conduct an inquiry regarding the impeachment of Judge Porteous, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE

''There is hereby established in the House Committee on the Judiciary (hereinafter referred to as the ''Committee'') a task force (hereby referred to as the ''Task Force'') to conduct—

''(1) an inquiry into whether United States District Judge G. Thomas Porteous should be impeached; and

''(2) an inquiry into whether United States District Judge Samuel B. Kent should be impeached.''

(1) Section 5(a) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this resolution, the Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to the Committee on the Judiciary, the rules of the Committee, and the authorities provided in House Resolution 15 and House Resolution _____, shall govern the inquiries conducted by the Task Force.''

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 425

Whereas, The Hill reported that a prominent lobbying firm, founded by Mr. Paul Magliocchetti and the subject of a ''federal investigation into potentially corrupt political contributions,'' has give $3.4 million in political donations to no less than 284 members of Congress.

Whereas, the New York Times noted that Mr. Magliocchetti ''set up shop at the busy intersection between political fund-raising and taxpayer spending, directing tens of millions of dollars in contributions to lawmakers while steering hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks back to his clients.''

Whereas, a guest columnist recently highlighted in Roll Call that ''. . . what the firm's example reveals most clearly is the potentially corrupting link between campaign contributions and earmarks. Even the most ardent earmarkers should want to avoid the appearance of such a pay-to-play system.''

Whereas, multiple press reports have noted questions related to campaign contributions made by or on behalf of the firm; including questions related to ''straw man'' contributions, the reimbursement of employees for political giving, pressure on clients to give, a suspicious pattern of giving, and the timing of donations relative to legislative activity.

Whereas, Roll Call has taken note of the timing of contributions from employees, the firm and its clients when it reported that they ''have provided thousands of dollars worth of campaign contributions to key Members in close proximity to legislative activity, such as the deadline for earmark request letters and passage of a spending bill.''

Whereas, the Associated Press highlighted the ''huge amounts of political donations'' from the firm and its clients to select members and noted that ''those political donations have followed a distinct pattern: The giving is especially heavy in March, which is prime time for submitting written earmark requests.''

Whereas, clients of the firm received at least three hundred million dollars worth of earmarks in fiscal year 2009 appropriations legislation, including several that were approved even after news of the FBI raid of the firm's offices and Justice Department investigation into the firm was well known.

Whereas, the Associated Press reported that ''the FBI says the investigation is continuing, highlighting the close ties between special-interest spending provisions known as earmarks and the raising of campaign cash.''

Whereas, the persistent media attention focused on questions about the nature and timing of campaign contributions related to the firm, as well as reports of the Justice Department conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions, raise concern about the integrity of congressional proceedings and the dignity of this institution. Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, that

(a) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I move to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the grounds that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on tabling the resolution will be followed by 5-minute votes on motions to suspend the rules and agree to House Resolution 413 and House Resolution 378.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 182, answered ''present'' 15, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

YEAS—215

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilroy
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Skelton
Slaughter
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NAYS—182

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Crenshaw
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Harper
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Himes
Hodes
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kosmas
Lamborn

Lance
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy (NY)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Perriello
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Sullivan
Teague
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Visclosky
Walz
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—15

Barrett (SC)
Butterfield
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Conaway
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Hastings (WA)
Kline (MN)
Latham
Lofgren, Zoe
Myrick
Poe (TX)
Walden
Welch

NOT VOTING—21

Baird
Bonner
Campbell
Cao
Culberson
Cummings
Hinchey
Hoekstra
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Jordan (OH)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Shuster
Sires
Stark
Stearns
Tanner

□ 1900

Messrs. UPTON, KIND, GARY G. MILLER of California, CALVERT, GARRETT of New Jersey, McINTYRE, BRIGHT and BUYER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Ms. McCOLLUM changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

Messrs. CHANDLER and BUTTERFIELD changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''present.''

Mr. WALDEN changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''present.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 243 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SUPPORTING IEEE ENGINEERING THE FUTURE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 413, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 413.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Baird
Bonner
Campbell
Cao
Culberson
Cummings
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Hoekstra
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Jordan (OH)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kirk
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Sires
Stark
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IN HONOR OF REV. ROBERT CORNELL, FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I would respectfully ask that all House Members rise and observe a moment of silence on the passing of our former colleague, Congressman Rev. Robert Cornell, who passed away on Sunday, May 10. Father Cornell represented the Eighth District of Wisconsin in this House from 1975 to 1979. He was a lifelong advocate for the betterment of mankind, a deep-thinking educator, and a keeper of his faith.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise for a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELECTION OF MARGARET THATCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 378, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 378, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 64, answered ''present'' 6, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]

YEAS—339

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boccieri
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maffei
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Olson
Ortiz
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—64

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Arcuri
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capuano
Cardoza
Carney
Clarke
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Doyle
Edwards (MD)
Frank (MA)
Gutierrez
Hare
Higgins
Hodes
Holden
Johnson, E. B.
Kilroy
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lynch
Markey (MA)
McGovern
McMahon
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Miller, George
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Neal (MA)
Obey
Olver
Pascrell
Payne
Pingree (ME)
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Serrano
Sutton
Tierney
Velázquez
Waters
Watson
Weiner
Welch
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—6

Donnelly (IN)
Kaptur
King (NY)
Maloney
McCarthy (NY)
Rothman (NJ)

NOT VOTING—24

Baird
Barrett (SC)
Boehner
Bonner
Cao
Culberson
Cummings
Grijalva
Hinchey
Hoekstra
Israel
Johnson (IL)
Jordan (OH)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Manzullo
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Sires
Smith (NJ)
Stark
Tanner

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

Ms. WATERS and Mr. GUTIERREZ changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. MALONEY changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''present.''

□ 1922

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the Motion to Table the Flake Privileged Resolution; "yea" on H. Res. 413—Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009; and "yea" on H. Res. 378—Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the subject of the resolution (H. Res. 424) earlier adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2187, 21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–106) on the resolution (H. Res. 427) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2110

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2110.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, health care executives indicated to the White House that they were going to slow the rate of growth over a period of 10 years, thereby saving $2 trillion. Wake up, America. You have to look at the underlying numbers here.

What it means is that their share of revenue for our health care spending is going to rise to $12.8 trillion by 2020. At 1.5 percent, slowing the rate of growth times 10 years—15 percent. You multiply that times your $12.8 trillion, you get about $2 trillion.

This is a hoax. It is a swindle. They're trying to tell the American people that these insurance companies that make money—not providing health care—are suddenly going to give the American people a break, when in fact the rate at which we're going to be paying is going to be 35 percent more than it is now.

Wake up, America. The only plan that we can have that can work is universal, single-payer, not-for-profit health care. Break the chains, the shackles that these insurance companies have on our political process.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PART OF AN ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRATEGY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful that despite all the debate over our Nation's energy future, there's a general consensus that America should be the world's leader in the development of the next generation of cleaner, affordable, and renewable energy.

America has a grand tradition of innovation. We have been at the forefront of great technological advances throughout our short history because we have attracted and promoted scientists and entrepreneurs. We have dreamed big and succeeded.

As the debate over a comprehensive strategy for energy moves forward, we must ensure public and private support for strong renewable energy industry. The Congressional Renewable Energy Caucus, which I'm proud to be a member of, will continue to be a part of that support by raising awareness among our colleagues about the enormous potential of renewable energy.

With the threat of rising gas prices and utility costs, the time to promote renewable energy is now.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO REGISTERED NURSES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I rise today to pay tribute to the Nation's registered nurses and to congratulate them for the impossible job—but remarkable job—that they do in nurturing and serving and healing America's sick.

In Harris County, Texas, the county that I represent, the county presents 24,480 registered nurses. Nurses are patient advocates and act fearlessly to protect the lives of those under their care.

Nurses care for patients but participate in a wide variety of needed scientific research, and fight cultural and ethnic disparities and treat all patients as equal. Nurses are also teachers not only to future generations of nurses, but to the public, educating us on health and safety.

In a year where health care reform is a top priority, it is significant to acknowledge that 33 national nursing organizations have endorsed a consensus statement for the nursing community that complements five of President Obama's tenets.

The real issue is that they have come together to organize around good health care. I celebrate the fact that nurses are in Washington, D.C., speaking on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. It is important to respect the contributions that our nurses make.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY CAUCUS ON ALGAE

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. During the height of last summer, gas prices hit an all-time high. Thirty years ago, in the midst of another energy crisis, our country began to explore turning algae into fuel. The microscopic, single-celled plant has the potential to be a tremendous resource.

Algae grow very quickly, as anyone with a backyard garden or a watering tank in their pasture knows. It ingests carbon dioxide—releasing oxygen in the process—and is laden with oils which can be used to produce biodiesel.

My friends, we need to continue to explore any and all viable forms of research and development in this renewable energy.

On Thursday, Members of Congress will have the chance to see what the future may hold for our Nation's energy resources at the Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. There are still hurdles to overcome, but now is the time to begin working for a strong and diverse renewable energy portfolio.

□ 1930

SOLAR AND THE RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPO

(Ms. GIFFORDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, many Members tonight are speaking on energy efficiency and renewable energy because they represent tremendous sources of barely tapped potential to help our Nation save money, increase energy independence and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This week the House Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucus is drawing attention to these important opportunities by sponsoring the annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo. The event will run all day on Thursday in the Cannon Caucus room. It will feature over 50 companies and advocacy groups explaining the latest and greatest in energy.

Coming from southern Arizona, it's no surprise that my favorite type of renewable energy, of course, is the sun. And this is an exciting time for solar power. Technologies are rapidly improving, and costs are falling.

Solar power is already cost-competitive with peak power in many areas of the country. Many experts believe that it is on track to be competitive all day long within just a few years.

I urge my colleagues to stop by the expo on Thursday and learn more about these exciting contributions that energy efficiency and renewable energy will make to our future.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. President Obama has outlined a bold vision for a significant change in our Nation's energy policy. In keeping with the theme this evening of energy efficiency, I share with you a vision that the President has borne that will take and highlight energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency should be our fuel of choice, a fuel we need to drill and mine like we currently drill for oil and mine for coal. We must invest in demand-side energy solutions as well as supply-side.

Madam Speaker, we must diversify our energy portfolio and achieve efficient outcomes.

For example, this summer in New York State, almost 45 percent of a homeowner's utility bill will go for heating and cooling. For every degree the thermostat is set below 78 degrees, the customer will use 3 to 5 percent more electricity.

When government implements rate-based or taxpayer-funded demand-side management programs, the public policy is clear—the kilowatt saved is the cheapest, cleanest and the quickest kilowatt we can produce.

Madam Speaker, as we move to create legislation that focuses on clean energy jobs, we must remember the important role that energy efficiency has to play.

CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, later this week or next week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee will advance President Obama's clean energy jobs program, and we will do that by maximizing the job creation potential of renewable clean energy and energy efficiency.

I saw the enormous potential of job creation this weekend in Seattle, Washington, where I went to the MacDonald-Miller Company, a company that installs highly efficient energy efficiency heating and cooling systems, where they have found they can reduce energy usage by 12 percent simply by putting in a system that will adjust the energy depending on what the temperature is outside.

Now if we could get huge efficiency measures like that and put hundreds of people to work, like they are doing at MacDonald-Miller, we're going to find that we can grow our economy while solving global climate change as well.

The energy bill we will do will require 15 percent clean energy and 5 percent efficiency. That's a vision for the future. We're going to pass President Obama's clean energy jobs plan. That's a good thing for the U.S. economy.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WE MUST CREATE, NOT DESTROY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The recent news from Afghanistan is particularly troubling. American bombs killed Afghan civilians last week. Of course our troops are doing what they can to avoid civilian casualties, but bombs have a large footprint, and innocent people are being killed and injured along with the enemy.

Last week's incident has angered the people of Afghanistan, as it would, and some are demanding the withdrawal of American troops from their country. Anti-American sentiment is spreading.

This terrible tragedy, Madam Speaker, proves once again that war is not the way to win hearts and minds, and it proves that violence is the least effective way to achieve our national security goals and to keep our country safe.

That's why I've called upon President Obama to change our mission in Afghanistan. Instead of military solutions, I've asked him to focus on reconciliation, on economic development, humanitarian aid and diplomatic efforts.

President Obama is under a great deal of pressure to expand our military involvement in Afghanistan, but I also know that he is a man of peace, not war. So I'm hopeful that he will begin to rely more and more on peaceful solutions to the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan as well before things get out of hand.

The President has already taken some important steps towards peace. He is encouraging civilians and military reservists to go to Afghanistan and to Pakistan to help with development projects.

He's also announced that he will go to Egypt next month to deliver a speech to the Muslim world. This will be an important opportunity for the President to hold out the hand of friendship and to spread good will.

The speech in Egypt will be the second time that President Obama has spoken directly to the Muslim people because last month he addressed the Turkish Parliament where he declared, and I quote him, ''The United States is not and will never be at war with Islam.'' He promised to ''seek broader engagement with the Muslim people based on mutual interests and mutual respect.''

He then quoted an old Turkish proverb that says, ''You cannot put out fire with flames.'' And he said, ''The future must belong to those who create, not those who destroy.''

I agree with the end of destruction wholeheartedly. That's why I propose a comprehensive new national security plan called the SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. Instead of violence and destruction, it emphasizes diplomacy, international cooperation, conflict prevention and nuclear nonproliferation.

This SMART Security Platform would eliminate the root causes of violence by supporting democracy building, global health, better educational opportunities, particularly for girls and women, and development aid and debt relief for countries.

It calls for a broad range of policies to stop the spread of conventional, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. It would deny hundreds of billions of dollars every year to irresponsible regimes by ending our Nation's addiction to foreign oil. And it strengthens international intelligence and law enforcement so we can track down and stop individuals involved in violence while still respecting human and civil rights.

These are the steps that will put America back on the moral high ground, where we will be in a much better position to lead the world toward peace.

Madam Speaker, the Turkish proverb is right. You cannot put out fire with flames. That's what we learned in Iraq, and that's what we're learning again in Afghanistan.

It's time for a new strategy that recognizes that creating, not destroying, is the best way to make our future safe and to make the future of our children safe and the future of our world as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SINALOA DRUG CARTEL WANTS OLD WEST SHOOT-OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, according to the Los Angeles Times, the Mexican Attorney General's office has informed U.S. authorities that the Sinaloa drug cartel of Mexico has been ordered by its leader Joaquin ''El Chapo'' Guzman, also known as Shorty, to use guns and shoot it out, if necessary, with American law enforcement. This has been ordered by the drug kingpin to protect his drugs from seizure and capture by U.S. authorities.

Law enforcement officials in Arizona have received two alerts that the Guzman smugglers have been told to, quote, use their weapons to defend their loads at all costs.

The threat of escalated violence is for several reasons. One, El Chapo no longer can afford to lose drugs because of his connections and partnerships with Colombian drug cartels that are making greater demands on him for successful smuggling into the United States. Also, El Chapo is competing with rival drug cartels and attempting to take their business, their territory and their drugs. Thus, he wants to make sure his smugglers outgun the competition old west style.

Another reason for more violence is the drug smugglers no longer will get paid unless they deliver the goods to a U.S. destination. Therefore, they are becoming more trigger happy.

A few weeks ago a shoot-out between two drug smuggling groups took place on a road leading to Phoenix, Arizona. The criminals were trying to hijack each other's loads.

United States Border Patrol in Tucson has stated that confrontation between law enforcement and suspected traffickers has grown more violent. The L.A. Times reports weapons-related assaults against U.S. border agents rose 24 percent last year as compared to 2007.

Besides using weapons, the criminals throw rocks at our Border Patrol and ram their vehicles into agent vehicles.

Recently, again, according to the Times, agents stopped a vehicle in Douglas, Arizona, and drug traffickers on the Mexican side of the border laid down suppressive gunfire to pin the U.S. border agents down, which allowed the smugglers to retreat to the Mexican side of the border with their drugs intact.

The Tucson sector alone reports about 25 assaults a month on border patrol agents.

□ 1945

Madam Speaker, there seems to be an all-out border war between the drug cartels and the Mexican-U.S. law enforcement personnel. But not much is being said about this border war.

Madam Speaker, this border war is real. Our government should protect our Nation from these gun-toting drug smugglers. Our border protectors should be given enough personnel and equipment to fight these violent cartels, including being able to use the National Guard. Our border protectors should also know that our government will support them in their lawful protection of our border, and when a violent conflict occurs, be more concerned about our border protectors than the outlaw drug smugglers.

In other words, we must not let more agents suffer an unjust fate like Border Agents Ramos and Compean, who were persecuted and prosecuted for political reasons for shooting a drug smuggler they believed to be armed.

The violence on the border will continue to grow unless the likes of Joaquin ''El Chapa''—''Shorty''—Guzman and his border bandits know the United States will not go away into the darkness of the desert night and simply surrender our border to them by silently doing nothing to prevent their unlawful invasion into the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

AMERICA'S TRADE DEFICIT IS AGAIN ON THE RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today the United States announced that America's trade deficit is back on the rise. The 2008 annual trade deficit topped $677 billion. That is three-quarters of $1 trillion, knocking several points off of economic growth in our country, and yet in response to today's announcement of the growing deficit, U.S. Trade Representative KIRK said we need to work more on new and pending free trade agreements. But trade agreements based on the NAFTA job outsourcing model are what helped get us into this mess of rising unemployment and heavy borrowing in the first place.

Take Mexico, for example, which is the red on this chart. When NAFTA was signed back in 1993, the United States had a trade surplus with Mexico of $1.3 billion. But in 2008, our deficit with that country had surged to more than $367 billion. This year, in only 3 months, we have already seen a $9.7 billion deficit with Mexico.

Indeed, in every single year of NAFTA since 1993, more imports have come in here from Mexico than our exports there. The biggest U.S. export to Mexico has actually been our jobs. Good jobs.

In an article published in 1993 in Fortune Magazine, the self-proclaimed economic geniuses who urged NAFTA's passage, including Gary Hufbauer and economist Jeffrey Schott, said at that time that if that treaty passed, the United States would maintain, and I quote them, ''an annual current account surplus with Mexico of about $10 billion throughout the 1990s.'' Boy, were they wrong. Could they have been more wrong? Dead wrong. Consistently wrong.

Since NAFTA was enacted, the United States has accumulated more than $1.2 trillion in trade deficits to both Mexico and Canada. The orange is the Canadian deficit. And this means lost jobs in our country and lost income to both Mexico and Canada. That $1.2 trillion of lost wealth in this country could pay for better health care. It could pay for better roads and bridges. It could pay for a better-protected soldier abroad and for police forces here at home. But instead, we shift these dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs across our borders every single year leaving our home communities devastated and costing our taxpayers ever more.

People ask: Why is President Obama spending money to try to re-engage our economy? And the answer is: What other choice does he have? Doing nothing in an economy with double-digit unemployment numbers is absolutely cruel. At a time when our home districts are straining to make ends meet, millions of people are facing foreclosure and pink slips are coming day after day, why would we want to send more of our jobs and dollars abroad working on new, and I quote the trade ambassador, ''new and pending free trade agreements,'' as Ambassador Kirk suggests, instead of focusing our time and energy on remedying the broken banking and economic system of our country? We have to fix that. We have to fix the foreclosure crisis. And we have to create well-paying jobs right here in our own neighborhoods rather than weakening America further by shipping out more jobs and wealth abroad.

Congress needs to stop making it easier for U.S. jobs to go to these far-flung, slave-wage havens, as in China, in Mexico, and in Panama. And by the way, countries like Panama are corporate tax havens as well.

We need banking reform. We need help for homeowners. We need modern infrastructure, and we need lots more good jobs right here at home. Ambassador Kirk, won't you join us in the fight for America's economic prosperity? Why send more of our jobs away from our communities that need them most, particularly when you are staring in the face of reality, which is $1.3 trillion of trade deficit since NAFTA's inception, both with Mexico and with Canada, and not a single year in the black? Invest in the United States. We can leave Panama and Mexico to another day. It is time to reclaim our wealth and bring it back home where it belongs.

I think the American people intuitively know something is really wrong, and they are trying to figure out why all this has happened. And I would say to some of the very institutions on Wall Street that have caused the deep harm to this economy, you are the very institutions that have helped to finance the outsourcing of these jobs.

H.R. 1701, THE PTSD/TBI GUARANTEED REVIEW FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, almost 2 million American servicemembers have served our Nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Unfortunately, many are returning home with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries. An April 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans had symptoms of PTSD or major depression.

The study also found that many servicemembers do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they fear it will harm their careers. Of those who do seek help for PTSD or major depression, only about half receive treatment that researchers consider minimally adequate for their illness. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

Tragically, the worst cases can result in a servicemember causing harm to themselves or others. Most recently, a United States Army sergeant who had done at least three tours in Iraq had been charged with murdering five of his fellow servicemembers at Camp Liberty in Baghdad. A defense official confirmed that the sergeant had been a patient at the stress treatment center where the shooting occurred. When some servicemembers suffering from PTSD or TBI are not properly treated, they end up self-medicating or experiencing other changes in behavior. This can lead to serious legal issues and a threat of separation from their service without benefits or treatment.

One marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, in my district, fell victim to this problem and has been pending involuntary administrative separation due to misconduct. His fitness report shows that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployments. His medical board report states, and I quote

the board, ''His service in the Marine Corps caused his PTSD and indirectly his incidents and legal problems. The Marine Corps' failure to treat him in the past and treat him appropriately has done nothing but worsen the problem.''

Madam Speaker, that is not my comment. That is the comment by the Navy doctors at Camp Lejeune. If this marine would be administratively separated from service, he would have no chance of being eligible for TRICARE benefits. He would have difficulty attaining a job, and it is unlikely that a university would accept him as a student. Luckily, the Marine Corps has decided to give this marine another chance, and he will be transferred to a naval hospital for PTSD treatment.

However, this is not an isolated problem. Many servicemembers may have already lost their benefits due to an administrative separation from the service. For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 1701, the PTSD/TBI Guaranteed Review for Heroes Act. This legislation attacks this issue from two angles. First, it creates a special review board at the Department of Defense for servicemembers who were less than honorably discharged. And secondly, the bill would mandate a physical evaluation board prior to an administrative separation proceeding if the servicemember has been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI by a medical authority.

Ultimately, this bill will help preserve the benefits of the servicemembers upon leaving service. H.R. 1701 has already been endorsed by the National Association for Uniformed Services, the National Military Family Association, the Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Marine Corps League.

Madam Speaker, this is a very impressive group of American service people who endorse this bill, H.R. 1701. I am grateful to have Congressman GENE TAYLOR as a lead cosponsor as well as BILL PASCRELL and TODD PLATTS, both cochairmen of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. I hope that many of my House colleagues will join as cosponsors of this important legislation for our Nation's military heroes, and I look forward to working with the leadership of the House Armed Services Committee to advance this much-needed change.

And, Madam Speaker, before I leave, I have done this so many times over the past few years, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, and ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and ask God in His arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I close three times, Madam Speaker, by asking God, please God, please God, please God, continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

A TRIBUTE TO BILL HOLM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, every time I get the privilege to speak on this floor, I am truly humbled. I am humbled by the knowledge of what we, as a Nation, have done. Each one of us in this body realizes that the strength of this Nation and our democracy lies in the extraordinary nature of our people.

I come from the heartland of this great Nation, the places where the Great Plains begin and the Mississippi River begins to flow. Mankato, Minnesota, is my home town. That was the ''big town'' where the Ingalls family went to shop for school clothes in Laura Ingalls Wilder's ''Little House on the Prairie.'' My congressional office is located at 227 Main Street in Mankato. That is just a couple of blocks down from where America's first Nobel laureate, Sinclair Lewis, lived when he wrote his novel ''Main Street.'' Minnesota is also the home of F. Scott Fitzgerald. And I feel truly blessed to have the friendship of Garrison Keillor and his iconic ''Prairie Home Companion.''

Each of these writers had a special gift to describe a place. As a child of the prairie and a geographer, place is something I have spent my entire life trying to understand. I teach high school geography, and invariably whenever I tell people that, they flash back to some really bad memories of having to memorize capitals. And I explain to them, that is location, and it is only a very small part of geography. Place, on the other hand, is knowing the people and what is in their heart.

Minnesota recently lost another great writer. He was one of the most thoughtful and insightful tellers of place I have ever seen. Bill Holm was born in Minneota, Minnesota, in 1943. Minneota is a small town in southwest Minnesota where my father-in-law, Valgene Norwood Whipple, is still the high school boys basketball coach.

Bill was of Icelandic descent, and he never lost his love for his proud ancestral home, spending his summer in Iceland. He went to college in St. Peter, Minnesota, at the great Swedish College of Gustavus Adolphus, named for the Swedish King and patron of literature and learning.

Bill went on to the University of Kansas, became a Fulbright Scholar in Reykjavik, as well as a Bush Foundation fellow. He taught at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota, and he wrote several books and volumes of poetry. That is his biography. What Bill truly did was tell the soul of a northern people, a proud stoic people, who not only settled the harsh prairies of Minnesota, but built the vibrant culture and strong unique communities.

One of Bill's works that touched me the most was a small volume called ''The Music of Failure.'' It is a journey of place and people that leaves one feeling incredibly thankful for family, friends, neighbors and this Nation, and puts into perspective what is truly important.

I would like to spend a minute or so and let Bill's own words from ''The Music of Failure'' tell a little of his place.

□ 2000

''Farmers go to bed early, or at least they used to when I was a boy. Small towns in Minnesota close by 6, the cafes frequently by 4. People eat at home where you can save money. By 10, the streets are silent, only the liquor store is open, its lonesome Hamm's sign proclaiming a few that are still up. Nothing but blue flickering TVs behind drawn blinds, and a random pattern of yard lights stretching off into the prairies. By midnight, nothing. Drive on these county roads, and you can imagine that trolls have kidnapped the entire human race, leaving only electricity behind. Your headlights are a ship's beacon, lighting up a few breakers on the grass ocean, as the car rocks along toward whatever port you have business in. I like driving late at night on these roads without traffic. It provides me with a valuable corrective against human arrogance.''

Bill understood place and he understood what made this Nation so strong: it was the people and their resilience.

He also understood that not all of us saw the world the same way.

There are two eyes in the human head—the eye of mystery, and the eye of harsh truth—the hidden and the open. The woods eye and the prairie eye. The prairie eye looks for distance, clarity and light; the woods eye for closeness, complexity, and darkness. The prairie eye looks for usefulness and plainness in art and architecture; the woods eye for the baroque and ornamental. Dark old brownstones on Summit Street in St. Paul, they were created by the woods eye; the square white farmhouses and the red barn are the prairies eye. Sherwood Anderson wrote his stories with a prairie eye, plain and awkward, told in the voice of a man almost embarrassed to be telling them, but bull-headedly persistent to get the meaning of the events. Faulkner, whose endless complications of motive and language take the reader miles behind the simple facts of an event. He had a woods eye. One eye is not superior to another, just different.

When he wrote his book and the book I am reading from today, ''The Music of Failure,'' he was trying to get at the heart of what this Nation was about, what the soul was about, and he talked often about when he was a young man

trying to understand how we judged failure.

One sentence summed it up for many of us: At 15, I could define failure in Minnesota by dying here and going nowhere.

What Bill Holm understood was this Nation had a way to make itself great, reinvent itself and move to the future.

Bill, rest in peace. Yours was not failure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIPLE PLAY OF AMERICAN CENTURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, it is interesting to see and troubling to see gas prices rising again. I have talked to several colleagues here tonight in fact about gas prices going up. I noticed today on the Wal-Mart sign in Travelers Rest, South Carolina, that the price has gone up here recently. But I am here to say, Madam Speaker, that gas at $2 a gallon or so is a sleeper cell waiting to detonate in the United States. I am also here to predict for you that within 2 years, I will make the bold prediction, within 2 years gas will once again be $4 a gallon. So the question is: What do we do about that? Do we wait for it to happen and just sit here and assume that we have to absorb that kind of hit, gas at $4 a gallon, or do we start taking action now to prepare for the energy security of the United States?

Madam Speaker, I hear a lot of our colleagues saying we need to do other things. We need to, for example, in the case of electricity generation, we need to do nuclear. I think it is a great way to make electricity. But the problem is there are some economic challenges there. Others say let's move away from gasoline and move towards alternatives. But there is a problem there. There are economic barriers, and the economic barriers are in both of those cases the liquid transportation fuel; and in electricity generation, the challenge is that the incumbent technologies have some freebies that they get. And as long as those freebies continue to distort the marketplace, the free market system, as long as those distortions are there, we won't move to alternatives for gasoline. We won't move to alternatives to coal. What we will do is just stick with the incumbent technologies. As long as the incumbent technologies get these freebies, and economists call them negative externalities. They are basically bad things that come with those products that aren't recognized by the market, and as a result the market doesn't respond.

So, for example, take the national security risk that we run by being dependent on gasoline, on oil. Right now on the Straits of Hormuz we have some very heavy metal going up and down the Straits of Hormuz protecting a supply line of a product that we must have because we are dependent, we are addicts, addicted to oil.

If you attributed some of those costs to the price per gallon of gasoline, it wouldn't be the $2.09 that I saw on the marquee in Travelers Rest, South Carolina, today; it would be a lot higher than that. If there were proper cost accounting, if you will, and that were really attributed to the price of gasoline, right now we would be moving more rapidly toward alternatives.

We would be having plug-in hybrids coming very quickly to the market. We would be having the Chevy Volt make its way to the market. We would be having hydrogen coming much closer and faster than it is coming now.

Madam Speaker, we have to figure out a way to change the underlying economics because I believe the solution here is not us in Washington coming up with grant programs and maybe doling out some money here and there, but rather in harnessing the power of American free enterprise, entrepreneurship, to deliver these solutions. The way that they are delivered is if we come together as a Nation and say listen, no more freebies, no more of these negative externalities that are unrecognized because as long as they are unrecognized, there is a market distortion. We attach those to the prices of the products, and I think the way to do that, by the way, is a revenue-neutral carbon tax where you reduce taxes elsewhere, say on payroll, and in an equal amount impose a transparent tax on carbon.

The result would be no additional take of tax revenue to the government; but rather, a price signal to the marketplace that says the incumbent technologies aren't going to get their freebies any more. If they are not going to have their freebies, then those of us who have alternatives can make a buck selling them.

When that happens, Madam Speaker, we will change American energy dependence on the Middle East and we will be able to say to them we just don't need you like we used to. We can improve the national security of the United States, we can create jobs with those new technologies, and we can clean up the air. It is the triple play of this American century. Madam Speaker, I say let's get about it.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, those of us who came to Washington to pass comprehensive and revolutionary, potentially transformational health care reform are emboldened by the realization that we now, for the first time in almost a decade, have a President and an administration who are as committed as any advocate in this country to the premise that this country must reform its health care system. We are reminded almost weekly of President Obama's commitment to health care reform that happens this year.

This week we saw the President bring together varying and diverse groups that over the course of the history of health care have normally been at each other's throats, coming together to say that the first premise of health care reform has to be lowering of cost in the system. The health insurance community, the hospital association, the medical association, PhRMA and SCIU, one of the Nation's biggest unions, all coming together and saying, listen, let's take cost out of this system. And it is the right way to first approach health care reform. We can talk all we want about coverage, but if we don't start to dramatically slow the growth of health care at a pace now that stands at 7 or 8 percent a year, if we don't bring it down to something that more resembles the general inflationary rate in this country, there will be no room, never mind to expand coverage, there will be no room to just cover the people with health care now. We have gone over the numbers over and over again: $7,400 per person that we spend on health care in this country, $2.2 trillion across the spectrum of our health care system. Twice as much of our GDP is spent on health care as we spent in 1970, and twice as much of our GDP is spent on health care than many other similarly situated industrialized nations.

Health insurance premiums over the last 10 years have gone up 119 percent, while earnings have risen only 34 percent. We know there are savings because we look out across the country and we see dramatically diverse experiences with regard to cost.

In my home market of Hartford, Connecticut, we are spending on average about $8,000 a person to treat a Medicare patient. Well, you go down the eastern seaboard to Miami, and they are spending twice that amount, $16,000 to treat a similar Medicare patient.

Now, I am sure we can come up with a list of reasons why that care is going to be marginally more expensive give the client base and the provider costs, but not twice as expensive.

As we saw in some recent work at Dartmouth University, there is no correlation between what you spend and the quality you get. In fact, it tends to be the reverse: the better you are at coordinating care and keeping costs down, the healthier your patients are. So there is an enormous amount of savings that we can achieve just by better

coordinating care and learning from the areas of the country and the health care communities that have figured out that you can reduce costs and preserve quality.

But ultimately, Mr. Speaker, I don't think we can really take a whack at costs until we understand the important role that a public insurance model can play in our health reform system. I want to talk about this for 1 minute.

We have looked at comparative models, for instance on the purchase of prescription drugs via a government program like the veterans health care system and private models likes the Medicare prescription drug benefit programs, and we see example after example on how the ability of the United States Government or entities acting on its behalf can bring down the cost of health care. We have seen examples of how a government-sponsored health care initiative that has no interest in returning value to shareholders, that has no interest in paying its CEOs massive salaries, that does not have a profit motivation can get more humane and less expensive care to its recipients. That is the theory behind those that want a government-run single payer system, and I think we all acknowledge we are not going to get there.

But we are not going to achieve the savings that we hope to achieve unless we can have a robust, completely competitive market where individuals and businesses that are purchasing insurance get to choose not only between private insurance companies that might offer them the best deal, but also from a public option as well.

This is fundamentally about creating real market-based choice for consumers. If we have a diverse array of private insurance products and a public option, that more than anything we do with regard to changing reimbursement from volume to outcomes, can bring down the cost of health care.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST RYAN CHARLES KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today the residents of northwest Georgia are saying good-bye to a native son who died while bravely serving his Nation in Afghanistan. Specialist Ryan Charles King was killed in action on May 1, 2009, in Afghanistan when his unit came under enemy fire while on a night mission.

Last evening, Mr. Speaker, I joined Specialist King's family, his friends and supporters at his visitation to honor the life of this brave soldier. In speaking with Specialist King's parents, I found out that he and I have a history together. When I was an obstetrician-gynecologist, I delivered Ryan King a little over 22 years ago on Veteran's Day in 1986. How fitting that this brave soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country was born on such a special day.

We remember Ryan as a man of the highest character whose receipt of the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and NATO Medal are testament to the supreme sense of duty he felt to his country and to his comrades.

Born in Marietta, Georgia, at WellStar Kennestone Hospital, Ryan attended Faith Lutheran Church for many years.

□ 2015

He was a talented and a spirited baseball player, leaving his mark on the diamonds throughout Canton, Powder Springs, and Dallas, Georgia.

A few months after graduating from East Paulding County High School, Ryan King fulfilled a lifelong dream and he enlisted in the United States Army. He went to basic training at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, followed by advanced individual training at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. After completing his training, Specialist King was stationed in Korea for 1 year, and it was there that he met his wife, Sergeant Rachel Nicole Smith King.

As a member of the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry, he left for deployment in eastern Afghanistan in July of 2008 and, sadly, was scheduled to return to Fort Hood in Texas in June, 2009, just 1 month from now.

Specialist King leaves behind his wife, Sergeant King, his father, Charles King of Temple, Georgia, his mom, Candice R. King of Decatur, Georgia, younger brothers Tyler King of Temple and Dante Moore of Decatur, grandparents, Dorothea King of Temple and Tommy and Nancy Roberts of Dallas, Georgia, as well as many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers go out to his family. And my deepest gratitude goes out to Specialist King for his selfless sacrifice for our Nation. I ask all Members to join me in honoring the distinguished memory of Specialist Ryan Charles King.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, 111TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to rule XI, clause 2 of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the rules for the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the 111th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Committee adopted the following rules in open session by a voice vote, a quorum being present, at our organizational meeting on January 14, 2009:

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADOPTED JANUARY 14, 2009, 111TH CONGRESS

Rule 1. General Provisions. (a) Rules of the Committee. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (hereinafter the ''Committee'') and its subcommittees so far as is applicable.

(b) Rules of the Subcommittees. Each subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and to its rules so far as applicable. Written rules adopted by the Committee, not inconsistent with the Rules of the House, shall be binding on each subcommittee of the Committee.

Rule 2. Meetings. (a) Regular Meeting Days. The Committee shall meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., for the consideration of bills, resolutions, and other business, if the House is in session on that day. If the House is not in session on that day and the Committee has not met during such month, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity when the House is again in session. The chairman of the Committee may, at his discretion, cancel, delay, or defer any meeting required under this section, after consultation with the ranking minority member.

(b) Additional Meetings. The chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to that call of the chairman.

(c) Notice. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any meeting of the Committee or its subcommittees scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday when the House will be in session shall be announced at least 36 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting. The date, time, place, and subject matter of other meetings shall be announced at least 72 hours in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(d) Agenda. The agenda for each Committee or subcommittee meeting, setting out all items of business to be considered, shall be provided to each member of the Committee at least 36 hours in advance of such meeting.

(e) Availability of Texts. No bill, recommendation, or other matter reported by a subcommittee shall be considered by the Committee unless the text of the matter reported, together with an explanation, has been available to members of the Committee for at least 36 hours. Such explanation shall include a summary of the major provisions of the legislation, an explanation of the relationship of the matter to present law, and a summary of the need for the legislation.

(f) Waiver. The requirements of subsections (c), (d), and (e) may be waived by a majority of those present and voting (a majority being present) of the Committee or subcommittee, or by the chairman with the concurrence of the ranking member, as the case may be.

Rule 3. Hearings. (a) Notice. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall be announced at least one week in advance of the commencement of such hearing, unless a determination is made in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner.

(b) Memorandum. Each member of the Committee or subcommittee shall be provided, except in the case of unusual circumstances, with a memorandum at least 48 hours before each hearing explaining (1) the purpose of the hearing and (2) the names of any witnesses.

(c) Witnesses. (1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least two working days in advance of his or her appearance, sufficient copies, as determined by the chairman of the Committee or a subcommittee, of a written statement of his or her proposed testimony to provide to members and staff of the Committee or subcommittee, the news media, and the general public. Each witness shall, to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the chairman. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a brief summary of the argument. The chairman of the Committee or of a subcommittee, or the presiding member, may waive the requirements of this paragraph or any part thereof.

(2) To the greatest extent practicable, the written testimony of each witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(d) Questioning. (1) The right to interrogate the witnesses before the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall alternate between majority and minority members. Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each member who so desires has had an opportunity to question witnesses. No member shall be recognized for a second period of 5 minutes to interrogate a witness until each member of the Committee or subcommittee present has been recognized once for that purpose. While the Committee or subcommittee is operating under the 5 minute rule for the interrogation of witnesses, the chairman shall recognize in order of appearance members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be.

(2) The chairman with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee by motion, may permit an equal number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side. The chairman with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee by motion, may also permit committee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(3) Each member may submit to the chairman of the Committee or the subcommittee additional questions for the record, to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the clerk of the Committee no later than ten business days following a hearing. The chairman shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee or the subcommittee to the appropriate witness and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record.

Rule 4. Vice Chairmen; Presiding Member. The chairman shall designate a member of the majority party to serve as vice chairman of the Committee, and shall designate a majority member of each subcommittee to serve as vice chairman of each subcommittee. The vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the chairman. If the chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or subcommittee are not present at any meeting or hearing, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

Rule 5. Open Proceedings. Except as provided by the Rules of the House, each meeting and hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing, shall be open to the public, including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, consistent with the provisions of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

Rule 6. Quorum. Testimony may be taken and evidence received at any hearing at which there are present not fewer than two members of the Committee or subcommittee in question. A majority of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for those actions for which the House rules require a majority quorum. For the purposes of taking any other action, one-third of the members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 7. Official Committee Records. (a)(1) Journal. The proceedings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be recorded in a journal which shall, among other things, show those present at each meeting, and include a record of the vote on any question on which a record vote is demanded and a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition voted. A copy of the journal shall be furnished to the ranking minority member.

(2) Record Votes. A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one member. No demand for a record vote shall be made or obtained except for the purpose of procuring a record vote or in the apparent absence of a quorum. The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be made available in the Committee office for inspection by the public, as provided in Rule XI, clause 2(e) of the Rules of the House. The Chairman also shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded available on the Committee's website not later than 2 business days after such vote is taken. Such record shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members of the committee present but not voting.

(b) Archived Records. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The chairman shall notify the ranking minority member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3 (b)(3) or clause 4 (b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The chairman shall consult with the ranking minority member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

Rule 8. Subcommittees. (a) Establishment. There shall be such standing subcommittees with such jurisdiction and size as determined by the majority party caucus of the Committee. The jurisdiction, number, and size of the subcommittees shall be determined by the majority party caucus prior to the start of the process for establishing subcommittee chairmanships and assignments.

(b) Powers and Duties. Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the chairman of the Committee with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

(c) Ratio of Subcommittees. The majority caucus of the Committee shall determine an appropriate ratio of majority to minority party members for each subcommittee and the chairman shall negotiate that ratio with the minority party, provided that the ratio of party members on each subcommittee shall be no less favorable to the majority than that of the full Committee, nor shall such ratio provide for a majority of less than two majority members.

(d) Selection of Subcommittee Members. Prior to any organizational meeting held by the Committee, the majority and minority caucuses shall select their respective members of the standing subcommittees.

(e) Ex Officio Members. The chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee shall be ex officio members with voting privileges of each subcommittee of which they are not assigned as members and may be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum in such subcommittees. The chairman emeritus shall be an ex officio member without voting privileges of each subcommittee of which the chairman emeritus is not assigned as a member and may not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum on any such subcommittee.

(f) Subcommittee on Witness Inquiry. There shall also be established a Subcommittee on Witness Inquiry that may examine witnesses in executive session pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(2) and 2(k)(5). The subcommittee shall be comprised of two members of the majority party appointed at the discretion of the chairman and one member of the minority party appointed at the discretion of the ranking minority member. Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) shall not apply to the Subcommittee.

Rule 9. Opening Statements. (a) Written Statements. All written opening statements at business meetings conducted by the committee or any of its subcommittees shall be made part of the permanent record.

(b) Length. Statements shall be limited to 5 minutes each for the chairman and ranking minority member (or their respective designee) of the Committee or subcommittee, as applicable, and 3 minutes each for all other members. At any business meeting of the full Committee, the chairman may limit opening statements for Members (including, at the discretion of the Chairman, the chairman

and ranking minority member) to one minute.

Rule 10. Reference of Legislation and other Matters. All legislation and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to the subcommittee of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks of the date of receipt by the Committee unless action is taken by the full Committee within those two weeks, or by majority vote of the members of the Committee, consideration is to be by the full Committee. In the case of legislation or other matter within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee, the chairman of the Committee may, in his discretion, refer the matter simultaneously to two or more subcommittees for concurrent consideration, or may designate a subcommittee of primary jurisdiction and also refer the matter to one or more additional subcommittees for consideration in sequence (subject to appropriate time limitations), either on its initial referral or after the matter has been reported by the subcommittee of primary jurisdiction. Such authority shall include the authority to refer such legislation or matter to an ad hoc subcommittee appointed by the chairman, with the approval of the Committee, from the members of the subcommittees having legislative or oversight jurisdiction.

Rule 11. Managing Legislation on the House Floor. The chairman, in his discretion, shall designate which member shall manage legislation reported by the Committee to the House.

Rule 12. Committee Professional and Clerical Staff Appointments. (a) Delegation of Staff. Whenever the chairman of the Committee determines that any professional staff member appointed pursuant to the provisions of clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, who is assigned to such chairman and not to the ranking minority member, by reason of such professional staff member's expertise or qualifications will be of assistance to one or more subcommittees in carrying out their assigned responsibilities, he may delegate such member to such subcommittees for such purpose. A delegation of a member of the professional staff pursuant to this subsection shall be made after consultation with subcommittee chairmen and with the approval of the subcommittee chairman or chairmen involved.

(b) Minority Professional Staff. Professional staff members appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, who are assigned to the ranking minority member of the Committee and not to the chairman of the Committee, shall be assigned to such Committee business as the minority party members of the Committee consider advisable.

(c) Additional Staff Appointments. In addition to the professional staff appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Committee shall be entitled to make such appointments to the professional and clerical staff of the Committee as may be provided within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee. Such appointee shall be assigned to such business of the full Committee as the chairman of the Committee considers advisable.

(d) Sufficient Staff. The chairman shall ensure that sufficient staff is made available to each subcommittee to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee.

(e) Fair Treatment of Minority Members in Appointment of Committee Staff. The chairman shall ensure that the minority members of the Committee are treated fairly in appointment of Committee staff.

(f) Contracts for Temporary or Intermittent Services. Any contract for the temporary services or intermittent service of individual consultants or organizations to make studies or advise the Committee or its subcommittees with respect to any matter within their jurisdiction shall be deemed to have been approved by a majority of the members of the Committee if approved by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee. Such approval shall not be deemed to have been given if at least one-third of the members of the Committee request in writing that the Committee formally act on such a contract, if the request is made within 10 days after the latest date on which such chairman or chairmen, and such ranking minority member or members, approve such contract.

Rule 13. Supervision, Duties of Staff. (a) Supervision of Majority Staff. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the chairman who, in consultation with the chairmen of the subcommittees, shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he determines appropriate.

(b) Supervision of Minority Staff. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the minority members of the Committee, who may delegate such authority as they determine appropriate.

Rule 14. Committee Budget. (a) Preparation of Committee Budget. The chairman of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee and the chairmen of the subcommittees, shall for the 111th Congress prepare a preliminary budget for the Committee, with such budget including necessary amounts for professional and clerical staff, travel, investigations, equipment and miscellaneous expenses of the Committee and the subcommittees, and which shall be adequate to fully discharge the Committee's responsibilities for legislation and oversight. Such budget shall be presented by the chairman to the majority party caucus of the Committee and thereafter to the full Committee for its approval.

(b) Approval of the Committee Budget. The chairman shall take whatever action is necessary to have the budget as finally approved by the Committee duly authorized by the House. No proposed Committee budget may be submitted to the Committee on House Administration unless it has been presented to and approved by the majority party caucus and thereafter by the full Committee. The chairman of the Committee may authorize all necessary expenses in accordance with these rules and within the limits of the Committee's budget as approved by the House.

(c) Monthly Expenditures Report. Committee members shall be furnished a copy of each monthly report, prepared by the chairman for the Committee on House Administration, which shows expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year by the Committee and subcommittees, anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel.

Rule 15. Broadcasting of Committee Hearings. Any meeting or hearing that is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by radio or television or still photography, subject to the requirements of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. The coverage of any hearing or other proceeding of the Committee or any subcommittee thereof by television, radio, or still photography shall be under the direct supervision of the chairman of the Committee, the subcommittee chairman, or other member of the Committee presiding at such hearing or other proceeding and may be terminated by such member in accordance with the Rules of the House.

Rule 16. Subpoenas. The chairman of the Committee may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m)(2)(A) of Rule XI of the House. If the ranking minority member objects to the proposed subpoena in writing, the matter shall be referred to the Committee for resolution. The chairman of the Committee may authorize and issue subpoenas without referring the matter to the Committee for resolution during any period for which the House has adjourned for a period in excess of 3 days when, in the opinion of the chairman, authorization and issuance of the subpoena is necessary. The chairman shall report to the members of the Committee on the authorization and issuance of a subpoena during the recess period as soon as practicable but in no event later than one week after service of such subpoena.

Rule 17. Travel of Members and Staff. (a) Approval of Travel. Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the chairman. Travel may be authorized by the chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the chairman in writing the following: (1) the purpose of the travel; (2) the dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made; (3) the location of the event for which the travel is to be made; and (4) the names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b) Approval of Travel by Minority Members and Staff. In the case of travel by minority party members and minority party professional staff for the purpose set out in (a), the prior approval, not only of the chairman but also of the ranking minority member, shall be required. Such prior authorization shall be given by the chairman only upon the representation by the ranking minority member in writing setting forth those items enumerated in (1), (2), (3), and (4) of paragraph (a).

Rule 18. The chairman shall maintain an official Committee website for the purposes of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members and other members of the House. The ranking minority member may maintain an official website for the purpose of carrying out official responsibilities, including communicating information about the activities of the minority members of the Committee to Committee members and other members of the House.

Rule 19. The chairman of the Committee is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

CARBON POLLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in every great problem there is a great

opportunity. We are now facing the most severe economic crisis in a generation. At the same time, the scientists are telling us clearly that our inaction dealing with carbon pollution is threatening the planet that is our only home. Fortunately, the same actions that will fix the economy will also help save the planet. In an economic downturn, we want to put people to work and help them manage costs. Energy efficiency does both and reduces carbon emissions at the same time.

The United States finally shook off the great economic depression of the thirties by mobilizing the economy to fight World War II. We can fight off this recession, deep as it is, by mobilizing our fight against global warming.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama, from the rostrum before you, laid out an ambitious agenda in his first speech to the Members of Congress, recognizing that as Americans we can do great things when we come together to work for the common good, as we did dealing with the challenges of World War II and the Great Depression.

The President has presented us with a clean energy jobs plan, a plan that will create new jobs that can't be shipped overseas, a proposal that will protect existing jobs while it reduces our dependence on foreign oil. It will avoid tax increases on working families as we all work to reduce carbon pollution. This plan starts by regulating carbon polluters and making them pay for the pollution that they've been allowed to spew out for free into the sky, damaging the atmosphere and threatening the water and land without regard to the cost to the rest of us.

Then the President's plan will create new jobs through research and development and deployment of new clean energy technologies such as wind, solar and biomass. It is exciting to see in the President's economic recovery package that we have already taken decisive action, investing billions of dollars across America to do something about it.

His plan further provides the support and the incentives needed to help the American spirit of innovation and creativity to build the new clean technologies of the future. Just as we led the world in developing the automobile and the computer, we can, and if we follow the plans that have been set forth that have been articulated by President Obama and the Democratic leadership, we will be able to lead the world in developing the new cheaper, cleaner energy technologies that will power this century in America and around the world.

These new technologies are already resulting in clean energy jobs that are forming the basis of our new economic security. Change is difficult under the best of circumstances, but I think there is growing recognition at this point that we have no choice. But we want to be thinking about the future, not planning the economy through the rear-view mirror.

The proposals that we are working on will provide all Americans with clean energy tax credits so that they will have money to buy clean energy technologies so that they personally can join in America's clean energy future. This will allow them to be stewards of the family budget while we are all stewards of the planet. In this way, the actions of millions of Americans to reduce their energy bills and to protect the planet will create even more jobs and lead to that prosperity that is so important to us all.

There are any number of examples, Mr. Speaker, about how what we have already done in energy efficiency has made a difference. Researchers at the University of California calculate that the gas and electric energy efficiency measures for the past 30 years in California have saved the residents of that State $56 billion while producing 1.5 million new jobs.

They have projected that the savings in jobs for meeting California's new carbon cap-and-trade law, and by projecting it forward just to the year 2020, that Californians will save an additional $76 billion in energy costs just at current rates. And I heard my good friend from South Carolina on the floor just a few minutes ago predicting that energy costs are going to be going up. I personally agree with him, I think he is right. But even at current rates, Californians would save $76 billion and create an additional 400,000 new net jobs.

I'm from the Pacific Northwest, where we've been working very hard on energy efficiency over the course of almost 30 years. My hometown of Portland, Oregon, was the first city in the United States with a comprehensive energy policy that has made a difference for us in terms of saving money on energy, while we've created new economic opportunities and have reduced our carbon footprint.

In the Pacific Northwest, our Power Planning Council has estimated the work that we've done just in the Northwest alone between 1980 and 2000, where we invested almost $2.5 billion in energy efficiency, our region earned that total investment back about once every 18 months. This is a rate of return of about 67 percent, annual rate of return on investment. An extraordinary record when we think about how our 401(k)s are turning into 301(k)s and 201(k)s. Watch the gyrations in the stock market and uncertainty in housing prices. Looking at what has happened with a very solid year-in, year-out rate of return on energy efficiency is truly encouraging and inspirational.

Mr. Speaker, the time to act is now. We have heard the warnings from the vast majority of scientists developing a consensus about the threats to the planet. We are already feeling the effects of changing climate as we watch large quantities of polar ice disappear, as we watch snowpacks rise, when we watch the shift of patterns of migration of birds, where the permafrost in Alaska is no longer perma, and the roads are buckling and coastal villages washing away.

The realities of climate change effects are being visited upon Americans across this country in all 50 States, and they are gathering momentum in terms of a sense of urgency and public awareness. We are watching groups in the evangelical arena, scientific arena, civic organizations, American business, labor, environmental organizations coming together to be part of this consensus. Leadership is being exhibited on college campuses and at synagogues across the country. Over 900 cities have made the decision that they weren't going to wait for the Bush administration; they were starting ahead with their own efforts to reduce pollution from carbon.

Well, we ignored the warnings of experts, for example, with the risks in the financial sector and, sadly, we've seen the consequences. We have learned the dangers and added costs of trying to move after the fact, after a disaster or after some sort of natural catastrophe occurs. It is very expensive cleaning up after Katrina, after flooding, after wildfires, as opposed to taking action to try and prevent it.

We, once again, need to act as good stewards of the Earth, protecting our children and grandchildren. We must remember that there will be great costs associated with dealing with impacts once they have occurred. Mr. Speaker, Mother Nature doesn't do bailouts.

We need to focus on the big picture. The economy is the task at hand. The next step to create millions of American jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and modernization of a smart electric grid is going to make a difference now. Clean energy can provide an engine to drive the Nation out of a recession and sustain our economy for years to come.

It is time for us to step forward, investing seriously in energy innovation. We invest about one-tenth of 1 percent of our annual energy bill in research. It is absolutely ludicrous to have an area that is so central to our economy and our way of life, where we see costs escalating around the globe, and that we have neglected to invest in ways to drive technological innovation. Luckily, as part of the economic recovery package and legislation that is working its way through the House and the Senate, we will be addressing this issue of greater investment in innovation.

I see I have been joined by my colleague from the great State of Washington, Congressman INSLEE, who has focused a great deal of time and attention on this question of innovation as it relates to energy. He has sponsored legislation in this regard. He has been a champion in speaking out in forums large and small around the country and is hard at work now on the Commerce Committee in the formulation of legislation that will codify these opportunities and bring them to fruition.

I am pleased to yield to my friend if he would care to share some of his thoughts in this area.

Mr. INSLEE. Well, I come to the floor with some good news tonight, and that is that the Energy and Commerce Committee will be working to produce a bill starting either late this week or early next week to really jump-start President Obama's vision for a transition to a clean energy future for the country.

□ 2030

And we reached today some very important milestones to reach consensus in our committee to move this vision forward. And I'm very optimistic about that, contentious as this is, for a couple of reasons. One, I just was being briefed by some findings about what Americans' beliefs are about this issue from a fellow named Mark Mellman, who basically looks and asks questions of people and what they think of America. And it was amazing how optimistic Americans are and how much they embrace this idea that we can innovate and create millions of new, clean energy jobs. In fact, the research showed that by two-to-one margins, over two-to-one margins, Americans believe that if we act in Congress to promote the creation of clean energy technology, to do the research and development to create these high-tech, energy-efficient sources of energy, if we create limits on the amount of pollution that polluters can put in the air, by two-to-one margins, Americans believe this will create jobs, clean energy jobs. And that fundamental belief is the thing that will allow the U.S. Congress this year to pass a bill to move us down the clean energy future.

And I would suggest there's a reason Americans believe by two-to-one margins that action on clean energy will create jobs, and that is that we're the most innovative, creative, dynamic, entrepreneurial society ever. And with all due respect to the Egyptians and the Romans, we are the most innovative society, and I think that this optimistic view by two to one that we can create jobs by moving forward in clean energy, it's really consistent with the American character. That's the first reason.

The second reason I feel excited tonight about the Commerce Committee's now advancing President Obama's clean energy vision is the same things that I've seen happen. I went home to Seattle, the Seattle region where I represent, and I just met such exciting people in the State of Washington who are creating these new jobs today.

Yesterday, I went to a company called MacDonald-Miller, a company in Seattle, and they install heating and cooling equipment and energy efficiency equipment. And a few years ago, they started to try to figure out how can they boost their sales. They were having some tough times. They actually went through a restructuring, and they asked themselves, how can we boost our sales and build our company? And they decided to really pursue energy efficiency. And they decided to build a model, a business model, around selling efficiency services, and they showed me one thing they're doing. It's pretty amazing.

It seems so simple, but they are employing hundreds of people at this company by selling a product that will simply adjust your thermostat. If you've got an office building, it will adjust the thermostat dependent on the outside air temperature. And what they found is, and I know this sounds simple, but what they found is that people's comfort level varies on the outside temperature. So they might want it at 73 on a hot day, but they're comfortable at maybe 69 or 70 on a cold day. So they found out people's comfort level varies; so they basically are selling a product that will adjust the temperature of the office building to be consistent with that comfort level depending on the outside temperature. And they had an average reduction of energy of, I think, about 12 percent when they did that. And that's astronomic.

I mean, if you reduced everybody's energy 12 percent in your buildings, it would be incredible in your heating and cooling expenses. But most importantly, by doing that, they're creating jobs and wealth, and their sales have gone up dramatically in the last 4 or 5 years because they are adopting that strategy.

So what we are doing here in Congress in this bill, we will be adopting a provision that will call for Americans to have a higher level of renewable energy, 15 percent, and an additional 5 percent of efficiency gains that will help boost these companies that are now hiring so many people around the country.

Another company in my area called McKinstry, President Obama mentioned them when we were at the White House last week. They have similarly sold efficiency services.

So everywhere you look, you can find opportunities for this job creation. But what these companies need are policies that will level the playing field, because right now our policies just favor some of the older industries, and now we need some policies that will really level the playing field and allow this transition to take place.

Now, in this bill where we're going to be doing it, there are some costs associated, of course, as there always are. We don't usually expect something for nothing. But in our bill it's the polluters and the polluters' industries that will pay. They will be the ones that will be required to purchase and pay for permits associated with this pollution. And, generally, I think it's fairly well understood that in a society that favors responsibility, it ought to be the polluters who are responsible for costs, not citizens. In fact, there will be some assistance to citizens with their utility bills associated with this project.

So the good news that I'm hearing from across the country is Americans believe that we will create jobs if we act on clean energy, number one. And, number two, I'm seeing with my own eyes my constituents getting hired in these new emerging industries.

I went to the 3 Tier Corporation the other day. They essentially manage electricity in large corporations, manage server farms and manage the like, and they're hiring people. The AltaRock Company is doing engineered geothermal in the North Seattle area. That's where you poke a hole down, you pump water down it, it comes up hot, you make steam and generate electricity.

I went to a company called Ausra Engineering. It's a marine architecture firm in Seattle. You don't normally associate marine architectural firms with job creation and clean energy, but they are potentially working on platforms to build floating platforms for offshore wind turbines, and they are in the preliminary work of looking at particular designs to do that because we have enormous capacity for wind off of our shorelines.

So the basic American belief in the innovative spirit of the country is now being matched by these real businesses in real time, hiring real people with real paychecks, and that's what this bill is going to do that we are going to pass here out of the committee hopefully late next week to really jump-start, kick-start this job creation.

So I appreciate the gentleman's letting me join him in this discussion.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I, likewise, appreciate your comments and observations and bringing it down to real-life examples.

One of the nice things about being a Member of Congress is that we have a chance to see these products emerge. We have a chance to hear. We both serve on the Global Warming and Energy Independence Committee that the Speaker has set up, and for 30 months we have seen a parade of witnesses come before us with new and emerging technologies in wind and solar and transportation that are already putting Americans to work while they're working to save Americans money. But that is just, I think, a hint of what we can do in the future.

I'm watching in my hometown of Portland, Oregon, where we reintroduced a modern streetcar to the landscape. We just received approval from the Obama administration to move forward with a streetcar extension that's going to not only create nearly 1,300 jobs for construction and not only will we be manufacturing the first streetcar built in America in 58 years, but I know in your area in the Puget Sound you already have the South Lake Union Trolly that is in operation. You're looking to expand that. Every one of these projects not only represents an economic opportunity, but it dramatically changes the carbon footprint.

Servicing 240 units along a trolly line instead of a suburban subdivision is a million pounds of carbon a year that is saved. A trip not taken. Being able to extend things like modern streetcars to communities large and small across America, like they were a hundred years ago, provides an opportunity for thousands of construction jobs, changing the carbon footprint, changing the technological and manufacturing advances in ways that are going to affect millions of lives.

It is so important for us to be thinking about that big picture because we are exporting overseas over a billion dollars a day for oil and we're watching that probably starting up again. Last year it was $700 billion that was lost. And this is money that is taken out of our economy. In my community, the difference between just the fact that we drive 20 percent less keeps $800 million a year circulating in that local economy that isn't sent to Venezuela or to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. INSLEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I will be happy to.

Mr. INSLEE. I think that's a very important point is that the portfolio of these new renewable energy sources that are going to provide the electricity for both our toasters and for these train systems that Mr. BLUMENAUER talked about, when you generate this electricity using renewable sources, it's, by necessity, a domestic product. If you are using renewable energy to generate your electricity, you know you're using an all-American energy source, because that means the wind is right in eastern Washington or eastern Oregon.

By the way, Washington just had the biggest wind farm in America, became the largest producer of wind power in the world last year. There are actually as many people working in the wind power industry today as the coal mining industry. We're rapidly increasing the number of jobs, but we are using domestic energy when we use wind power.

I went to a company in Tri-Cities, Washington, a couple of months ago. The Infinia Company has developed a sterling engine. It's a solar energy system using a sterling engine, and that's a system where you have these concave dishes that look like large satellite dishes and they concentrate the sun's energy on a little engine about the size of a couple of pop cans, and that turns out pressure differences into mechanical energy and generates electricity. Now, when you use the Infinia system, you are getting a job creation in the Northwest, in Washington State, and you are using a domestic supply of energy, namely the sunshine that's falling on us right now.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. May I just elaborate on that point. I think that is a very important point to make, that this is 100 percent American energy, but also in terms of what happens with the net economic impact. There are some who claim that, well, we should deal with the fossil fuels, the oil and coal, because they create jobs. Well, they do create jobs, but I think the evidence is clear that the investment in the alternative energies of the future that you're talking about, in wind and solar, the clean energy economy creates about four times the jobs for each million dollars invested as in the traditional fossil fuels. And when you consider that we are also avoiding some of the most negative consequences of burning dirty coal on the health of individuals and of the larger ecosystem, it is a multiple benefit to the economy and the environment.

You know, on the floor, and this was incredible to me, last week I heard my Republican friends being upset that the Speaker, with the initiative to green the Capitol, had replaced dirty coal with natural gas, which has half the carbon emissions. It doesn't have the other problems in terms of sulfur dioxide, in terms of carbon monoxide.

□ 2045

The Capitol Heating Plant was the number one source of pollution in our Nation's Capital, threatening the lives and health of people who work around the capitol. Children in our schools and the opponents of responsible action for a clean economy were saying that was somehow an attack on coal.

Mr. INSLEE. I think it's really important you have brought up the issue of coal. I think it's very important to note that when this bill comes out of our committee, it comes to the floor of the House. It is not going to ignore the potential of coal to remain part of our energy future.

We have huge amounts of coal reserves in this country that could power us for hundreds of years. But we need to find a way to burn it more cleanly, to take the carbon dioxide, which is now going into the atmosphere and making our oceans more acidic and contributing to global warming, to take that carbon dioxide and bury it in the Earth for 10,000 years so it's not going to be a problem. Now, in our bill we are not ignoring that issue. We are, in fact, contributing about a billion dollars a year in an effort to find a way to bury that carbon dioxide so we can continue to use coal.

Now, this is an important point, because we feel that we all need to move together, including the regions of the country that are very heavily coal dependent, and we intend to have a very well-balanced research program where we don't favor any one energy source. We are going to be doing work on solar, we are going to be doing work on wind, we are going to be doing work on geothermal, and we are going to be doing work to find a way, hopefully, to sequester carbon dioxide when it comes out of the coal-fired plants.

So I think that's an important point that all areas of the country you are going to have some benefit to find ways to use their energy sources.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate your clarification of that. As it stands now, the way that we are using coal indiscriminately, not dealing with the consequences of not just the carbon pollution, but, frankly, there are other pollutants that we have been struggling with for years because of the hazards to human health and to the environment, but the willingness to focus on ways to truly try and make it possible to use coal in a way that is environmentally sensitive. I think it's very important. It is important not just because the United States has vast amounts of coal, but it would be nice if we could use them in a way that was safe and environmentally sound; but we are also facing a situation where there is still heavy reliance on coal in China, in India.

We, in the Pacific Northwest, are breathing Chinese coal pollution in the Puget Sound area, in metropolitan Portland every day. So your work on the Commerce Committee, to be able to have some resources to try and move this research forward dealing with ways to truly make it environmentally benign, I think it's very important, establishing standards and sticking by them.

I will be coming to the floor soon to talk about another methodology that has been employed in the past, which is an underground gasification process, where you never bring the coal to the surface, that the process of conversion takes place in the actual coal seam. There are projects under way right now in Wyoming. It was actually a technology that was developed by Nazi Germany and in the Soviet Union in an earlier era dealing with gasification of coal, but has tremendous potential for being able to use coal in a way that is environmentally responsible.

I appreciate the work that is being done to help advance these technologies and others.

Mr. INSLEE. You mentioned China, or meant to, one of the two. I wanted to comment on this too.

We are also, in this bill, dealing with, when we are advancing clean energy, we want to make sure we don't lose jobs in competition for some of these other countries, even if they don't move as rapidly as we do and try to move away from this pollution of CO_2.

And one of the things we are going to have in our bill is a provision that will protect our jobs and protect our industries against job leakage going overseas to countries that may not have some CO_2 regime to reduce pollution. We have now reached agreement, essentially, that we will essentially have a cushion for industry-intensive industries—steel, aluminum, cement—a cushion so they will be insulated from increases in energy costs associated with this so that we won't lose jobs, having these plants move to China or India or some other country that may not have a regulation on CO_2 as we do. This is a very important resolution.

I worked with Mike Doyle, a Representative from Pittsburgh, on this,

and we can now legitimately tell folks in these industries that we have this protection against job leakage. And it is a message, an important message, to countries around the world that all countries are going to have to enter into some action plan to reduce carbon dioxide.

We know we can't solve this problem without China's participation, and that's why in this bill we will also have a provision that in the event there is not progress made, that there could be trade adjustment at the border for imports from China if, in fact, China is unable to move forward with this. Now, we hope it will succeed on that and that won't be necessary.

But the point is we are designing a bill that will capture the innovation, allow us to make the electric car here rather than China, and not lose jobs in the steel industry. And I think we have designed a bill that's going to accomplish that.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. We are following, on the Ways and Means, these provisions, closely. We are looking forward to having the bill out of your committee and on to our jurisdiction, one of the areas that Ways and Means jurisdiction deals with trade provisions. And we are quite confident that we can work with you in this area to make sure that people are not able to export their carbon pollution overseas or that other countries can import their carbon pollution into the United States.

I am looking forward to seeing the refinement that comes from your committee and working with my colleagues on Ways and Means to make sure that there are strong border protection provisions to make sure this is neutral. It is not anti-trade; it is not pro-trade. It is simply preserving the integrity of the carbon pollution regulation, and I am quite confident that these tools can be employed to accomplish precisely that.

Mr. INSLEE. I think, too, when we think about this clean energy future, it has to be in relationship with what other countries are doing as well. And when we pass this bill next year, it is going to be because we believe we are not going to cede these markets to countries who could steal these markets from us.

You know, we are in a race right now to see who is going to be dominant making electric cars and electric batteries. China has an interest in doing that, and they are making enormous investments to do that.

We are in a race today to decide who is going to dominate the solar-power industry. China is making enormous investments in their solar cells. In fact, I met a fellow from, I believe it was from, Indiana who had a solar cell manufacturing plant. And he had a guy walk in from China and plunk down $300 million and try to get him to move his plant to China, lock, stock and barrel.

And the fellow said, I am a red, white, and blue American, and I am not leaving. But that's what we are up against, and that's one of the reasons we intend to take an aggressive position here with research and development dollars, with limits on CO_2 that will spur investment and kick start the businesses here that we need so we can regain these markets.

You know, we invented solar energy in this country, but the Germans sort of commercialized it because they saw this a little before we did. We need to get in that game today and see to it that the companies like Infinia Companies and Nanosolar that's doing thin-cell photovoltaics and Bright Source.

By the way, I want to mention this one source of solar energy that people may not have heard about, the Bright Source Company and the Ausra Energy Company, two companies doing what's called concentrated solar power. What they do is they use mirrors in various fashions to concentrate radiant energy, heat up a liquid, make steam and then create electricity from it with zero pollution associated with it.

Bright Source has now signed contracts for thousands of megawatts of crystal pure solar energy in various places in the United States, and it would surprise you, it's not just Nevada. They have places in the Southeast where they can do this as well.

And it is this type of technological breakthrough that if we put our minds to it and pass this bill, we are going to jump-start jobs in this country.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the context that you have provided, and your unrelenting interest in understanding and acknowledging and advancing American technology, but, sadly, we are not—you mentioned having fallen behind the Germans, for example, in technologies that we developed in terms of the commercial application.

China is spending six times more than we spend on clean energy, $12.5 million every hour of Chinese expenditure. We can't afford to be complacent about this. We need a sense of urgency.

While we are pleased with what's happening in the Pacific Northwest, you referenced the large wind farm in southeastern Washington. Portland, Oregon, is competing with Denver and Houston to be the wind energy capital and a couple of international companies have located their American headquarters there. And there are many technologies that we helped initiate, but we are falling behind.

We rank below Spain, Denmark and Portugal in the use of wind power. We watched what happened where little Denmark, what, about the size of the State of Washington, set its sight on being a wind energy leader, being the wind energy leader 30 years ago and have accomplished amazing feats, both in terms of their own energy production and the dominance of world wind energy activity, that one of those leading companies I mentioned that has its American headquarters in Portland, is Vestas, a Danish company.

So we watch what countries that we think are less developed than in the United States, like the Chinese, or small countries, like Denmark, really making significant advancement and putting the pressure on us to step up and do what we know we can do.

Mr. INSLEE. The gentleman has mentioned wind. Some people think of wind as kind of a toy you get under a Christmas tree or something. In fact, wind energy, according to the Department of Energy, and this was under the previous President's Department of Energy, concluded that we could have 20 percent of all of our electricity generated by wind in the next couple of decades, just using existing technology.

Now, we believe there are going to be some advances in technology. We think there is a good shot at having good storage. One of the issues of wind, of course, is the wind doesn't blow all the time. It's an intermittent source. So there is two ways to get around that problem: one, have multiple wind sites that are tied together in an advanced transmission grid so if the wind is not blowing in one place, it will be blowing in another; or to have a storage system.

And I have talked to these companies now that are developing batteries that are as large as a semi-trailer, and these now have the potential of actually being grid connected to store wind and solar when we have excess power generation. So we think there is a reasonable chance to get to 20 percent, which is very significant, just on one technology alone. Then we have so many options, of course, including efficiency, which can be done everywhere, day or night.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. And even problems of the intermittency dealing with wind energy, if it is coupled with other areas of innovation, like plug-in hybrids and using storage capacity in vehicles to be able to help balance some of the loads, we have tremendous opportunities to have these work together.

I must say, we are both from the Pacific Northwest, the issue of wind integration and how we are going to do that is something that is looming large on my agenda. I know you are concerned. We have our regional power marketing authority, the Bonneville Power Administration, which has been a leader in helping facilitate wind energy, but now it's looking at really rather dramatic cost increases for wind integration, which I am hopeful that we can look at very hard and help them find ways to not provide disincentives for wind energy production right at the point where all of the incentives that we have put in place are starting to kick in.

□ 2100

It would be unfortunate if somehow they are priced out of the market at just the time we want to engage them.

Mr. INSLEE. We appreciate the gentleman's leadership on that. I want to

thank you. I must excuse myself, but I want to thank Mr. BLUMENAUER for being such a stalwart champion of these causes. We know there's going to be thousands of jobs created in this clean energy revolution, and I hope a lot of them are going to be in Oregon, which is a great State.

Thank you for letting me join you, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you, Congressman INSLEE, for joining us, and for your leadership and comments.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this Chamber will be able to reject the arguments of people who are looking at the smallest possible elements of the puzzle; people who are seeking to politicize it for short-term electoral gain at the expense of the long-term interests of our children.

I, frankly, have been embarrassed by some of the argumentation that we have heard; the misrepresentation of just basic factual information.

One of the things that we are hearing, sadly, from Republican leadership, is consistent misrepresentation, for instance, of the MIT study that you will hear referred to. The St. Petersburg Times had an editorial of late saying, ''The GOP is full of hot air about Obama's light-switch tax. If the Republicans had simply misstated the results of the MIT study, the Truth-O-Meter would have been content giving this one a False. But for them to keep repeating the claim after the author of the study told them it was wrong means we have to set the meter ablaze. Pants on Fire,'' was their evaluation.

In the Wall Street Journal: ''For starters, the figures cited by Republican House leadership is almost 10 times higher than the cost estimate provided in the study'' by Professor Reilly of MIT.

The Boston Globe: ''One particular issue is Republicans' assertion that a cap-and-trade system on greenhouse gases would mean a 'light switch tax.' 'It's just wrong,' Reilly said. 'Wrong in so many ways, it's hard to begin.' ''

I would hope, particularly when we still have not had the actual provisions of the legislation put in place, for people to make wild misrepresentations about costs and consequences does a disservice to what is one of the most important debates of our generation.

Being able to protect the planet, to restore our economy, to regain our position of technological leadership, and be able to put us on the path of sustainability environmentally and economically for the future, the stakes are too high to have misrepresentation, to have an inability for people to engage in reasonable discussion.

I know the Republican leader has said that his members shouldn't be legislators; they should be communicators. They should be talkers instead of doers. I hope—I fervently hope—that many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will reject the leadership's marching orders to politicize, to talk, and to not engage; but, instead, to deal with the facts; instead, deal with opportunities to restore our economy; to create millions of clean energy jobs—some in a whole new industry; that we take important steps to reduce the tragic dependence on imported oil.

Even if we weren't concerned about the pollution, even if we weren't concerned about global warming and the damage that is attendant thereto, just in terms of the strategic interests of the United States, we should stop wasting more oil than anyone in the world. We should stop using more oil per capita for transportation than anybody in the world. We should reduce our strategic vulnerability to actions of people who don't like us very much in unstable or hostile parts of the world. And, of course, the damage that is done to our economy by shipping over a billion dollars a day overseas.

I'm hopeful that we will be able to reduce the carbon pollution that causes global warming, that will enable us to be good stewards of the land now, because the effects of global warming are going to cost a lot more than the consequences of reducing it.

As we have discussed this evening, this is in fact an opportunity for us to put our economy back on track, create millions of jobs, strengthen our strategic position, while we make a contribution to the future of humankind.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to spend some time this evening dealing with this issue. I look forward to continuing the discussion about the new technologies, about the facts of science and economy on the floor as we prepare to move this legislation forward. Thank you.

THE HIDDEN HAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Tonight, I return to talk about an old topic and also to talk about something that's just happened in the last couple of weeks.

The Speaker may recall that a number of weeks ago there was outrage at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue when it was determined that located within the $792 billion stimulus bill there was a provision that authorized $173 million in bonuses to executives at the insurance company AIG. At the time, a number of us thought, Well, how could that happen?

It seems, just to review, Mr. Speaker, that when the stimulus package was considered on the other side of the Capitol in the United States Senate, two Senators, in a rare display of bipartisanship—Senator SNOWE, a Republican of Maine, and Senator WYDEN, a Democrat of Oregon—authored an amendment that would have put restrictions and basically indicated that if you were a firm like AIG that has received billions and billions of dollars in bailout money, perhaps there should be some restrictions on executive compensation and what people should make.

Well, a funny thing happened, however, on the way to the conference committee. The Snowe-Wyden language was removed and instead this paragraph was inserted.

Now this paragraph, if you read it carefully, Mr. Speaker, indicates that rather than placing restrictions on the bonuses, it specifically authorizes and exempts any bonus at AIG or any other Wall Street giant that received billions and billions of taxpayer money. Any executive compensation scheme that was entered into before February 11 of this year, which happened to be the date that the stimulus package was considered, would be exempt and the bonuses would be paid.

Now I have indicated a number of times on the floor that I know that a lot of people were embarrassed by that. I would suggest that that's what happens when you legislate in a sloppy, rushed, haphazard, nonpartisan fashion.

The Speaker will recall the week of the consideration of the stimulus bill, the members of the Republican Party—the minority party—put forward sort of a novel proposition, and that was since we were talking about spending $792 billion in the stimulus bill, it might be a good idea if Members had 48 hours to read the bill, and further suggested it should be put on the Internet so anybody in America could take a look at this over a thousand pages of legislation.

Well, that proposal passed. It came to a vote here in the House, and every Member who was present that day, Republican or Democrat, voted and agreed that that was a good idea. That we should have 48 hours to read the bill. That was Tuesday.

On Thursday, apparently the majority leadership forgot about the vote on Tuesday. And the bill was filed about midnight on Thursday.

The next morning—and I have apologized to my constituents that I didn't read the thousand pages at midnight. It didn't come to my attention that we had a thousand-page bill that we were going to consider on that Friday until I arrived at the office that morning.

But the debate was 90 minutes and, basically, Members, both Republican and Democrat, had 90 minutes to digest a thousand pages and determine whether or not that piece of legislation deserved an up or a down vote.

It was a bipartisan vote, in that every member of the Republican Conference voted against the stimulus bill, together with some Democrats. But the overriding majority of the Democratic Party voted in favor of it. And it passed and went on to be signed by the President of the United States.

What is strange is that everyone who voted for the stimulus bill voted for this paragraph that authorized the bonuses to AIG. Yet, the next day or days

after the bonuses were announced, everybody was coming to the floor beating their chest and pulling out their hair and saying, I'm shocked. I can't believe it. I don't know how this happened. We want our money back.

Well, nobody should have been surprised, nobody should have been shocked, because anyone who supported the stimulus package in the House or the Senate voted—the final conference report—voted to specifically allow AIG and anybody else that had received billions of dollars of taxpayer money and bailouts to receive those bailout payments.

But people were shocked. And so they came up with—I will call them goofy—they came up with goofy pieces of legislation in an attempt to cover their political rear ends.

And so the first one was, Let's tax those bonuses at 90 percent. Well, what a dumb piece of legislation that was, Mr. Speaker. So tomorrow we decide we're mad at somebody else. Maybe tomorrow we're mad at the oil companies so let's tax them at 90 percent. Day after that, we're really not happy with the airlines so let's tax them at 90 percent.

To use the Tax Code to punish a small group of people when the mistake was made when this paragraph was inserted in the stimulus package is inappropriate and, thankfully, the President of the United States—President Obama—expressed his opinion that it wasn't a worthy piece of legislation, and it has died a natural death over in the United States Senate, where it exactly should have.

The next dumb idea that people came up with was, Well, I know. Let's not tax these bonuses at 90 percent. Let's have the United States Treasury—the government—tell people how much money they can make. What a dumb idea that is.

So, today it's the AIG guys. Again, tomorrow, let's say that we are not so crazy about the amount of money that bus drivers make. Well, why doesn't the Department of Transportation—Secretary LaHood—just figure out what the bus drivers in the country should make? Another cover-your-rear-end piece of legislation.

So in response to all this we have been coming to the floor on a semiregular basis to try and determine, because even though everybody was outraged, no one will say how the first language was removed from the bill and how this paragraph was placed in the bill.

And so we have devised a game that most Americans are familiar with—the game of Clue. A great game, and I recommend that everyone think about running out to Hasbro to get either the original edition or this edition.

This is the case of ''The Hidden Hand.'' And that is: Who took out the Snowe-Wyden amendment and who wrote that paragraph that I had displayed on the chart before?

Now there are a number of suspects. We have taken some out, we have put some in. But if you read the news reports of the final negotiations on the stimulus bill, we know that it either happened in the Speaker's office or the conference room, and there was this shuttle diplomacy going back and forth as to what the final bill was going to look like.

As a matter of fact, the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL of New York, was quoted in the paper the next day words to the effect that, It's difficult to get stuff done when only three people run the institution. So we excluded a couple of weeks ago Chairman RANGEL. He's not the hidden hand. He didn't do it.

So, like the game of Clue, we know that it happened in the Speaker's office or the conference room, and we know that the weapon that was used was a pen. What we can't figure out and what people haven't owned up to at this moment in time is: Who did it? It's pretty simple. Quite frankly, somebody did it. The thing didn't appear from nowhere.

□ 2115

Someone had to actually say to the drafters of the document, take out Snowe-Wyden, and put in what's commonly been now referred to as the Dodd amendment. Put in the Dodd amendment.

Now we have asked repeatedly, and we have asked everybody we can find, Did you do it? And no one has answered the question, I did it or why.

So because we couldn't finish the game of Clue on our own, we embarked on another tack. About a month ago I filed what's called a resolution of inquiry. It was directed to the Secretary of the Treasury, and it basically asked the Treasury to provide to the United States Congress all of the documents and communications with AIG and others to try to figure out who the hidden hand was, how the Dodd amendment had got into the stimulus package.

Well, I want to recognize a champion, somebody who's been more than good to his word, the chairman of the full Committee on Financial Services, BARNEY FRANK of Massachusetts, after it was filed came to me and said, I'll do whatever you want me to do with this resolution. If you want me to not consider it, I won't consider it. If you want me to consider it, we'll consider it. And I said, I would like you to consider it.

So Chairman FRANK took it before the Financial Services Committee. Everybody would have 48 hours to read the bill. The resolution of inquiry was called up, and everybody on the Committee on Financial Services, every Republican and every Democrat voted for this resolution of inquiry.

And I'm thinking to myself, Now we're going to get someplace. Now we're going to figure out who the hidden hand is. Now we are going to figure out who sought to protect the $173 million of bonuses paid to AIG.

And right before we broke a couple weeks ago, Chairman FRANK came to the floor, good to his word. He filed the report and recommended that the Financial Services Committee report the bill favorably to the House.

Now I thought surely we would have a debate on that. Again, this wasn't a party-line vote. It wasn't close. It was 63–0 or 64–0. And I thought for sure we could get this resolved so we could go down to the Treasury, and the Treasury could hand over the documents and we could be done with the game of Clue, and we could solve whether or not it was the Speaker, did she want to do it? Whether it was HARRY REID, the majority leader in the Senate. Whether it was Mr. Geithner, who is the new Secretary of the Treasury. Whether it was the chief of staff to the President of the United States, Mr. Emanuel, because some press accounts indicated that before it could be removed, they had to get the approval of the White House. Well, who in the White House approved it? We've cleared Chairman RANGEL, and a lot of fingers were pointed at Senator DODD, the distinguished Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, that perhaps he had inserted it.

But what people have said to this moment in time, Mr. Speaker, is that Secretary Geithner called the head guy at AIG, and the head guy said, Well, we've got some legal problems with the bonuses. So we need to go forward.

But nobody yet has come forward and said, I took the language out, and I put the language in, and here's why.

So I was happy when Chairman FRANK reported the bill. And I thought, I know that the distinguished leader, majority leader of the House, Mr. HOYER of Maryland, is going to call that bill up. We're going to debate it. We're going to vote on it.

Again, 63–0, all the Democrats, all the Republicans voted for it. I was sure it would sail through the House. But I've been waiting, and I've been waiting a month.

I know you know this, Mr. Speaker. But legislation can only come to the floor here in the House of Representatives when it is authorized and called up by the majority leader, in this case, Mr. HOYER of Maryland.

There is an exception to that. So I waited for the bill to be called up. I waited for a debate. It never happened, and so I filed, about 2 weeks ago, a rule and today at the Speaker's desk is a discharge petition to discharge that rule so we can have a debate, so we can finally get down to brass tacks, and we can figure out who the hidden hand is, and we can figure out who decided that we should protect the AIG bonuses when these companies have gotten billions of dollars of bailout money and why. That's a pretty simple question.

Now I'm optimistic—there's a meeting tomorrow at 4 o'clock with the Treasury Department, and they've been pretty cooperative. They're going to come over, and hopefully we'll be able to resolve what it is that we are seeking through the resolution of inquiry. I hope so.

If not, I really hope that the distinguished majority leader would call up this piece of legislation so that we can have a debate, and we can get on with it. And we can solve this problem that outraged the President of the United States, it outraged Members of Congress, it outraged the public. This would help us figure out how to solve the problem.

Now what we hear a lot of times around here is, well, we have so many important things to do that you're looking backwards.

I mean, okay. We gave away billions of dollars in TARP money. We gave away and authorized $173 million, and somehow somebody in the dead of night inserted this language into the bill with a hidden hand. But get over it because we have important work to do in the House of Representatives. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, we have heard that a lot since the beginning of the 110th Congress, the last Congress.

I will tell you, I mean, we voted today. I think every person in the United States needs to feel comfortable because they will not go in and buy a new 44 cent stamp at a post office that hasn't been named by the House of Representatives over the last 2 years.

We spent a lot of time naming Federal buildings. We spent a lot of time naming post offices, and this happened to us last year too.

The Speaker may remember that last summer everybody was talking about not AIG and bailouts, but everybody was talking about gas prices. And in many parts of the country, gas—for the first time in my lifetime, a gallon of gasoline went over $4 a gallon. At that time we asked the new majority party, could we have a debate and come up with an energy bill and relieve some of the pain that people are experiencing at the pump? And they said, Well, we're really too busy to get to that.

So a lot of Republicans took to the floor during our August recess and talked about the fact that we needed to do something. We needed to do all of the above. We needed to have clean coal technology. We needed to look at the renewables, wind, solar, geothermal. We needed to determine whether or not we were going to explore for more oil and natural gas in the United States.

But again, because it is the majority party that calls the tune in the House of Representatives. They're the only people, with some exceptions, that can call up legislation. That never happened.

And they said, you know what, we're really busy, and we really don't have time to talk about gasoline. And a lot of us said, you know, okay, when gasoline was $2.22 on January 29, 2007, which was about the beginning of the 110th Congress when the voters—because we, Republicans, had done such a great job—threw us out and installed the Democrats as the majority party in the House of Representatives, gas was $2.22. And rather than talking about energy, we passed a resolution congratulating the University of California Santa Clara soccer team.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that every parent and every player on that soccer team is proud of what it is that they accomplished, but not as important as the pain that our constituents were beginning to feel at the pump.

But you could say, hey, it's only $2.22. What's the big deal? So maybe it's not a crisis. Well, then on September 5 of that year, gasoline goes up to $2.84. And you would say, oh, you know, I'll bet we're going to talk about gasoline prices and the national energy policy. That has to be something that we're going to consider on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Well, when gas hits $2.84, the most important issue that the majority can bring up is National Passport Month. Now I like passports. I think passports should be honored. But gas is creeping up to $2.84.

Well, it begins to get a little more serious. In February of 2008 it hits $3.03. You know that we're going to begin talking and take this problem seriously. But on the day that the national average reached $3.03 a gallon, the most important piece of legislation that the majority could bring to the floor was to commend the Houston Dynamo soccer team for what they did.

Now, you know, those of us in elected office know the new buzzword, we have to look at the soccer moms. So apparently we had to get the soccer moms not once, we had to get them twice because our two resolutions, when gas was $3.03 and when we started, they honor soccer folks.

But then a big jump happens. In the spring of 2008, gas goes to $3.77 a gallon. And you say, well, listen, you know, we're going to talk about gas now because my phone was ringing off the hook. I assume the Speaker's phone was ringing off the hook. And you know that we're going to have a national energy bill that we were going to discuss because they are honest disagreements. Some people were saying, Drill, baby, drill. Some people were saying conserve. All we wanted to have was a debate.

So gas hits $3.77, and you know we're going to have that debate in the House, but not yet.

On that day, gas hits $3.77, and the most important thing we can do here in the Congress is to commemorate National Train Day. Now, again, I think trains—we've made a big mistake in this country by not investing in rail transportation, passenger rail transportation. But when gas is $3.77, maybe we could come up with something better than National Train Day.

Gas continues to climb. We're out to almost Memorial Day last year, where we are about this year. $3.84 a gallon. And the most important thing that the majority can give us is the Great Cats and Rare Canids Day Act. Now, I have to tell you, I know what a great cat is. Those are lions and tigers and things like that. But I didn't know what a canid was. And if you don't know, Mr. Speaker, it's a dog.

So on that day when our constituents were paying $3.84 a gallon to fill up their cars, we were recognizing dogs and cats on the House floor.

It continues to go up as we get to June, $4.09. It crests $4, as I said, for the first time in my lifetime. You know we're going to talk about gas in the greatest deliberative body in the world.

But no. On that day when the national average was $4.09, we declared 2008 the International Year of Sanitation.

Now some of the people back in my district were not understanding this. They're saying, are you kidding me? We're paying $4.09 a gallon, and you are declaring this the International Year of Sanitation?

But it peaks out there on June 17, 2008, $4.14 a gallon. Now clearly everybody in the country is screaming about energy. All you have to do is turn on the television and see the talking heads. They're all talking about energy, why is gas so expensive? Well, you know now, we're going to get it. Now we're going to understand. We've got to have a national energy debate. What direction are we going to go in to reduce our reliance on foreign oil? Seventy percent of the oil that we use in this country is brought in from other countries. Surely we're going to do something about that.

And I'll bet when I take this sticky note off of June 17, the day that gas hits $4.14, I know we had a debate on energy that day.

□ 2130

No. It wasn't an energy debate on that particular day. We passed the Monkey Safety Act. Now, Mr. Speaker, I don't know anybody that wants unsafe monkeys. We should want safe monkeys in the United States of America. But on the day that our constituents are paying $4.14 a gallon for gas, do you think that the most important issue facing the United States Congress, this august body, is the Monkey Safety Act? Well, it was to those who schedule the floor. So, sadly, we thought maybe people got it, that that probably wasn't the best use of our time when gas was going through the roof.

Well, this year, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman knows, we have had a big problem with unemployment. Our Nation is hurting. There are people that have lost their jobs, and there are people that continue to lose their jobs. And so on January 6, which was the opening day of this 111th Congress, we all got together, and it is before President Obama took the oath of office, because we all know that that historic day was January 20, you have an unemployment rate that is beginning to climb. But as you see at the outside, by the time we get to the end, it is pretty significant.

Well, so January 6 is the opening day of the United States Congress. January 20 is the day that President Obama was inaugurated, and there you see unemployment has inched up a little bit. You certainly can't blame President Obama. He was not even the President of the United States then, but the Congress was in session since January 6. That is when the new Congress started. We elected Speaker PELOSI again to be the Speaker of the House.

So we get along to February 3. Again, the Congress has been working hard for 1 month, and you know that we are going to have some economic package to help alleviate the pain that is going on in this country with people that have lost their jobs. But on February 3, the most important thing that we could do here in the House was to pass a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating. Now, I don't know whether that means that teens are dating nationally or it is a national day of teen dating, but rather than talking about the pain that was being experienced in communities all across the country, we recognized teen dating. Now, again, like with the monkeys, I want teen dating to be safe.

Well, unemployment continues to rise. We get to February 10. Hundreds of thousands of more people lost their jobs, and on that day, the best we can do here in the House is to commend Sam Bradford for winning the Heisman Trophy. And just like the soccer moms, I'm sure that the Bradford family is more than pleased, and they should be. They should be proud of what their son has accomplished. But again, unemployment continues to rise, hundreds of thousands of people are losing their jobs, but we are too busy to talk about that. We are going to do that.

Now, February 24, you will notice a theme here, Mr. Speaker, unemployment continues to go up. And I know we are going to deal with this situation and that we are going to find a way to help people who have lost their jobs. But because the United States Senate didn't enact the Monkey Safety Act last year, we called up the Monkey Safety Act again. And so for the second time in 2 years, we didn't have time to do an energy policy, we didn't have time to talk about unemployment, but we did have time in the House to pass the Monkey Safety Act not once but twice.

Unemployment continues to go up on March 3. And just in case anybody is confused about the United States Congress' commitment to animals, we pass the Shark Conservation Act.

And as unemployment continues to arc out, and I apologize for only going to March 12, because it has continued to rise since then, I bet we are going to talk about unemployment and how we help people back home. But on that day, we passed the resolution supporting ''Pi Day.'' Now, I was excited when I got the whip notice, because I thought it was p-i-e, pie. And I like pie a lot. But this pi is the mathematical 3.14. And rather than discussing a lot of things that are going on in the United States, we felt it was necessary and that the most important thing was to recognize pi and support ''Pi Day,'' and we all did, and we are all really happy that we did, because the country is a better place because we recognize pi on March 11.

So, coming back to the game of Clue, I think that we have demonstrated that maybe we weren't too busy to get to the resolution of inquiry. Maybe we weren't too busy to figure out who put that offending paragraph in. Maybe we weren't too busy to explain to our constituents how folks on Wall Street who have sucked up billions and billions of taxpayer dollars that are paid into the Treasury by hardworking people all across the country, how through a drafting, it wasn't an oversight, somebody intentionally put it in there, how they rewarded these people with $173 million of bonuses.

Now, all we want is for people to say, ''I did it, and here is why I did it,'' and then we can move on to do something else. But to indicate that we are too busy to get to that question I think is not okay.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the second issue that brings me to the floor is last week and the week before, the country was rocked with the announcement of the bankruptcy filing of Chrysler. And a lot of people deserve credit. The President of the United States deserves credit. His auto task force deserves credit. The workers at the Chrysler plants across the country, the ownership, the employees, the white collar employees all deserve credit for making concessions and attempting to work it out. The Italian automaker Fiat had been courted. The President said, You have 30 days to work out a deal with Fiat or bad things are going to happen. Fiat stepped up to the plate. And 1 week ago Wednesday, and this is where, really, it is baffling to me, 1 week ago Wednesday, United Auto Worker members all across the country, and there are about 38, 39,000 of them that work for Chrysler, went to their local union halls to determine whether or not to ratify an agreement making these concessions so that the Chrysler deal could move forward either in or out of bankruptcy, and Fiat could purchase those assets out of bankruptcy if that is the way it went.

And you may remember that there were a number of bondholders, people that held the paper for Chrysler, and most of them agreed to negotiate what it is they were owed. There were some that did not. And so the only route left was to go into bankruptcy, and Fiat now will purchase Chrysler's assets out of bankruptcy. But all of the autoworkers that worked for Chrysler went to the union hall and voted whether or not to accept these pretty big concessions, and it passed.

As a matter of fact, I have a Chrysler facility in my district, the 14th District of Ohio. It is the Twinsburg stamping plant. And those approximately 1,200 union workers went to vote on Wednesday, and 88 percent of them voted to approve the concessions that were being asked of them.

And a couple of things. The paragraph, Mr. Speaker, that is on the easel now behind me is, if you look at the agreement reached between the autoworkers and Chrysler, there was a specific provision. And as a matter of fact, the president of local 122 in Twinsburg, Doug Rice, deserves a lot of credit, because if you look at the stamping plant in Twinsburg, what you saw was they were stamping parts for an assembly facility in Newark that was not going to be utilized anymore. So recognizing that there may be a downturn and that people may use that downturn as an excuse to shutter the facility, Doug Rice specifically negotiated a paragraph that is labeled, ''Twinsburg Stamping Plant.'' And, Mr. Speaker, I will insert page 4 of the UAW agreement into the RECORD.

SOURCING, PRODUCT AND INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

SOURCING

The UAW strengthened our involvement in early product sourcing decisions. Annually, the company will review its five-year global assembly and powertrain cycle plan with the union.

In addition, sourcing-related activities have been identified in which the UAW will participate to accomplish early and direct involvement for our members.

CURRENT AND FUTURE PRODUCT COMMITMENT AND FUTURE INSOURCING OPPORTUNITIES

The 2007 Product Commitment and Investment Letter reflects the company's plans. It is understood that additional confidential dialogue has been exchanged with respect to the favorable effect of a Chrysler/Fiat alliance on Chrysler's operations. The effect could result in incremental product loading in the company's assembly and powertrain operations.

UNION INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPLIER RELATIONS

The UAW and Chrysler agree that there are ways in which a seat supplier and its union can achieve a competitive labor cost structure that enables the supplier to provide a competitive bid to the company.

To advance those opportunities the union will explore a variety of means to ensure a competitive, fully fringed labor rate.

During these negotiations the UAW and Chrysler agreed that a fully fringed labor rate of $35 per hour for seat assembly when the work is being done at a supplier is considered by the company to be competitive.

SUPPLIER MEETINGS

The parties will continue ongoing dialogue to review the supply base and review opportunities to improve the company's supplier base. Discussions will include the quarterly Distressed Supplier Roundtable meetings with senior management from Procurement and Supply, Union Relations and the National Committee, and UAW Chrysler Department leadership.

PRODUCT LOADING REVIEW

The UAW and Chrysler LLC will meet to review vehicle plans for assembly, stamping, powertrain and components operations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss long-term plans for the company.

SOURCING ADDENDUM

As stipulated in the 2007 CBA, the current Roundtable and Powertrain meetings will

continue to provide an avenue for union involvement in the Chrysler product decision-making process.

Roundtable Meeting

The UAW-Chrysler Roundtable Meeting will continue on an annual basis and will include comprehensive vehicle plans for the United States, Canada and Mexico assembly, stamping, powertrain and components.

Powertrain Meeting

The UAW-Chrysler Powertrain meeting will continue each year and include a comprehensive review of the United States, Canada and Mexico Powertrain Long Range Plan and Powertrain Plant product loading.

The UAW will continue to participate in the Product Team Sourcing, Pre-Program Start and Program Start meetings, giving us the opportunity to focus on information provided throughout the Chrysler Development System process and Supplier Selection Period. The National and Local Job Security Operational Effectiveness and Sourcing Committees provide an additional avenue for UAW input on sourcing decisions.

UAW, CHRYSLER AND SUPPLIER PARTNERSHIPS

The company has agreed to a quarterly meeting between the UAW Vice President and Director of the UAW Chrysler Department and Chrysler Purchasing Directors for commodities and supplied parts, to foster partnership between the UAW, Chrysler and key suppliers.

TWINSBURG STAMPING PLANT

During these discussions the company agreed to review the long-term utilization plan for the Twinsburg Stamping Plant and to share those plans with the UAW. The company will consider investment costs and current market demand in determining the plant's suitability for placing non-stamping work in the facility, at tier-11 rates, to keep TSP viable.

FIAT INVESTMENT AND PRODUCT COMMITMENT

Your UAW leadership has been in intense negotiations with representatives of Fiat and Chrysler over the past several months to arrive at a partnership arrangement that will secure Chrysler's long-term viability. As a result of these discussions, the term sheet establishing the Chrysler/Fiat alliance includes a commitment from Fiat to manufacture a small car in one of Chrysler's U.S. facilities.

In addition, Fiat will share key technology with Chrysler, (such as the 3.0 liter diesel and 1.4 liter gas engines) and all its product platforms. This is equivalent to an investment by Fiat amounting to more than $8 billion and will create approximately 4,000 new UAW jobs in the United States.

So this paragraph indicates that during these discussions, and this was Wednesday again when they were asked to vote on it, Chrysler agreed to review the long-term utilization plan. The company will consider investment costs and current market demand in determining the plant's suitability for placing nonstamping work at the facility at tier 2 rates to keep the stamping plant viable. So what the people at 122 think that their president negotiated, and he did, was a provision that, okay, we have tough times here in Twinsburg, but now the company has agreed that we are going to look at ways to bring other work to Twinsburg.

So they went to vote 1 week ago Wednesday, and 88 percent of local 122 voted to approve the contract. Well, then sadly for those folks, the sun came up 1 week ago Thursday, and my day was a lot like the day of other Members of Congress who have Chrysler facilities in their district. The first thing that happened was that we had a conference call, if you wanted to participate, with President Obama's automobile task force. And on the phone was Ron Bloom, who is the head of it, Larry Summers, who is the President's financial adviser, and maybe a couple more. And Members of Congress, Governors and other people who were interested were in on the call.

The notes that I took contemporaneously with that telephone call, it began with, ''This is a good day for Chrysler and the people that work there.'' They went on to describe how the bankruptcy was going to work and basically what I described before, that because some of these bondholders wouldn't come to the table, we had to go the bankruptcy route, but the good news was, on the other side, Fiat was going to purchase Chrysler out of bankruptcy and we were going to move on.

I thought I—I know that I understood that that meant that the plants were going to stay open. We did hear that there was going to be some idling, which they said at 1 o'clock, when you talk to Chrysler, Chrysler will tell you what the idling is, but no indication of plant closures, no indication of job losses, and so we moved on.

So then at noon, at the White House, and it is a pretty famous picture now, the President of the United States, President Obama, made the announcement at 12 o'clock 1 week ago Thursday about Chrysler. And like many Americans, and certainly many people who work at Chrysler, this is what the President of the United States said on April 30 of this year at the White House: ''No one should be confused about what a bankruptcy process means. It will not disrupt the lives of the people who work at Chrysler or live in communities that depend on it.''

Now, that is a pretty clear observation. I understood it. And then at 1 o'clock, the former CEO of Chrysler, Mr. Nardelli, had another conference call in which anybody who had questions or wanted to hear from the head of Chrysler could participate in that conference call. And you could ask questions. I asked a question about the supply chain, would the suppliers be paid?

The first question during that call came from the Governor of the State of Michigan, Mrs. Granholm, and I thought that she asked a really great question. She said that when the President made this announcement, he said, it is a great day, words to that effect, we are going to be able to save 30,000 jobs. And Governor Granholm asked Mr. Nardelli, This is great work, nicely done. We are very proud of you, but I just want to ask a question. I want to make sure that when the President of the United States said 30,000 jobs, he wasn't speaking in code, because there are about 39,000 people that work for the Chrysler car company in the United States of America. And after a lot of discussion about how many people were worldwide and all this other business, no, the President wasn't speaking in code. The jobs are safe. The plants are safe.

Now, I left that phone call feeling pretty good. And as a matter of fact, I called my communications director and I said, Hey, put out a press release praising President Obama, praising his task force, and praising all the people that made sacrifices at Chrysler, because this was a pretty good day. No plants are closing. Nobody is losing their jobs, and we are going to move on.

Let me just go back to that phone call and express the disappointment, because I know that the folks at Chrysler are under a great deal of pressure today. But that phone call, when we got on the phone call, you had to agree and understand that the phone call was being taped. And so what I just referenced about Governor Granholm would have been tape-recorded on that telephone call.

We also had a Democratic Member of Congress on the phone from Wisconsin, and it was Representative GWEN MOORE of Milwaukee. She asked directly about the future of the Kenosha, Wisconsin, engine plant which employs 800 people. But for some reason, and Mr. Nardelli now says that he made a mistake and he confused Kenosha with another plant in Trenton, but in responding to Congresswoman MOORE, he said, I mistakenly conveyed the status of the Phoenix investment in Trenton, Michigan. It is not even in the same State. I thought Trenton was in Wisconsin. So you have got Kenosha, Wisconsin, and you got Trenton, Michigan.

The facts that I described were accurate, and he basically told Congresswoman MOORE they loved the plant, everything was good, everything was going to be okay. And like my folks in Twinsburg, Ohio, I assumed that the 800 autoworkers in Kenosha, Wisconsin, that went to the ballot box to determine whether or not they would voluntarily reduce their compensation and benefits thought that meant they would continue to have jobs.

□ 2145

But that turned out not to be the case. Later that afternoon, buried in the voluminous bankruptcy filing by Chrysler, which was anticipated, was the fact that the first five, and then erstwhile reporters dug out eight Chrysler plants across the country were scheduled to be closed on a sliding schedule. In the case of Twinsburg in 2010, and roughly 9,000 auto workers who worked for Chrysler were going to be out of jobs and their plants were going to be closed.

Imagine my surprise, among other people, and the fellow from Chrysler called and apologized. He said, We are

sorry to have communicated that in that way. We wish we could have done it in another way.

I said, Listen, who knew that these plants were going to be closed? If you were an auto worker in Twinsburg, Ohio, why would you vote for a contract that meant you wouldn't have a job? Why would you vote for a contract that meant that you weren't going to have a job any more? It didn't make sense.

Although the apologies are nice, we have a situation where 39,000 auto workers went into the ballot box believing that by approving this new contract and these concessions, they were going to save the company and they were going to save their jobs.

So I issued a second release saying that is not what I heard on the conference calls, it is not what I heard from Chrysler, it is not what I heard from the President's Auto Task Force, and it is not what I heard the President of the United States say on Thursday.

Well, the first response to my local newspaper, Cleveland Plain Dealer, was that I was confused. And so I immediately went out and I bought one of those new Miracle Ears, and I now have the Miracle Ear so I can understand things a little more clearly than I did before. But I began checking with other people on the call, and their recollections were the same as mine.

I called Chrysler and said, You know what, I don't think I misunderstood, but I know this telephone call was taped because your contractor said at the beginning of the call the call is going to be taped, and if you don't want to be on a taped call, hang up and don't participate in the call.

I said to really prove this, Why don't you just give me the tape. And then I said, Well, okay, not the tape, give me the transcript.

They called back. They said there is a transcript; the lawyers have to figure out whether or not you can have the transcript. This was last Wednesday. And today, I got kind of a terse letter that has a question that was asked by a representative of my Governor, Governor Strickland, on the phone call, and they have been kind enough to give me those two paragraphs, but no transcript, no observations, no words that I know that they have that were spoken by Governor Granholm, no words that were spoken by Representative GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin either.

So I have to tell you, it is a difficult conversation that we are having.

The mayor of Twinsburg, Kathy Procop, who is a wonderful mayor, sent Mr. Bloom, the head of the President's Auto Task Force, a note; and I have to tell you, he was very prompt in responding to her on May 6 and basically she was saying, I don't understand. I don't understand how we went from Twinsburg is open and people popping champagne corks celebrating to Twinsburg is now closed. So Mr. Bloom in the operative section of the letter, which is the second full paragraph, writes: While the original February 17 plan submitted by Chrysler was not deemed viable by the task force, the more recently proposed Fiat-Chrysler alliance plan has been approved. This plan included the same plant closure schedule as the one originally proposed by Chrysler, and the President's comments were meant to convey the message that the bankruptcy of Chrysler had in no way changed these plans.

So when the President spoke at noon a week ago Thursday and said no one should be confused about a bankruptcy or what the process means, it will not disrupt the lives of people who work at Chrysler or live in communities who depend on it, it is kind of like in baseball where they put an asterisk next to the record, that ''except.'' I mean, it would have been a simple thing for him to go on to say except for the eight plants that have been identified but not revealed to anybody in the February 17 plan which we rejected. Then everybody would have understood. Everybody would have known.

But when the leader of the Free World stands up and says, It is not going to disrupt the lives of people who work for Chrysler or the communities that depend on it, I can just tell you, Mr. Speaker, that 1,200 people work at the Twinsburg stamping plant. It is disrupting every one of their lives. And the city of Twinsburg, where it is located, the Chrysler plant is 13 percent of their tax base. And it is clearly not only the pain of individual families and individual employees, but it is clearly going to affect the schools, the police department, the fire service, the garbage pickup. So I have trouble accepting this paragraph from Mr. Bloom that the President was just saying, Listen, no lives are going to be disrupted unless we have already determined you are going to get the ax.

The problem with that is they all point to this document that was rejected by the President's Auto Task Force that was filed on February 17. The problem with that argument, and when people were saying I was confused, it was a simple misunderstanding, we went out and I read and my staff read the agreement, or the proposal, that was filed by Chrysler on February 17 that was rejected.

Nowhere in this document, nowhere in the 177 pages is there any indication that the stamping plant in Twinsburg was going to be closed; that the plant in Kenosha was going to be closed; that the plant in Fenton, Missouri, was going to be closed; that the plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan, was going to be closed.

So I guess when people say that the workers who voted for the contract and then were told the next day that they were going to lose their jobs should have known, the only way they could have known, because everybody says we didn't make it public, we couldn't make it public, the only people who would have known are people with ESP, people who can read the minds of the President's task force and the minds of people at Chrysler, because clearly nobody else could have contemplated that these 9,000 people who voted in good faith to ratify a contract that reduced their benefits, reduced their pay, could have said, Listen, I'm voting to end my job. As a matter of fact, the president of Local 122 who I mentioned earlier, Mr. Rice, will be here this week. But in conversations with me on the telephone he said, Look, we are shocked. I specifically negotiated this paragraph into the UAW-Chrysler agreement that said that we were going to bring more work to Twinsburg. So to go from voting for an agreement that you think will not only preserve your job, and you are getting additional work, to not having a job, I don't understand why people are surprised that people are surprised.

So, clearly, Mr. Speaker, we have a problem. So in the spirit of the theme, since we have almost concluded The Case of the Hidden Hand as to how the AIG bonuses got into the stimulus package, we have developed Clue, The Travel Edition. And this is one that you can play in a car with your kids. It is called The Travel Edition because we are talking about Chrysler. In this case we don't have a pen. The perpetrator didn't alter the stimulus package with a pen. Instead, he or she used an ax. They basically used that ax to stop the employment of 9,000 people who work in this country making automobiles.

And as you see around the edge, of course in the top right you recognize the President of the United States, President Obama; and his economic adviser, Mr. Lawrence Summers; Robert Nardelli, the former CEO of Chrysler; Mr. Geithner, the Secretary of the Treasury; and Ron Bloom who was the head of President's task force. I also, just for the benefit of the Speaker, I put a picture of President George W. Bush up there, and you may ask why did I put President Bush up there, and I would just tell you there are some people in this country who blame President Bush for everything, and so we wanted to make sure that we had him as a potential suspect.

But, again, in this group, and I really don't think it was the President of the United States, President Obama, but in this group between the President's Automobile Task Force and Mr. Nardelli and others at Chrysler, somebody knew, and I would suggest more than somebody knew, that the bankruptcy filing which was going to be filed a week ago Thursday afternoon had a provision in it to cease the livelihood over time of eight Chrysler plants employing about 9,000 people. The only problem with that is they forgot to tell the 9,000 people. They forgot to tell the people who were thinking that they were being good employees, good Americans, and agreeing voluntarily to a reduction in the amount of money they make, but the trade-off was Chrysler was going to survive and they would have jobs.

So hopefully at the 4 p.m. meeting tomorrow with the Department of the Treasury, we will solve the Case of the Hidden Hand and figure out how the AIG bonuses were protected. We now embark on a new mission, and that is where, we go the ax, we got the weapon out of the way, we just need to identify what room it took place in and which one of these gentlemen, and I would remove the 43rd and 44th President of the United States who knew, and why didn't you tell anybody? And why did you let 9,000 people vote to end their jobs?

Now, we are going to continue to ask Chrysler for a copy of that telephone call from 1 p.m. in the afternoon. We are going to, if necessary, file another resolution of inquiry directed at the White House. But we will, I think, get to the bottom of this.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I know, sadly, that what we will hear is, Let's look forward; let's talk about rebuilding. Let's talk about doing wonderful things.

But before you can look forward, you need to look back and you need to find out what happened to these 9,000 hard-working Americans that have manufactured American-made cars in some cases for many, many years.

But I fear based upon our debate on energy prices and gasoline prices last summer, and based upon our experience with the AIG bonuses this year, that we will again be told we are too busy. We have post offices to name. We have to honor pi, 3.14, the mathematical formula.

This is my last chart and the last observations I will make. This chart indicates the number of people who work for Chrysler who have lost their jobs from January 12 of this year to this week.

And so in January, 4,000 people at Chrysler lost their jobs. Again, rather than figuring this thing out, we passed a resolution here in the House of Representatives honoring the life of Claiborne Pell who was a wonderful and great former United States Senator; but we didn't talk about Chrysler.

Then in February, and by then about 9,500 people from Chrysler have lost their jobs. And for a reprise, a surprise revisit, we again, because the Senate apparently didn't take it up last year, we again passed supporting the goals and ideals of national teen dating. So while people are losing their jobs at Chrysler by the thousands, at least teen dating has been covered here in the Congress.

We get to the middle of March, and you are now up to about 11,000 people at Chrysler have lost their jobs all across the country, and the Monkey Safety Act makes a return appearance. This time there was a tragic accident where a pet monkey attacked a woman and really injured her, and so I don't make light of the fact that she will need serious medical attention and the Monkey Act is probably a decent piece of legislation, but when you have 11,000 Chrysler workers out of work, what are we doing passing the Monkey Safety Act again?

□ 2200

In April, we got up to about 13,000 jobs, and, you know, we'll do something for Chrysler, but the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act comes back to the floor. And, again, when 13,000 people are out of work, we talk about cats and dogs.

But then it gets up to 16,000, and, you know, just like with gas prices, just like with the AIG bonuses, I know that the United States Congress will not sit still while 16,000 of their countrymen have lost their jobs. But the most important piece of legislation that the majority can schedule on the day that 16,000 people were now unemployed at Chrysler, we awarded a Gold Medal to Arnold Palmer, the golfer. Now, I think Arnold Palmer is a great American. I think Arnold Palmer deserved the Gold Medal. I don't know, when you have 16,000 Chrysler workers out of work, why that's the most important issue that the majority can bring to the table.

And now this week, that number is up to 18,000. That 18,000 does not include the 9,000 people that voted the other day to terminate their jobs. But, again, we have a repeat, 18,000 people at Chrysler out of work, and the most important issue on the House floor, National Train Day.

Madam Speaker, we are not too busy to do this, as these charts clearly indicate, and the 9,000 workers and the people in communities all across America that will now see their tax bases decrease, people out of work, deserve to know which one of these gentlemen, or do we have to add another suspect, which one of these gentlemen knew, as they sent those people into the polling place to approve a concession contract, which one of these people knew that they were going to terminate their jobs, close their plants, and decimate their communities.

So, Madam Speaker, I look forward to returning to another day and continuing the adventure of Clue, the Travel Edition. I thank the Speaker for her courtesy.

THE 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for half the time until midnight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity, and it's always a pleasure to follow my good friend from northeast Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), who is not only a good advocate, I think, for his congressional district but also a very good friend and a fellow Lebron James fan. So we want to congratulate the Cavaliers, and I want to thank Mr. LATOURETTE.

Madam Speaker, we are representing the 30-Something Group here tonight, a group that was started several years ago by then Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI when the Democrats were in the minority, and we were talking about issues that were facing the men and women of this country in their thirties and began to frame some of the Republican agenda at that point as it affected the 30-somethings and also used it as an opportunity to talk about the young people in this country, how the decisions that were being made by then—the then Bush administration would not only have a short-term effect on the young people of our country but also have long-term consequences. And unfortunately today, Madam Speaker, we are dealing with many of those consequences that were laid at the plate of now President Obama, laid at the plate of the now Democratic Congress and, quite frankly, laid at the plate of the American people.

So as we speak here tonight, and I will be joined later by Congressman BOCCIERI and Congressman ALTMIRE, we're going to discuss where we are today in our country and in our congressional districts and also some of the approaches that we need to make over the course of the next several months and over the course of the next several years.

I represent a district, Madam Speaker, that is just south of Mr. LATOURETTE's district. I represent Akron, Youngstown, Warren, Niles, and the Mahoning Valley. And over the course of the last several months and over the course of the last year, for example, in Trumbull County, our unemployment rate has doubled. And this has not been just a short-term problem; this has been a 30-year problem that our communities have been dealing with. And if you look and you see what has happened in communities like ours where companies, longtime companies in this country like Delphi, like General Motors, steel mills like WCI are near closure. We have Delphi retirees who are both salaried and union who are now joining together to figure out what they're going to do with their families, what they're going to do with their kids, their house payment, their mortgages, their college tuition that they have to pay, their daughters' weddings that they have to pay for, over the course of the next several weeks, months, and years. So, Madam Speaker, we need a strong agenda here in Congress and a strong agenda coming from the President as to what exactly we are going to be able to do.

Madam Speaker, the President has approached this, I think, in a very comprehensive way, and the Congress and Speaker PELOSI and Senator REID have approached this in a very comprehensive way. We are trying to address this on all fronts. We are dealing with a credit crisis. We are dealing with a manufacturing crisis. We are dealing with a foreclosure crisis. We are dealing with home equity problems.

We are dealing with lost wages. We are dealing with all of these issues all at the same time. So, Madam Speaker, we see the President of the United States has taken a comprehensive approach, and I think it's been a good one.

Now, on the backs of 8 years of the Bush administration, some people say, you know, we shouldn't go back and we shouldn't talk about the past, that we should just move on. But we are getting criticized on our side of the aisle for the decisions that we have made based on the problems that were left for us to deal with, and the criticism is coming from the same group of people who put us in the exact same position that we are in and then criticize the solutions that we are presenting because those solutions in some way may be different than the philosophies that got us to where we are. So tonight, Madam Speaker, we are going to talk about some of those solutions.

Now, recently in Congress we have done a couple of different things. We have passed the supplemental appropriations bill to deal with some of the defense concerns. But I think more importantly one of the things that we have done, one of the first things that President Obama pushed for over the course of the first few days in office and between the time he got elected to the time he got sworn in, is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. So, Madam Speaker, although the supplemental is not passed and signed into law, it is on its way and it does reflect, I think, the priorities of not only this administration but the priorities of the Congress.

So let's look at how things are different. Over the 8 years of the Bush administration, we saw the wealthiest in our country get tax cuts. We saw the wealthiest in our country, the top 1 percent, gain all of the income. And it's interesting if you look, and I think it goes back to 1990, and it may be 1980, but I think it was 1990, since 1990 where 80 percent of the income growth went to the top 10 percent of the people in this country.

□ 2210

And since 2000, 90 percent of all income growth went to the top 10 percent of the people in this country. And that means that the middle class has been squeezed. So they are not getting the income growth, their energy costs are going up, gas was $4 a gallon, health care costs were going up by 15 percent. The Congress and the President both, both controlled by the Republican Party, had a very laissez faire attitude, not only for the economy, but for everything, that the government had no role, and it should be parsed off and given to the highest bidder.

And that's what happened in the war in Iraq, that's what happened with health care. And I think it's important for us to remember as we are dealing in these difficult economic times, as tensions are being wiped out, as 401(k)s are being halved, that it was the Republican Party who stood on this floor and wanted to privatize Social Security.

The only thing that many people have left is Social Security. And can you imagine if our friends on the other side had the opportunity to take the Social Security system and put it into the stock market, where this country would be. Imagine where our retirees would be, imagine where our grandparents would be, imagine where our parents would be, and imagine where this country would be if we had to bail out the Social Security system in this country.

And so when we are receiving criticism for what we are trying to do, I think it's important for the American people to remember the big picture and to remember how we got here and to remember that there are two different governing philosophies in this country. And one of the philosophies, as sad as it is to say, Madam Speaker, got us to the position we are in. And we are going to move on, and we are going to talk about our response to this.

But it is critical for everyone to recognize and everyone to know that the Republican, conservative, extreme right-wing agenda was implemented in the United States of America. From the year 2000 to the year 2006, they controlled every branch of government: the House, the Senate, the White House, the Supreme Court. Many of the State legislatures, like the ones that Congressman BOCCIERI and I come from in Ohio, all were controlled by Republicans.

So they implemented their agenda. They implemented Chicago-style economics. They implemented the shock doctrine. They implemented supply-side economics. And, today, because of a lack of regulation, because Wall Street was run like the wild, wild west, because there were no cops on the beat, here we are today, billions of dollars in debt, borrowing the money from China, a middle class getting squeezed, energy costs going up, increased reliance on the Middle East for our energy, health care costs going up, insurance companies hiring more people and knocking more people off the rolls, any kind of income growth in our country going to the top 10 percent of our people, where everybody else is left behind, school funding problems all over the country, mental health issues, soldiers coming back with PTSD not getting the proper treatment. Walter Reed was falling apart, and on and on and on. So the issues that President Obama is dealing with today and the Democratic Congress were issues that were laid on this table left for us to try to deal with.

And so President Obama came with a plan, a stimulus plan, because there was a $3 trillion hole, gap in our economy. And all the economists were telling us that we had to somehow fill this hole or we would have a continual slide for our country.

And so President Obama, his economists, JOHN MCCAIN's economists, on both sides of the aisle, we are in agreement that we needed to do something. We needed a stimulus package.

And the stimulus package was going to be something different that Washington hadn't seen for a long, long time. This stimulus package was going to go to the middle class. It was going to go for those programs that were going to lift people up, where the middle class would be able to spend money and fill this hole. We were going to invest in education. We were going to invest in energy research. We were going to fund NIH, National Institutes of Health, so that we could increase cancer research.

And now all over the country we have Relay for Lives, all over the country, my congressional district, and I am sure yours, where thousands and thousands and thousands of people are walking for a day, at night and through the night for 24 hours straight to raise money for cancer research. It was President Obama's stimulus package that increased funding for cancer research, because it was a national priority. And we can talk about a lot of the different investments in the research and into energy research, weatherization, tax cuts for 95 percent of the American people.

But I just want to talk for a second about the investments that he made in education. Because there is no greater investment we could make in this country than to invest in the young people in our country and to make sure that they get the kind of education that they need, that they deserve, because they are the next leaders that will be in this body. They are the next teachers. They are the next astronauts, the next scientists that are going to keep America strong in the future.

And so the difference in priorities from the last administration to President Obama can be summed up, and there are a lot of different examples, but I think they could be summed up in this, a $2,500 opportunity tax credit to go to college, where the same parents that we had, growing up, middle class, northeast Ohio, Italian, were working hard to send their kids to school, and that was the number one priority. And President Obama recognizes that and makes sure that that tax credit was in this stimulus bill.

And he made sure that there was an increase in the Pell Grant so that people could get grant money to go to school and then stood up at that podium and challenged the American people, all of us, to go one more year to school and contribute, that it was in the national interest for that to happen. This is a much different approach than President Bush saying after 9/11 the greatest thing you can do for this country is to go shopping. That is a tremendous difference in leadership styles, and, I think, approaches.

And I think the focus on education, as we will continue to talk about it through the next hour, I think is something that is very critical. I think this is the first time we have shared the

floor together. Congressman BOCCIERI and I started our careers together, I want to say a long time ago, but it wasn't that long ago.

So I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, thank you for allowing me to be a part of this discussion, and the zeal and the passion that you display on this House floor I remember watching a few years ago when I was serving in the legislature. Congressman RYAN and I both came up through the legislature in Ohio, and he cut his teeth earlier in the Congress.

And it's an honor to be here with you today. Because we do share the same vision about what it's going to take to move our State and, more importantly, our country forward. And Congressman RYAN and I have similar backgrounds. I hail from a working-class family. My grandparents were coal miners, carpenters and steel workers. My parents were one of the first in their families to go to college, respectively, and two successful brothers, one is a pharmacist and a chemist, and the other is working in the military and working in the defense industry.

□ 2220

I can tell you that my family is not unlike thousands, perhaps millions across this country, Congressman RYAN, who worked hard, played by the rules, punched the time clock, went to work every day, carried that lunch pail, because they believed in America, they believed in the spirit of America; that when you work hard, you play by the rules, you give back to your country and your community, that America is a place where your hopes and dreams and desires can be fulfilled.

More than ever, we find that that dream of that American spirit is being challenged—challenged by some of the decisions of previous administrations, challenged by the fact that we have got to put our own house in order and move our country forward and invest in things that really matter—invest in our greatest asset, which is our people. And, as Congressman RYAN has so eloquently said many, many times on this House floor, that we have an opportunity to change the direction of this country and move it in a direction and trajectory that is going to be about prosperity and sharing the ideals and values that brought my grandparents from a country so far away to settle here on the shores of America because they believed in this experiment in democracy, and that was where hopes and dreams could be realized.

Now I tell you this because in the spirit of our discussion tonight we're going to talk about some of our problems, but we're going to talk about solutions, more importantly.

We're going to talk about the fact that Ohio has been hemorrhaging with manufacturing job loss. In fact, in 2008 alone, the United States itself lost 149,000 manufacturing jobs, and many of those jobs, as Congressman RYAN had said, were from Ohio.

Ohio is a place where we built things. We helped build America. Some of the great thinkers of our country hailed from Ohio—innovators like Thomas Edison and a variety of astronauts like John Glenn. We had success stories across the board because we had such diversity.

He comes from an Irish and Slovak background. And I have great respect for the Irish because I married one. But I have to tell you that Ohio is not unlike many States in the heartland of America that have experienced such job loss, such movement of manufacturer's jobs out of this country—and because of some of the policies that we have enacted here in Congress.

Now you have spoken often and loudly about the fact that we need a manufacturing policy in this country that protects jobs, that protects innovators, and that protects people who want to build and start their own business. But what we have seen is a whole host of failed policies that have allowed our jobs to move overseas.

Now I tell the American people here tonight that America cannot sustain itself by being movers of wealth. We have to produce wealth in this country. We have to build things—like we have always done.

And I heard on some of our district work periods about, Why are we giving loans to the automotive industry? Well, let's be clear about this. Are we going to depend on Fiat to build our tanks and weapons that we need to defend this country if we were ever attacked? Are we going to depend on some other foreign-owned or foreign-born company to produce the things that we're going to need to defend our country?

It is important that we maintain the Big Three, not only as a matter of our economic security, but our national security. And the supply lines that go into the Big Three through Ohio and into Michigan and from Pennsylvania, the heartland of our country, we have got to be the producers of wealth, not just the movers of wealth. And that is why this Congress moved to protect and defend American jobs and American security, Congressman RYAN. And I was proud to support some of those initiatives because we cannot tolerate policy that is going to make our country weaker.

I hear oftentimes that if we could only just be like countries like China, or just be like countries like India. Now as an Air Force air crew and pilot, I have been over the world. It only takes one trip outside the borders of our country to understand how good we have it. We have a robust economy. We have a workforce that works hard. It is unmatched and unparalleled in the rest of the world, in my opinion. And we have a country that sustained itself throughout generations because we invested in our people—our greatest asset.

But when we allow jobs to pack up and move overseas, when we allow a little bit of who we are—the identity that has created America—to slip away by allowing those jobs, and those manufacturing jobs in particular to leave our country, we are making America weaker and not stronger.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOCCIERI. Absolutely.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think coming from our area—and you can go to Wisconsin, you can go to Indiana, you can go to Pennsylvania—you can go all throughout the industrial Midwest and you read statistics that say, Hey, for every manufacturing job, there are five spinoff jobs, and for every service job, there's two spinoff jobs.

So if you go to get a massage, you have the masseuse and then you have somebody that's going to wash your feet and put a warm towel around your neck or clean the towels. If you have a manufacturing job where you're working in a car plant, you have the suppliers of that and the people around the one manufacturing job that support it.

I read this a lot in economics classes and everything else, but it hit me a few months ago when we lost a third and then a second shift at a General Motors plant in Lordstown, because they said that the second shift was going to go, and then about a couple of days later the local seat manufacturer—the second shift was maybe 800 or 900 people.

A couple days later, the seat manufacturer laid off a couple hundred. Then, a couple days later, the logistics company that did all the logistics for coming in and out of the General Motors plant laid off another hundred people. Just the spinoff.

So when we say we need to make things in the United States, it's important to recognize the ripple effect. Ross Perot said in the early campaign in the early nineties, You can't run an economy on back rubs. You just can't do it.

That's something that I think we're staring right in the eye. If you look at the history of the world with the Dutch and the Spaniards and the Brits, when 20 to 25 percent of their GDP became finance, that was the beginning of the end for those countries. Because, like you said when you first started, all you start doing is moving money around. You're not making anything. You're not adding value to a product. And you start these Ponzi schemes like we just ended up having here in the United States.

So I think it's important that we do focus on this manufacturing policy.

I yield back.

Mr. BOCCIERI. The gentleman from Ohio could not be more correct in his assertion that we have got to focus on producing things in this country. I don't know about you, Congressman RYAN, but I have heard you speak many times, eloquently at that, because we cannot have this race to the bottom.

I hear many people say, If we were just like China, like India, in terms of—our standard of living is much

higher than countries like China and India. Why would we ever want to have a race to the bottom? Let's embolden them and bring them up so we can have an equal transfer of goods and services and products that are going to make both of our countries stronger. That's what we need to enact in trade policies right here on this floor and make sure that our trade policies are in concert with making a manufacturing sector of our economy robust.

I don't know if you know this, but two-thirds of our outsourced jobs in the United States have come from our manufacturing sector. Two-thirds. Two-thirds.

We're in a dangerous position right now with respect to what we're doing with our military-industrial complex. We cannot continue to allow those manufacturing jobs to leave our country if we don't protect and defend the economic security and the national security of our country by producing things right here. I know that you have fought hard for a policy that emboldens.

You know, Ohio has been bleeding factory jobs. More than 257,000 factory positions have evaporated since the beginning of 2000; 257,000 families have been handed pink slips and notices that their jobs are going to be leaving the country. I think that we have got to do a better job, Congressman RYAN.

I want to work with you on this House floor to come up with real solutions; tangible solutions that are going to protect our workers and protect our national security.

I know that you and I have been championing many of the things that are going to make our country stronger—research and development tax credits, making sure that we do research here in America.

When I was in the State legislature with you, we talked about the fact that for every $1 that the State of Ohio spends, we can leverage $10 from the Federal Government to help spur innovation and entrepreneurialship and the intuitiveness that's going to help create and produce the minds that are going to produce the cures to cancer. They're going to produce the new energy sectors for our economy in years to come. It's this type of research, it's this type of investment that is going to make our country stronger.

□ 2230

Now I'm a freshman Congressman. You've been here for several terms. When I was going through my orientation this year at the John F. Kennedy School of Public Policy, they were telling us that only 16 percent of what we spend in this country is for investment back into the country, 16 percent.

Now our 16 percent is much larger than most countries because of our economic prowess. But at the end of the day, 16 percent is far too little to sustain us for years to come.

I know you've championed that at your local universities, and I'm going to talk about some of mine.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, we need it I think from the perspective of investing in research and development, but I want to go back to the point you were making about the defense industrial base that we have.

Right outside your district and in my district is Goodyear. Goodyear is the last American tire manufacturer in the United States, and there's a huge movement within the city of Akron, within Summit County, State of Ohio, Federal officials to keep Goodyear's headquarters in Akron.

One of the problems is—and Goodyear is actually doing fairly well now—trying to get Goodyear, the only American tire manufacturer, to be a supplier of military tires. I mean, it's like you've got to beg people at the Pentagon to have Goodyear supply. It's hard to get them as a second source sometimes, to back up Michelin, who is a French company.

Now I was against the war. I thought it was one of the worst geopolitical decisions in the history of our country, and we are going to pay for it for many, many years to come.

But when our country goes to war, you'd better be able to supply our own military. And we are getting dangerously close to losing our defense industrial base in this country. It's tires. And we have the same issue with RTI, a titanium company in our region, both in your district and in mine. There used to be 10 titanium companies in the United States. Now there's two, and one of them is in Niles in Weathersfield Township and one of them is in Canton I think.

And the problem is, there's an amendment called the Berry amendment, which says the military has to buy their specialty metals from American companies. But there's a waiver, and there's this process that always gets waived. So the RTIs of the world have to struggle to get military spending to go to their companies.

So it went from 10 titanium companies to two.

We're getting dangerously close to not being able to supply our own military because the titanium comes from Russia, our tires are coming from France. This is getting dangerous here.

We've got to be very, very careful with that. And I think part of it is the investment, what we did in the stimulus package with transportation, infrastructure, research to rebuild the country in many, many ways.

But if we don't have that defense industrial base, it's going to put us in a real predicament to try to supply our own military.

I yield back to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, you bring up several valid points. And the question is—and I'm sure the American people out there listening to us tonight, our 30-something group here, they're asking, So what do we do? What can we do to make certain that we are the producers of wealth and not just the movers of wealth?

Well, you and I have championed legislation that is going to invest directly, as I said earlier, into our greatest asset.

When we center our centers of excellence and pin them down with research and development, our universities and the great research that we're doing in Ohio is tremendous.

I mean, in my district alone, the Rolls-Royce company is actually researching fuel cell technology at Stark State Community College. We also have the EPO Group that's researching plug-in hybrids. And at the Ohio State Agriculture Research and Development Center in Wayne County, they're actually researching anaerobic digesters to use as energy, compressed natural gas. They are actually selling this gas back to the grid. This is the type of research that we need to champion and hone around our centers of excellence.

Not only are we going to use taxpayer dollars to create the next innovators and the great thinkers from Ohio, but we're going to help create a sustainable industry around these different types of investments.

If we invest in our greatest asset, our people, we can help spur the innovation that has helped put Ohio on the map.

I'm going to read a list here of some of the great innovators that have come from our State. Charles Kettering who was the inventor of the first electronic starter motor ignition system. Jim Spangler invented the portable electronic vacuum cleaner. And we all know about Thomas Alva Edison who was a prolific inventor and certainly helped with the incandescent lightbulb. Lester Pelton invented a type of free-jet water turbine and was from Vermilion.

These are the type of innovators that if we invest in our higher education, in our institutions of higher learning, Congressman RYAN, we're going to have the next viable industry. And hopefully that will be a green energy industry that will blanket northeast Ohio.

From Cleveland to Canton, from Canton to Youngstown, we have a triangle of success, and we have the opportunity to invest in things that are going to put our State forward.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If you look at the difference between the past philosophy that got us here where if you cut taxes for the top 1 percent and hope they maybe invest into whatever it is that they invest in, and it hopefully will trickle down to the middle class, cut research funding, fail to invest into higher education, fail to invest into research, fail to invest into health care research, health care technology, you get what we've got. And you end up where we are.

But if you look at the dramatic change in the stimulus package—and we can go through the whole thing. For example, increases in NIH and all the different energy research, weatherization to try to create markets for all these new alternative energy projects,

$7.2 billion to increase broadband access in usage to unserved and underserved areas of the Nation, which will better position us for economic growth so that all of our kids, not just the ones that happen to be in a nice school district where there's a good property tax base, and they have good schools and good jobs, but all our kids can have access to the Internet, and all communities could access broadband, and all hospitals could be plugged into this.

If you look at the billion dollars for prevention and wellness programs, $10 billion to conduct biomedical research for cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, stem cells, to improve NIH facilities, if you have a family member who has cancer, Alzheimer's, MS, Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS—they're on the Hill today—this President and this Congress are backing you up.

We're saying, this is a priority. Your family members being sick and the government not putting in the proper resources to do the investment is wrong.

President Obama came in and said, We're going to put science back on the table, and 70 to 80 percent of the American people agree.

And that creates jobs at the Cleveland Clinic, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, in the Stark County hospitals, Summit County hospitals, hospitals in Youngstown, all of the information technology to make sure that our doctors and nurses and health care technicians aren't making mistakes so that people who go to the hospital don't get hurt because of miscommunications.

This President and this Congress are saying, We've got your back. We're going to make these investments. You can't have a strong country and just wish and hope it may happen.

There are very strategic investments that were made in the stimulus package. And I love some of these people saying, Yeah, but it's one-time money. Well, how about no-time money? No-time money means a bunch of teachers get laid off. That's what no-time money means. And in our State, some of the Republicans are telling Governor Strickland, you know, this is one-time money. What are you going to do next year? Well, we've got to deal with this year.

□ 2240

And we are plugging holes, and we are making sure we are not laying people off, at least as many as we can, prevent as many layoffs as we can. And we have infrastructure money that President Obama made sure was included in here, $2 billion in grant funding for the manufacturing of advanced batteries.

We are now ceding the battery industry to China. President Obama, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader REID, the Democratic caucuses, probably 70 percent of the American people thinks that is probably a pretty bad idea. So we can sit here and say, Oh, my God, the Chinese are taking—we are going to have all these new cars, plug-ins, and the battery is going to be made in China. And we will be sitting here, Congressman, 10, 20 years from now, how are they going to let that happen? We are saying put money into helping companies and universities research this stuff so we can make it in Youngstown, Ohio, we can make it in Canton, Ohio. That is the goal here. And we cannot wish this to happen, and there are difficult decisions that need to be made.

Leadership is lonely, and you've got to make some difficult decisions. But I love the fact that President Obama is coming up and saying, This is what we have got to do. The American people elected me, and this is what I talked about, and this is what we are doing. And in 4 years, I will run again on that record. But let's not sit around and hope good things may happen and our friends on the other side vote against everything.

They borrowed more money from China. President Bush and the Republican Congress, Madam Speaker, borrowed more money from China and from foreign interests than all the other Presidents and Congresses before them combined. They lay this on the table, and we have got to borrow some money to make sure that the economy doesn't completely collapse, and all of a sudden we are the bad guys.

These investments that we are making are critical: Head Start, Early Start, child care development, block grants, supplemental nutrition assistance programs so that our kids can eat, community health centers so that people who can't access health care now can go and get some preventive care before they end up in the emergency room costing everybody billions of dollars.

So these are very strategic investments. These aren't things that we just picked out of the air to throw money at to just say we are doing something. We are going to look back on this time, and we are going to thank President Obama. And we are going to thank the Democratic Congress for making these investments because they will pay great, great dividends for thousands in the long run.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, you can't be more correct. Can you imagine a novel idea, that this Congress is taking bold action to actually invest in America, to invest in our country, our people, our way of life? Can you imagine? How arrogant can some be who suggest that we should not do this for our people, that we should not take their money and invest back in our country? We are going to be judged by two measures. We are going to be judged by two measures in this great recession we find ourselves in, by action or inaction. And Congressman RYAN, when I was going through the orientation courses of the freshman Members, they told us that if we sat on our hands and watched thousands of jobs evaporate, more factories pack up and go overseas, that we would see unemployment in the first quarter of 2010 perhaps as high as 18 percent. Eighteen percent.

So we have to take action. We have to have movement. And to invest in the things that are going to make our country stronger is not only prudent, it is necessary. After years and years of rebuilding a country that I had so many visits to, we were building roads and bridges in Iraq, building brand new hospitals and schools in Iraq, making sure that every man, woman and child in Iraq had universal health care coverage, how dare us think about the American people for once here? How dare us think about the American people? And all we hear is stiff arms and noes and enough is enough, and this country has got to be put back at the tier that we need to put and we need to set in this Congress, and that is by investing in the things that were in this recovery package.

Now imagine this, the Democratic Congress of the United States House of Representatives that is controlled by the Democrats now obviously enacted the largest tax reduction in our Nation's history and the largest investment in capital in our Nation's history to make our country stronger, to make our country and our people stronger. I think that spells scores of success stories and future innovators that have helped Ohio become the great State that she is. But we can make a difference by investing and putting the parameters out there, putting the goalposts, putting the out-of-bounds markers for our market to act in a way that is responsible to its people, that is responsible to its people, and to help us forge a way on the path toward prosperity. That is what this Congress has done in just a few short months.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If you look at what all these investments are, infrastructure and science, $120 billion. Now I think you hit the nail on the head. We are at $1 trillion that we have spent in Iraq. One trillion. Now, I don't know about how anyone else feels, and I don't think I'm actually going out on a limb here to say we have a lot of projects in our communities that could use a little bit of that money.

Sewer overflow. My goodness gracious, these cities that are dealing with combined sewer overflow issues is in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Sewer lines, septic tanks that need to be cleaned up and sewer lines put in, water lines, roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, health care for our citizens, these are basic investments that our country needs to be making. And this stimulus package is a step in that direction.

And when you look at it, I mentioned the broadband, if you look at $27.5 billion for highway construction, $16.5 billion to modernize Federal and public infrastructure to save energy costs in the long run, $19 billion for clean water, flood control, environmental restoration investments, $17.7 billion

for transit and rail to reduce traffic congestion and gas consumption, these are all programs and investments to help reduce our dependency on foreign oil so we are not in this morass that we get involved in and all these little political situations that we get in because we have to pull oil out of some of these countries to run our country.

Thirty billion dollars to transform the Nation's energy transmission distribution and production systems so we can have a smart grid. Those are good investments. Five billion dollars to weatherize modest income homes. These are investments that we need to make.

Lower health care costs, education, helping workers. Twenty billion dollars to increase the food stamp benefit by over 13 percent. Look at what the Democrats have done even when we got in and had to fight to get a couple of these things done.

We raised the minimum wage for the first time since 1997 when Democrats got in and basically had to jam it down the White House's throat in order to get it signed into law. The largest increase in veterans' spending in the 77-year history of the VA, and we had a lot of people running around this town in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, who is more patriotic? And it was all red, white and blue when the lights were on and cutting the veterans' health care budget and benefits in the back room.

And when we got in, the largest increase in the 77-year history of the VA. And you see it again with our budget this year. You saw it in the 2009 budget that President Obama signed. You are going to see it again now. You saw it in the supplemental, which we can go over some of the investments that were made. But this is a commitment to our Nation's veterans who served this country so well. Again, an investment in our people. You serve our country, you will be rewarded. Four years of free education if you served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Benefits have increased. We reduced and got rid of a lot of the fees and assessments that were put on by the other side. These are steps.

Have we done enough? Not even close. I'm not here to say, and I don't think anyone else is, to say that we have been in for however long, 110, 112, 114 days, whatever, and things are great now. They are not.

And before you came in, I stated the economic distress of the 17th Congressional District, but these are steps in the right direction. These are steps that are lifting up people that need help. This is not a handout, but a little bit of help along the way to where they can get themselves back on their feet and this economy can get moving again, and then these green jobs, the investments in science, investments in infrastructure, rail and all of these things we are talking about, Rolls Royce, which they are doing in your district which is phenomenal, these are the kinds of things that will grow. But they take some seed corn. They take a little water, a little fertilizer, and the government now, I think, is responsible for doing a lot of that.

□ 2250

So we are making these investments. We will continue to make these investments, and we will continue to, I think, strategically invest the taxpayers' money prudently, judiciously invest the money.

Mr. BOCCIERI. I have to tell you, Congressman RYAN, after being in the Air Force 15 years and flying our wounded soldiers in and out of Baghdad, and whether we agree with this war or not, we have to give every degree of respect to the men and women who serve in uniform because they fought in Iraq and Afghanistan only because our country asked them to. As far as I am concerned, when they come back, when their boots hit the ground here in America, they should not have one hospital bill, any expenses that are required to go to college, get a degree and advance themselves. We should be investing in them and rewarding them for the sacrifice that they have made for our country.

Let me tell you about a soldier who was in my State legislative district when I was serving in the State House. He was injured with an IED and will be disfigured for the rest of his life. A piece of shrapnel hit him in the jaw, and he had surgeries at Walter Reed to try to put his face back together. After he was discharged with a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and let go back into the civilian world. Two weeks after discharge from the military, his jaw broke again. This 22-year-old soldier with a young child had $15,000 in medical expenses that he couldn't weed through the VA to get paid to make sure that he could put bread on the table for his family.

A soldier like that who almost gave everything for this country should not have to pay for his bills for injuries that he sustained while overseas. It took swift action by this Congress in the last 2 years to make certain that our soldiers were not forgotten.

And the Wounded Warriors Program that we have right now that acknowledges the sacrifice, the great sacrifice of those men and women, we cannot forget and we should never forget. As long as I am a Congressman and have the ability to speak publicly about this, we will champion those soldiers and tell them what we are doing to put their lives back in order and to invest in them.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I have been listening to what the two Ohio Members have been saying. To put this in perspective for our colleagues and for the American people, I would like to talk with regard to the stimulus and the budget. People talk about the fact that we are running up a tremendous deficit this year, $1.8 trillion. It is an inconceivable amount for a 1-year deficit. We are reducing the deficit over the course of 5 years by two-thirds, from 12 percent of GDP to 3 percent of GDP. People in my district when I tell that story will say that is great, but you need to do more. Why can't we do more? Why is that a great feat that we have cut it by two-thirds? Going to what the gentleman said with the VA, let's look at the budget that we have control over, what is the discretionary control that we have.

If you look at $3.5 trillion in budget, the entire Federal budget for this year that we passed, most of that Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, interest on the national debt, Federal employee pensions, veterans retirement benefits and pensions, those are mandatory accounts. That money goes out without Congress having year-to-year control over that amount.

So what Congress actually has control over, the discretionary account, is about $1 trillion; $1.1 trillion. It is a very high amount of money, but compared to $3.5 trillion, not nearly enough to make a dent in that deficit that we are talking about.

Now, half of that trillion dollars that Congress has control over is defense. Nobody thinks we should cut defense. We increase spending for defense by 4 percent. It is what we need to do to keep us safe and secure. We all agree, Republican and Democrat, that is what we need to do. So you take that $530 billion out of the equation, and you are left with about $500 billion. Now, that is what we have discretionary control over. That is the post office, that is scientific and medical research, that is the national parks, that's student loans. That is our embassies overseas. That is Federal law enforcement, border security, FBI, CIA. And as the gentleman talks about, that is the VA hospitals in this country, funding for veterans health care. That is keeping the lights on at every Federal building in the country. That is our Federal roads and highways. That is everything that the Federal Government does. When you think about the Federal Government on an annual basis, that is what we have discretionary control over.

If we were to say, you know what, American people, people in our district, the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, the people in Ohio, we are so committed to deficit reduction and we are so committed to cutting the budget this year, we are going to shut down the government. We are going to shut down everything that we have discretionary control over this year. We are not going to deliver the mail this year. We are going to lay off every Federal employee in the country for 1 year. We are not going to do student loans and Federal law enforcement. We are going to close every Federal office building in the country, no scientific research, no national parks, close our embassies overseas, bring everybody back home, shut down the Congress and the White House, everything that we have control over. If we did that for 1 year, we would cut the Federal deficit for this year

from $1.8 trillion to $1.3 trillion. That's how deep a hole we are in.

So when I say to the gentleman from Ohio, Madam Speaker, that we cut the deficit by two-thirds over 5 years, a 1.9 percent growth over a 4-year period, the slowest projected growth rate in the history of the country, that is a monumental achievement. And we do it all while preserving our commitment to our Nation's veterans, as the gentleman talks about, making sure every veterans hospital in this country is adequately funded, and that every veteran in this country has access to the highest quality health care available anywhere in the world. We preserve that commitment while we do the best job we can at reducing the deficit that this President inherited, because we are not starting from zero. I think everybody realizes that. And it is pointless to talk about the past and to point fingers, but it is instructive to take a look at how we got here, why we are here, and the fact that we have very difficult decisions to make moving forward.

The only way we are going to bring down these costs and bring down the deficit and bring down the debt is by making the difficult choices, and that is what this Congress is going to continue to do.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think the other point there with the stimulus is because credit locked up, that clearly shut down, and still is, we are still getting calls in our office that people still can't get loans. So the TARP money and all of this other help that we have given to the banks has not yet kicked in. If there was not even the stimulus package, imagine what the economy would be doing, if there wasn't a little bit of money in everybody's paycheck. I ran into an operating engineer the other day who was finally getting himself back to work because of some road projects that were happening. All over Ohio, the Governor just made a tour around the State with different infrastructure projects that he was spreading around from the stimulus money. So we are filling this gap. There would be a complete shutdown.

And, yes, we are taking some of this money and, yes, we are borrowing money to make investments now. But imagine the tax loss we would have in this country if we weren't making any investments. And who knows what the yield will be from the investments we are making into energy and the NIH for the Cancer Institute.

I mean, what is the value in the long term of reducing the cost of cancer to our health care system, of Alzheimer's to our health care system? What benefits will stem cell research yield for our country in terms of health care? How many accidents will be prevented because of better communication with the investments into the health care information technology?

These are things that you can't put a price on. And it is the old saying, some people know the price of everything and the value of nothing. And you can't always pinpoint what piece of research yielded the best benefits because all of this research tends to build onto itself.

□ 2300

And we are making these investments now, and we are going to find out in the long run that these were good decisions that we made, courageous decisions that the President has made.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Let's make no question that we want to show, and I am a 30-something here on the floor of the House of Representatives telling you and the American people that we will recover. We will recover. We will grow out of this recession, and we will be stronger for it at the end of the day.

And for those who suggest that we are spending a lot of money in this great recession that we find ourselves in, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, in 1946 when the United States came out of the Great Depression and World War II, the government was spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce, spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce as a percentage of GDP and what the government debt was. Right now we are at about 50 percent of what the economy can produce.

And once we start growing this economy again, investing in the things that are going to make our country and our people stronger, we will see the difference. We will see the investments realized. We will see the tangible results coming back to us as we have a stronger workforce, a workforce that can critically think, multitask, problem solve, and be competitive with the Indias and Chinas of the world that have already begun investing in their workforce.

And I will tell you that the gentleman from Ohio is correct in his assumption that by making these strategic investments in our country, in our people, and in our way of life, we're going to be the producers of wealth once again, not just the movers of wealth. Investing in green energy, investing in the things that are going to transform our economy so that we have diversity. Can you imagine rolling into the gas station one day and having a choice between using traditional gasoline, biomass, ethanol, maybe even plug in our electric hybrid, or drive by the gas station altogether because we have a fuel cell that was researched right here in the 16th Congressional District of Ohio that allows you to get 100 miles to a gallon? Can you imagine how that would be transformational for our economy? These investments that we have in the American recovery package and the stimulus package are going to be what are going to make the difference and transcend our economy for years to come. And I say that in confidence as a 30-something.

And I want you to know that these challenges that confront all of us as leaders are not Democrat or Republican challenges but American challenges, and we will recover with prudent investment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And I would be remiss if I didn't talk a little bit about what we are doing locally here in the last minute between Congressman BOCCIERI's district in Canton and my district in Akron to Youngstown and also Cleveland, all the way over to Congressman ALTMIRE's district over in the Pittsburgh area, creating a technology belt in which all of the health care and green energy and the legacy manufacturing that we have in this area can help stimulate this mega-region from Cleveland to Akron, Canton, through Youngstown, Warren, over into Pittsburgh, to try to plug into all of this because if areas like ours aren't benefiting from these investments, then really it's all for naught. It's the heartland of our country.

So with that I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family medical situation.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of severe flooding and storms throughout eastern Kentucky.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WALZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WAXMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 15.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 15, 18 and 19.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and May 18.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 15, 18 and 19.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today and May 13.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, May 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Glenn Thompson	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25.00		(3)				25.00
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Committee total					254.43						254.43

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, Apr. 22, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nita M. Lowey	1/28	2/1	Switzerland		1,858.14		(3)				1,858.14
Misc. Embassy costs									4,149.86		4,149.86
Michele Sumilas	2/17	2/20	Democratic Republic of Congo		1,310.00						1,310.00
	2/20	2/22	Rwanda		634.00						634.00
Commercial airfare							10,853.06		(3)		10,853.06
Misc. Embassy costs									782.00		782.00
Hon. Steven LaTourette	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Nita M. Lowey	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,837.83		(3)				1,837.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,602.57		4,602.57
Hon. Betty McCollum	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,837.83						1,837.83
Part commercial airfare							[4] 4,481.10				4,481.10
Misc. Embassy costs									2,289.33		2,289.33
Hon. Marion Berry	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,602.57		4,602.57
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
Part commercial airfare							[4] 540.70				540.70
Misc. Embassy costs									996.00		996.00
Hon. Kay Granger	2/13	2/14	Mexico		700.00		(3)				700.00
	2/16	2/16	Mexico				(3)				
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy									4,603.47		4,603.47
Hon. Ben Chandler	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs										4,602.57	4,602.57
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	2/15	2/16	Mexico		350.00						350.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Part commercial airfare							[4] 937.01				937.01
Misc. Embassy costs										3,606.57	3,606.57
Nisha Desai Biswal	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs										4,603.47	4,603.47
Steve Marchese	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs										4,603.47	4,603.47
Clelia Alvarado	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs										4,603.47	4,603.47
Mike Ringler	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs										4,603.47	4,603.47
Anne Marie Chotvacs	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00		(3)				1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00		(3)				861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83		(3)				1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Gregory Lankler	2/22	2/26	Kuwait		996.00						996.00
Part commercial airfare							[4] 8,053.57				8,053.57
Misc. trans. costs							155.00				155.00
Hon. John Salazar	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		407.73		(3)				407.73
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		775.68		(3)				775.68
Hon. Rush Holt	2/19	2/23	Israel		1,900.00						1,900.00
Commercial airfare							7,809.00				7,809.00
Adam Harris	2/19	2/23	Isreal		1,900.00						1,900.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Commercial airfare							7,809.00				7,809.00
Misc. trans. costs								105.00			105.00
Hon. Zach Wamp	2/20	2/20	Israel				362.90				362.90
Committee total					50,941.18		41,106.34		53,252.29		145,299.81

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Part military air transportation.

HON. DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Donald G. Fulwider	3/7	3/11	England		1,528.50		1,015.16		456.12		2,999.78
Rodney L. Propst	3/7	3/11	England		1,528.50		1,015.16		357.14		2,900.80
Committee total					3,057.00		2,030.32		813.26		5,900.58

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Visit to Iraq, Kuwait, Germany, January 7–15, 2009:											
David Kildee	1/8	1/11	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/9	1/10	Iraq								
	1/12	1/16	Germany		554.00						554.00
Commercial airfare							10,491.02				10,491.02
Debra Wada	1/8	1/11	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/9	1/10	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							10,521.00				10,521.00
Loren Dealy	1/8	1/11	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/9	1/10	Iraq								
Commercial airfare							8,153.63				8,153.63
Alexandra Rogers	1/8	1/11	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/9	1/10	Iraq								
	1/12	1/16	Germany		554.00						554.00
Commercial airfare							10,491.00				10,.491.00
Visit to Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, January 24–25, 2009:											
Timothy McClees	1/22	1/23	United Arab Emirates		143.00						143.00
	1/24	1/25	Afghanistan								
	1/25	1/26	United Arab Emirates								
Commercial airfare							8,576.87				8,576.87
John Wason	1/22	1/23	United Arab Emirates		143.00						143.00
	1/24	1/25	Afghanistan								
	1/25	1/26	United Arab Emirates								
Commercial airfare							8,576.87				8,576.87
Kevin Gates	1/22	1/23	United Arab Emirates		143.00						143.00
	1/24	1/25	Afghanistan								
	1/25	1/26	United Arab Emirates								
Commercial airfare							8,576.87				8,576.87
Delegation expenses	1/22	1/26	United Arab Emirates						1,339.36		1,339.36
Visit to Israel, Syria, Kuwait, Iraq, Belgium, January 28–03 February, 2009:											
Hon. Adam Smith	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
Hon. Susan Davis	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
Hon. Gabrielle Giffords	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
Hon. Glenn Nye	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
Hon. Frank Kratovil	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
William Natter	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Alexander Kugajevsky	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00						461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50						462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21						413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq								
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00						404.00
Visit to Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, January 27–February 2, 2009:											
Vickie Plunkett	1/28	1/31	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/31	2/2	Bahrain		248.00						248.00
	2/2	2/4	Qatar		228.00						228.00
Commercial airfare							8,410.54				8,410.54
Cathleen Garman	1/28	1/31	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/31	2/2	Bahrain		248.00						248.00
	2/2	2/4	Qatar		228.00						228.00
Commercial airfare							8,410.54				8,410.54
Lynn Williams	1/28	1/31	Kuwait		348.00						348.00
	1/31	2/2	Bahrain		248.00						248.00
	2/2	2/4	Qatar		228.00						228.00
Commercial airfare							8,410.54				8,410.54
Jenness Simler	1/31	2/2	Bahrain		248.00						248.00
Commercial airfare							8,893.21				8,893.21
Delegation expenses	1/28	1/31	Kuwait						2,999.49		2,999.49
	1/31	2/2	Bahrain						1,543.45		1,543.45
	2/2	2/4	Qatar						1,359.24		1,359.24
Visit to Germany With CODEL McCain, February 2–8, 2009:											
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	2/6	2/8	Germany		394.00						394.00
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	2/6	2/8	Germany		394.00						394.00
Visit to Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, February 13–19, 2009:											
Hon. Chellie Pingree	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		448.00						448.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq								
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		396.00						396.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,046.00						1,046.00
Commercial airfare							8,083.56				8,083.56
Hon. Bobby Bright	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		448.00						448.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq								
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		396.00						396.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,046.00						1,046.00
Commercial airfare							8,083.56				8,083.56
Hon. Duncan Hunter	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		448.00						448.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq								
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		396.00						396.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,046.00						1,046.00
Commercial airfare							8,083.56				8,083.56
Douglas Bush	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		448.00						448.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq								
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		396.00						396.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,046.00						1,046.00
Commercial airfare							8,083.56				8,083.56
Kari Bingen Tytler	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		448.00						448.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq								
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		396.00						396.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,046.00						1,046.00
Commercial airfare							8,083.56				8,083.56
Visit to Colombia, February 13–17, 2009:											
Hon. Gene Taylor	2/13	2/17	Columbia		235.00						235.00
Commercial airfare							4,065.61				4,065.61
Visit to Hawaii, Guam, Japan, South Korea, February 14–22, 2009:											
Hon. Ike Skelton	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Roscoe Barlett	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Madeleine Bordallo	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. K. Michael Conaway	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon Hank Johnson	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Howard "Buck" McKeon	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Solomon Oritz	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Chellie Pingree	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Joe Wilson	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Hon. Doug Lamborn	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Ms. Erin Conaton	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Andrew Hunter	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Paul Arcangeli	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Thomas Hawley	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Kyle Wilkens	2/18	2/18	Iwo Jima								
	2/18	2/20	Korea		340.00						340.00
	2/20	2/21	Okinawa		125.00						125.00
Delegation expenses	2/18	2/20	Korea						7,588.77		
Visit to Germany, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, February 18–25, 2009:											
William Natter	2/19	2/20	Germany		316.00						316.00
	2/20	2/21	Morocco		305.00						305.00
	2/21	2/23	Mauritania		437.00						437.00
	2/23	2/24	Burkina Faso		216.00						216.00
Commercial airfare							16,632.05				16,632.05
Mark Lewis	2/19	2/20	Germany		316.00						316.00
	2/20	2/21	Morocco		305.00						305.00
	2/12	2/23	Mauritania		437.00						437.00
	2/23	2/24	Burkina Faso		216.00						216.00
Commercial airfare							16,632.05				16,632.05
Alexander Kugajevsky	2/19	2/20	Germany		316.00						316.00
	2/20	2/21	Morocco		305.00						305.00
	2/21	2/23	Mauritania		437.00						437.00
	2/23	2/24	Burkina Faso		216.00						216.00
Commercial airfare							16,632.05				16,632.05
Roger Zakheim	2/19	2/20	Germany		316.00						316.00
	2/20	2/21	Morocco		305.00						305.00
	2/21	2/23	Mauritania		437.00						437.00
	2/23	2/24	Burkina Faso		216.00						216.00
Commercial airfare							10,907.87				10,907.87
Visit to Afghanistan, India, March 18–24, 2009:											
Erin Conaton	3/19	3/20	India		106.00						106.00
	3/20	3/22	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial airfare							7,994.55				7,994.55
Paul Oostburg Sanz	3/19	3/20	India		66.00						66.00
	3/20	3/22	Afghanistan		32.00						32.00
Commercial airfare							8,024.55				8,024.55
Michael Casey	3/19	3/20	India		106.00						106.00
	3/20	3/22	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial airfare							8,024.55				8,024.55
Robert Simmons	3/19	3/20	India		106.00						106.00
	3/20	3/22	Afghanistan		56.00						56.00
Commercial airfare							8,024.55				8,024.55
Visit to Belgium with CODEL Casey, March 20–22, 2009:											
Hon. Ellen Tauscher	3/20	3/22	Belgium		1,273.14						1,273.14
Hon. Michael Turner	3/20	3/22	Belgium		1,273.14						1,273.14
Visit to Mexico with CODEL Reyes, March 26–27, 2009:											
Hon. Ike Skelton	3/26	3/27	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Paul Oostburg Sanz	3/26	3/27	Mexico		270.00						270.00
John Philip MacNaughton	3/26	3/27	Mexico		300.00						300.00
Committee total					44,968.25		236,867.74		14,830.31		289,077.53

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. IKE SKELTON, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Staff Del. Tico Almeida	2/2	2/5	Colombia		306.00		[4] 769.30		[5] 716.35		1,791.65
CODEL Tierney	1/30	2/3					(3)		(5)		
Hon. George Miller	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Committee total					751.00		769.30		716.35		2,236.65

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Commercial airfare.
[5] Hotel accommodations paid by U.S. Embassies, only information State Department has provided at this time.

HON. GEORGE MILLER, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Melissa Bartlett	2/14	2/21	Tanzania		1,938.00		10,529.64				12,467.64
							[4] 125.12		[4] 125.12		
Hon. Peter Welch	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00						166.00
	1/30	1/31	Quatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/02	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/02	2/03	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Hon. Phil Gingrey	2/18	2/20	Korea		242.84		(3)		340.00		582.84
	2/20	2/21	Japan		144.00		(3)		125.00		269.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Henry Waxman [5]	2/19	2/23	Israel		528.00						528.00
Hon. Jane Harman [5]	2/19	2/23	Israel		528.00						528.00
Committee total					3,991.84		10,654.76		339.88		14,986.48

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Flight: Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar (reimbursed to UN/AIDS)
[5] Amended report may be done when transportation costs are reported.

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN, Chairman, May 1, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Jasmeet Ahuja	2/16	2/21	India		2,142.00		8,869.30				11,011.30
David Beraka	2/14	2/16	Egypt		891.00						891.00
	2/16	2/17	Jordan		304.00						304.00
	2/17	2/22	Israel		2,139.00						2,139.00
	2/14	2/22					[4] 10,511.15				10,511.15
Hon. Howard L. Berman	2/19	2/22	Syria		1,563.00		4,074.97				5,637.97
	3/26	3/27	Mexico		285.00		(3)				285.00
Paul Berkowitz	2/20	2/21	Japan		494.00		11,139.75				11.633.75
Hon. William D. Delahunt	3/19	3/20	Venezuela		153.00		3,026.46				3,179.46
Howard Diamond	2/14	2/16	Egypt		891.00						891.00
	2/16	2/17	Jordan		304.00						304.00
	2/17	2/22	Israel		2,139.00						2,139.00
	2/14	2/22					[4] 10,511.15				10,511.15
Hon. Keith Ellison	2/14	2/17	Qatar		1,187.00						1,187.00
	2/17	2/18	Jordan		321.00						321.00
	2/18	2/20	Israel		1,114.00						1,114.00
	2/14	2/20					[4] 8,983.39				8,983.39
Hon. Eliot L. Engel	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		337.32		(3)				337.32
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		650.32		(3)				650.32
Hon. Eni F.H. Faleomavaega	1/9	1/10	Vietnam		328.00						328.00
	1/10	1/15	Laos		970.00						970.00
	1/9	1/15					[4] 12,407.30				[4] 12,407.30
	2/14	2/18	Kuwait		1,992.00						1,992.00
	2/18	2/22	Italy		2,131.00						2,131.00
	2/14	2/22					[4] 7,762.40				7,762.40
	3/1	3/3	Micronesia		508.00						508.00
	3/3	3/7	Marshall Islands		828.00						828.00
	3/1	3/7					[4] 6,561.28				6,561.28
	3/20	3/24	Norway		2,513.00		8,436.84		[5] 3,634.60		14,584.44
Dennis Halpin	1/10	1/11	Thailand		218.00						218.00
	1/11	1/15	Laos		576.00						576.00
	1/10	1/15					[4] 6,008.70				6,008.70
Hon. Sheila Jackson-Lee	1/30	1/31	Pakistan		126.00		10,936.25				11,062.25
Eric Jacobstein	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		337.32		(3)				337.32
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		650.32		(3)				650.32
Nurjadi Jasin	3/8	3/10	Indonesia		545.46						545.46
	3/10	3/14	Timor-Leste		837.50						837.50
	3/8	3/14					[4] 731.75				731.75
Jonathan Katz	2/17	2/20	Turkey		1,149.00		7,970.63				9,119.63
Richard Kessler	3/26	3/27	Mexico		285.00		(3)				285.00
Julie Kim	1/26	1/30	Kosova		596.00						596.00
	1/30	1/31	Austria		311.00						311.00
	1/26	1/31					[4] 10,063.73				10,063.73
Jonathan Lis	1/26	1/30	Kosova		596.00						596.00
	1/30	1/31	Austria		311.00						311.00
	1/26	1/31					[4] 10,063.73				10,063.73
	2/16	2/20	Peru		1,214.00		5,855.95				7,069.95
Alan Makovsky	2/17	2/19	Turkey		766.00						766.00
	2/19	2/22	Syria		1,513.00						1,513.00
	2/22	2/24	Lebanon		150.00						150.00
	2/17	2/24					[4] 8,898.19				8,898.19
Mark Milosch	2/5	2/9	Brazil		1,583.00		8,446.70				10,029.70
	2/15	2/18	United Kingdom		1,305.00		6,778.96				8,083.96
Jonathan Cobb Mixter	1/6	1/11	Vietnam		1,446.00						1,446.00
	1/11	1/15	Laos		576.00						576.00
	1/15	1/16	Thailand		218.00						218.00
	1/6	1/16					[4] 9,367.80				9,367.80
Hon. Ted Poe	1/29	1/30	Israel		461.00		(3)				461.00
	1/30	1/31	Syria		462.50		(3)				462.50
	1/31	2/1	Kuwait		413.21		(3)				413.21
	2/1	2/1	Iraq				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Belgium		404.00		(3)				404.00
Peter Quilter	3/26	3/27	Mexico		285.00		(3)				285.00
David Richmond	1/9	1/10	Vietnam		328.00						328.00
	1/10	1/15	Laos		970.00						970.00
	1/9	1/15					[4] 12,407.30				12,407.30
	2/14	1/18	Kuwait		1,992.00						1,992.00
	2/18	1/22	Italy		2,131.00						2,131.00
	2/14	1/22					[4] 12,834.40				12,834.40
	3/1	3/3	Micronesia		508.00						508.00
	3/3	3/7	Marshall Islands		828.00						828.00
	3/1	3/7					[4] 6,500.82				6,500.82
Ava Rogers	2/17	2/21	DRC		1,184.00		10,163.68				11,347.68
Joshua Rogin	2/17	2/20	Turkey		1,149.00		7,970.63				9,119.63
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		483.00		(3)				483.00
	2/15	2/16	Iraq		0.00		(3)				0.00
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		526.00		(3)				526.00
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		75.00		(3)				75.00
	2/18	2/19	Kuwait		483.00		(3)				483.00
	2/20	2/21	Japan		494.00		6,823.05				7,317.05
Julie Schoenthaler	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		337.32		(3)				337.32
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		650.32		(3)				650.32
Margarita Seminario	1/26	1/30	Kosova		596.00						596.00
	1/30	1/31	Austria		311.00						311.00
	1/26	1/31					[4] 10,063.73				10,063.73
	2/16	2/20	Peru		1,214.00		4,779.95				5,993.95
Amanda Sloat	2/15	2/18	Moldova		615.00						615.00
	2/18	2/21	Belarus		1,179.00						1,179.00
	2/15	2/21					[4] 10,669.89				10,669.89
Hon Christopher Smith	2/5	2/9	Brazil		1,583.00		8,446.70				10,029.70
	2/15	2/18	United Kingdom		1,305.00		6,778.96				8,083.96
Cliff Stammerman	1/6	1/10	Vietnam		1,168.00		10,229.00				11,397.00
Jason Steinbaum	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		337.32		(3)				337.32
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		650.32		(3)				650.32
Mark Sullivan	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50		(3)				699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		337.32		(3)				337.32
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		650.32		(3)				650.32
Maureen Taft-Morales	2/16	2/20	Peru		1,214.00		5,855.95				7,069.95
William Tuchrello	3/7	3/10	Indonesia		99.00						99.00
	3/10	3/13	Timor Leste		642.00						642.00
	3/7	3/13					[4] 731.75				731.75
Kristin Wells	2/16	2/21	India		1,857.50		11,261.75				13,119.25
Hon. Robert Wexler	2/17	2/20	Turkey		1,149.00		7,970.63				9,119.63
Lisa Williams	1/9	1/10	Vietnam		328.00						328.00
	1/10	1/15	Laos		970.00						970.00
	1/9	1/15					[4] 12,407.30				12,407.30
	3/20	3/24	Norway		2,351.00		9,395.84				11,746.84
Shanna Winters	2/16	2/19	India		1,380.00		7,697.17				9,077.17
Committee total											421,122.35

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Round-trip airfare.
[5] Indicates Delegation costs.

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN, Chairman, Apr. 30, 2009.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Chuck Atkins	10/12	10/16	China		1,117.02		[4] 13,126.91		97.93		14,341.86
	10/16	10/22	Vietnam		1,916.00						1,916.00
Alisa Ferguson	10/12	10/16	China		1,117.02		[4] 13,126.91		97.93		14,341.86
	10/16	10/22	Vietnam		1,916.00						1,916.00
Richard Obermann	10/12	10/16	China		1,117.02		[4] 13,126.91		97.93		14,341.86
	10/16	10/22	Vietnam		1,696.00						1,696.00
Dahlia Sokolov	10/12	10/16	China		1,117.02		[4] 13,126.91		97.93		14,341.86
	10/16	10/22	Vietnam		1,696.00						1,696.00
Janet Poppleton	10/12	10/16	China		1,117.02		[4] 13,126.91		97.93		14,341.86
	10/16	10/22	Vietnam		1,696.00						1,696.00
Edward Feddeman	10/10	10/11	Russia		446.00		[4] 10,444.73		552.00		11,442.73
	10/11	10/12	Kazakhstan		474.00		1,830.00				2,304.00
	10/12	10/14	Russia		992.00						992.00
	10/14	10/18	Germany		1,702.00						1,702.00
Ken Monroe	10/10	10/11	Russia		446.00		[4] 10,444.73		552.00		11,442.73
	10/11	10/12	Kazakhstan		474.00		1,830.00				2,304.00
	10/12	10/14	Russia		992.00						992.00
	10/14	10/20	Germany		1,702.00						1,702.00
Jean Fruci	12/7	12/15	Poland		4,544.00		[4] 3,668.68				8,212.68
Chris King	12/8	12/15	Poland		3,626.00		[4] 3,641.68				7,267.00
Margaret Caravelli	12/8	12/12	Poland		1,472.00		[4] 9,434.86				10,906.86
	12/12	12/14	Czech Republic		(5)						
Bart Forsyth	12/6	12/13	Poland		3,976.00		[4] 9,099.45				13,075.45
Tara Rothschild	12/8	12/12	Poland		1,472.00		[4] 9,434.86				10,906.86
	12/12	12/14	Czech Republic		(5)						
Hon. Brian Baird	12/2	12/3	Qatar		373.00		[4] 8,219.27				8,592.27
	12/3	12/4	Afghanistan		75.00		(3)		96.73		171.73
	12/4	12/5	Bahrain		446.25		(3)		61.50		507.75
	12/5	12/6	Qatar		373.00		(3)		220.96		593.96
	12/6	12/7	Kuwait		324.50		75.00		1,315.14		1,714.64
	12/7	12/8	Iraq				(3)				
	12/8	12/9	Kuwait		324.50						324.50
Amended with State Dept. info:											
Hon. Randy Neugebauer	12/3	12/4	Nigeria		414.14		(3)		101.23		515.37
	12/4	12/4	Rwanda				(3)				
	12/4	12/5	Ethiopia		[7] 478.21		(3)		348.62		826.83
	12/5	12/5	Uganda				(3)				
	12/5	12/6	Qatar				(3)				
	12/6	12/6	Afghanistan				(3)				
	12/6	12/6	Kuwait				(3)				
	12/6	12/7	United Kingdom		(8)		(3)				
Committee total											177,126.66

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Round-trip commercial air.
[5] Two nights at personal expense.
[6] Round-trip Russia-Kazakhstan-Russia.
[7] Includes United Kingdom.
[8] Included with Ethiopia.

HON. BART GORDON, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Brian Baird [4]	1/29	2/1	Switzerland		2,022.00		(3)				2,022.00
	2/14	2/17	Qatar		506.00						506.00
	2/17	2/18	Jordan		321.00		96.13		60.95		477.18
	2/18	2/20	Israel		1,114.00		144.66		2,092.44		3,351.10
Commercial airfare							8,609.39				8,609.39
Nicholas Palarino [4]	2/14	2/17	Qatar		506.00						506.00
	2/17	2/18	Jordan		321.00		96.13		60.95		477.18
	2/18	2/20	Israel		1,114.00		144.66		2,092.44		3,351.10
Commercial airfare							8,609.39				8,609.39
Hon. Bart Gordon	2/15	2/19	France		3,018,00		22.01		605.00		3,690.01
Commercial airfare							8,059.98				8,059.98
Julie Eubank	2/15	2/19	France		3,018.00		22.01		605.00		3,690.01
Commercial airfare							8,059.98				8,059.98
Committee total											51,409.32

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
[4] Complete financial data not yet received from the State Department.

HON. BART GORDON, Chairman, Apr. 28, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Andrew Su	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
John Arlington	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
John Cuaderes	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Hon. Steve Driehaus	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Hon. Gerald Connolly	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Hon. Todd Russell Platts	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Hon. Stephen Lynch	2/27	2/27	Kuwait				(3)				
	2/27	2/28	Iraq				(3)				
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25		(3)				25
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43		(3)				229.43
Thomas Alexander	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131
Kevin McDermott	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131
Andrew Wright	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166.00
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Hon. Christopher Van Hollen	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166.00
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Hon. Christopher Murphy	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166.00
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Dave Turk	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166.00
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Hon. John Tierney	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00		(3)				166.00
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00		(3)				164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00		(3)				150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan				(3)				
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00		(3)				131.00
Pakistan—other support costs									263.88		263.88
Qatar—other support costs									1,212.14		1,212.14
Kabul—other support costs									696.42		696.42
Bruce Fernandez	4/4	4/6	Syria		702.00		13,577.21				14,279.21
	4/6	4/7	Israel		461.00						461.00
	4/8	4/10	India		1,073.38						1,073.38
	4/10	4/11	Morocco		276.60						276.60
Brien Beattie	4/4	4/6	Syria		702.00		13,577.21				14,279.21
	4/6	4/7	Israel		461.00						461.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	4/8	4/10	India		1,073.38						1,073.38
	4/10	4/11	Morocco		276.60						276.60
Leah Perry	4/4	4/6	Syria		702.00		13,577.21				14,279.21
	4/6	4/7	Israel		461.00						461.00
	4/8	4/10	India		1,073.38						1,073.38
	4/10	4/11	Morocco		276.60						276.60
Hon. Stephen Lynch	4/4	4/6	Syria		702.00		14,220.26				14,922.26
	4/6	4/7	Israel		461.00						461.00
	4/8	4/10	India		1,073.38						1,073.38
	4/10	4/11	Morocco		276.60						276.60
Other delegation expenses Morocco							911.00				911.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	3/20	3/22	Belgium		412.00						412.00
Kurt Bardella	3/20	3/22	Belgium		412.00						412.00
Committee total					16,933.93		55,862.89		2,172.44		74,969.26

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON EDOLPHUS TOWNS, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Steve Cohen	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		639.58		(3)				639.58
	2/15	2/16	Iraq				(3)				
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		624.38		(3)				624.38
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		15.00		(3)				15.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,284.32		(3)				1,284.32
Hon. Mario Diaz-Balart	2/14	2/15	Kuwait		639.58		(3)				639.58
	2/15	2/16	Iraq				(3)				
	2/16	2/17	Bahrain		624.38		(3)				624.38
	2/17	2/18	Afghanistan		15.00		(3)				15.00
	2/18	2/20	Kuwait		1,284.32		(3)				1,284.32
Hon. Jean Schmidt	2/16	2/18	Mexico		290.00		(3)				290.00
	2/18	2/19	Nicaraqua		174.00		(3)				174.00
	2/19	2/20	Jamaica		402.00		(3)				402.00
Hon. Jerry Costello	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. John Duncan	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. E.B. Johnson	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Solomon Ortiz	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Tim Holden	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Steve LaTourette	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Heny Brown	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Hon. Dan Lipinski	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Jimmy Miller	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
John Cullather	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Christa Fornarotto	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Laurie Bertenthal	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Holly Woodruff Lyons	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Suzanne Newhouse	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00		(3)				438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00		(3)				698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00		(3)				592.00
Committee total					30,184.56						30,184.56

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, Chairman, Apr. 29, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Ron Kind	1/29	1/30	Kuwait		166.00						166.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	1/30	1/31	Qatar		164.00						164.00
	1/31	2/2	Afghanistan		150.00						150.00
	2/2	2/2	Pakistan								
	2/2	2/3	Hungary		131.00						131.00
Hon. Jim McDermott	2/27	2/27	Kuwait								
	2/27	2/28	Iraq								
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.00						229.00
Hon. Ron Kind	3/19	3/23	Belgium		312.00						312.00
Committee total					1,177.00						1,177.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL, Chairman, May 1, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger			Middle East		468.51						
			Middle East		462.25						
			Middle East		461.00						
			Europe		404.00						
											[3] 1,795.76
Robert Minehart			Middle East		468.51						
			Middle East		462.25						
			Middle East		461.00						
			Europe		404.00						
											[3] 1,795.76
Hon. Mike Rogers	2/5	2/8	England		1,560.00						
Commercial airfare							4,264.98				5,824.98
George Pappas, Professional Staff Member	2/5	2/8	England		1,560.00						
Commercial airfare							4,264.98				5,824.98
Mark Young, Professional Staff Member	2/5	2/8	England		1,560.00						
Commercial airfare							8,969.08				10,529.08
Linda Coben, Professional Staff Member	2/4	2/7	Mexico		1,050.00						
Commercial airfare							1,050.58				2,100.58
Miguel Diaz, Professional Staff Member	2/4	2/7	Mexico		1,050.00						
Commercial airfare							1,015.00				2,065.00
Christopher Donesa, Professional Staff Member	2/4	2/7	Mexico		1,050.00						
Commercial airfare							1,055.58				2,105.58
James Lewis, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Europe		404.00						
Commercial airfare							6,793.91				7,197.91
Brian Morrison, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Middle East		534.00						
	2/17	2/28	Middle East		174.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		164.00						
	2/19	2/21	Middle East		390.65						
Commercial airfare							9,881.22				11,143.87
Iram Ali, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Middle East		534.00						
	2/17	2/18	Middle East		174.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		164.00						
	2/19	2/21	Middle East		390.65						
Commercial airfare							10,243.22				11,505.87
Joshua Kirshner, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Middle East		534.00						
	2/17	2/28	Middle East		174.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		164.00						
	2/19	2/21	Middle East		390.65						
Commercial airfare							9,881.22				11,143.87
Chelsey Campbell, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Middle East		534.00						
	2/17	2/18	Middle East		174.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		164.00						
	2/19	2/21	Middle East		390.65						
Commercial airfare							9,851.22				11,113.87
Christopher Donesa, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Middle East		534.00						
	2/17	2/18	Middle East		174.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		164.00						
	2/19	2/21	Middle East		390.65						
Commercial airfare							9,881.22				11,143.87
Donald Vieira, Professional Staff Member	2/16	2/17	Europe		443.00						
	2/17	2/19	Europe		1,130.00						
	2/19	2/20	Europe		276.00						
Commercial airfare							11,349.32				13,198.32
Laraunce Hanauer, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Africa		608.00						
	2/18	2/20	Africa		513.00						
	2/21	2/22	Africa		323.00						
Commercial airfare							10,707.79				12,151.79
George Pappas, Professional Staff Member	2/15	2/17	Africa		608.00						
	2/18	2/20	Africa		513.00						
	2/21	2/22	Africa		323.00						
Commercial airfare							10,707.79				12,151.79
Hon. Jeff Miller	3/19	3/23	Middle East		177.00						
Commercial airfare							6,492.08				6,669.08
James Lewis, Professional Staff Member	3/19	3/23	Middle East		177.00						
Commercial airfare							6,492.08				6,669.08
Miguel Diaz, Professional Staff Member	3/19	3/23	Middle East		177.00						
Commercial airfare							6,492.08				6,669.08
Chairman Silvestre Reyes	3/26	3/27	Mexico		350.00						
											[3] 350.00
Michael Delaney, Professional Staff Member	3/26	3/27	Mexico		350.00						
											[3] 350.00
Committee total											153,500.12

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. SILVESTRE REYES, Chairman, Mar. 30, 2009.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1746. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's third monthly Lending and Intermediation Survey and Snapshot, covering the month of February; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1747. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1748. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual report for 2008 on Voting Practices in the United Nations, pursuant to Public Law 101-246, section 406; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1749. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on assistance to Azerbaijan, pursuant to Public Law 107-115; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1750. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting correspondence from the Haitian Parliament; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1751. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2008-014, Amendments to Incorporate New Wage Determinations [FAC 2005-31; FAR Case 2008-014; Item III; Docket 2009–0006; Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL17) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1752. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2008-012, Clarification of Submission of Cost or Pricing Data on Non-Commercial Modifications of Commercial Items [FAC 2005-31; FAR Case 2008-012; Item II; Docket 2008-0001, Sequence 10] (RIN: 9000-AL12) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1753. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006–032, Small Business Size Rerepresentation [FAC 2005-31; FAR Case 2006-032; Item I; Docket 2007–0002; Sequence 11] (RIN: 9000-AK78) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1754. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005–31; Item VI; Docket FAR-2009-0003; Sequence 2] received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1755. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2008-017, Federal Food Donation Act of 2008 [FAC 2005-31; FAR Case 2008-017; Item V; Docket 2009-0007, Sequence 1] (RIN 9000-AL15) received March 19, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1756. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-32; Docket 2009-0003; Sequence 3] received April 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1757. A letter from the Acting, Senior Procurement Executive, GSA, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2007-013, Employment Eligibility Verification [FAC 2005-29, Amendment-3; FAR Case 2007-013; Docket 2008-0001; Sequence 18] (RIN: 9000-AK91) received April 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1758. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1759. A letter from the Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1760. A letter from the Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1761. A letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation —— Federal Railroad Administration, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1762. A letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation —— Office of the Secretary, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1763. A letter from the U.S. Department of Transportation —— Office of the Secretary, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1764. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary — Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Renewable Energy and Alternate Uses of Existing Facilities on the Outer Continental Shelf [Docket ID: MMS-2008-OMM-0012] (RIN: 1010-AD30) received April 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1765. A letter from the Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; U.S. Navy Training in the Southern California Range Complex [Docket No.: 0808061069-81583-02] (RIN: 0648-AW91) received April 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1766. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training (AFAST) [Docket No.: 080724897-81621-02] (RIN: 0648-AW90) received April 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1767. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; U.S. Navy Training in the Hawaii Range Complex [Docket No.: 080519680-81530-02] (RIN: 0648-AW86) received April 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1768. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 0910091344-9056-02] (RIN: 0648-XN53) received March 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1769. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 09100091344-0956-02] (RIN: 0648-XN71) received March 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1770. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 0910091344-9056-02] (RIN: 0648-XN42) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1771. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the Office's report on applications for orders authorizing or approving the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications and the number of orders and extensions granted or denied during calendar year 2008, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 2519(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1772. A letter from the Chair, NASA Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, transmitting the Panel's Annual Report for 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-155, section 106(b); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

1773. A letter from the Acting Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a determination that Agency real estate holdings located at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in Ventura County, California, are no longer needed for mission requirements, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2476a, section 207; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

1774. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Haw River Valley Viticultural Area (2007R-179P) [Docket No.: TTB-2008-0001; T.D. TTB-74; Re: Notice No. 81] (RIN: 1513-AB45) received April 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1775. A letter from the Chief Counsel (Acting), Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Governing Securities Held in TreasuryDirect—received April 29, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1776. A letter from the Board of Trustees, Federal Old-Age And Survivors Insurance And Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2009 Annual Report

of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395i(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 111-41); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

1777. A letter from the Board of Trustees, Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, transmitting the 2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395i(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 111-40); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SKELTON: Committee on Armed Services. H.R. 2101. A bill to promote reform and independence in the oversight of weapons system acquisition by the Department of Defense; with an amendment (Rept. 111–101). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 2020. A bill to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–102). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 31. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1385. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; with an amendment (Rept. 111–104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBEY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 2346. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–105). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 2343. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the partial payment requirement on submissions of offers-in-compromise; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. INSLEE (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 2344. A bill to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ADLER of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 2345. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for health care practices with 20 or fewer employees; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 2347. A bill to encourage the manufacture and use of efficient and advanced electric transmission cables, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOYER:

H.R. 2348. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage investment in electric transmission technologies that improve the efficiency of power delivery; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BOCCIERI, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. KILROY):

H.R. 2349. A bill to provide in personam jurisdiction in civil actions against contractors of the United States Government performing contracts abroad with respect to serious bodily injuries of members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the United States Government, and United States citizen employees of companies performing work for the United States Government in connection with contractor activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. HARE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KIND, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 2350. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Social Security Act to increase the number of primary care physicians and primary care providers and to improve patient access to primary care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LATOURETTE):

H.R. 2351. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to increase the borrowing authority of the National Credit Union Administration, establish a National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund restoration plan period, assess insured credit unions for the costs associated with the corporate credit union stabilization effort on an anti-cyclical basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHULER (for himself, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NYE, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. HALVORSON, and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 2352. A bill to amend the Small Business Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ (for himself, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

H.R. 2353. A bill to require electric utilities to notify electric consumers of the cost of emission allowances associated with the electricity delivered to such consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 2354. A bill to provide for increased research, coordination, and expansion of health promotion programs through the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. TAUSCHER):

H.R. 2355. A bill to establish a National Goods Movement Improvement Fund to provide funding for infrastructure projects that will improve the movement of goods, mitigate environmental damage caused by the movement of goods, and enhance the security of transported goods; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 2356. A bill to amend section 1119 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require each State educational agency receiving assistance under part A of title I of such Act to consider a teacher highly qualified if the teacher is (or was) highly qualified in at least 1 other State and has at least 5 years of teaching experience; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. BONO MACK:

H.R. 2357. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate number portability in order to increase consumer choice of voice service provider; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 2358. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require coverage under the Medicaid Program for freestanding birth center services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BARTLETT):

H.R. 2359. A bill to ensure parity between the temporary duty imposed on ethanol and tax credits provided on ethanol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BARROW, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. DENT, Ms. BEAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. CARNAHAN):

H.R. 2360. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Ways and Means, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 2361. A bill to require the accreditation of English language training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 2362. A bill to amend the Energy and Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize a provision relating to geothermal lease revenue, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a pilot project to streamline certain Federal renewable energy permitting processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STARK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. FILNER):

H.R. 2363. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for ceremonies on or near Independence Day for administering oaths of allegiance to legal immigrants whose applications for naturalization have been approved; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. WU):

H.R. 2364. A bill to amend section 211(o) of the Clean Air Act to change the definition of renewable biomass in the renewable fuel program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BOREN, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 2365. A bill to require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2366. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for coverage of oral cancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the coverage provided for intravenously administered anticancer medications; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HODES:

H.R. 2367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to employers for reimbursing the expenses of employees who provide carpooling; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MASSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 2368. A bill to encourage water efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mrs. BONO MACK):

H.R. 2369. A bill to improve mental and substance use health care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 2370. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the disclosure of certain information by persons conducting phone banks during campaigns for election for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2371. A bill to use tradable greenhouse gas emission allowances under the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 to provide assistance to residential and commercial consumers of home heating oil and propane in reducing the effective costs of such fuels through State programs to deliver cost-effective efficiency programs and other consumer assistance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2372. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to require the President to certify that the Yucca Mountain site remains the designated site for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia (for himself and Mr. SHULER):

H.R. 2373. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore payments for home oxygen therapy through the beneficiary's period of medical need; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODRIGUEZ:

H.R. 2374. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to make credit scores available to consumers once each year free of charge and to allow consumers to see the credit score used in connection with any particular lending or credit decision, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 2375. A bill to require the application of sanctions against affiliates of the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 2376. A bill to withhold United States funding from the United Nations Human Rights Council; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 2377. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GERLACH):

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical and national significance of the many contributions of John William Heisman to the sport of football; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. WOLF):

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution expressing the support of Congress for the Jewish community in Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H. Res. 424. A resolution authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach Samuel B. Kent, a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas; to the Committee on Rules; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FLAKE:

H. Res. 425. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

By Mr. MCNERNEY (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H. Res. 426. A resolution honoring police officers and law enforcement professionals during Police Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCINTYRE (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FORBES, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. REHBERG):

H. Res. 428. A resolution recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MELANCON:

H. Res. 429. A resolution congratulating Jockey Calvin Borel for his victory at the 135th Kentucky Derby; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MAFFEI, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. FILNER):

H. Res. 430. A resolution expressing condolences to the citizens of Italy and support for the Government of Italy in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the Abruzzo region of central Italy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H. Res. 431. A resolution impeaching Samuel B. Kent, judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 43: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. KANJORSKI.

H.R. 61: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 67: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 82: Mr. BOYD, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CARNEY, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 144: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 147: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

H.R. 179: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. AL GREEN OF TEXAS.

H.R. 181: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 197: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BACA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 205: Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 275: Mr. LUCAS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 305: Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H. R. 333: Mr. PETERS, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. MINNICK, and Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. HIGGINS.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

Mr. HODES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BACA, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H. R. 467: Mr. ELLISON.

H. R. 509: Mr. FARR, and Mr. KILDEE.

H. R. 520: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. R. 560: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. R. 578: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. R. 593: Mr. RAHALL.

H. R. 616: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H. R. 626: Ms. SUTTON. H. R. 684: Ms. DEGETTE.

H. R. 690: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. HILL.

H. R. 699: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H. R. 716: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. R. 734: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HEINRICH, MR. DELAHUNT, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.

H. R. 745: Mr. BOYD, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. DICKS.

H.R. 775: Mr. MINNICK, Mr. HARPER, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 795: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.

H.R. 874: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 877: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 881: Mr. HALL of Texas and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 886: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 930: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

H.R. 952: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. WEINER, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. HODES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 980: Mr. CASTLE, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 988: Mr. INSLEE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1016: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1017: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1054: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1055: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 1062: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1064: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H.R. 1066: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BACA, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1101: Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1126: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 1137: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1188: Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1193: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1207: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MACK, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MICA, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 1215: Mr. HONDA, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1240: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1265: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1298: Mr. MURTHA.

H.R. 1308: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana.

H.R. 1322: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 1339: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1354: Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1361: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 1362: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1378: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1398: Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1415: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HARPER, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 1428: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HARE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 1441: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1443: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1454: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JONES, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. SPRATT.

H.R. 1460: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1466: Mr. WATT and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1474: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1476: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1508: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1523: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1526: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1547: Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. MASSA, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1548: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. ADLER of New Jersey.

H.R. 1551: Mr. CARNAHAN and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 1608: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1615: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1618: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 1625: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 1628: Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 1645: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1646: Mr. COHEN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1666: Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 1670: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1684: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BACA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1685: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 1686: Mr. HODES.

H.R. 1688: Mr. HARPER and Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 1691: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1692: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.

H.R. 1693: Mr. LATHAM, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1700: Mr. GRAYSON and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1707: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1740: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1742: Mr. INSLEE.

H.R. 1761: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 1799: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1802: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 1826: Mr. FILNER and Mrs. DAHLKEMPER.

H.R. 1846: Ms. RICHARDSON and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1869: Mr. INSLEE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1884: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BARROW, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 1919: Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 1930: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1932: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1939: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1941: Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 1956: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 1976: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1977: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1985: Mr. LANCE and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1995: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2002: Mr. WEXLER and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 2014: Mr. ROSS, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2017: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2038: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 2049: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 2053: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 2057: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2058: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 2067: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 2081: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 2083: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. LINDER.
H.R. 2085: Mr. PAUL and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2132: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2134: Mr. SIRES, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. REYES, Mr. FARR, Mr. TANNER, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2149: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 2161: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. HODES.
H.R. 2194: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BARROW, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. MACK, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. COLE, and Ms. BEAN.
H.R. 2214: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2239: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2243: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SPACE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MASSA, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2254: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 2261: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2269: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2270: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 2280: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 2283: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H.R. 2294: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HERGER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MACK, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. REHBERG, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2321: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.J. Res. 37: Mr. GRAVES, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. SCALISE.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. PERRIELLO.
H. Con. Res. 84: Mr. CALVERT.
H. Con. Res. 89: Mr. DOGGETT.
H. Con. Res. 102: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Con. Res. 107: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Con. Res. 108: Ms. HIRONO.
H. Con. Res. 109: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CAO, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. SERRANO.
H. Con. Res. 112: Mr. COSTA, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. WOLF.
H. Con. Res. 117: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CALVERT.
H. Con. Res. 120: Ms. WATSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BERRY, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Con. Res. 121: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H. Res. 156: Mr. JONES, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. ROYCE.
H. Res. 192: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H. Res. 193: Mr. FLEMING and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 196: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. BILBRAY.
H. Res. 208: Mr. BILBRAY.
H. Res. 209: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. HONDA.
H. Res. 225: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LINDER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. FOXX, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H. Res. 241: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H. Res. 245: Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. TANNER, and Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 271: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 278: Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Res. 297: Mr. POE of Texas.
H. Res. 311: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 327: Mr. KING of New York and Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Res. 362: Mr. OLVER, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. ORTIZ.
H. Res. 366: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 377: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DREIER, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H. Res. 378: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H. Res. 387: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
H. Res. 388: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 390: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CAMP, Mr. HARPER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COLE, and Mr. ROSKAM.
H. Res. 397: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 398: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 399: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H. Res. 403: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. SNYDER, and Mrs. HALVORSON.
H. Res. 407: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. KIRK, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 413: Mr. PALLONE.
H. Res. 415: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. WALZ, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. ELLISON.
H. Res. 416: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 419: Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2110: Ms. HIRONO.5ST

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2346

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

AMENDMENT NO. 1: In chapter 10 of title II, in the item relating to ''Global Health and Child Survival'', after the first and third dollar amounts, insert ''(reduced by $50,000,000)''.

In chapter 10 of title II, in the item relating to ''Economic Support Fund'', after the first and last dollar amounts, insert ''(reduced by $126,500,000)''.

In chapter 10 of title II, in the item relating to ''Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', after the first and second dollar amounts, insert ''(reduced by $23,500,000)''.

After title II, insert the following new title (and redesignate the subsequent title and sections accordingly):

TITLE III—COMBATING DRUG CARTELS AND BORDER VIOLENCE

CHAPTER 1—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

DETENTION TRUSTEE

For an additional amount for ''Detention Trustee'', $15,000,000.

UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010.

INTERAGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT

INTERAGENCY CRIME AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT

For an additional amount for ''Interagency Crime and Drug Enforcement'', $75,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010.

CHAPTER 2—THE JUDICIARY

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010.

CHAPTER 3—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $12,200,000, of which $4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2010.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for ''Construction'' for infrastructure costs related to outbound inspections at ports of entry,

$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $52,800,000, of which $16,320,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2010.

COAST GUARD

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Operating Expenses'' for immediate cutter maintenance needs, $10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for ''State and Local Programs'' for Operation Stonegarden, $10,000,000.

H.R. 2346

OFFERED BY: MR. WOLF

AMENDMENT NO. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES INTO THE UNITED STATES

SEC. ____. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer or release prior to October 1, 2009, an individual who is detained, as of April 30, 2009, at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, into the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, or the District of Columbia, for the purposes of detaining, releasing, or prosecuting such individual.

(b) Not later than August 22, 2009, the President shall submit to the Congress, in writing, a comprehensive plan regarding the proposed disposition of each individual who is detained, as of April 30, 2009, at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who is not covered under subsection (c). Such plan shall include, at a minimum, each of the following for each such individual:

(1) The findings of an analysis carried out by the President describing any risk to the national security of the United States or the residents of the United States that is posed by the transfer or release of the individual.

(2) A certification by the President that any risk described in paragraph (1) has been mitigated, together with a full description of the President's plan for such mitigation.

(3) A certification by the President that the President has submitted to the Governor and legislature of the State to which the President intends to transfer or release the individual and certification in writing (together with supporting documentation and justification) that the individual does not pose a security risk to the United States, and that the Governor and State legislature of that State consent to the transfer or release of the individual.

(4) A certification by the President that the transfer of the individual into the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, or the District of Columbia will not have an adverse affect on the United States Government's ability to further detain or prosecute such individual, in accordance with the laws of the United States, for any offenses the individual may have committed.

(c) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be used to transfer or release an individual detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of April 30, 2009, to the country of such individual's nationality or last habitual residence or to any other country other than the United States, unless the President submits to the Congress, in writing, at least 30 days prior to such transfer or release, the following information:

(1) The name of any individual to be transferred or released and the country to which such individual is to be transferred or released.

(2) An assessment of any risk to the national security of the United States or its citizens, including members of the Armed Forces of the United States, that is posed by such transfer or release and the actions taken to mitigate such risk.

(3) The terms of any agreement with another country for acceptance of such individual, including the amount of any financial assistance related to such agreement.

(d) Not later than August 22, 2009, the President shall submit to the Congress, in writing, a detailed analysis of the total estimated direct costs of closing the detention facility at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and any related costs, including the estimated costs of detention, prosecution, security, and incarceration in the United States of the individuals detained at such facility as of April 30, 2009, and the estimated costs of transferring or releasing such individuals to other countries.

(e) The plan required by subsection (b) and the information required by subsections (c) and (d) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex if necessary.

H.R. 2346

OFFERED BY: MR. LEWIS OF CALIFORNIA

AMENDMENT NO. 3: In title I, in the item relating to ''Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund''—

(1) in the account heading, insert ''Capability'' after ''Counterinsurgency'';

(2) in the matter preceding the first proviso, insert ''Capability'' after ''Counterinsurgency'';

(3) in the first proviso, after ''law'', insert the following: ''for the purpose of allowing the Commander, United States Central Command, or the designee of the Secretary of Defense'';

(4) in the first proviso, after ''capability of Pakistan's'', insert ''military, Frontier Corps,'';

(5) in the third proviso, strike ''other non-intelligence related''; and

(6) strike the last two provisos.

In chapter 10 of title II, strike the item relating to ''Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund''.

H.R. 2346

OFFERED BY: MR. TIAHRT

AMENDMENT NO. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRANSFER OR RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, TO THE UNITED STATES

SEC. ____. Hereafter, none of the funds made available in this or any other Act for the current fiscal year or any fiscal year thereafter may be used to transfer or release an individual who is detained, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States.

H.R. 2346

OFFERED BY: MR. FRELINGHUYSEN

AMENDMENT NO. 5: In title I, strike section 10012 (relating to rescissions of Department of Defense funds).

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009 No. 72

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who alone rules the raging of the sea, we bow in awe and reverence before You. Even as we bow, we rejoice that Your mercy enables us to not be consumed in Your presence.

Strengthen our Senators for today's journey. In all the changing scenes of their lives, help them to bear in mind that You are an ever-present help for all their challenges. Lord, give to them the abiding awareness that nothing that disturbs their peace is too insignificant to bring to You. May these lawmakers live in the sure faith that Your love is stronger than all human rebellion and that You can empower them to live worthy of Your grace. At the end of this day, may they feel they have done their best and that You are pleased with their labors.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, we will be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes, the majority will control the second 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the credit card legislation. We will be in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus luncheons.

One of the things I want to clear up, I announced yesterday that we would be having votes on Monday. To say I got a few phone calls is an understatement. When we announce that there will be no votes, people schedule things. It is very difficult to undo those. By popular demand, we will not have any votes this Monday. I have spoken to the Republican leader. We think we can work together to accomplish what we need to anyway. We have a few things we need to do before we leave here next Thursday or Friday. I want everyone to know that the no-vote day is reestablished this coming Monday.

I filed cloture last evening on David Hayes to be Deputy Secretary of Interior. Under rule XXII, that vote will occur tomorrow morning. We may be able to work on an agreement to work around that in some way. We will certainly work with all colleagues to find out what we can do to work through that issue.

I have asked the Republican leader to speak first. I have something I have to do off the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NO VOTE MONDAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my good friend the majority leader, I am sure his decision to stick with not voting on Monday was greeted with great pleasure on this side of the aisle as well.

GUANTANAMO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the past several weeks, I have repeatedly expressed my concerns about the administration's decision to fix an arbitrary deadline on closing Guantanamo before it has a plan for the detainees. In my view, it was irresponsible for the administration to announce the closure of this safe and secure facility before it could assure the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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American people that the alternative would be no less safe.

So far the administration's response to these concerns has been to simply assure people that any future transfer will not endanger Americans. Attorney General Holder says that detainees from Guantanamo would only be sent to American prisons if he is convinced that doing so won't impact the safety of the communities they are sent to. National Security Adviser Jim Jones has said the same thing. On Sunday, he said nothing would be done to make Americans, ''less safe.''

These assurances may be consoling to some. But Americans deserve more than vague assurances. They want to know which communities are being considered, and they want to know how the people who live in these communities would be affected by the arrival of terrorists. In short, Americans want the kind of assurances and specifics the Attorney General has evidently shared with foreign governments like he did recently on a trip to Europe, but not with the U.S. Congress.

News reports indicate that Alexandria, VA is a possible destination for some detainees from Guantanamo. A few years ago, when one of the 9/11 conspirators, Zacharias Moussaoui, was held in Alexandria, the jail had to set aside a unit of six cells and a common area just for him. Every time Moussaoui was moved to a nearby courthouse, he was transferred in a heavily armed convoy and the entire prison was locked down. And whenever Moussaoui was transferred to the courthouse, traffic was stopped due to security concerns, a major inconvenience to locals and local businesses.

These were the security requirements for just one terrorist. Now imagine duplicating these procedures many times over for multiple detainees from Guantanamo.

Based on its own past experience with Moussaoui, local officials in Alexandria are extremely concerned. The mayor of Alexandria said recently that he is ''absolutely opposed'' to detainees from Guantanamo going to Alexandria and that he would do everything in his power to stop it. Alexandria's sheriff is also unconvinced by the administration's claims. He said that if multiple detainees were sent to Alexandria, they could ''overwhelm the system.''

Congressman JIM MORAN, who represents Alexandria, is one of the few people who is open to the idea of domestic transfers. But even he admits the strain would be intense.

Yet what is even more worrisome to some officials at the local level is the prospect that any city which houses these detainees could become the target of a terrorist attack. The residents of Alexandria are concerned about it, and so are the residents of communities all across the country. I can assure you that Kentuckians don't want detainees from Guantanamo living anywhere within our borders, and I know that communities all over the country share the same concerns.

Already, State and local officials in places like Louisiana, California, and Mississippi have been introducing resolutions to stop these terrorists from being sent to their communities. In Virginia, the Stafford County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution opposing the transfer of Guantanamo prisoners to the Marine base at Quantico. In Missouri, the legislature passed a resolution urging Congress to keep detainees out of the State.

Similar measures have been introduced or approved in other States, including California where Camp Pendleton is considered a candidate to receive detainees. Here in Washington, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are also raising concerns. When one Democratic Senator was asked about the possibility of detainees being sent to his State, he was blunt: ''No way,'' he said, ''not on my watch.'' Other Democrats have voiced serious concerns about the impact transferring detainees would have on their communities. They know about the experience of Alexandria during the Moussaoui trial, and they don't want it duplicated many times over in their own communities.

So there is strong bipartisan opposition to this proposal. I can't think of a congressional district in America that would welcome terrorists. Local communities want the administration to explain how transferring or releasing detainees won't make them, quote, ''less safe''. And the American people want the administration to explain its plans to their elected representatives in Congress.

Senator SESSIONS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, has now sent the Attorney General two letters asking what legal authority the administration has to release trained terrorists into the United States. He has yet to receive the courtesy of a response. Imagine that. The ranking member of the Judiciary Committee sent the Attorney General a letter pointing out that the law prohibits the transfer of terrorists to the U.S. soil, and he has not received a reply after two letters. Virginia Congressman FRANK WOLF sent a letter to the Attorney General in March regarding concerns he had with transferring Guantanamo detainees to Alexandria. He has since sent two more letters. The Attorney General has not responded to any of these requests.

Democrats are also demanding that the administration provide details for how it plans to deal with the terrorists at Guantanamo. Senior Democrats are now acknowledging that the administration simply doesn't have a plan and are asking the administration to provide one. Members of Congress have a responsibility to ensure the administration is not taking any actions that endanger the American people, and we have a responsibility to protect our constituents.

It is unacceptable that the Attorney General is willing to discuss details about his plans for Guantanamo with foreign countries—foreign countries—but not with the American people or their elected representatives. Members of Congress deserve, and the American people expect, the administration to provide us with answers.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds will release their annual report which will give us an idea of the current and projected financial health of these programs. We do not know exactly what they will say, but we know the news will not be good. Everyone knows these programs are unsustainable under current conditions, and the problem is only getting worse.

Unfortunately, it is a problem the Democrats' budget does not address. Despite repeated calls from our side of the aisle, entitlement spending has been overlooked for far too long, and now it is completely—completely—out of control.

This is a fiscal crisis of the first order, and it is a crisis that cannot wait any longer to be addressed. Nearly 7 out of $10 the Federal Government spends every year goes directly to mandatory spending on programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the interest on the national debt. Soon enough, Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlements will consume about twice the percentage of the Federal budget they did four decades ago. If we do not get control over this spending soon, we will only have a fraction left for vital priorities such as defense, health care, transportation, and other job creators.

We must address the issue of entitlement spending now before it is too late. As I have said many times before, the best way to address the crisis is the Conrad-Gregg proposal, which would provide an expedited pathway for fixing these profound long-term challenges. This plan would force us to get debt and spending under control. It deserves support from both sides of the aisle.

The administration has expressed a desire to take up entitlement reform, and given the debt that its budget would run up, the need for reform has never been greater. So I urge the administration, once again, to support the Conrad-Gregg proposal. This proposal is our best hope for addressing the out-of-control spending and debt levels that are threatening our Nation's fiscal future. More than 800,000 Kentuckians receive Social Security benefits, and we need to make sure the program remains solvent not only for them but for their children and their grandchildren.

Today's report will underscore the urgent need for action, and Republicans stand ready to work with Democrats and the administration to meet that challenge.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as a young man, I came to Washington, DC, to go to school. I came back here to go to school, and I went to law school during the daytime. I worked at night as a police officer here in this Capitol complex. I was a Capitol police officer. I had a badge. I still have that as my souvenir. It has a very low number. I was one of the early police officers, I guess. I worked the night shift. I worked from 3 to 11. Now, I did not do anything very dangerous, and that is an understatement. I watched the doors, helped with the crowds sometimes. The most dangerous thing I did—and the thing I disliked the most—was directing traffic. That was kind of dangerous because in those days they had these streetcar tracks in the middle of Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue, and trucks, vehicles, would bounce around on those. But anyway, I did not do anything very dangerous.

Every year for decades now, police officers and their families have come to Washington about this time of the year to honor those who have risked their lives and to remember those who gave their lives. Having had a little experience as a police officer, I recognize the sacrifice these men and women who come here have made.

As I said, this is the time of year we honor those who have risked their lives and remember those who have given their lives during the past year. Three of those fearless officers we recognize this year serve in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. It is an outstanding organization. The work they do is intense, and I am very proud of the work they do. Three of these officers are here in the Capitol today.

Last June, police officer Blake Penny was chasing another vehicle, thinking perhaps the person was armed. But the suspect's car flipped over, end over end, and landed on its side. Officer Penny did what any good police officer would do: He went to the car to see if everyone was OK. The passenger came out with gun blazing and shot Officer Penny. Fortunately, he did not kill him. He shot him just above the knee. The other bullets did not hit Officer Penny at all.

It was then that Officer Penny's fellow patrolmen—Sergeant Steve Custer and Officer Christian Jackson—heard those frightening words over the radio that police officers hate to hear but hear them more often than they would like: ''Shots fired, officer down.'' They, of course, raced to the scene because one of theirs was down. In the meantime, even though he was unable to walk, Officer Penny courageously continued to exchange fire with the suspect.

When Sergeant Custer and Officer Jackson got there, they threw themselves into the line of fire to administer first aid to Officer Penny and pull him into their patrol car. Officer Jackson drove his wounded partner to the hospital, and Sergeant Custer—a police officer for 36 years—stayed on the scene until backup arrived. Sadly, the suspect was killed in the exchange of fire.

That is the work these brave police officers do every day.

This week, the National Association of Police Organizations is honoring these brave officers with what is called the Top Cops Award. Custer, Jackson, and Penny are Top Cops. They have been designated so by their fellow police officers. This is a tribute given to just a select few of the countless men and women who each year go above and beyond the call of duty.

Today, it is we who are honored to have them here in the Capitol with us. To Officer Blake Penny and his wife Marcia, Sergeant Steve Custer and his wife Marcela, and Officer Christian Jackson and his wife Barbara—they are Nevadans and Americans—Nevadans and Americans everywhere thank you brave police officers for your service and your sacrifice. We are fortunate to have people just like you protecting us every day, not only in the metropolitan area of Las Vegas but all over the country.

We also remember the brave officers who tragically lost their lives this past year.

In Nevada, last February, State trooper Kara Borgognone—a wife and mother of two—was investigating a bomb threat at a gas station in Spanish Springs, NV, when her car crashed. She died from her injuries. She was only 33 years old. Trooper Borgognone will be honored here in Washington this week at the annual National Police Week candlelight vigil for officers killed in the line of duty.

Just last week, in Las Vegas, Las Vegas police officer James Manor—a husband and a brandnew father—was responding to a call in the same community where he grew up. With red lights blaring, he was going to a place where a woman was allegedly being beaten. He was struck by a drunk driver and killed. Officer Manor was 28 years old.

This week, we pause to think of the selfless police officers who have fallen in the line of duty this past year and in years past and their loved ones who have lost a father, a mother, a son or a daughter, a husband or a wife, or even a friend. And we pause to thank those—just like these three brave officers who are here this morning—who each day go to work with a simple job—a simple job, Mr. President—to put their lives on the line to protect people they do not know.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the second half.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. President. Will the Chair please let me know when I have consumed 10 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will be notified.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Chair.

EDUCATION REPORT CARD

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, after 100 days, there have been a lot of report cards on the Obama administration. I would like, with respect, to offer one on a subject both the President and I think is of crucial importance: the education of the American people.

As a good teacher would—or as my late friend Alex Haley used to say: Find the good and praise it—I would like to start with the good grades on this report card. So to begin with, I give President Obama an A-plus for recruiting. His best appointee, in my opinion, is the new Education Secretary, Arne Duncan from Chicago. The Acting President pro tempore might agree with that. The new Education Secretary grew up, as I did, in a family where the mom was a preschool teacher—my mother in the mountains of Tennessee, his on the South Side of Chicago. He has a background for leadership. He has an agenda for rewarding outstanding teaching, an agenda for encouraging the largest number of charter schools possible, an agenda for encouraging States to set higher standards. He has a close relationship with the President. He is truly a blue-chip recruit. On the subject of rewarding outstanding teaching and charter schools, if he succeeds with that in 4 years or 8 years, it could be a Nixon to China exercise in education. So an A-plus for recruiting.

Then, here is another A-plus: for rewarding outstanding teaching. This is the greatest need we have in kindergarten through the 12th grade in America. Every problem we are faced with—after you deal with the question of having a good parent—has to do with a good teacher. Whether we are talking about a gifted child or the needs of a child with a disability or of a child who has come from a home where a book has never been read to them or whether they are in the mountains of Tennessee or on the South Side of Chicago, put a child with the best possible teacher, and the child almost always succeeds.

In 1983, when Tennessee became the first State to pay teachers more for

teaching well, not one teacher was being paid more for being a good teacher. Many good people have worked hard on that: Governor Jim Hunt, Governor Bob Graham, Senator BENNET of Colorado, Senator CORKER of Tennessee when he was mayor of Chattanooga. But it is hard to do, to find ways to reward outstanding school leadership and outstanding teaching, to pay some teachers more than others. But if we do not, we will not be able to attract and keep the best men and women in our classrooms and in our schools.

The President's new budget increases from about $100 million to $500 million the Teacher Incentive Fund, which has been a big success across this country. Thirty-four grantees—cities, school districts—across the country are experimenting with different ways of rewarding outstanding teaching. There is not necessarily one way to do it. It almost always has to be worked out locally. Most of these cities are working with their unions to make this happen. Memphis city schools are using their funds to train principles. Philadelphia's grant application was co-written by the local teachers union. The Northern New Mexico Network for Rural Education is working with four school districts.

As I said earlier, if Secretary Duncan and the President can leave a legacy of dozens or hundreds of school districts, or even States, where outstanding teachers are paid more for their skills—not just for being there a long time or for going back to school—that would be the single most important legacy they could leave.

Then, here is one more good grade: an A-minus for charter schools. Charter schools also have a little history behind them. They began in Minnesota. The last act I took as Education Secretary, in 1992, was to write every school superintendent in the country and encourage them to start charter schools. Albert Shanker, the head of the American Federation of Teachers, asked ''If we can have a Saturn plant, why not a Saturn school?''

What he meant was, why not start from scratch and take the union rules and the Government regulations off teachers and let them use their own good judgment to deal with the children who are assigned to them. The charter school is a pro-teacher idea. It has greatly expanded over the years, but it still runs into substantial opposition, usually from the National Education Association or other educators who do not like it. But these are public schools. These are designed to free teachers so they can use their judgment to help children. Secretary Duncan and the President are committed to them.

The Secretary and I cowrote an op-ed for a Tennessee newspaper 2 weeks ago, which apparently helped to influence the vote of the legislature to begin to move along raising the cap on charter schools in Tennessee. I hope it did. I thank the Secretary for his bipartisan support and commitment. Again, if he is able to succeed, working with the President, and leaves a large number of public charter schools in our country when he leaves office, it will again be a ''Nixon to China'' experience and the country will be deeply grateful. The only reason why it is an A-minus is there is not much support in the budget for the major obstacle in creating more charter schools, which is support for financing for new facilities.

Now for the bad news. Every parent has had this experience with the child's report card. Here is a D. That is for spending $80 billion over the next 2 years for more of the same in the Department of Education without even asking the question: Is what we are doing working? That is hard for me to imagine.

The budget for the Department of Education would be at about $70 billion, so we are adding $40 billion to it this year and $40 billion next year for more of the same. Is everybody delighted with the way our K–12 grade system is working in America? I don't think so. We are challenged by it. We need to change it. So then why in the world would we put more money in for more of the same?

The only thing that saves the grade from being an F is that there is $5 billion for the Secretary's Race to the Top, which is a good idea based on the agenda I described.

What would we have done with the money? Well, I would have suggested we give a Pell Grant for Kids to every middle- and low-income child in the country and $500 for a state-approved afterschool program. Let the parents choose: for music, for art, for catchup, for academic improvement. It would have poured billions into the school districts. It would have created some competition and middle- and lower income children would be given more options. That would be what we could have done.

Here is another unfortunate grade: D-minus. That is for the DC voucher program. I see the Senator from Illinois. I had this all prepared. I had no idea he would be here. He has been a major participant in this. What keeps this from being an F is that the President and the Secretary have said they will continue funds for the 1,700 children in the District of Columbia who are now in high school and who are continuing, but after that, it is gone. This is a death sentence for the program. This is a death sentence for the model of giving low-income parents choices of better schools—schools such as middle- and higher income parents have. It is the model that made our higher education system the best in the world.

Senator LIEBERMAN has said he will have a hearing on this DC voucher program. I hope he does.

Mr. DURBIN. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I will after I am finished. Well, of course, I will. I will be glad to do that as a courtesy to my friend.

I would say, first, the Senator from Illinois missed my first two grades, which were A-pluses to the President for recruiting—for blue chip recruiting of Arne Duncan and for the teacher incentive program, so he may have come in as I was giving the bad news.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would say the Senator from Tennessee, as always, has been fair and balanced. I wish to ask him a question. Is he aware of the Department of Education's analysis of the DC voucher program and the results in terms of student achievement?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I am aware there are—the answer is yes.

Mr. DURBIN. If I could ask a further question: Is the Senator from Tennessee aware that when they surveyed the 1,700 students after 3 years in that DC voucher program, they found there was no measurable improvement among male students?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Well, I am not going to get into a detailed analysis with the Senator. I would say this: My view of American education is that we should give parents and students the opportunity to choose among the schools they go to. If there are four times as many children and parents who apply for this program than can be accepted, that would indicate to me that these parents and these families and these children think this is an opportunity they would like to have to improve their lives and improve their future.

Mr. DURBIN. I wish to ask the Senator from Tennessee if he feels we should hold those voucher schools accountable in terms of whether they are improving the education of the students who are sent to them with Federal support?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Oh, of course we should.

Mr. DURBIN. I would ask the Senator from Tennessee if he is aware of the fact that there was no improvement of math scores of the students in the DC voucher schools over a 3-year period of time?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator for his questions. I know he is the most ardent supporter of the idea of not using Federal dollars to give poor children the same choices that middle- and higher income children have. I respect that difference of opinion. I am going to go on with my remarks. But I believe it is a wise—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has spoken for 10 minutes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you very much. I am going to continue with the time on the Republican side, if I may. I look forward to a longer discussion with the Senator from Illinois on this subject. I would hope that when Senator LIEBERMAN holds his hearing, we will have a full discussion of why it is a good idea to say to poor kids and poor families: You can't have a choice of a better school, but people with money can. That is not the way we operate our college system.

This is our Nation's Capital. We are 3 years into a program. I have met with many of the children. Their lives are not going to be instantly changed in 3 years. There was much in the analysis that was completed by the Department of Education that showed the choices they made were helping the students academically and otherwise, and I will be glad to come back to the floor and discuss that when I have more time.

But let me go on to my concern beyond the DC voucher program to the bad news. I regret to say this, but the bad news has to do with Pell Grants and student loans. Pell Grants, of course, are the 5 million grants or scholarships that were made to low-income students this year to help them pay for college, with $19 billion that we have appropriated for that purpose this last year. Almost on the day it was announced that we had a $1.8 trillion deficit for this 1 year—four times bigger than it was last year—the President's budget wants to add $293 billion over 10 years to entitlement spending. That is automatic spending. That is the reason the country's debt is so high. Sixty percent of our spending is entitlement spending. I think the punishment for the administration should be that they should all be made to stay after school and write on the blackboard, each, 100 times: I will never, ever again add to entitlement spending, even for a worthy purpose. It is no gift to students to give them a scholarship to live in a country they can't afford to live in because it has an interest payment of $800 billion a year, which it would in the 10th year of the President's budget.

It is not as if the Congress has been stingy with Pell grants. They have gone from $7.7 billion 10 years ago to $19 billion today, and 5 million students are getting them. All we say today is if we don't have the money we have appropriated, we can't spend it on scholarships.

The President's proposal would say we are going to spend it whether we have it or not. Spend it whether we have it, despite the fact that our debt has grown to such levels that we couldn't even qualify to be admitted to the European Union, which is a huge embarrassment. That deserves an F and a stay after school and detention, as far as I am concerned.

Here is another F, and it is for student loans. There are 15 million of those student loans—about $75 billion—and what the President's budget proposes to do is turn this great recruit—this blue chip recruit, who I think has a good chance of being ''Educator of the Year,'' into ''Banker of the Year.'' He wants another Washington takeover, this time of student loans. Instead of letting 12 million students decide they would prefer to borrow from 2,000 institutions on 4,400 campuses all across America, they are saying: No—everybody just line up at the U.S. Department of Education to get your student loan.

The only justification for that, that I can see, is the administration says it might save the taxpayers money because the Federal Government can borrow cheaper than the banks can. Well, if that is true, then we ought to not have any private financial institutions in America; we ought to turn every financial institution into a national bank and let the President run them. Andrew Jackson, the founder of the Democratic Party, would turn over in his grave because he ran against the national bank during his whole political career.

It makes no sense to turn the U.S. Department of Education into a national bank for student loans. It should not be done. The savings are illusory. In the President's budget they say $94 billion is what will be saved, but they leave out the administrative costs which could go as high as $32 billion, and they leave out the fact that what they are doing is borrowing money at one-quarter of 1 percent and loaning it to the students at 6.8 percent.

So they are taking money from the students and using it to pay somebody else a scholarship, with the Congressman taking the credit. There needs to be some truth in lending here so that when students line up to get their student loans, somebody says: Did you know that the interest you are paying by working an extra job or by going at night is being used to pay somebody else's scholarship? If we take that part out of it, we could leave the program just like it is.

Twelve million out of fifteen million students prefer to have a private choice. They have had 15 years to choose either the public option or the private choice, and they have consistently decided they would rather deal with the community bank than a Federal agency.

Well, I am about through with the report card. The rest I would put under ''incomplete.'' There is still a lot of good-faith effort: Deregulating higher education is a goal of mine and Senator MIKULSKI's as well, and the new Secretary of Education has said he will work on that. More flexibility in No Child Left Behind is a goal of mine; it may be of the Secretary's as well. We can work on that.

My respectful suggestion to the President would be, instead of trying to make a tackle out of this wide receiver you recruited, instead of making Banker of the Year out of your Education Secretary, why don't you let him work on the education agenda? Why don't you let him focus on paying teachers more for teaching well and charter schools? If he runs out of things to do, to help parents, he could work on a tax system that is more favorable to parents with children; we used to have that in this country.

He could work on encouraging perinatal care so every child has a medical home or helping nurses to help parents in their homes so children can grow up healthy or to make sure we do nothing to discourage home schooling for dedicated parents or helping adults learn English. There are lines in Nashville and in Boston and in other cities of adults who wish to learn English.

He could encourage worksite daycare for parents who work and might take their child to work with them so they would be closer together. All that would be to help better parenting or to help create better teachers or better school leaders.

The Pell Grant for Kids I mentioned for afterschool programs or higher standards in data collection, I know the Secretary is interested in that. Teach for America, that is an important part of new energy in our schools. The Secretary, instead of trying to be ''Banker of the Year,'' could take on the teachers colleges which have had a hard time spending their time on such things as how to give parents more choices, how to reward outstanding teaching, how to make charter schools successful, or how to help newly arrived children learn English. He could expand the UTeach Program started at the University of Texas and which our America COMPETES legislation put into national law. That needs to be implemented.

Then, the summer academies, to help outstanding teachers and outstanding students of U.S. history so our children can grow up learning what it means to be an American. That would be a good thing to do.

I look forward to working with this new Secretary of Education. I give the President credit. I give him an A-plus for his recruiting. I give him an A-plus for his agenda for rewarding outstanding teaching and a high grade for his focus on charter schools. I am grateful for that. I stand ready to work with him.

I give him horrible grades for stopping the DC voucher program and another Government takeover, this one of student loans, and of taking money away from students who are getting loans to pay for scholarships for other students. That is not right. I think, in this day and age, when we are adding $1.8 trillion to the debt in 1 year, it is certainly no time to add $293 billion in entitlement spending to the budget over 10 years. The whole administration ought to write on the blackboard: I will never, ever again add to entitlement spending.

I look forward to working with the President and his outstanding new Secretary on that incomplete agenda. Many of the items I mentioned are things in which they are interested in as well and things which all of us in the Senate would want to do to help improve our system of elementary and secondary education, as well as our excellent colleges and universities.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business on the Democratic time and that the Republican time be reserved.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CARD ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage all to join me in recognizing the nurses of America and their commitment to addressing the needs of patients and their families.

Today, on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, we celebrate National Nurses Day. This is appropriate since Florence Nightingale is known as the pioneer of modern nursing. National Nurses Week, which expands May 6 through May 12, focuses on recognizing the integral role nurses play in promoting public health and also highlights the work nurses are doing to improve health care for all Americans.

I know firsthand the critical role that nurses play in providing safe, high quality, and preventive health care. My wife Mary is a bedside nurse, and I am delighted that she has been able to join me today to help put a spotlight on the critical role nurses play in health care.

Whether they work in a hospital, community health center, physician practice, school, home health care, a skilled nursing facility, or other health care setting, nurses create better outcomes for patients.

Nurses are the cornerstone of our country's health care system. Nearly 3 million registered nurses work today in the United States. But even so, our country is facing an 11-year nursing shortage, and that shortage is projected to extend for at least a decade longer. Nurse faculty shortages and a huge and growing burden of tuition debt for nurse training are contributing to the shortage, even as new vacancies for nurse positions open every single day.

The nationwide nursing shortage has caused dedicated nurses to have to work longer hours and care for more patients at the same time. That does not contribute to quality nursing, and we need to address that shortage.

Quality nursing education is critical to ensuring that we have a sufficient number of qualified professionals joining the field. We need to ensure we are training not only the best and brightest to help out our patients but also bringing those nurses to join the ranks of nurse educators.

Providing adequate Federal funding for nursing workforce development programs authorized under title 8 of the Public Health Service Act is critical to ensure a sufficient nurse workforce to meet the growing demand. I am pleased to join a bipartisan group of colleagues in supporting an increased investment in title 8 which has been an effective solution with past nurse shortages. These programs support the education of registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, nurse faculty, and nurse researchers.

Additionally, title 8 programs focus on recruitment and retention, two other distinct areas impacting this shortage.

Over the last 3 years, flat title 8 funding, combined with rising educational and administrative costs, as well as inflation, has significantly decreased the programs' purchasing power. Subsequently, the number of grantees supported by the programs has decreased 43 percent over the past 4 years.

As Congress works to improve our health care system and ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care, we must ensure that we have a stable and well-trained nursing force.

We have an obligation to create a health care system that not only works for patients but also works for people at the heart of our patient care—our nurses.

In closing, I want to note that I am soliciting my fellow Senators to join me to form a Senate nursing caucus. The caucus will provide a forum to address issues affecting the nursing community and recognize and advance the important role of nurses in delivering high quality health care.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, mounting debt is taking a big toll on families throughout this Nation. That is why over the past few weeks we have passed bills to stop mortgage scams and to prosecute corporate fraud and to lower fees for homeowners and help them into stable mortgages. Today we have an opportunity to continue to put Main Street first.

Over the last several months, I have heard credit card horror stories from my families all over the State of Washington. I have heard from people who paid their cards on time but saw their supposedly fixed rates skyrocket unexpectedly or who had their minimum required payment doubled with no notice.

I have heard from families who are 1 day late on their minimum payment, so the card company hiked up their rate and charged them a late fee, which put their card over their credit limit and that incurred another fee.

I have heard from people who say their credit card company raised their minimum payment, and when they called to complain, they were offered their lower minimum payment back but only if they accepted a dramatic increase in the rate.

With so many of our families struggling to make ends meet today, it is especially important that we stand up to protect families from excessive credit card fees from unexpected hikes in interest rates and minimum required payments and constantly changing credit card agreements that are designed to make a profit by keeping families in debt. That is why we need to implement the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act, or CARD Act, to help protect consumers from predatory and misleading lending practices.

The CARD Act we are going to be considering in the Senate today requires credit card issuers to give 45 days' notice of rate increases and to provide clear disclosure of term changes when accounts are renewed. It prohibits the so-called double-cycle billing where interest is assessed on the whole debt even when one portion was paid on time. It prevents card companies from using a contract clause to raise consumers' rates at any time for any reason that they choose. And it prohibits companies from issuing credit cards to anyone under the age of 21 unless the application is cosigned by a parent or guardian or the underage consumer completes a certified financial literacy course.

We are going to bring fairness back to the system by stopping financial institutions from taking advantage of consumers with hidden charges and misleading terms. No one should have to be surprised by changes to interest rates or their minimum payments. These steps are going to help us level the playing field and are going to save families thousands of dollars a year.

This bill addresses a number of things that are keeping credit card users in debt, and it is a good start. But at the same time we strengthen protections for credit card users, we have to make sure that people are empowered to make responsible decisions about their own financial future. Put another way, it is not enough to prevent credit card companies from changing the rules when too many Americans don't even know the rules in the first place.

The reality is that over the last several years, too many Americans have made poor or very often uninformed decisions about their finances. Too many overestimated their resources, didn't read the fine print, and didn't grasp the terms of their financial responsibilities before they signed on that dotted line. In fact, we have to recognize that too many Americans, from college students all the way to senior citizens, are financially illiterate.

I recently heard from a constituent of mine in Spokane County whose daughter had applied for credit cards shortly after she turned 18 years old. She, of course, didn't have much income and had difficulty making some of those payments on time. Her mom said one of those cards had a $500 limit. But instead of the bank declining purchases that would exceed that limit, each purchase she made went through and the bank charged a $37 fee for each and every one of them. Another bank charged her $7 every day because she had a $20 overdraft. Of course, she didn't have any hope of paying down those debts on her own.

Those are problems that could have been avoided if she had simply understood her financial responsibilities and the terms of her financial agreements. That is exactly why I have introduced

bipartisan legislation to make sure we help people develop the skills they need to make sound, informed financial decisions, from signing up for credit cards to taking out a mortgage to planning for your retirement.

The Financial and Economic Literacy Improvement Act of 2009 will require the Federal Government to step to the plate and become a real partner in helping Americans manage their finances and make good, informed financial decisions. It is a bipartisan bill. Senator COCHRAN has cosponsored it with me.

The purpose of the bill is to give young people the tools to make informed decisions about credit cards or student loans, to help them understand the importance of saving, and to have the knowledge to plan a comfortable and dignified retirement down the road.

We used to say the three Rs of school were ''reading, writing, and arithmetic.'' I think we need to add a fourth R: resource management.

Under our financial literacy bill, the Federal Government will become a strong supporter of making financial literacy education a core part of our K–12 education. The bill would authorize $125 million annually for our State and our local education agencies and their partnerships with organizations experienced in providing high quality financial literacy and economic instruction. That funding will help make financial literacy a part of our core academic classes. It will help to develop financial literacy standards and testing benchmarks and, importantly, provide teacher training. It will also help schools weave financial concepts into some of their basic classes, such as math or social studies.

The training will not end in high school. This bill makes the same investment in teaching financial literacy in our 2- and 4-year schools. Whether it is skyrocketing interest rates on credit cards or an adjustable rate mortgage you can no longer afford or a retirement plan they do not understand, I often hear the same thing from people: I wish they had taught me this in school.

Our financial literacy bill will ensure that we are teaching it in school and will help people learn those basic skills that are so necessary that will give them a leg up when they deal with their banks or credit card companies.

Let me be clear, credit is not a bad thing. When used correctly, credit can be a lifeline to the American dream. It can provide our entrepreneurs with the startup funds to become small business owners. It can help small business owners with the capital to grow into bigger businesses. And it provides families with the financial security to plan for their future.

But at this important time in our history, as we reflect on financial practices, it is very important that we work to restore our credit card responsibility for lenders and for consumers. That is why I am working to support this bill and my financial literacy legislation.

Just as families and consumers cannot afford unforeseen rate hikes and exorbitant card fees, we cannot afford for our young people today to not understand their own finances.

I congratulate Chairman DODD on crafting the CARD Act, and I hope the Senate passes it quickly this week. I look forward to continuing to put priorities of Main Street first and following through with that next step that is so important: passing the Financial and Economic Literacy Improvement Act.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in our home State of Illinois, we are losing about 2,000 jobs a day. It is an indication of the economy going through a recession and the hardships that are being created across this country. There is some good news, in the sense that perhaps we are turning a corner. I hope that is true. But let's not forget the victims and those who are casualties in this economic recession.

I recently received a letter, which I would like to read into the RECORD, from one of my constituents in Illinois—from Hodgkins. This is what she wrote:

> DEAR SENATOR DURBIN: I am a 61 year old female. I have raised 6 children without the benefit of welfare, except for 6 months. The State of Illinois was unable to collect court ordered child support. At one time I was working three jobs to support us. I am not bragging but stating a fact that I am not afraid to work. My children are now adults and I was, up to August able to support just myself and finally live on my own. For the last 23 years I have worked full time at a dry cleaners. I now find myself downsized to part-time, hourly instead of salary and in a position of real fear. I do not have a pension. I no longer can afford health insurance. My question to you is, ''What is going to happen to me and those like me?'' Thank you for letting me vent and for listening.

I read this letter and saw my response. The staff prepared a good response about the issues of health insurance and the President's stimulus package and what we are trying to do. And I thought it just isn't enough. I handwrote a response to her and let her know I had not only read her letter, but I was moved by this letter.

Many of the issues we debate on the floor of the Senate relate directly to this woman who has struggled through her entire life to provide for her children and take care of herself without leaning on the Government, and now she finds herself, at 61 years of age, in a very vulnerable position. She has to wait 4 more years before she qualifies for Medicare. She has no health insurance. She is totally vulnerable to an accident or a diagnosis that can literally wipe out any meager savings she has put together and put her in a terrible position.

People who face this do desperate things trying to keep things going. Many of them turn to credit cards, if they are lucky to have one. Too often they get too deeply into debt to those credit cards, and the outcome is not good. That is why the debate we are starting today on the floor of the Senate about credit card reform is one that is very timely. People across America are using these credit cards in an effort to try to stay afloat when they face a recession.

I receive countless letters, in addition to the one I just read into the RECORD from Illinois, with stories about credit card companies specifically. One woman wrote that she opened her statement recently to find her credit card rate had jumped from 3.9 percent interest to 26.9 percent interest. She phoned her credit card company, and she was told her last payment had been posted 2 days late because of a technical problem at her bank, which automatically pays her credit card bill each month. She did nothing wrong. Yet she was treated on the phone like a criminal, in her words, and faced this dramatic increase in the interest rate she had to pay on her credit card.

Another gentleman wrote that he paid $7 less than his minimum payment 1 month and was immediately fined an $85 fee. Another wrote that his credit card interest rate was increased from 8½ percent to 22½ percent. Yet he had never made a late payment or done anything else to justify the rate increase.

These people who wrote to me are totally at the mercy of the banks and these credit card companies. President Obama was right to call on the credit card companies to stop this sort of outrageous behavior. Chairman DODD reported a very good credit card bill out of the Banking Committee, and I am pleased the Senate is going to take up a version of that bill this week.

The bill would bar many of the most abusive credit card practices that banks have dreamed up over the years, including harmless sounding policies such as universal default and double-cycle billing, which in fact are terrible for credit card borrowers.

The bill includes a provision that I have been promoting for nearly 10 years. The bill would require that each credit card statement include, in clear terms, the cost of paying only the minimum amount due each month. Credit card statements would have to include two things: how many months it would take to pay off the full balance if no more purchases were made on the card and if you just made the monthly payment, and how much interest the borrower would need to pay during that

period. If people better understood just how expensive it is to pay only the minimum amount due each month, many people would save huge amounts of money over the long term by paying a bit more on their balances.

There are many good provisions in the bill such as the one I just mentioned, and I might add this is not a new idea. This is an idea I brought to the Senate 8 or 9 years ago during the debate on bankruptcy reform. I said we are talking about people getting in debt and ending up in bankruptcy court and that they should at least be given fair notice on their monthly credit card statements about what a minimum monthly payment means. Tell them how much interest they would pay and how long it would take to pay them off.

The banks and the credit card companies came back and said: DURBIN, it is impossible to calculate; too difficult to calculate; we just can't do it. They fought me and defeated my amendment. That was about 9 years ago. Thank goodness we hung in there, and thank goodness Chairman CHRIS DODD on the Banking Committee took this provision which I had offered so many years ago, put it back in the bill, and this time the banks have had to accept it.

I also wish to make this bill a little better, if I can, by setting limits on the credit card industry going forward. I plan to file three amendments this week. One would establish a new regulator, whose sole purpose would be to look out for the best interest of the consumers of financial products.

Understand what happens: If you go to the store today and buy a toy for your child, you fully expect that somewhere, someone is taking a look at it to make sure it is safe. You don't expect it to have lead paint that an infant or toddler might chew on, swallow, and have a negative health outcome. You wouldn't expect the toaster you bought to be faulty and catch fire in your kitchen. You wouldn't expect the television set to blow up when you take it home. These are things you assume somewhere along the way someone has done some basic inspection of the product.

Well, we found a few years ago that our inspection services were not good enough. The Consumer Product Safety Commission was not doing its job effectively. Those lead-based painted toys were coming in, and other dangerous toys, and so now we have completely reformed the law governing that commission, given them more authority and more power and more staff to protect American consumers. It is a minimum that we expect as consumers in America, that somebody is keeping an eye on these products before they hit the shelves so that we can go ahead and shop with some confidence.

But what about financial instruments? How many Federal agencies keep an eye on credit cards to see if they are doing something with their new practices which are abusive and shouldn't be allowed in this country? How many of them are taking a look at mortgage instruments to see if there is a provision in the mortgage instrument that is being offered in America that is dangerous for consumers?

Let me give an example of one: prepayment penalty. Know what that means? You enter into a mortgage agreement, and if you are not careful, and you don't have somebody helping you, you might miss in one paragraph in that stack of papers you get at closing which says, if you decide to prepay the mortgage, there is a penalty. It turns out that started in 2004. And because of a prepayment penalty, which many consumers weren't even aware of, they were hooked into mortgages where the interest rates exploded. So instead of being able to say, oops, I am going to push this old mortgage aside and get a new one at a lower interest rate, you can't do it without paying a significant penalty—a prepayment penalty. So people were trapped into expensive high-interest mortgages.

You would think that somewhere along the way someone would have waved the red flag and said to consumers across America, watch for this; prepayment penalties can become a hardship on you if you have one of these adjustable mortgages. But that wasn't done. Despite the fact there were Federal agencies that had the responsibility to keep an eye out for it, they didn't blow the whistle, and of course didn't have the authority to stop it from happening.

What we are creating here is the Financial Product Safety Commission—a commission which would play the same role when it comes to financial instruments that the Consumer Product Safety Commission does when it comes to the toys and appliances and cars and other things we buy, so we would have an agency not only with the authority to look at what is happening out there but to do something about it.

Trust me, as good as this credit card reform bill is—and I am hoping we can pass it, and I am hoping the banks won't stop it when it gets to conference committee, and I am hoping the President will be able to sign it—the next day the people in this industry will sit down and say, how do we get around it? What is the next thing we can do that they didn't cover? Trust me, that is what is going to happen. You know it. So wouldn't it be good to have a watchdog agency that keeps an eye on the financial industry and credit card industries on behalf of consumers?

There are 10 different Federal agencies which are supposed to have that responsibility, but few, if any, actually exercise it. Few, if any, say there are certain practices that are unacceptable, illegal, and we are going to stop them.

The second amendment I will file will be a Federal usury cap at a very high level. What is a usury law? It is a limit on interest rates. There was a time in America when that was considered normal; States would have usury caps. The Federal government had a usury cap. But then they went away in the interest of competition and free markets. We decided we were not going to put a cap on interest rates, and so it has reached the point where there are very few usury caps left. What I have established, as the maximum, is 36 percent.

Nobody in their right mind would pay 36 percent on a mortgage, or 36 percent on a credit card. I mean, you would have to be out of your head to get into that kind of a predicament—a 36-percent annual interest rate. But the fact is Americans right and left are paying much higher interest rates today and don't know it—payday loans, title loans, installment loans. Sit down and do the math and figure out to borrow a hundred dollars and what you end up paying, whether you are going to one of those places and putting up the title of your car or letting them have access to your checking account, which is a deadly thing to do from a credit point of view. You end up paying interest rates that go through the roof. I have actually had people sit in my office and say, Senator, this 36-percent cap on interest rates will put us out of business. I said: Well, how much do you charge? Well, somewhere between 58 percent and 400 percent a year. I said: I hope you do go out of business, because, quite frankly, they used to call that a juice loan when the syndicate and gangs were involved in it, but now it is legitimate. It is legal.

So this 36-percent cap on interest is something which I know will be resisted by banks and title loans and payday loans and all the rest of these folks, but it is about time we got real here. If we are not going to protect the American consumers when it comes to some of these interest rates, they are going to be very vulnerable to some bad practices.

The third amendment would allow retailers—the department stores, convenience stores, restaurants—to offer consumers discounts if they use less expensive methods of payment. For example, they would say: If you give us a credit card, here is your bill; but if you pay in cash, if you pay by check, or if you pay by a debit card, we will give you a discount. I don't think that is unreasonable. Because when it gets down to it, the extra charges the establishment has to pay for the use of a credit card are kind of hidden inflaters in the cost of the product you buy. If you can get a discount, I think it would be very helpful.

Ultimately, I believe these three amendments would move us toward a better bill. We are going to work with the sponsors of the legislation to see the best time and place to consider these amendments, and I am certainly open to any good-faith effort to give us our day in court, as we say here in the Senate, to debate these issues.

I might say that when it comes to the Financial Product Safety Commission, it has the support of the Consumer Federation of America, the Center for Responsible Lending, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and a wide array of groups that try to look out for the average person in America who can't afford high-paid lobbyists to try to protect them against some abuses and exploitations.

I think this is a move in the right direction. I commend this bill to my colleagues. I hope we can add some significant amendments to it and I hope at the end of the day we will do something for the lady who wrote me, who now has seen her hours at the dry cleaners reduced, faces some of the hardships of this economy, and is hoping that somewhere, someone on Capitol Hill will be keeping her interests in mind when we consider this significant and historic legislation.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I am told we can yield back all time in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. Morning business is now closed.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 627, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dodd/Shelby amendment No. 1058, in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I see my friend from Oklahoma is here and I gather has an amendment. I would be happy to entertain that amendment at this hour, if he cares to offer it.

Mr. COBURN. It was my understanding the Senator was going to put down a substitute bill?

Mr. DODD. It is already submitted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, it is my understanding the substitute is open for amendment, is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

AMENDMENT NO. 1067 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1058

Mr. COBURN. I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] proposes an amendment numbered 1067 to amendment No. 1058.

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks and refuges)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides that ''the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed''.

(2) Section 2.4(a)(1) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that ''except as otherwise provided in this section and parts 7 (special regulations) and 13 (Alaska regulations), the following are prohibited: (i) Possessing a weapon, trap or net (ii) Carrying a weapon, trap or net (iii) Using a weapon, trap or net''.

(3) Section 27.42 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, citizens of the United States may not ''possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges'' of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) The regulations described in paragraphs (2) and (3) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the second amendment rights of the individuals while at units of—

(A) the National Park System; and

(B) the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(5) The existence of different laws relating to the transportation and possession of firearms at different units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System entrapped law-abiding gun owners while at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(6) Although the Bush administration issued new regulations relating to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in units of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System that went into effect on January 9, 2009—

(A) on March 19, 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations; and

(B) the new regulations—

(i) are under review by the administration; and

(ii) may be altered.

(7) Congress needs to weigh in on the new regulations to ensure that unelected bureaucrats and judges cannot again override the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens on 83,600,000 acres of National Park System land and 90,790,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(8) The Federal laws should make it clear that the second amendment rights of an individual at a unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.

AMENDMENT NO. 1068

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I send another amendment to the underlying bill to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DODD. Let me suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded to ask a question of the Chair, a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to terminating the quorum call?

Mr. DODD. Reserving the right to object, is this just a parliamentary inquiry?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator cannot reserve the right to object. Is there an objection to terminating the quorum call?

Mr. DODD. I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] proposes an amendment numbered 1068.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be considered as read, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks and refuges)

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides that ''the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed''.

(2) Section 2.4(a)(1) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that ''except as

otherwise provided in this section and parts 7 (special regulations) and 13 (Alaska regulations), the following are prohibited: (i) Possessing a weapon, trap or net (ii) Carrying a weapon, trap or net (iii) Using a weapon, trap or net''.

(3) Section 27.42 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, citizens of the United States may not ''possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges'' of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) The regulations described in paragraphs (2) and (3) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the second amendment rights of the individuals while at units of—

(A) the National Park System; and

(B) the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(5) The existence of different laws relating to the transportation and possession of firearms at different units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System entrapped law-abiding gun owners while at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(6) Although the Bush administration issued new regulations relating to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in units of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System that went into effect on January 9, 2009—

(A) on March 19, 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations; and

(B) the new regulations—

(i) are under review by the administration; and

(ii) may be altered.

(7) Congress needs to weigh in on the new regulations to ensure that unelected bureaucrats and judges cannot again override the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens on 83,600,000 acres of National Park System land and 90,790,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(8) The Federal laws should make it clear that the second amendment rights of an individual at a unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I have a cloture motion.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I rise in support of the Dodd-Shelby substitute amendment.

Nearly every adult American has at least one credit card. They provide convenience, access, and service. They have become an essential tool for conducting financial transactions in this country and all over the world.

The existing rules governing credit cards, however, no longer strike the right balance between the interests of credit card companies and the consumer.

Credit card contracts are unclear at best, and thoroughly confusing at worst. Card issuers raise rates for unclear reasons, use billing methods that consumers do not understand, and assign fees and charges without warning. The bill seeks to remedy this by providing consumers with greater transparency, fairer terms, and more certainty in their dealings with the card issuers.

During the committee markup before the Banking Committee, I made it clear that I shared many of Chairman DODD's goals with respect to this issue. For example, I supported prohibiting double-cycle billing, banning the practice of universal default, limiting certain fees, and placing some restrictions on credit cards issued to young adults in this country.

I also thought consumers deserved more and clearer disclosure regarding the terms of their agreements. Finally, I expressed to Senator DODD the view that we should codify the Federal Reserve rules in a statute to ensure that they become permanent and not subject to the whims of future regulators.

At the markup before the Banking Committee, however, I indicated there were some areas where Chairman DODD and I disagreed at that point. Most notably, the original draft would have prohibited card issuers from using risk-based pricing for existing cardholders, both retrospectively and prospectively. I did not think it was wise to abandon the concept of risk-based pricing.

Without the means to price for risk, the credit card companies would be forced to impose significant costs to all—all—users of credit because they would be unable to account for the particular risk of an individual borrower. It would also be much more difficult for card issuers to innovate and create new products and services.

I believe credit should be priced according to the risk profile of each individual. Consumers who prudently manage their use of credit deserve to be rewarded with lower prices and better terms. Moreover, they should not be forced to subsidize the bad habits of others. I also believe markets must have the freedom to adapt to new circumstances and consumer demands.

In the weeks that followed the Banking Committee markup, I worked with Senator DODD to craft a compromise that allowed for the use of risk-based pricing. The Dodd-Shelby amendment before us allows card issuers to price risk but requires that they consider both positive and negative changes in the consumer's risk profile when setting rates and terms. This means that consumers will pay more when their credit risk goes up and can have their rates reduced when it comes down.

In total, the Dodd-Shelby substitute amendment reflects a broad, bipartisan compromise on many of the issues I raised in the committee. It prohibits double-cycle billing, the practice of universal default, and places restrictions on credit cards issued to young adults. It limits certain fees, provides more robust disclosure, and provides consumers with statutory certainty. It also preserves the fundamental concept of risk-based pricing, which is vital to the ongoing function of the credit card market.

I am hopeful this legislation has struck a better balance between the needs of consumers and the credit card companies. I am also hopeful this balance in design ultimately results in a balance in fact. To ensure this, I asked that we include a provision in this substitute we have offered that requires the Federal Reserve to track the impact this legislation has on the cost and the availability of credit and to report its findings to the Congress. Over time, if the Federal Reserve finds we have not achieved that balance, in fact, we will be made aware and we should not then hesitate to make the necessary changes.

This legislation addresses some practices that are simply unnecessary. It gives consumers the chance to have a more equitable relationship with the credit card companies. It also preserves the basic framework necessary to maintain the function of a very important marketplace.

I look forward to working with Senator DODD, the chairman of the committee, on the floor of the Senate on this bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the substitute amendment offered by Senator DODD and myself.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to take a moment to thank my good friend and colleague from Alabama, Senator SHELBY, the former chairman of the committee and a very good partner to work with. I wish to thank Bill Duhnke, Mark Oesterle, and Jim Johnson, as well as Amy Friend and Charles Yi and Lindsey Graham of my office who did a terrific job of working together over long hours, including up and through a good part of this weekend, to reach an agreement on the substitute.

Senator SHELBY and I have worked closely together over a number of years, but during the last 2½ years of my chairmanship of the committee, I could not have asked for a better partner on this issue of trying to develop whatever we can in terms of bipartisan solutions to problems. This is an example. I suspect many people thought it would not be possible. This is an issue that has divided people in the past—dealing with credit card reform and the needs of consumers—but because of the

hard work and because of the determination to try and reach that agreement, we are proud to announce today that we have a substitute to offer to our colleagues.

It is not everything everyone would like. There are certainly people who will oppose this legislation because they think we have gone too far. There are others who think we should be going much further. They will make cases for that, I presume, in an amendment process. But this is a body of 100 Members. We deal with the other side of this building as well, not to mention the White House and other interests, in trying to meld those together. Major steps forward are not an easy task, but it is made easier when you have people you can work with who understand the legislative process and who are willing to sit down and try and compromise where we can on behalf of the people we represent.

This is a bill we are going to try to pass, not because the President wants it, not because Senator SHELBY wants it, and not because I want it but because the American people need it. They are paying outrageous fees. They are watching exorbitant interest rates go up. Seventy million accounts over an 11-month period and one out of four families watched credit card interest rates go up, in many cases at any time and for any reason; not because they were late on payments, not because they failed to pay but because the industry has the right, under their contracts, to change those terms for any reason, at any time. That is unfair.

There is no other contractual relationship that I know of—when you buy an automobile, when you buy a home, when you buy appliances, there is a contract. You don't change the terms of the contract after awhile because you don't like them or because you want to raise the rates. There is an understanding there is a responsibility. Consumers have it but lenders have it, too, in this case the issuers. But with 70 million accounts going up, interest rates going up, affecting 1 out of 4 families at a very difficult time: when 10,000 families are losing their homes every day and 20,000 losing their jobs, the idea that the card companies will raise those rates and add on fees is outrageous, and it affects every demographic group. It doesn't affect just one income group; it is across the country. All of us hear, on a daily basis, stories from our constituents about these egregious behaviors. So our bill is designed to deal with this.

We like credit cards. They are a wonderful vehicle. They are a valuable vehicle for many people. This is not to be punitive. It is certainly not an expression of our opposition to the use of these vehicles. It is when these vehicles are being abused by the issuers at the expense of consumers when we must step in and change the rules, and that is what we are doing with this legislation.

I am pleased to be able to stand here, once again, with my friend from Alabama and thank him on the floor of the Senate for his cooperation in pulling this together. We urge our colleagues to take a look at the bill, come on over, ask us and our staffs about it. We will be glad to have a conversation with you. We are grateful as well that groups such as the Consumer Federation of America and others are strongly supporting this legislation.

This is a unique moment and opportunity. We spent the last 6 or 7 or 8 months talking about financial institutions and getting them stabilized. We talked about TARP money, automobile bailouts, and all of those sides of the equation. How about taking a week out to do something on behalf of the consumer, the average citizen who is suffering terribly in this economic time and paying outrageous fees, outrageous interest rates; taking 1 week out to do something on their behalf, while we have tried to do some of these other things. It is long overdue. My hope is we can do it this week and send a bill to the President of the United States that accomplishes the goals we have outlined with this legislation.

With that, I see my colleague from Florida and I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN JOURNALIST RELEASED

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, the morning's newspapers chronicle the happy fact that the American journalist Roxana Saberi was released from prison in Iran. This is a happy occasion, certainly for her and for her family, as she has been in Iran since 2003. She has been a journalist for National Public Radio and the BBC. She ostensibly was arrested by virtue of having bought a bottle of wine and the charges were later elevated to working without press credentials and espionage.

The fact is the U.S. Government weighed in on this. Secretary Clinton, in a meeting with one of the high Iranian officials that had been called to a conference on Afghanistan in the Hague, the United States handed the Iranian diplomats a letter calling for the release of Ms. Saberi and, along with that, in that letter, calling for the release of Bob Levinson and Esha Momeni. Bob Levinson is from Florida. He has a wife and seven children. He disappeared from the island of Kish over 2 years ago. We have reason to believe he is being held in a prison, perhaps the very same prison where Ms. Saberi was held. Each time his name is brought up to any Iranian officials, be it by me, be it by any other representative of the United States, the standard line is: We don't know anything about him, but usually that Iranian official will then change the subject to the three Iranians being held by the Americans in Irbil, Iran.

If they are suggesting some kind of exchange by consistently doing this—whether it is with American officials or whether it is with the Swiss officials who represent us in Tehran; whatever it is—the release of Ms. Saberi is certainly a good first step. If the Iranians want a better relationship with the United States, clearly the new administration has offered that. Now it is up to the Iranian officials. They did the right thing by releasing Ms. Saberi yesterday. If they want to additionally show a humanitarian gesture of returning a father and a husband to his wife and seven children, what better chance than to release Bob Levinson.

This Senator has met with the Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations and, of course, received no information, even though the Iranian Ambassador was very gracious in his hospitality. Perhaps he did not even know, because in some of the information I expressed to him, he expressed surprise. Whoever knows about it, whatever compartmented part of the Iranian Government knows about it, it is now time. If Iran wants to have a better relationship with the United States, this would be the next humanitarian gesture: release Bob Levinson.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Illinois, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes on an amendment I intend to offer but I will not offer at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I have an amendment which I intend to offer at the proper time. I understand there is a bit of a parliamentary issue right now relative to amendments.

I intend to offer an amendment dealing with the issue of debt. Obviously, this is a credit card bill, and debt is the topic of the day. But I am talking about the debt of the United States. One may say: How does this affect the credit card bill? The interest on credit cards is driven in large part by what it costs to get money, and what it costs

to get money is driven in large part by how much debt the United States has to finance every year.

We are, unfortunately, in a situation where we are financing a massive amount of debt. Regrettably, a lot of that debt is the result of the fact that the Government has had to move in and basically be the force for liquidity in our economy, and thus the deficit has been driven up dramatically.

The President estimated the deficit this year to be $1.8 trillion. This is a massive number, almost incomprehensible for most people to understand. It represents four times more than the highest deficit I have ever seen. More importantly, it reflects the fact that for every dollar we are spending in the Government today, 50 cents of it is borrowed, essentially. So we are borrowing half the money we are spending. That is a lot of debt. That adds to what is known as the national debt. Right now, the national debt is about 40 percent of the gross national product. That is a survivable event, but after this deficit this year, it is going to move up significantly.

Unfortunately, under the budget the President brought forward, it is projected that there will be $1 trillion of new deficit every year for the next 10 years. The practical implication of that is the national debt grows astronomically. In fact, it doubles in 5 years, triples in 10 years, and at the end of 10 years, we will have a national debt which is 80 percent of the gross national product.

To try to put that in context, because those are all just numbers, if we as a nation wanted to get into the European Union, they have certain standards where they say you have to be a responsible country in your spending, how much you are spending and how much you are borrowing. Two of the standards are that you cannot run a deficit that is more than 3 percent of your gross national product, and the second is, you cannot have a national debt that exceeds 60 percent of your gross national product. This year, we will run a deficit that is 12.5 percent of our gross national product and we will have a national debt that is 40 percent and going up. It will become 80 percent in a brief period of time. So under the rules of engagement for joining the European Union, we would not be allowed in. Can you imagine, the United States could not get into the European Union, but Latvia or Lithuania could? Obviously, we do not want to be in the European Union, but when the industrialized part of the world sets a standard for responsibly governing and we don't meet it, then something is fundamentally wrong.

What is wrong is we are passing on to our children a deficit and a debt which is unsustainable, which means essentially they will not have the type of prosperity we have had. It means they will have to pay so much in the way of maintaining the cost of the debt that they will be unable to afford buying a home, sending their kids to college, or living the quality of lifestyle our generation has had. It is not fair for one generation to do that to another generation, and it is especially not fair to do it in the dark of the night where the American people do not know what is happening, where they do not have the information needed to make intelligent, thoughtful decisions on how fast they want this debt on their children to go up.

This amendment is an attempt to basically have full and fair disclosure of what is happening with our national debt, how big it is getting, how much it is going to cost, and who is going to have to pay it—the American people. It has three basic elements.

The first one is that there is a point of order created in this bill against any spending, any revenues or any appropriations legislation which doesn't have as part of its statement what effect that has on the national debt—in other words, how much it is going to add to the national debt—and what effect it has on every American in responsibility for that debt. For example, the budget that was passed—the President's budget, which I didn't vote for but which was passed anyway, the President's budget will increase the debt on every American household by $133,000—$133,000—and it will increase the interest which each American has to pay on that debt by $6,000.

People should know that, in my opinion. That should be fully disclosed. If we are going to have full and fair disclosure, and we should, of what a person's credit card obligations are and what a bank requires in the area of interest payments and what a bank requires in the area of payment standards and how they can change interest payments, we should have full and fair disclosure to the American people of how much their debt is because they are American citizens and how much interest they have to pay on that debt because they are American citizens. Because in many instances, $6,000 of annual interest cost to pay off the Federal debt will exceed a lot of people's payments on their credit cards, and $130,000 of debt per household exceeds, in many instances, the mortgage on a lot of people's homes. People should know the type of debt and deficit that is being loaded onto them by this Government, which is massively expanding the spending of the Federal Government.

The first item says there will be a point of order, and unless a bill comes to this floor and is open and transparent on the issue of how much debt it creates per household and how much gross debt it creates on the American people, it will take 60 votes to pass that bill. It will be subject to a point of order.

The second amendment will be to formally disclose this information by using the IRS, by putting in place a system where in the IRS instructions for your 1040 form you will be informed of how much debt is owed and what the debt is per person in this country. You will be kept posted as a citizenry to suggest what is happening to you and your country relative to debt and deficits for which you have to pay.

The third item, in order to keep people informed and have transparency, will require that every home page of every Federal agency must have what is known as the debt clock, which shows how much the debt is going up on a daily basis. So that if you are trying to find some program at HUD or trying to find some program at the SBA or trying to find some program at transportation, when you go on that site, you will be informed immediately as to what the debt of the United States is and how much it is going up. This is fair and transparent and it is appropriate.

Remember what is driving all this debt, and I think that is important for people to understand. This debt is being driven primarily by a massive expansion in spending. The President said—and I admire him for his forthrightness—that he believes you can create prosperity by dramatically growing the size of the Federal Government, by increasing the spending of the Federal Government. In his proposal, under his budget, it will take the spending of the Federal Government from 20 percent of gross national product up to 23, 24, 25 percent of gross national product. Those are huge numbers in the way of increase. We have never had that type of spending level in this country, except during World War II. Historically, the spending of the Federal Government has been about 20 percent of GDP, not 21, not 22, not 23, and not 24.

But that is the proposal of this administration because they generally believe in and they have stated it and they put out a budget which has called for this massive expansion in spending. I don't happen to agree that is the way you create prosperity. I believe the way you create prosperity is having a government you can afford, having a government which you pass on to our children which is affordable to them, and giving individuals the opportunity to take risk and go out and create jobs.

It is very hard, for example, for a small businessperson to invest in their small business—whether it be a restaurant or a small software company or a repair shop—if their taxes are going to have to go up at such a rate in order to pay this debt that the money they would have used to invest for the purpose of creating jobs is skimmed off by the Government for the purposes of funding this massive expansion. That is not the best way to create prosperity. It makes much more sense to have a manageable government.

We are not talking about cutting the size of Government. Nobody is suggesting that. It doesn't happen around here. We are talking about having it be a reasonable size, something that is affordable, something our children can

pay for, not something that creates a debt and a deficit that is so high it is unaffordable.

Here is another number that is important or interesting. At the end of President Obama's budget cycle here, the interest on the debt will be over $800 billion a year. That is interest. Interest on the Federal debt will almost be $1 trillion a year. That will be more than we spend on national defense. It will be, by a factor of five or six times, more than we spend on education, more than we spend on roads. That is not right. We shouldn't be spending all this money on interest. We should be spending it on real programs that do real things to benefit real people. But you can't do that if you run up the debt so much.

It seems reasonable that we should have full and fair disclosure to the American people not only about their credit cards and how they are being treated by their banks or the issuer of the credit cards, but we should also have full and fair disclosure to the American people about what the Government is doing to them, about what this Congress is doing to them, about the amount of deficit and debt that is being put on their back on a daily basis as we spend money around here as if there is no tomorrow.

That is all this amendment does. It shouldn't be all that controversial because these are fairly reasonable things. We should inform people, when we have a bill as to how much that bill is going to cost in the way of added debt, not only to the national debt but to each citizen who is going to have to pay for that bill. We should send out with your IRS forms a summary of how much debt is owed and how it will affect you as an individual. When you go on a Federal site, you should be able to find out fairly easily—and it should be set right out there so it is transparent and clear—what the national debt is and how quickly it is going up.

Believe me, credit cards are an important issue in people's lives. The way they are handled is important. But equally important, especially for our children, is going to be how much deficit and how much debt we run up as a government.

I appreciate the courtesy of the majority side in allowing me to speak at this time.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time until 5:45 p.m. be for debate with respect to Coburn amendment No. 1067, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to a vote; that adoption of the amendment require an affirmative 60-vote threshold; further, that if the amendment achieves that threshold, then the amendment be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if the amendment does not achieve that threshold, then it be withdrawn; provided that amendment No. 1068 be withdrawn upon disposition of amendment No. 1067; that no further amendments on the subject of these amendments be in order to H.R. 627; and that at 5:45 p.m. today the Senate proceed to vote in relation to amendment No. 1067, and that of the time of the Republicans, Senator COBURN be given 20 minutes, and of the Democratic time, Senator FEINSTEIN be given 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, would you advise me when I have 10 minutes remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I will.

Mr. COBURN. Let me say to the majority leader before he leaves, I want to thank him for his good-faith effort in working with us on this amendment. I appreciate the manner in which he has done that.

I want everybody to know what my motivation is. This is not about a political vote. I know it seems that way, but that is further from the truth than anything that I know. This is about the U.S. Constitution.

We have two agencies within the Federal Government that, through bureaucratic means, not a vote of Congress, have limited severely the second amendment rights of individuals in this country, both on National Park and Fish and Wildlife Service land. That is 190 million acres—190 million acres.

So the motivation is for the Congress to decide when we are going to take away rights guaranteed under the Constitution. We have had a recent Supreme Court ruling that has upheld the second amendment in a strong fashion for what it really is, and this is reserved to citizens of this country.

This is not about hunting. This is not about having a gun to go hunting. A lot of people are going to make statements about, this is going to increase poaching. It does not have anything to do with that. It will not affect that at all.

In fact, on U.S. Forest Service land, the second amendment reigns as a right guaranteed under the Constitution. Under Bureau of Land Management land, the second amendment reigns. They do not have any significant increase in poaching versus the areas where we do not have guns. So the point is that people who are going to break the law are going to break the law. So we see no difference.

The second point I would make is that this is about States rights. Senator FEINSTEIN is going to come down and talk about this. But if California decides they do not want guns in their State parks, they do not have to have them. If they decide that, then this amendment would say they do not have to have them in the Federal parks.

What it says is that we are going to allow the States the right to determine, under their gun laws, who can have a gun and where, as long as it passes the muster of the U.S. Constitution.

So this amendment has two key points. One is to protect the second amendment; and if we are to choose to eliminate somebody's second amendment rights, the Congress ought to be onboard as affirmatively limiting those rights rather than bureaucrats.

The second point is to say that States should reign supreme in terms of their parks and the national parks in their jurisdiction so that they have coverage over what their State gun laws would have in terms of application.

Let me reveal data, talking about national parks, that I don't believe many people are aware of. The latest year for which we have statistics is 2006. There were 16 homicides, 41 rapes, and multiple attempted rapes, 92 robberies, 16 kidnappings, 333 aggravated assaults, and 5,094 other felony violations. We have 1 park ranger for every 100,000 visitors, and we have 1 park ranger for every 180,000 acres. What we know is that if in your State you have the right to carry on to public lands or if you have conceal carry laws, that ought to have application to your State, not to the Federal Government's predominance over your State.

The numbers I cited only reflect what the Park Service has investigated. They do not reflect all the other offenses of the Drug Enforcement Agency, which are thousands. It doesn't reflect the Federal Bureau of Investigations or local law enforcement investigations in these areas. So even though parks are relatively safe, the fact is that oftentimes the best deterrent is for the criminal to know that if they have a gun, somebody else might also have a gun.

As a physician, I hate what guns do. I don't want guns to be used. But the fact is, the second amendment to the Constitution is real. What we have is a situation before us where bureaucrats have said: We will take your rights away. It may be that the Congress says we should do that. But if we do it, it ought to be us doing it, not unelected bureaucrats through redtape fiat to truly limit your ability and your rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

What does this amendment do? This amendment restores the second amendment rights as outlined in each individual State back to the national parks and Fish and Wildlife Service. It says if States want to change their laws with regard to those, they can. But it leaves it to the government at the closest level to the people rather than the one farthest away from the people.

We will have a lot of claims that this will have an impact on poaching. It won't have any impact. But even if it does, tell me how poaching, the unauthorized killing of animals, is a higher value order than a right guaranteed under the Constitution. You can't find it. If we are that upside down in our country about guaranteed rights and the Bill of Rights and the underlying Constitution, then we are in a lot more severe trouble than most of us would recognize.

What we also know is that on Forest Service lands, we see a certain amount of poaching, but we have a certain amount of poaching now on parklands. So we are not going to see a corresponding increase. And if we do, it is still illegal.

This amendment doesn't apply to national monuments. It preserves States rights. That means no national monument does this amendment apply to. It preserves a State's right to do what it should do. In fact, it makes Congress responsible for the limiting of our rights under the Constitution rather than bureaucrats.

The consequences of the rules that we have today are bizarre. Not long ago on the Blue Ridge Parkway, a gentleman was convicted who had a Virginia right to carry. But because he drove through the national park with his gun not broken down and not in his trunk, he was convicted of a violation of national park policy. He was traveling from one place in Virginia to another and went through a park, as he did that on the roadway. So he was found liable under a Federal law which was never intended by us and never intended under the Constitution. Yet he was compliant with his own State's gun laws.

The whole purpose of this amendment is not a gotcha amendment. It is to say: Does the second amendment mean something? If we are going to limit it, it ought to be us who do it. Do States rights mean anything and should we have bureaucrats limiting individual rights versus the Congress? If it is going to happen, the Congress has to be the body that does it.

For decades, regulations enacted by unelected bureaucrats at the National Park Service, NPS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, have prohibited law-abiding citizens from possessing firearms on some Federal lands. The enactment of these rules preempted State laws, bypassed the authority of Congress, and trampled on the constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans guaranteed by the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This legislation enables Congress to belatedly weigh in on this important matter.

The Protecting Americans from Violent Crime Act of 2009 would ensure State gun laws and citizens' constitutional rights are honored on Federal lands by prohibiting the Department of Interior from creating or enforcing any regulations prohibiting an individual, not otherwise prohibited by law, from possessing a firearm in national parks and wildlife refuges in compliance with and as permitted by State law.

This legislation would prohibit Federal bureaucrats, activist judges, and special interest groups from infringing on the right for law-abiding Americans to defend themselves and their families in national parks and refuges. This legislation does not affect current hunting and poaching rules in national parks and refuges.

This legislation is still needed.

While the Department of the Interior, DOI, finalized regulations permitting the possession of firearms in national parks and refuges in accordance with State law over a 2-year time period, several anti-gun groups have successfully sued the Department of the Interior to prevent this rule from being implemented for the time being.

An activist judge blocked the final gun-in-parks rule because the Bush administration did not conduct an environmental impact analysis of the rule change. Such an analysis was not conducted because the rule change neither authorized the discharging of conceal carry weapons, nor the poaching of animals.

DOI decided not to appeal this ruling, and is, instead, conducting a lengthy environmental review before it makes a final determination on the rule change.

Even if this rule, allowing visitors to carry concealed firearms in accordance with State law, is reinstated, future administrations or activist judges could repeal these regulations without congressional approval. Unelected bureaucrats and judges should not continue to have the ability to revoke a constitutional right of law-abiding Americans. Passing this legislation will help ensure that such a comprehensive gun ban may never again be enacted by unelected officials.

Congressional leadership inappropriately blocked consideration of this measure repeatedly.

Members of Congress have repeatedly attempted to bring up this measure for a clean, fair vote. Unfortunately, congressional leadership has gone to extreme lengths to avoid having a straight up-and-down vote on this measure.

On December 19, 2007, Majority Leader REID entered into the record the following unanimous consent agreement:

Mr. REID. 'Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 546, S. 2483, the energy lands bills, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, and that when considered, it be considered under the following limitations: that the only amendments in order be five related amendments to be offered by Senator Coburn; that upon disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

This agreement permitted five related amendments to an omnibus bill that included dozens of bills that modified National Park Service lands. The Parliamentarian ruled legislation allowing for firearm possession in national parks in accordance with State and Federal law was related and in compliance with Senator REID's requirement. Instead of honoring this agreement, however, they majority leader pulled the entire bill from the floor and reintroduced a nearly identical measure to technically ''honor'' the unanimous consent agreement without allowing for a vote on related firearm legislation.

Repeated attempts to bring this bill to the new bill were thwarted. Consequently, a version of this bill was included at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee markup along with a package of lands bill. This amendment was adopted as a standalone measure by an 18–5 vote with the understanding that this bill would be included with the package of lands bill approved during the same markup. Despite a letter signed by five Senators on the committee asking the chairman of the committee, ''to honor this agreement and the bipartisan will of the Committee by including S. 3499 in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008,'' this measure was excluded yet again.

When Members of the House of Representatives were close to forcing consideration of the Protecting Americans from Violent Crime Act as an amendment to this year's Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, almost identical to the 2008 bill, Democratic leadership in the House and Senate coordinated to pull the bill from the floor in the House and add the entire bill in the Senate as a replacement to a previously passed House bill on designating a battlefield as a historic site. While Democratic leadership in the Senate had already managed to block a vote on the Protecting Americans from Violent Crime Act, by enacting this maneuver, the House leadership was also able to block any amendments from being considered in the House.

Last attempts to add firearm legislation to the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 proved unsuccessful.

Gun bans on Federal property were enacted by unelected bureaucrats without the authority of Congress.

In 1936 the National Park Service established regulations banning firearms in national parks. These regulations were updated in 1983 to allow for guns to be transported through national parks if they were unloaded and stored in the trunk of cars.

In 1976 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established similar regulations for Federal refuges. These regulations were last updated in 1981.

Congress has never endorsed or debated these gun bans.

Unfortunately, however, State laws permitting concealed carry of firearms were not recognized on Federal land managed by NPS and FWS. Americans

on these lands could not possess a loaded firearm in or on a motor vehicle, a boat or vessel except in specific circumstances. Firearms could only be transported in or on a motor vehicle, boat or horse if they were rendered temporarily inoperable, or packed, stored or cased in a manner that prevented their ready use. The penalties for violating the gun prohibition included a fine of $5,000 and 6 months in prison.

In addition to criminalizing law-abiding citizens for exercising their constitutional rights, these regulations exposed the great threat of bureaucrats overstepping their authority—a threat that still exists.

These regulations and the corresponding penalties were established without any congressional mandate or legislative approval.

It is troubling that Government bureaucrats, single-interest groups, and activist judges could take away the rights of law-abiding citizens guaranteed by the Federal Constitution on Federal property and without the consideration of the Federal representatives of the people. The Supreme Court recently ruled that a complete ban on firearms is unconstitutional, yet Federal bureaucrats have managed to completely ban firearms for over 70 years on all 83.6 million acres of national park lands and for over 30 years on all 90.79 million acres of FWS lands, except for hunting purposes.

Recently, a judge also repealed the new regulations governing firearm possession in national parks and refuges on the grounds that no environmental review was completed prior to the promulgation of the rule.

It is unclear how allowing conceal carry has a significant impact on the environment, or how the National Environmental Protection Act supersedes the second amendment rights of law-abiding Americans on more than 170 million acres of Federal lands.

While the activist judge ruled administration officials ''abdicated their congressionally mandated obligation'' to evaluate environmental impacts and ''ignored, without sufficient explanation, substantial information in the administrative record concerning environmental impacts'' of the rule, she failed to consider the constitutional obligation to protect the right to bear arms.

A handful of unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats and judges should not possess the ability to overstep the authority of the U.S. Congress, the Supreme Court, or the U.S. Constitution. ''There was no legislative process—[NPS and FWS] bureaucrats arbitrarily terminated this Constitutional right.''

Given the fact that a recent investigator general report of the FWS Office of Law Enforcement found that this agency has been unable to even account for firearms under their own management, it also seems inappropriate for these agencies to concern themselves with regulating the second amendment rights of law-abiding citizens.

It is clear that Congress should address this issue, and many in Congress have already expressed their opposition to these regulations, including 18 of the 23 members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the 110th Congress who voted for this amendment—including the current Secretary of the Interior. Fifty Senators, including 9 Democrats and 41 Republicans, also signed two letters to former Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne asking him to remove these regulations. Several additional Senators have indicated their support for allowing State laws to govern firearm possession on public lands and 25 Senators sponsored similar legislation last Congress.

Even the Department of the Interior—the agency that oversaw the creation of these regulations—commented in 2008 that ''It's appropriate to look at updating these regulations, to bring them into conformity with state laws [on guns use]. Following the release of the final regulations, a spokesman for the Department of the Interior pointed out, ''This is the same basic approach adopted by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service, both of which allow visitors to carry weapons consistent with applicable federal and state laws. . . . Federal agencies have a responsibility to recognize the expertise of the states in this area, and Federal regulations should be developed and implemented in a manner that respects state prerogatives and authority.''

No other federal land agency has enacted anti-gun rules similar to the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service.

As a spokesman for the Department of the Interior pointed out in a press release, both the Bureau of Land and Management and the U.S. Forest Service allow for the law of the State in which the Federal property is located to govern firearm possession.

FS and the BLM have not experienced any difficulties as a result of allowing firearm possession.

According to the BLM, ''Laws and reg[ulation]s pertaining to concealing and carrying firearms are within [states'] jurisdiction and we only enforce them on public land if we have state authority by way of a local agreement. The BLM has some regulations on the use of firearms that pertain to specific areas, such as recreation sites and other areas that may be closed to shooting (but that does not make it illegal to possess a firearm in those areas).''

If other land preservation agencies never had to enact regulations infringing on the second amendment—including one agency within the Department of the Interior—why did NPS and FWS, which are both within the Department of the Interior?

This legislation will protect law-abiding citizens without threatening natural resources or wildlife.

These anti-gun regulations were intended to ''ensure public safety and maximum protection of natural resources,'' according to Scot McElveen, the president of the Association of National Park Rangers.

According to NPS and FWS, prohibiting citizens to carry legally owned and registered firearms was necessary to prevent the poaching of animals living on NPS and FWS lands. Anti-gun groups sued the Department of the Interior to repeal the implementation of the finalized rule change, claiming in part that overturning the gun ban will compromise the safety of humans and animals.

The Department of Justice argued against the lawsuit, pointing out that the new rule ''does not alter the environmental status quo, and will not have any significant impacts on public health and safety.''

This legislation will likewise not enable or permit illegal hunting of animals on these lands. Other NPS and FWS regulations specifically governing illegal hunting will remain in place, ensuring that poaching will still be illegal.

It will also not authorize the discharging of firearms or target practice in these natural reserves.

Proponents of these extreme gun restrictions have also claimed that the unconstitutional regulations are a necessary law enforcement tool against poaching and other crimes. They reason that if guns are outlawed in parks and refuges, law enforcement can use the possession of a firearm to prosecute would-be poachers.

In addition to the fact that the second amendment was not recognized by our founders to give law enforcement officers in national parks and refuges an additional tool to eliminate poaching, the fact that both BLM and FS have not ''required'' these additional regulations further proves these anti-gun regulations are unnecessary.

As the former Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne points out, ''Since the [proposed federal regulations similarly] maintain existing prohibitions on poaching and target shooting, and carrying weapons in federal buildings, [it] would not cause a detrimental impact on visitor safety and resources.''

Crime rates on Federal lands are rising.

National parks, while still generally safe for visitors, have seen an increase in crime.

According to the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2006 there were 16 homicides, including one manslaughter charge, 41 rape cases, including two attempted rapes, 92 robberies, 16 kidnappings, and 333 aggravated assaults out of 5094 part I offenses. In national parks there were a total of 116,588 offenses. These offenses only include homicides and other

crimes handled by national park and refuge law enforcement, but don't account for the homicides and crimes other law enforcement agencies processed—e.g. the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Drug Enforcement Agency, local law enforcement.

Overriding State laws that give its residents the ability to defend themselves may increasingly place NPS and FWS visitors in unnecessary danger.

NPS and FWS anti-gun regulations disarm individuals and leave them and their families vulnerable to crime on public lands.

In a Seattle Times article titled ''Crime Slowly Creeps Into Parks, Forests,'' Captain John Klaasen of the U.S. Forest Service states, ''If you see [a crime] happening in the city, it happens in the forest.'' Whether it is meth labs hidden amid lush forests or car prowls at trailheads, park rangers and forest officers are seeing an increasing amount of criminal behavior.

Following the grisly murders of four women at Yosemite National Park in 1999, Elaine Sevy with the National Park Service stated, ''You're not escaping society when you come to the parks. Understand that parks are a microcosm of society.''

For many criminals, parks and forests offer a safe haven. Consequently, visitors enjoying some of our Nation's natural treasures are increasingly vulnerable to harm and personal injury.

According to a San Francisco Chronicle article, ''National Parks' Pot Farms Blamed on Cartels; Mexican Drug Lords Find it Easier to Grow in State Than Import;''

> Hikers in national parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia-Kings Canyon are encountering a danger more hazardous than bears: illegal marijuana farms run by Mexican drug cartels and protected by booby traps and guards carrying AK–47s. . . . Park service officials said the drug cartels took extreme measures to protect their plants, which can be worth $4,000 each. Growers have been known to set up booby traps with shotguns. Guards armed with knives and military-style weapons have chased away hikers at gunpoint. In 2002, a visitor to Sequoia was briefly detained by a drug grower, who threatened to harm him if he told authorities the pot farm's secret location.''

A more recent news story also highlighted this dilemma. Special agent eradication teams heavily armed are needed to clear thousands of pot plants in State and national parks and other public lands. Many of the marijuana fields are located next to popular trails. However, ''The folks who are growing the marijuana are not your peace hippies from the 60s . . . These are armed members of the Mexican drug trafficking organizations, who utilize assault style weapons, assault rifles to protect their cash crops.''

A February 2005 report, ''Marijuana and Methamphetamine Trafficking on Federal Lands Threat Assessment,'' concluded that already high levels of cultivation of cannabis and methamphetamine production by Mexican drug-trafficking organizations are likely to increase.

''Cannabis cultivators and methamphetamine producers on federal lands often are armed, and cannabis grow sites and methamphetamine laboratories frequently are booby-trapped. Law enforcement officers have seized shotguns, handguns, automatic weapons, pipe bombs, grenades, and night vision equipment from drug producers and smugglers on federal lands.''

With one law enforcement officer for about every 110,000 visitors and 118,000 acres of national park land, park police may not always be close by and individuals may be left to defend themselves. While park rangers now use bullet-proof vests and automatic weapons to enforce the law, regular Americans in States where carry laws exist, are denied the opportunity for self-defense because of these NPS and FWS regulations.

Drug and human smuggling across the U.S. Mexico border has made it impossible and dangerous for scientists to continue their research and for visitors to frequent ''well-marked but unofficial trails'' in a national park.

''Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument stopped granting most new research permits because of increasing smuggling activity. Scientists must sign a statement acknowledging that the National Park Service cannot guarantee their safety from ''potentially dangerous persons entering the park from Mexico.''

Lands managed by the Department of the Interior lands make up more than 39 percent of our border with Mexico. Mexican drug trafficking organizations smuggling operations rely on back routes and private roads through these lands to transport marijuana and methamphetamine. These drugs are primarily smuggled through NPS and FWS lands.

A report by the National Parks Conservation Association in 2007 titled ''Perilous Parkland: Homeland Security and the National Parks'' detailed how over the past 2 years at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, ''park rangers have arrested and indicted 385 felony smugglers, seized 40,000 lbs. of marijuana, and intercepted 3,800 illegal aliens. The Border Patrol estimated that 500 people per day (180,000 per year) and 700,000 pounds of drugs entered the U.S. illegally through the monument in the year 2000.'' It is no wonder the law enforcement staff of 11 park rangers is encountering difficulties in managing a 330,000-acre park with numerous activities initiated by Mexican drug cartels.

This park was ranked by the Fraternal Order of Police as the most dangerous national park in 2003. While two other parks on the Mexico-U.S. border were listed in top 10 most dangerous national parks in 2003, other parks included on this list were in States such as New Jersey, Florida, Virginia and Wyoming—Yellowstone National Park.

The Government Accountability Office, in a report entitled a ''Actions Needed to Better Protect National Icons and Federal Office Buildings from Terrorism,'' additionally expressed concern with the ability of the Interior Department to maintain adequate security in the post-9/11 world of heightened alerts due to potential terrorist attacks. According to a survey by the National Park Service, safety concerns have played a significant role in the decreasing number of National Park visitors.

Another result of this surge is that, ''National Park Service officers are 12 times more likely to be killed or injured as a result of an assault than FBI agents.''

According to the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, ''National Park Service commissioned law-enforcement officers were victims of assaults 111 times in 2004, nearly a third of which resulted in injury. This figure tops the 2003 total of 106 assaults and the 2002 total of 98.''

Because of this threat, rangers in higher crime areas often carry automatic weapons and wear bullet-proof vests.

In a CBS News article titled ''Crime Rates Up in National Parks—More Rangers Find Themselves Battling Lawlessness,'' former executive director of the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police and 30-year park ranger, Randall Kendrick noted that ''The National Park Service has an astoundingly poor safety record for its officers . . . If anything, these assaults against park rangers are undercounted. If there is not a death or injury, pressures within a national park can cause the incident to be reported as being much more minor than it is in reality, and it is not unheard of for an assault to go unreported altogether.

FWS refuges have also experienced significant crime and law enforcement concerns. The Cooperative Alliance for Refugee Enhancement released a report this past May that pointed out that refuges are also becoming increasingly dangerous to visitors. According to the report ''Restoring America's Wildlife Refuges,'' there is one law enforcement officer for every 555,000 acres of refuges.

President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association and chairman of C.A.R.E., Evan Hirsche, said the following:

> A decrease in law enforcement has left the refuges vulnerable to criminal activity, including prostitution, torched cars and illegal immigrant camps along the Potomac River in suburban Washington, methamphetamine labs in Nevada and pot growing operations in Washington state. . . In some cases, we find that drug operations have set up shop in refuges.

The C.A.R.E. report finds that, ''On many wildlife refuges, drugs are a serious problem. These aren't small-time marijuana gardens; drug operators on refuges frequently defend their plots with armed guards . . . A 2005 report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) detailed the urgent need for additional law enforcement to

respond to commercial-scale drug production and trafficking, wildlife poaching, vandalism, assaults, and a host of other crimes.

For example, according to C.A.R.E., because of staffing cuts, Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge located in Oklahoma, will now share one law enforcement officer with a refuge in Texas—one law enforcement officer for 200,000 annual visitors.

While better prioritization of Federal funds may be needed to increase law enforcement efforts in our public parks, refuges, and forests, allowing visitors to national parks and refuges to possess guns provides responsible gun owners the ability to defend themselves in the event that other protection is not available.

Gun regulations were confusing, burdensome and ineffective.

The contradictory patchwork of Federal regulations within different agencies created the scenario where a law-abiding gun owner traveling from public land managed by BLM to an adjacent NPS or FWS unit was subject to a $5,000 fine and a 6 month prison sentence for violating Federal regulations.

In many States, people have to pass through designated Federal lands every day. They should be able to do so without having to worry about which laws apply on what type of public land, if they are authorized to carry firearms under State law.

A man driving along the Blue Ridge parkway in Virginia was stopped for failing to obey a stop sign by a national park ranger. Upon further inspection, the ranger found two loaded firearms in the car. The defendant was licensed to conceal carry under Virginia State law and did not know he was in violation of National Park Service regulations and had not observed any signs prohibiting the possession or transportation of loaded and operational firearms. The road he was on also serves as highway between routes 460 and 220 in the Roanoke area. The defendant was found guilty, even though he was in his car and permitted under State law to possess firearms because of an administrative rule.

The bureaucrats seemingly well intended goal of ''protecting'' the public and natural resources holds the same flaws of other anti-gun efforts: It ensures that only criminals possess firearms and makes law abiding citizens subject to criminal penalties for exercising their constitutional rights.

An editorial in the Colorado Spring Gazette pointed out that ''Armed law-abiding citizens aren't the source of violence, criminals are.''

Likewise, John Stossel commented that:

> [L]aws that make it difficult or impossible to carry a concealed handgun do deter one group of people: law-abiding citizens who might have used a gun to stop crime. Gun laws are laws against self-defense.
>
> Criminals have the initiative. They choose the time, place and manner of their crimes, and they tend to make choices that maximize their own, not their victims', success. So criminals don't attack people they know are armed, and anyone thinking of committing mass murder is likely to be attracted to a gun-free zone, such as schools and malls [or national parks].
>
> If you are the target of a crime, only one other person besides the criminal is sure to be on the scene: you. There is no good substitute for self-responsibility.

Individuals who are already willing to break the law to illegally hunt on public lands, after all, are no more likely to obey Federal regulations that disallow the use firearms on public lands.

Federal law enforcement in parks and refuges is ineffective and incompetent.

According to the inspector general of the Department of the Interior, NPS law enforcement agents and rangers are ineffectively managed by ''non-law enforcement managers.''

In a statement before the Senate Committee on Finance, inspector general Earl E. Devaney remarked that various superintendents of a number of dangerous parks opposed increasing law enforcement staff to combat rising crime levels for a variety of reasons.

Some superintendents ordered rangers not to carry firearms because they thought it would ''offend park visitors.''

Other superintendents assigned law enforcement staff non-law enforcement work to prevent them from becoming ''too much like cops'' or because ''the public does not want park rangers with the same edge as FBI agents but instead what the public wants is the park ranger to be cut from the same cloth as a boy scout.'' One assistant Park Police chief sought to address safety concerns with the statement that terrorists ''are not incredibly sophisticated.''

According to the Washington Post, a February 2008 assessment of the U.S. Park Police by Mr. Devaney concluded that:

> The U.S. Park Police have failed to adequately protect [] national landmarks [] and are plagued by low morale, poor leadership and bad organization . . . The force is understaffed, insufficiently trained and woefully equipped . . .

The International Association of Chiefs of Police also described law enforcement staffing at the Park Service as ''patently illogical and erratic.''

This legislation will enable law-abiding citizens to defend themselves in national parks and refuges.

This legislation would not void State and local laws that prohibit the possession of fire arms and do not provide State residents with conceal and carry permits. National monuments would still be governed by U.S. law that prohibits the possession of firearms at Federal facilities, and visitors to national parks in States with no conceal and carry laws would be required to follow State law.

This legislation, similarly to the recently implemented rule change, does, however, require the National Park Service and any other agency under the Department of the Interior to promulgate regulations regarding firearm possession that do not conflict with state and local laws—including conceal and carry laws.

An aggressive black bear was shot and killed in the Denali National Park in Alaska. Luckily one of the three park employees threatened by this bear was authorized to carry a gun. ''An attempt to divert the bear with pepper spray was ineffective,'' and the bear was shot and killed. Typical Americans would not have been permitted to defend themselves with anything besides ''ineffective'' bear spray.

A boy celebrating his tenth birthday in Tonto National Forest in Arizona was attacked by a rabid mountain lion. The lion made two attempts to attack the boy, but was shot both times by the boy's uncle with a pistol. The second shot killed the mountain lion. If this event had occurred in a national park or refuge, the uncle would not have been allowed to even have brought an unloaded pistol along with him.

Additionally, a 38-year-old man hiking in British Colombia was attacked and mauled by a grizzly bear in June and would have been killed had he not managed to shoot the bear twice. Even though he was able to shoot the bear, he still needed 40 stitches and suffered a broken hand and multiple puncture wounds. In national parks and refuges, this story would have most likely ended tragically.

The Washington Post also featured a two-part story recounting a double murder in 1981 and an attempted double murder earlier this year on the Appalachian Trail. Many of the 2,175 miles that make up this trail are under the jurisdiction of NPS. Adopting this amendment would ensure all law-abiding citizens would be able to protect themselves from rare, but dangerous, four- and two-legged predators on this trail and other NPS and FWS lands.

By passing this bill, the Senate will be voting to increase the safety of families and discourage criminals from taking advantage of vulnerable families on Federal lands managed by the Department of the Interior. Congress will also finally ensure that elected representatives, instead of federal bureaucrats, determine second amendment policies in this instance.

It is claimed that gun restrictions enacted by the National Park Service, NPS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FWS, are different than those of Bureau of Land Management, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service lands, FS, because the roles of the agencies are different.

The fact is all four agencies have generally similar responsibilities to manage and protect Federal properties and national resources.

The NPS mandate is to ''[preserve] unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.''

The FWS mandate is to ''[work] with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.''

BLM's mission is to ''[sustain] the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.'' According to the FS Web site, ''the mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.''

Besides the fact that the missions of all four agencies are similar, because additional regulations prohibit the inappropriate use of firearms in nondesignated areas, allowing for State conceal and carry laws will not compromise these agency missions. Instead, by allowing for State firearm laws to be recognized, visitors will feel safer and more protected in areas where there is limited or no law enforcement.

It is claimed that animals will be poached and not adequately protected if visitors are permitted to carry guns in Federal parks.

The fact is that separate regulations already outlaw such behavior. This legislation will not void those regulations.

This legislation is necessary to enable law-abiding Americans to defend themselves and their families—not to permit more hunting.

Additionally, officials from FS also have poaching regulations and, just like FWS, also have the option of enforcing Federal Wildlife crimes under a criminal code called the Lacey Act.

It is claimed that it would be impractical to enforce State-by-State conceal and carry laws on NPS lands.

The fact is that both the BLM and the Forest Service have not expressed any difficulties or frustration in recognizing State laws.

As it currently stands, the NPS does not enforce NPS regulations that void State concealed carry laws, except if violations are found inadvertently according to NPS congressional liaison. Even then, rangers will normally only give a warning to visitors that NPS regulations do not recognize State conceal and carry permits.

This bill would actually simplify rules for national park and refuge visitors by requiring them to abide by State and local laws regardless of what type of Federal land they are visiting. Currently, visitors in some States may carry operational firearms in State parks, BLM and FS lands but not in national parks and refuges.

It is claimed that recognizing concealed carry State permits would compromise the effectiveness of NPS law enforcement.

The fact is that concealed carry permits exist for the protection of individuals—not law enforcement by regular citizens.

Current police forces are spread far too thin as it is and are not sufficient. According to GAO, for every one law enforcement officer there are about 10,000 visitors and 118,000 acres of land. According to a report, FWS only employs one law enforcement officer for every 550,000 acres of national refuge land.

Both FS and BLM do not believe their effectiveness has been compromised because State laws governing firearms are followed on their lands. Additionally, thousands of Americans with concealed carry permits in 48 States have not compromised the effectiveness of our law enforcement in States. Why should allowing concealed carry in national parks produce a different outcome?

It is claimed that poaching has decreased as a result of these regulations.

The fact is that according to CRS, there is no way of determining such a conclusion because poaching data is not maintained on a national basis throughout national parks and refuges for a variety of reasons. Attempts by both NPS and FWS to keep poaching statistics have not succeeded for a variety of reasons. Additionally, NPS, up until recently, did not even differentiate between different types of poaching when reporting any instances of poaching—including poaching archaeological relics, trees and plants, and animals.

According to DOI's limited recordkeeping of poaching incidents, there has actually been a 10 percent increase in these incidents between 2003 and 2006—a jump from 365 incidents in 2003 to 405 in 2006. In contrast there were 16 homicides; including one manslaughter charge, 41 rape cases, including two attempted rapes, 92 robberies, 16 kidnappings, and 33 aggravated assaults out of 5094 part I offenses.

It is claimed that hunting is already allowed in a number of specially designated areas.

The fact is that this bill is not about hunting but concerns the right for Americans to protect themselves and their families from criminals and rabid and dangerous animals. This legislation will not overturn hunting regulations.

It is claimed that 7 former NPS directors have spoken out against changing the current regulations along with organizations such as the Association of National Park Rangers, the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, and the U.S. Park Rangers Lodge. This legislation directly contradicts the opinions of those most knowledgeable of law enforcement in national parks and refuges and thus should not be endorsed.

The fact is that many of the concerns listed by these organizations have to do with poaching, not self-defense. The current situation in our national parks and refuges does not afford many visitors the benefits of adequate law enforcement protection—a fact that is emphasized by the increasing level of crime and violence experienced by law enforcement officers of these public lands.

The Association of National Park Rangers has requested that Congress weigh in on these Federal regulations concerning the possession of firearms in these public lands. This amendment gives Congress, representing all Americans, instead of unelected bureaucrats the opportunity to do so.

It is claimed that the regulatory process improperly did not include a full environmental impact study.

The fact is that both the current and previous administrations agreed that this rule change does not significantly impact the ''environmental status quo, and . . . public health and safety.'' This bill does not authorize poaching or illegal gun use.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time, suggest the absence of a quorum, and ask unanimous consent that the time be divided equally.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent to reserve for me 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I wish to speak in support of the Coburn amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Oklahoma yield time?

Mr. COBURN. I am happy to yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WEBB. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, there is, rightfully so, a great deal of varied opinions among our body about the issue of gun control, gun rights, the second amendment, who, where, what. We have seen it debated many times in the now 2½ years since I have been here in the Senate. I think it reflects the diversity of our country. I think it affects the different challenges that different regions, different urban and nonurban environments have when it comes to the use of weapons, and I respect that.

I respect the fact that many on our side of the aisle have a great deal of concern about amendments such as this amendment. It just depends on what you are reading into it, in many cases.

The other part of that is that I believe this particular amendment addresses those differences, and it does so in a way that attempts to bring some fairness to people who live in States that have a different view of the right to bear arms than in other areas. So I think we need to calm down a little bit in terms of what the intent of this amendment is and what its application would actually bring about.

This amendment is very clear. It basically says that if you are authorized to possess a firearm in your State and if the possession of that firearm is in

compliance with the laws of your State and if there is a national park or a national wildlife refuge system in that State, then you would be authorized to possess a firearm in your State in those areas.

If you look at Virginia, there are a lot of national parks and wildlife areas that intermingle, even along our roadways. So we have a State that permits individuals to not only possess firearms but also to carry them, and potentially they could be at legal risk if they are driving down the same highway and they get pulled over because they have crossed into areas that are now national park areas. If you go along the mountain areas in the western part of our State, that is true. It is actually true right across the river. If you are driving down the George Washington Memorial Parkway from Arlington to Alexandria, you can suddenly enter an area that is a national park area. So that places a burden on a lot of people who are obeying the law and who are carrying out the standards that have been placed on people in Virginia, and this amendment helps to clarify that. That is all it does.

If you live in a State where you can legally possess a firearm and if you meet the standards to legally possess a firearm, then in a national park inside that State, or a national wildlife refuge, you can continue to possess a firearm. It doesn't mean you can go hunting. It does not mean a 12-year-old can have a weapon inside a national park. It simply means that there is a consistency inside that State. If you live in a different State that doesn't want to allow people to possess firearms to the extent that the second amendment would allow that sort of State legislation, then you can't bring a weapon or a firearm inside one of those jurisdictions.

So, to me, as someone who believes in all of the amendments in our Bill of Rights, as one who believes very passionately in the first amendment and the fourth amendment and the fifth amendment as well as, in this case, the second amendment, I believe this amendment is proper, and I intend to support it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, following up on what the Senator from Virginia said, there actually was an event in his State on the Blue Ridge Parkway where a gentleman who was licensed to carry failed to stop completely at a stop sign and was stopped. Under his law, the laws of the State of Virginia, he was licensed to legally carry, but the park ranger found that he had guns in his car—all within the laws of the State of Virginia. Yet he was convicted because he drove through an edge of a national park, carrying a gun in a national park.

Senator WEBB has described it well. This is about establishing clarity. You still can't go out and target shoot. You can't hunt. But what you can do is be within the law. So by protecting the second amendment and by protecting States rights, we will have common sense.

I would make the other point—the Senator from Connecticut is here—if your State says: We don't want to do these things, you can under this amendment. So if you have a national park and you don't allow guns in the State park, you can say you don't allow guns in the national park. So it follows completely. When the Senator from Connecticut asked me about this today, I went back to my staff, and, in fact, that is the case, that State law will reign supreme as long as there is consistency within the State and the park that is part of that State.

So I also agree with what Senator WEBB said, which is the natural reaction is, this is nuts. It is not nuts. It is about commonsense application of the second amendment. It is about States rights, and it is about not putting people in jeopardy who are in jeopardy today because they are lawfully carrying out the laws of their own State.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I did not intend to comment on all of this, but as the manager of the underlying bill dealing with the credit card legislation, let me first of all thank my colleague from Oklahoma for that clarification I raised because it is an important point, and it is one raised by others as well about whether a State statute that would have prohibited someone from carrying a licensed weapon in a State park would apply as well to the national park located in that State, and I appreciate very much his answer to that question. And the point raised by Senator WEBB is worthy as well.

I come from a State that I believe is still the largest manufacturer of weapons in the United States, Connecticut. Not many people are aware of that fact. But we have lost a lot of that employment over the last number of years. A lot of it has gone offshore, regrettably, but for a number of years Connecticut led the Nation in the production of rifles, shotguns, and handguns. So I have more than a familiarity with the issue.

My concern here is about the amendment, on one hand, but I respect what my friend from Oklahoma said. My concern is about the underlying bill and what happens to it, having watched the fate of other legislation where it has been the case that it moves to the other body and what happens to the underlying bill. I suspect, based on what I have heard, that it may carry, and if that is the case, my hope is that we will be able to still move forward with the other body, resolve these matters favorably one way or the other, and still deal with the underlying issue of credit cards. I hate to see us lose this opportunity to make a difference with credit card reform. I am not anticipating that to be the case, but there is always that risk we run, and I would be remiss if I didn't raise that concern I have as the manager of the bill.

Senator SHELBY and I have worked very hard to put together a credit card reform bill that we hope enjoys broad bipartisan support. It is a balanced bill that will allow an industry to continue to profit, to move forward, but not at the expense of consumers with unnecessary rate increases or exorbitant fees and the like that we have watched too many Americans face over the last number of years. We make major changes in how credit cards are handled under this bill. I know millions of Americans will benefit from this if we are able to pass it into law.

I believe the interest of my friend and colleague from Oklahoma is not in undermining that effort, but he has a strong interest in the amendment he has raised, and I believe he has raised it on any number of bills over the past weeks or months.

I see my colleague standing, and I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, as I told the Senator from Connecticut, the underlying bill has many things I am in favor of. I don't want to see it fail on this, but nor should we want to see the second amendment trampled, nor should we want common sense to go out the window as we apply laws in this country.

The fact is, we have had very many good commonsense amendments come out of the Senate that don't come out of conference committee. I am not sure I would expect a different result on this one.

The fact still remains that we have an incoherent policy that takes away a right that has been done by bureaucrats. If we decide we don't want to do that, then that is the Congress speaking that we are not going to do that, and that is fine. But to have bureaucrats eliminate some of these second amendment rights and do so in a way that causes people confusion and puts people at risk is wrong.

So I thank the Senator for his comments. I hope he can support the amendment because it is a commonsense amendment. He has supported many other of my amendments. What you do in conference will determine whether it comes back out with that on it.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I yield back all time at this point and ask for the yeas and nays on the Coburn amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Leg.]

YEAS—67

Barrasso	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Graham	Pryor
Begich	Grassley	Reid
Bennet	Gregg	Risch
Bennett	Hagan	Roberts
Bond	Hatch	Sanders
Brownback	Hutchison	Sessions
Bunning	Inhofe	Shaheen
Burr	Isakson	Shelby
Byrd	Johanns	Snowe
Casey	Klobuchar	Specter
Chambliss	Kohl	Tester
Coburn	Kyl	Thune
Cochran	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Collins	Leahy	Vitter
Conrad	Lincoln	Voinovich
Corker	Lugar	Warner
Cornyn	Martinez	Webb
Crapo	McCain	Wicker
DeMint	McConnell	Wyden
Dorgan	Merkley	
Ensign	Murkowski	

NAYS—29

Akaka	Durbin	Lieberman
Alexander	Feinstein	McCaskill
Bingaman	Gillibrand	Menendez
Boxer	Harkin	Murray
Brown	Inouye	Reed
Burris	Johnson	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaufman	Stabenow
Cardin	Kerry	Udall (NM)
Carper	Lautenberg	Whitehouse
Dodd	Levin	

NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Mikulski	Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 29. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1068 WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 1068 is withdrawn.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for Members of the Senate, we have spent all day on the Coburn amendment. We tried to work something out. We could not. We took the vote. The Senate has spoken.

I hope that Senators who have amendments to offer would do so. We have to complete this legislation. It is no one's fault they have not been able to offer amendments because the floor was blocked and they could not do that. But I hope tonight we can have some amendments laid down. I hope people will do that. We are not going to have a lot of amendments pending, but if somebody wants to lay down some amendments, a reasonable number of amendments, that is fine. There is going to come a time when we are going to have to move on. This is a bill literally supported by 90 percent of the American public. This bill received almost 380 votes in the House. We are going to have to move on.

I am not going to file cloture tonight. It is only Tuesday. But we will see what happens tomorrow. We have a lot of other business we need to complete before we leave here. This has been a long work period. We have accomplished a lot of things. We have a lot more to do. We would like to be able to complete our work by next Thursday. I don't know that we can do that, but we certainly need to try. We have things we are going to have to do before the work period ends. Monday is a nonvote day.

I am not criticizing anyone, but I repeat, let's not be tied up in the mornings and say: I can't offer my amendment in the morning; I am too busy; I have appointments. The most important thing a Senator can do is to legislate. We need to start legislating. This bill is very important. The managers have worked very hard. Senators DODD and SHELBY worked the weekend to come up with the agreement they got to get a bipartisan bill we can work on. I applaud each of them for their work together. This sends a good message to the American public that we can do something very important.

I repeat, there will be no more votes tonight, but we need to have some amendments laid down so we can start voting tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for those words, and let me just say, on behalf of Senator SHELBY and myself, if Members have amendments, please bring them over. In many cases, we might be able to accept them; others to modify. In some cases we may have to reject them, but we can't make those decisions unless we know what they are. We can move this along pretty quickly if Members will let us know what they want to offer, and we will see if we can work those out.

So I appreciate the majority leader making that point. We will stay as late as possible to have Members come by with their amendments, to meet with staff and others to see if we can't move forward with the bill. We have an opportunity this week to do something for millions and millions of our fellow constituents and citizens around this country. There is nothing that plagues our constituents more than these outrageous fees and rates that are being increased on their accounts, and we can make a difference this week in that matter. But we need to know the amendments.

Senator SHELBY and I put together a good bill, but we always know our colleagues can offer ideas as well to improve it. So we would like that opportunity, and I appreciate the majority leader making that point.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, the manager of this bill, we both want amendments to be offered, if in fact people want to offer amendments. But we hope they would be related to the bill. If we have a few more nongermane amendments, it is going to wind up that the banks win again because we will not be able to proceed on this legislation if we have more amendments dealing with unrelated matters, such as guns or whatever else somebody else dreams up.

In the morning, we have a cloture vote on one of Secretary Salazar's assistants. It is very important we have that vote. We will have it an hour after we come in, unless we work out another time with our colleagues. We have to complete that. I hope that we can get that done. Based on what we have been through in years passed, I can't imagine that we would have to invoke cloture on a Cabinet nomination, someone who is going to work for one of our Cabinet officers. That is what I thought we debated with the nuclear option. But it appears there are a lot of people not willing to even allow a vote on David Hayes.

It seems a little unusual for me that people who were wanting to invoke the nuclear option are now saying: Well, we are not sure we were right about that, and we are not even going to allow you to have a vote on someone whom Secretary Salazar has worked very hard on, getting him to help him work on the many issues he has to work on in the Department of the Interior. So I hope we can get that over with in the morning and that we would not have to have a cloture vote. But it appears we might have to do that. I wish I didn't have to file cloture on any nominees, but we have had to do it many times already this Congress.

Mr. DODD. I thank the majority leader, and I would say that we are open for business, Senator SHELBY and I are. So if there are amendments, let us hear them. Bring them over and we will try to move things along.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1085 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1058

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on behalf of Senator GREGG, I call up amendment No. 1085 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], on behalf of Senator GREGG, proposes an amendment numbered 1085.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To enhance public knowledge regarding the national debt by requiring the publication of the facts about the national debt on IRS instructions, Federal websites, and in new legislation)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ENHANCED TAXPAYER DISCLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order to consider any appropriations, direct spending, or revenue bill or joint resolution reported by any committee unless the measure contains a debt disclosure section setting forth debt disclosures in the following form:

"SEC. _____. DEBT DISCLOSURE.

''(a) CURRENT DEBT.—The level of the current gross Federal debt of the Nation is $_____.

''(b) PER PERSON.—The level of the current gross Federal debt of the Nation per citizen is $_____.

''(c) DEBT INCREASE WITH PASSAGE OF THIS ACT.—Enactment of this Act would cause the gross Federal debt of the Nation to rise or fall to $_____. The new level of gross Federal debt per citizen would equal $_____.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term 'gross Federal debt' means the nominal levels of gross Federal debt (debt subject to limit as set forth in the Budget Resolution) as determined by the Bureau of Public Debt and published in latest Monthly Treasury Statement, not debt as a percentage of gross domestic product, and not levels relative to baseline projections.''.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

SEC. ___. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF PER TAXPAYER SHARE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 7529. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF PER TAXPAYER SHARE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC DEBT.

''In the case of any booklet of instructions for Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ prepared by the Secretary for filing individual income tax returns for taxable years beginning in any calendar year, the Secretary shall include in a prominent place the per individual taxpayer share of the Federal public debt determined on the last day of the preceding fiscal year and using the most recent census data. The information regarding such share of the Federal public debt shall also be placed prominently on the Internal Revenue Service Internet website.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter 77 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 7529. Annual notification of per taxpayer share of Federal public debt.''.

SEC. _____. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK DISPLAYED ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given under section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL WEBSITE.—The term ''congressional website'' means—

(A) the website relating to the Senate maintained by the Secretary of the Senate; and

(B) the website relating to the House of Representatives maintained by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(b) NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK.—The website of each agency and each congressional website shall include a national debt clock that displays the national debt and the rate of the increase in the national debt on a continuous basis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 1066 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1058

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment and call up the Vitter amendment, No. 1066.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER] proposes an amendment numbered 1066 to amendment No. 1058.

Mr. VITTER. I ask unanimous consent to waive the reading of the whole.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To specify acceptable forms of identification for the opening of credit card accounts)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION FOR CREDIT CARD ISSUERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 127A the following new section:

"SEC. 127B. IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF ACCOUNTHOLDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Board shall prescribe regulations setting forth the minimum standards for card issuers under open end credit plans and cardholders regarding the identity of the consumer, that shall apply in connection with the opening of such a credit card account.

''(b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, require card issuers to implement, and cardholders (after being given adequate notice) to comply with, reasonable procedures for—

''(1) verifying the identity of any person seeking to open a credit card account, to the extent reasonable and practicable;

''(2) maintaining records of the information used to verify a person's identity, including name, address, and other identifying information; and

''(3) consulting lists of known or suspected terrorists or terrorist organizations provided to the card issuer by any government agency, to determine whether a person seeking to open a credit card account appears on any such list.

''(c) FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION.—A card issuer may not accept, for the purpose of verifying the identity of an individual seeking to open an account in accordance with this subsection, any form of identification of the individual, other than—

''(1) a social security card, accompanied by a photo identification card issued by the Federal Government or a State government;

''(2) a driver's license or identification card issued by a State, in the case of a State that is in compliance with title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note);

''(3) a passport issued by the United States or a foreign government; or

''(4) a photo identification card issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security (acting through the Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127B of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section, shall become effective 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, this is a very straightforward but important amendment. It would grant rulemaking authority to the Federal Reserve to set forth minimum standards for credit card issuers to establish a consumer's identity in order to prevent illegal immigrants—folks in the country illegally, breaking Federal law, including terrorists, in some cases, and including many others here illegally—from obtaining credit cards.

Madam President, we have all read numerous accounts of how this is actually a growth industry for some very large financial institutions. Not so long ago, in February 2007, the Wall Street Journal reported:

In the latest sign of the U.S. banking industry's aggressive pursuit of the Hispanic market, Bank of America Corp. has quietly begun offering credit cards to customers without Social Security numbers—typically illegal immigrants.

The same Wall Street Journal article detailed how Bank of America abused loopholes in customer identification rules to provide illegal immigrants with credit cards.

The new Bank of America program is open to people who lack both a Social Security number and a credit history, as long as they have held a checking account with the bank for 3 months without an overdraft. Most adults in the U.S. who don't have a Social Security number are undocumented immigrants.

Now, as we have a major credit crisis in this country, and particularly when we are throwing billions upon billions of taxpayer dollars at these same large financial institutions, I don't think it is too much to ask that they help us enforce our law, not to be a willing co-conspirator with lawbreakers, and to actually go after the illegal alien market as a new niche market or a new profit center. I think that is offensive because we do have a serious illegal immigration problem that we are trying to get our hands around in this country.

So again, my amendment is very simple. It doesn't say exactly what all of the detailed rules have to be. It simply gives the experts in the Federal system—in this case the Federal Reserve—rulemaking authority to set forth minimum standards for credit card issuers to establish a consumer's identity, and specifically to prevent illegal immigrants and terrorists from obtaining credit cards. It shouldn't be too much to ask, curtailing a little bit of the big banks and big credit card companies' business to do that, to at least be that careful. It isn't asking very much, and I believe this would be an important step forward in the proper enforcement of our immigration laws.

I thank my colleagues for their attention. I urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to support this commonsense, simple, but important amendment, and I look forward to a vote tomorrow.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I rise on behalf of consumers in Colorado and across this country who work hard every day, pay their bills on time, and struggle to stay ahead in the midst of an economic recession. In the face of these challenges, the last thing Colorado families need is credit card companies that arbitrarily change terms and charge fees, offering only legalese and print so small you need a magnifying glass to read it.

Some credit card companies have been taking advantage of consumers for years. This bipartisan bill would give cardholders some much needed relief, and I am very glad we are taking it up this week. Why, Madam President? Because after the near financial collapse last year, Congress has worked to meet the needs of banks and financial institutions. I think it is time working families also had someone in their corner. This bill is about them. It is about making sure that families who pay their bills on time and stay within their means can't get charged excessive fees or see their interest rates jacked up without clear notice.

I have come to the floor, as many of my colleagues have today, to urge our other colleagues to support this important legislation.

We know how important short-term credit is to families, and we have all heard stories of people who have been victimized by the kind of unfair dealing that I am talking about tonight. As a longtime supporter of credit card reform, I have met with countless victims of the abusive practices of credit card companies. One of them was a wonderful woman by the name of Susan Wones, and I want to take a minute to share her experience with you tonight.

I met Susan in person last year when she flew from Denver to Washington to testify before Congress about the unfair treatment she received from a credit card company. She has a classic story. She has always maintained a high FICO score, never exceeded her card's limit, and always paid the amount required on time. In short, she is a good customer who plays by the rules and lives within her means. But despite Susan's good standing, one of her credit card issuers doubled her interest rate to 25 percent without notice.

When she later asked why, she was told the rate had been increased, not because she had missed a payment but because this particular credit card company decided her balance on another card was too high. This practice, known as universal default, will no longer be allowed if this legislation passes and is signed into law.

Unfortunately for Susan, this kind of treatment did not stop there. Just before she was prepared to testify in the House of Representatives, the powerful lobbying interests of the banks and credit card issuers insisted she sign a waiver relinquishing her privacy rights to her personal financial information. Then, a month later, after deals were worked out to have Susan return to Washington and finally tell her story without fearing her personal information would be released to the press, that information was released anyway.

While Susan had nothing to hide, the treatment she received is indicative of the abusive treatment American consumers have been subject to at the hands of credit card companies. This kind of treatment has to stop, and that is why we need this bill.

The bill will put in place some commonsense rules that will protect honest, hard-working Americans from unfair and downright abusive practices by credit card issuers. I first introduced similar legislation to protect individual consumers from this kind of unfair treatment by credit card companies back in 2006, as a Member of the House of Representatives. I reintroduced this bill in the House in 2007, and last year I worked with Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, from New York, to incorporate the principles of my bill in the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights.

I thank and acknowledge Congresswoman MALONEY for her hard work and dedication in working on that legislation, which passed the House last year and then again just a few weeks ago.

This year, one of my first steps as a freshman Senator was to join with Senator SCHUMER in introducing the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights in the Senate. The legislation we are considering today overlaps in every critical category with a bill Senator SCHUMER and I introduced. I did wish to acknowledge Chairman DODD for his leadership on this important issue.

Here is what the bill does, in short. It protects against arbitrary interest rate increases, No. 1. No. 2, it prevents cardholders who pay on time from being unfairly penalized. No. 3, it bars excessive fees and will require more fairness in the way payments are handled. Finally, it will prohibit the use of universal default clauses, as I mentioned earlier in my remarks.

With all due respect, we know how important the credit card industry is to modern America. For many Americans, consumer credit is more than a convenience, it is a necessity. You have the parent who uses short-term credit to buy groceries, the small business owner who uses credit to cover expenses. In that regard, a well-functioning credit card industry is absolutely essential to our economy. But this influence should not give the credit card industry the right to abuse customers with an ''anything goes in the name of profit'' approach.

For far too long, the Federal Government has placed the blame of individual's overbearing debts solely at the feet of the American consumer. Most notably, in 2005, the laws governing bankruptcy were fundamentally changed to prevent abuse. But while we passed laws to hold the consumer accountable, too much emphasis was placed on borrowers alone. Just as Congress has cracked down on the predatory lending that spurred the subprime mortgage crisis, Congress must also do more to promote responsibility by the credit card companies that provide this important consumer credit.

In the last several months, the Federal Government has taken extraordinary steps to respond to a financial crisis that has paralyzed the credit markets. This crisis was brought on, as we know all too well, by excessive leverage and risk-taking on the part of the very banks that have treated credit card customers such as Susan Wones so unfairly.

I supported many of those steps to rescue the financial industry, as many in the Senate have done as well—despite my distaste for doing so—because I believed they were necessary to stabilize our economy and get credit flowing again. It is now time we start working to level the playing field for American families who are being asked to pick up the tab.

As I close, I wish to underline that this is a commonsense bill whose time has come. It is time to stand for working families again. This legislation is a big step in that direction, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1062 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1058

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I move to set aside the pending amendment so I can call up amendment No. 1062, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

The Senator from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS], for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE, proposes an amendment No. 1062 to an amendment numbered 1058.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a national consumer credit usury rate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. NATIONAL CONSUMER CREDIT USURY RATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1606) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) NATIONAL CONSUMER CREDIT USURY RATE.—

''(1) LIMITATION ESTABLISHED.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any other provision of law, but except as provided in paragraph (2), the annual percentage rate applicable to an extension of credit obtained by use of a credit card may not exceed 15 percent on unpaid balances, inclusive of all finance charges. Any fees that are not considered finance charges under section 106(a) may not be used to evade the limitations of this paragraph, and the total sum of such

fees may not exceed the total amount of finance charges assessed.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) BOARD AUTHORITY.—The Board may establish, after consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, and any other interested Federal financial institution regulatory agency, an annual percentage rate of interest ceiling exceeding the 15 percent annual rate under paragraph (1) for periods of not to exceed 18 months, upon a determination that—

''(i) money market interest rates have risen over the preceding 6-month period; or

''(ii) prevailing interest rate levels threaten the safety and soundness of individual lenders, as evidenced by adverse trends in liquidity, capital, earnings, and growth.

''(B) TREATMENT OF CREDIT UNIONS.—The limitation in paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to any extension of credit by an insured credit union, as that term is defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

''(3) PENALTIES FOR CHARGING HIGHER RATES.—

''(A) VIOLATION.—The taking, receiving, reserving, or charging of an annual percentage rate or fee greater than that permitted by paragraph (1), when knowingly done, shall be deemed a violation of this title, and a forfeiture of the entire interest which the note, bill, or other evidence of the obligation carries with it, or which has been agreed to be paid thereon.

''(B) REFUND OF INTEREST AMOUNTS.—If an annual percentage rate or fee greater than that permitted under paragraph (1) has been paid, the person by whom it has been paid, or the legal representative thereof, may, by bringing an action not later than 2 years after the date on which the usurious collection was last made, recover back from the lender in an action in the nature of an action of debt, the entire amount of interest, finance charges, or fees paid.

''(4) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Any creditor who violates this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of section 130.''.

(b) CIVIL LIABILITY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 130(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1640(a)) is amended by inserting ''section 107(f)'' before ''this chapter''.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam, this amendment, No. 1062, is being cosponsored by Senator HARKIN, Senator DURBIN, Senator LEVIN, Senator LEAHY, and Senator WHITEHOUSE. Before I speak on this amendment, let me begin by commending the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator DODD, and Ranking Member SHELBY, for introducing the underlying bill we are debating today that, for the first time, would seriously begun to crack down on big banks and credit card issuers that are ripping off millions of American consumers by charging outrageously high interest rates and sky-high fees. The American people are saying loudly and clearly: Enough is enough. This legislation begins—begins—to move us in the right direction.

I also commend President Obama for his leadership on this issue. Without his tenacious support for this bill, it is doubtful we would have the necessary votes to pass this important piece of legislation—and we will have the necessary votes to do that.

Under the Dodd-Shelby bill, credit card companies will no longer be payable to raise interest rates at any time for any reason. Credit card companies will be banned from retroactively raising interest rates on consumers who are less than 60 days late in paying their credit card bills.

This bill also prohibits credit card issuers from increasing interest rates on consumers during the first year after a credit card account is opened, and it requires teaser rates to last at least 6 months, among many other things.

When I was the ranking member of the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee in the House, I fought to end the ''bait and switch'' practices of the credit card companies for years. It is something we worked on for a long time in the House. I applaud Chairman DODD for putting a stop to some of the most egregious practices being perpetrated by the credit card companies today.

But while Chairman DODD and Ranking Member SHELBY deserve strong credit for standing up to the big banks and credit card issuers that oppose this legislation, in my view, this bill, as good as it is, does not go far enough. That is why I am introducing this amendment today. At a time when banks are receiving the largest taxpayer bailout in the history of the world, at a time when the Federal Reserve is providing banks with zero interest loans, those same banks are now charging consumers outrageous fees and sky-high interest rates on credit cards and other loans.

In other words, after taking $700 billion from the taxpayers, after getting zero interest loans from the Fed, what these banks are now saying is: Thank you very much, chump, we are going to take your money, and then we are going to charge you 25 or 30 percent interest rates.

All over this country, people are saying: Sorry, that cannot be allowed to continue.

That is why we are here tonight. Today one-third of all credit cardholders in this country are paying interest rates above 20 percent and as high as 41 percent—more than double what they paid in interest in 1990. Nineteen years later, people are now paying double what they paid in 1990. According to a recent Business Week article:

> Bank of America sent letters notifying some responsible cardholders that it would more than double their rates to as high as 28 percent, without giving an explanation for the increase. What's striking is how arbitrary the Bank of America rate increases appear.

In other words, they are doing it, and I know many people in Vermont call and they say: I paid my bills every month on time. Why are you doubling my interest rates? Essentially, what the bank is saying is: We are doing it because we can do it.

That is not acceptable.

Citigroup, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and other banks should not be permitted to charge consumers 25 to 30 percent interest on their credit cards while they are getting bailed out by the middle-class taxpayers of this country. The amendment I am proposing with Senators HARKIN, DURBIN, LEVIN, LEAHY, and WHITEHOUSE would cap credit card interest rates at 15 percent, the same interest rate cap that Congress imposed on credit unions almost 30 years ago. Under our amendment, the Federal Reserve would have the authority to allow credit card lenders to charge higher rates if the Fed determines this cap would threaten the safety and soundness of financial institutions.

In other words, the time is now—not tomorrow, not next year, but now—to have a national usury rate. As a nation, what we must say is banks cannot charge people 25 percent or 30 percent. As I mentioned, this is not a new idea I pulled out of my ear. This, in fact, is what credit unions have been living under for the last 30 years. Do you know what. Credit unions are doing fine. I don't see them crawling in here asking for hundreds of billions of dollars of bailout money. They are doing fine with that regulation, and we should impose that same regulation on the private banks as well.

Establishing a national usury law is not a radical concept. Up until 1978, about half the States in our country had usury laws on the books capping credit card interest rates. While the State usury laws remain on the books in several States, they were effectively eradicated by a 1978 Supreme Court decision Marquette National Bank v. First of Omaha Service Corporation, which concluded that national banks could charge whatever interest rate they wanted if they moved to a State without a usury law, which is, of course, what they did. South Dakota, Delaware, other States do not have usury laws, and that is where these companies moved.

Our amendment simply applies the same statutory interest rate cap on credit cards that Congress imposed on credit unions in 1980, capping interest rates at 15 percent.

The National Credit Union Administration has the authority to raise interest rates if it determines the 15-percent cap threatens the safety and soundness of credit unions.

It is also important to know that the concept I am bringing forth tonight is one that former Senator Al D'Amato, Republican of New York—who was then chairman of the Banking Committee, by the way—advocated for in 1991, when he offered an amendment to cap credit card interest rates. The D'Amato amendment would have capped all credit card interest rates at 14 percent. Do you know what. That amendment won on the floor of the Senate by an overwhelming vote of 74 to 19. That was back in 1991. If that amendment received 74 votes in 1991, the truth is our amendment should receive even more because the situation

today is more egregious than it was in 1991.

Here is what the Republican Senator, then chairman of the Banking Committee, Al D'Amato said in 1991:

Fourteen percent is certainly a reasonable rate of interest for banks to charge customers for credit card debt. It allows a comfortable profit margin but keeps banks in line so that interest rates rise and fall with the health of the economy.

He was right then. We are right now.

The Bible has a term for what we are seeing today. I see a lot of my friends coming to the floor and quoting the Bible. I don't often do it, but let me do it at this moment.

In the Bible quite often we see the term ''usury.'' Usury. It appears very often in the Bible. Because not only in Christianity, but in Judaism, in the Muslim world, there is a reprehension against people who lend money out at outrageously high rates. There is a strong sense that that type of activity is not moral.

In Dante's ''Divine Comedy'' there was a special place reserved in the seventh circle of hell for sinners who charged people usurious interest rates. So that is a warning for our friends in the credit card companies. Beware.

Today we do not need the hellfire and pitchforks, we do not need the rivers of boiling blood, but we do need a national usury law capping credit card interest rates. That is why I am proposing this amendment today.

I am not under any illusion that this amendment will easily pass. After all, the financial services industry has spent over $5 billion on campaign contributions and lobbying activities over the past 10 years in support of deregulation, and they are spending even more money today trying to prevent Congress from seriously regulating their industry. They are a very powerful force here in Washington. In many ways all of that money has got us to where we are today with the collapse of major banking institutions.

Let me conclude by saying this: On April 24, a few weeks ago, I sent an e-mail to my Senate mailing list, and I simply said: Tell me how credit card companies are treating you. We did not know what kind of response we would get. But 3 days later, I had almost 1,000 responses, many from obviously the State of Vermont, but from people all over this country.

I took some of these responses and I put them into a booklet. Let me conclude by reading a few of those e-mails that I received.

Donna from Neptune, NJ, writes:

I want to know why consumers are not protected in any way from these predatory lenders who were bailed out with my taxpayer dollars and then turn around and raise my interest rates from 7 percent to 27 percent because of ''difficult economic times'' for the credit industry. This is outrageous. I have not missed a payment and my credit rating is in the high 800s. How can they keep getting away with this?

And Steven from St. Johnsbury, VT, wrote:

A couple of weeks ago, Bank of America sent us a letter saying they were going to raise our interest rate from 7.3 percent to 24 percent. The letter stated we could get our credit report to find out why. We received our credit report and I still have no reason why they wanted to raise our rate. We did opt out, kept the 7.3 percent and we destroyed our card, but we do know what was wrong with our credit report.

On and on it goes, arbitrary acts on the part of credit card companies, raising rates to outrageous levels. There is a lot of frustration on the part of the American people as to what has gone on in Wall Street, and the fact of what has gone on here in Congress.

The American people want to know that we are fulfilling our constitutional responsibilities and representing the needs of ordinary people and not just major financial institutions that may make lots of campaign contributions and have their lobbyists out lining the Halls of Congress.

The time is now to say there must be a limit on credit card rates. The time is now to pass a national usury law. I hope very much we will have the support of our colleagues in going forward on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 1084 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1058

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside so I may call up amendment No. 1084.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mrs. GILLIBRAND] proposes an amendment numbered 1084 to amendment No. 1058.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require reporting agencies to provide free credit reports in the native language of certain non-English speaking consumers)

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 503. CREDIT REPORTS IN CONSUMER'S NATIVE LANGUAGE.

Section 612(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681j(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) NATIVE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS.—The disclosures required under this paragraph shall be provided, upon request, to the extent possible, in the native language of any consumer having limited ability to read, write, speak, and understand English, subject to such limitations and in accordance with such guidelines as shall be established by the Commission, in consultation with the Federal Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency.''.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, my amendment is very simple. It basically says that the Fair Credit Reporting Act will require rating agencies to make available credit reports in languages other than English. This is very important, because we have 22 million Americans who have limited English proficiency, and so this basic requirement will make sure that these translations are made available so folks have the opportunity to understand what their credit report is.

When we have a serious economic downturn, as we have today, where we have 3.5 million jobs lost, more than half in the last few months alone, we need to do everything we can to get our families back in the fight to make sure that we have good jobs to make sure they can provide for their families.

Being able to understand your credit rating is very much part of that process. So this very simple amendment will make sure those 22 million Americans have access to their credit report in a form they can fully understand.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado.) The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in the last Congress there was a Wyden-Obama amendment to better protect the rights of those who have credit cards in our country. My original cosponsor has obviously moved on and is doing important work for our country at 1600 Pennsylvania where he continues to advocate for the rights of consumers.

But I am very hopeful, and discussions are now taking place with Chairman DODD and Ranking Minority Member SHELBY, that it will be possible to get a bipartisan agreement here in the next day or so to advance the legislation that I and then Senator Obama originally proposed the last Congress.

I am very pleased that my original cosponsor this session is my new colleague from Oregon, Senator JEFF MERKLEY, who has a long record of advocating for the rights of consumers as well.

What Senator Obama and I originally proposed in the last Congress would direct the Federal Reserve to establish a safety rating system for credit cards. What then-Senator Obama and I sought to do was to make sure that cards with terms that are consumer friendly would be rated up, and cards with the tricky terms, the terms that are larded with qualifiers and exceptions and waivers, the legal mumbo jumbo that is so deceptive in the marketplace, those cards would be rated down. Under our legislation, credit cards with five stars would be deemed the safest; those with one star would be considered the least safe.

For example, credit card agreements that state that terms can be changed at any time for any reason would automatically get a one-star rating, because clearly that is the kind of consumer practice that has caused great difficulty for American consumers and is plain wrong.

I see our proposal operating much like the five-star crash rating system works for new cars. That system has worked. Americans have become better educated about how their car will protect them in a crash, and the rating system has helped incentivize the car industry as far as basic safety measures. When that rating system first

came out, a lot of the cars only received one or two stars. But then the basic principles of competition and free enterprise kicked in, and now you have got many of those cars receiving four or five stars.

I am very confident that what then-Senator Obama and I sought to do 2 years ago will accomplish exactly the same thing with credit cards. Similarly, the safety star rating will increase competition between credit card companies over the fairness of the terms in their contracts, which will create an incentive for them to use fairer terms for more credit cards.

Credit card companies would have to display the rating on all of their marketing materials, billing statements, agreement materials, and on the back of the card itself. Consumers would be able to see the ratings for their card and how their card got that rating on a stand-alone Web site that was created and operated by the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve would be responsible for updating the star system and making sure that if new terms or practices come to market, those terms or practices would be assigned an appropriate rating.

Card issuers currently compete on their ability to advertise, mostly advertising their interest rates and annual fees, but not on the fairness of their credit card contract. Card issuers advertise their great interest rates and their great rewards, and then try to tell the consumers that their cards will cost less to use. But too often the important information is buried, the information about early deadlines and arbitrary rules, and what happens is that these cards end up costing millions of consumers more.

I believe—and Senator MERKLEY and I continue to advocate this cause, a cause that began in the last Congress—we believe that consumers deserve to have the tools that are needed to make informed choices about what they buy. That, of course, is what the marketplace is all about, getting information to consumers so they can make the choices that make sense for them. We believe our legislation empowers consumers to better make the marketplace work in this critical area of our economy.

I want to close by saying I have always felt that in a free society, Americans have a right to make decisions that, by perhaps someone else's assessment, would be wasteful or ill advised. In effect, we have in our country a constitutional right to be pretty foolish with our money. The problem with credit cards is that too often the marketplace fails the millions and millions of Americans who want to manage their money responsibly. Too often the major provisions of these credit card agreements require that you have an advanced legal degree—not just a basic law degree but an advanced legal degree—in order to sort out the terms. I do not think it is right to say that you ought to, in effect, be someone who spends their free time reading the Uniform Commercial Code in order to make sense out of these credit card agreements.

I am very hopeful that now with millions of our people walking on an economic tightrope, it will be possible to use classic free market principles to encourage better behavior. This is not heavy-handed regulation. This is not run-from-Washington micromanagement that is going to jack up somebody's credit card rates. This is about disclosure. This is about making sure that people in the marketplace understand what is in front of them, and that they are in a better position with objective information, in this case supplied by the Federal Reserve, overseen in a system operated by the Federal Reserve.

Consumers would be able to make better choices while forcing the credit card companies to compete not on who can best craft these technical legalistic terms of legal mumbo jumbo, but instead who best informs the public about their credit card choices and who addresses the rights of consumers with responsible practices.

I will continue to talk with Chairman DODD and the ranking minority member Senator SHELBY. They are familiar with what Senator Obama and I sought to do in the last Congress. I am glad this bill is on the floor. It is high time the rights of credit card consumers were addressed, that credit card consumers got a fair shake.

I think I have got the best possible partner, somebody who has been a long-standing advocate of consumers' rights, in Senator MERKLEY. We are hopeful in the next day or so that we will be able to forge an agreement with the chairman and the ranking minority member.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MR. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. On May 19, 2009, the Taoiseach will meet with the current 12 American Scholars, and congratulate them on their impressive achievements.

For nearly 10 years, this important program has allowed exceptional young Americans to engage in a rigorous, intellectually stimulating course of study in some of Ireland's most renowned institutes of higher learning. The Mitchell Scholarship has allowed America to deepen its strategic, political, and cultural ties with Ireland and helps prepare future American leaders for an increasingly globalized world. I can think of no better way to honor Senator George Mitchell and his pivotal role in bringing peace to Northern Ireland than through this valuable program dedicated to deepening our ties to Ireland.

I fondly remember meeting the inaugural class of scholars in late 2000 when I visited Ireland with President Clinton, and I have proudly watched the Mitchell Scholarship program grow to become one of America's most respected overseas scholarships. I look forward to watching the Mitchell Scholarship program continue to prosper and further enrich U.S.-Irish relations.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FIRST 100 DAYS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in recent days, the White House, the news media, and many in this Chamber have taken the opportunity to reflect on the first 100 days of President Barack Obama's administration. I rise today to offer my comments and evaluation in light of this milestone.

Admittedly, it is somewhat arbitrary to use the 100-day point in a Presidency as a time for evaluation.

Indeed, success in the first 100 days doesn't guarantee success in the next 100 days or for the rest of a Presidential term. Likewise, struggles and failures in the first 100 days do not necessarily predicate similar troubles in the future. It is certainly the case that, as with most administrations, the defining moments of this current President are yet to be written.

That said, President Obama's first 100 days have provided us with some unique insight into this President and how he intends to govern. It is this insight that informs my comments here today.

The President came into office facing unprecedented expectations. While some of these expectations may have been unfairly placed upon him by some starry-eyed supporters who believed him to be a politician, a movie star, and a religious figure all in one, he brought much of the pressure upon himself. President Obama campaigned on a platform of big promises, not the least of which was a promise to change the tone here in Washington and move the country past the bitter partisan divides that has kept us polarized in recent years.

But as any reasonable person observing U.S. politics will concede, we are not on that path yet.

The supporters of the President will argue that he cannot accomplish such

a daunting task alone and I tend to agree with them. However, so far, the President has done very little on his end to make good on that promise and that has been his biggest failing during the first 100 days.

The problems began right out of the gate when the Congress debated the SCHIP reauthorization language. I was an original author of the SCHIP program and had been one of its strongest supporters. In fact, over the years, a number of Republicans in this Chamber—including myself and Senator GRASSLEY—had endured a lot of criticism among our more conservative constituents over our support for the SCHIP program.

During the 110th Congress, we worked with the Democratic majority to forge a bipartisan compromise in order to ensure widespread support for reauthorizing this program. This included some common-sense proposals to ensure the program was an efficient use of taxpayer funds. Yet, when the 111th Congress convened, the President and his supporters in Congress left that compromise on the side of the road and instead chose to push through a more expansive and liberal version of the bill. In the end, the bill passed on a vote divided on partisan lines.

So, in the earliest days of his administration, the President was presented an easy opportunity to place unity and bipartisanship ahead of a far-left Democratic agenda and, unfortunately for the SCHIP program, he balked and, in doing so, he set the tone for the early months of his Presidency.

Shortly thereafter, the President came to Congress with a proposed ''stimulus package'' at a pricetag of nearly a $1 trillion. Although it was eventually reduced to $790 billion, the ''stimulus package'' basically read like a wish-list of long-time Democratic policy priorities and had very little to do with actually stimulating the economy. For example, small businesses, which create 70 percent of the new jobs in this country, went virtually unnoticed in the President's ''stimulus'' bill, which focused more on expanding the Federal Government and providing ''tax credits'' for millions of Americans who don't pay any taxes.

The President had an opportunity to work with Republicans on the ''stimulus'' and include ideas that are proven to have immediate economic impacts—like reducing the highest corporate tax rates in the industrialized world to keep businesses in the U.S. or tax credits to address the housing crisis.

Instead, he chose to cut Republicans almost entirely out of the negotiations and was content to have the support of only three members of the minority voting in favor, one of whom officially joined the majority earlier this week.

Almost as disappointing as the substance of the bill was the President's tactics in debating the ''stimulus.'' Rather than acknowledging sincere policy differences between Democrats and Republicans, he accused the Republicans of wanting to do nothing, which was anything but the truth. This too has become an unfortunate, yet commonly used, tactic used by the Obama administration.

The partisan recklessness continued into the debate over the President's budget. I have been in the Senate now for 33 years and I can say without reservation that President Obama's first budget is the most poorly crafted budget I have ever seen. In 1 year, the President's budget will quadruple the Federal deficit—That is the case even if you use the President's own estimates. Following the President's budget will create more debt than was created under every President from George Washington through George W. Bush combined. It also contains the largest tax increase in history of our union. And, under the Obama budget, government spending could end up as high as 40 percent of the GDP within the space of only a few years.

In order to assuage such concerns—or at least in order to pretend to do so—the President has claimed that his budget will cut the deficit in half over 5 years. So, he will quadruple the deficit in 1 year—but we don't have worry because, 5 years from now, he will cut that deficit in half? Does anyone really think the President was considering his promises of bipartisanship when drafting this budget?

It is not only the size of the budget, but its priorities. Like the stimulus bill, the President's budget reads like a policy manifesto for far-left Democrats. Worse still, the President and congressional majority have declared their intentions to use the budget reconciliation process in order to enact major pillars of their domestic policy platform, including an expansive government-run health care program and an energy tax euphemistically referred to as ''cap and trade.'' These are bills the President couldn't get passed through regular order, even with the large Democratic majorities. So, instead, he seems willing and able to force them through with little substantive debate, leaving the minority completely out of the equation.

Once again, it appears that the President's promise of increased bipartisanship came with an expiration date.

I wish this was all, but unfortunately it is not. The President's failure to live up to his promises of bipartisanship extends into the national security sphere. One of his very first actions as President was to order the closure of the Guantanamo Bay prison facility. Of course, he didn't have an alternative plan in place, only the stated desire to close the prison and to cast aspersions on his predecessor's efforts to protect our country's national security. Such inane details—like what we will do with these dangerous captives once the facility closes—could wait until later, the President had a political statement to make.

Just 2 weeks ago, President Obama opted to selectively declassify memos drafted by the Office of Legal Counsel during the Bush administration relating to CIA interrogation tactics. Instead of providing the American people real context about these tactics—their successes and failures—the President opted to placate those on the far left who want nothing less than an indictment and trial of our former President. He did this for the stated purpose of clearing the air and moving forward, yet he left open the possibility of prosecuting former Bush officials whose only alleged crimes were to offer legal opinions. One would think that a President who is truly interested in bipartisanship and moving forward would avoid further politicizing such contentious issues. Yet, as a result of the President's lack of leadership, we may be looking at months and years of show trials in order to pacify those on the far left who would criminalize policy differences in order to exact political vengeance on the Bush administration. I hope that this will not be the case and that the President will change course on these issues.

Now, to be fair, the President has made some good decisions during his first 100 days and I am not unwilling to give him credit where it is due. For example, he ended the ban on Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. I have supported taking such measures for many years as I believe that this research has the potential to revolutionize medicine in this country. This was, in my view, a wise decision on the part of the President and I have commended him for it.

Likewise, the President exercised true leadership in helping Congress to pass the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, a new law that will revolutionize volunteer service in this country. This bill was a long-time coming and had the support of a bipartisan coalition here in the Senate. Beginning with his address before Congress in February, President Obama got involved in helping this legislation move forward and, as a result, many people throughout the country will be given more opportunity to serve in their neighborhoods and to do much of the heavy lifting in fixing our Nation's problems. I have both publicly and privately thanked the President for his support of the Serve America Act.

Sadly, such instances of true bipartisanship have been few and far between.

Some may believe I am being too hard on the President or that my concerns are just sour grapes over my own partisan disagreements with the President's agenda. But, from the day he was inaugurated, I have continually expressed my willingness to work with President Obama. After all, this is my country too and I want him to succeed. My record in being willing and able to work with Members of both parties speaks for itself. But, in my opinion, success in addressing the major issues facing our country—including health care, energy, and our crippling entitlement programs—will require the work

and ideas of both parties. So far, with very few exceptions, the President seems all too willing to keep his own counsel and that of his fellow Democrats on how to address these issues. This is not the type of government he promised on the campaign trail and, quite frankly, I think it has led to policy results that, at best, have to be considered questionable.

Going forward, I hope that, instead of cursory gestures and empty statements encouraging bipartisanship, President Obama makes a real effort to listen to and accept ideas from both sides of the aisle. That will take real courage and leadership and, thus far, I don't know that he has demonstrated much of either.

FREE MEDIA IN THE OSCE REGION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, earlier this month we marked World Press Freedom Day, a timely opportunity to draw attention to the plight of journalists and others involved in the press and media in the OSCE—Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe—region. While all 56 OSCE countries have accepted specific commitments on media and working conditions for journalists, the difficulty remains translating words on paper into deeds in practice. Today, many courageous journalists are working under tremendously difficult conditions, often at great personal risk, with some paying the ultimate price for their journalistic pursuits.

According to the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists, CPJ, nearly a dozen journalists and their colleagues have been killed in the OSCE region since last year's observance. Among those slain in Russia were Anastasiya Baburova, of Novaya Gazeta; Shafig Amrakhov, of RIA 51; Telman Alishaya, of TV-Chirkei; and Magomed Yevloyev, owner of the popular Web site Ingushetiya, who was killed while in police custody. Scores of journalists have been murdered in Russia alone since the early 1990s.

Others slain over the past 12 months included Ivo Pukanic and Niko Franjic, both of Nacional, in Croatia; and freelance journalists Alexander Klimchuk and Grigol Chikhladze, with Caucasus Images, as well as Dutch RLT TV veteran cameraman Stan Storimans, killed in the conflict zone during the war in Georgia last August. Besides war correspondents, victims often include investigative journalists covering politics, corruption, and human rights.

We are approaching the fifth anniversary of the slaying of American journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow. I call upon the Russian authorities to bring to justice all of those responsible in any way for his murder.

As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I note the vital work undertaken by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Miklos Haraszti, a tireless advocate for freedom of expression and the courageous journalists who pursue their profession, sometimes at great personal risk. The reports of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media are available at: http://www.osce.org/fom/. Freedom of expression, free media, and information has been selected as a special focus topic for the OSCE's annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, scheduled to be held in Warsaw, Poland, this fall.

NOMINATION OF DAVID HAYES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to speak on the nomination of David Hayes to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. The Department of Interior has made some key decisions in the past few months that I think warrant special attention and discussion before we vote on this nominee. I also want to note that several issues surrounding this nominee fall under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee, on which I serve as ranking member. As Deputy Secretary at the Department of Interior, Mr. Hayes would oversee the implementation of the Endangered Species Act, a law that the EPW Committee oversees.

As chairman of the EPW Committee for 4 years, and now in my third year as ranking member, I have worked a considerable amount with the Department of Interior, specifically the Fish and Wildlife Service, and its implementation of the Endangered Species Act. As ranking member, one of my roles is to exercise rigid oversight of executive branch actions under EPW jurisdiction. In the past, I have seen many good things come from the Department of Interior, such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which conserves habitat by leveraging Federal funds through voluntary private landowner participation, as well as the delisting of the Bald Eagle, showing what good the ESA can accomplish. However, recent actions to reverse rules related to ESA have bothered me.

Through my role as ranking member on the EPW Committee, I have become concerned with the possibility of the ESA being used as a backdoor for greenhouse gas regulation following the listing of the polar bear as a threatened species. In April, I joined other Senators in a letter to Commerce Secretary Locke urging him not to reverse regulations preventing the Endangered Species Act from regulating carbon dioxide. Now as we move to debate the David Hayes nomination this week, we must again carefully consider the motives of this administration in using the Endangered Species Act. ESA should be used as a tool for protecting truly threatened and endangered species, not for controlling the emissions of greenhouse gases from potentially every source, big or small, in America.

Two weeks ago, I voted for Tom Strickland to become the new Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, after he was reported out of our committee. As with David Hayes, I took issue with the nomination of Assistant Secretary Strickland, raising questions concerning the administration's decision to reverse rules on the listing of the polar bear and modifications to the section 7 consultation process. Thankfully, just last week, Assistant Secretary Strickland and Secretary Salazar upheld the polar bear rule. While the decision by Interior to retain this rule shows good judgment by this administration, potential lawsuits by radical environmental groups still threaten to undermine the original intent of the Endangered Species Act.

What is most troublesome, however, is the decision by Interior to overturn the section 7 consultation rule in complete disregard of the Administrative Procedures Act. That is in direct contrast to President Obama's commitment to transparency and public process. Moreover, revoking this rule forces Federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service for each new Federal action that may result in the emission of greenhouse gases. Under the ESA, a Federal action agency is required to initiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service if it determines that the effects of its action are anticipated to result in the ''take''—including potential harm—of any listed species, or the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. This includes actions the agency takes itself, actions that are federally funded, as well as the issuance of a Federal permit or license for a private party.

The final rule as published last December exempted from consultation actions which are ''manifested through global processes and (i) cannot be reliably predicted or measured at the scale of a listed species' current range, or (ii) would result at most in an extremely small, insignificant impact on a listed species or critical habitat, or (iii) are such that the potential risk of harm to a listed species or critical habitat is remote.'' Unfortunately, after Interior's recent decision to reverse this rule, Federal agencies are again subjected to consulting Fish and Wildlife Services in these areas. This is a very costly process, which would cover any number of highway and construction projects, including, among others, those under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Senator MURKOWSKI, the ranking member of the Senate Energy Committee, has made her position very clear on Mr. Hayes by placing a hold on his nomination until her questions to Secretary Salazar are fully answered. The Department, and environmental groups, could manipulate the Endangered Species Act and the polar bear listing for purposes never intended by Congress. Moreover, repealing regulations without public hearings or public comment is a bad way to start an administration, as it signals to the public

that its views on important regulatory matters are irrelevant. It is my hope that Mr. Hayes will fully explain his position on these important issues, and that the Department of Interior will practice openness and transparency, as President Obama has promised, by including the views of stakeholders and the public when it makes decisions.

TRIBUTE TO KENT WELLS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a special tribute to Kent Wells, a Kansan and longtime friend, who has turned his own battle with multiple myeloma into a fight for continued research to benefit the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, MMRF.

Multiple myeloma is an incurable cancer of the plasma cell. It is the second most common blood cancer. There are approximately 50,000 people in the United States living with multiple myeloma and an estimated 15,000 new cases of the disease are diagnosed each year.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, which was established in 1998 as a nonprofit organization, has a unique mission to urgently and aggressively invest in research that will result in the development of effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure.

Today, MMRF has raised over $100 million to support the world's most cutting-edge myeloma research. The foundation is widely recognized as the driving force behind progress made against the disease and one of the Nation's most groundbreaking cancer research organizations.

When Kent received his diagnosis in 2007, he began working with the foundation, personally benefiting from the research and the clinical drugs that have been established. But he understands all too well that much more must be done, and Kent has chosen to fight for his own health and for the health of others by further supporting the work of MMFR.

This week, on Kent's behalf, dozens of his friends and colleagues are sponsoring an event that will raise money for the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation so that it can continue the efforts to develop the necessary research to conquer this disease.

It should come as no surprise to Kent that his friends and colleagues from all walks of life have come together to share this fight with him and his wife Debbie and their sons, Trevor and Bryan.

I first met Kent in 1975. Kent was a young man from Garden City, KS, interning in Washington for my predecessor, Congressman Keith Sebelius. I was the Congressman's chief of staff at that time.

I would like to take a little credit for giving Kent his start in public service, hiring him for that internship. ''Potomac Fever'' must have bit Kent because after he finished law school at George Washington University, he became a legislative assistant for Senator Nancy Kassebaum. And our friendship continued.

Yes, I admit to omitting one small part of his biography here. Kent did receive his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. He is a proud Jayhawk, something that he never lets this Wildcat forget.

Truth be told, I think that Kent would have chosen Jayhawk basketball over Washington internships, but he didn't make the team. Kent, I never told you that we would have welcomed you with open arms to the K-State team. Instead, Kent had to settle for pickup games in Washington when he came to work for Senator Kassebaum.

One of the genuinely nice things about working in Washington is that staff for the Kansas delegation get to know one another and actually become family—not on every occasion or in every instance—but often in sharing a common experience.

I could get into quite a laundry list of mutual experiences I have enjoyed with Kent, his brother Kim, and the Wells family, great supporters and friends. Not to embarrass Kent, but with his smile and personality he could brighten up any room regardless of the occasion. Kent Wells is just one of those people you like to be around, and that genuine personality plus a lot of talent has served him, and those he has worked for, well.

That is, of course, with the exception of the pickup basketball games I mentioned before. It was at a local gym that the Dole, Kassebaum, Roberts staffers and other hangers-on would play Saturday mornings.

My role, given my athletic career had sunset years previous, was to pass the ball to the players like Kent and set blind-side picks. Kent is a slasher but really prefers an outside set shot. Somehow, we ended up on opposing teams.

My team would be composed of big Bill Taggart, who simply walked around the gym for exercise and would occasionally kick the out of bounds ball back; Rich, ''The Mule'' Armitage—enough said; a couple of pickup players who simply ran with the ball as fast as they could.

Kent and Randy Miller, another staffer and good basketball player, had their own handpicked team that, for the most part, scored at will with absolutely no respect for an elder Member of Congress except to call fouls.

The trash talk would go something like:

''All he does is foul people, stay at one end of the court and try that old flat hook shot.''

''I know, but we have to have five people, just stay out of his way or if we get him, tell him to pass you the ball.''

You would think one would expect a little more respect, especially since I would bring my young son David to shoot baskets on another court. But not these guys. The Jayhawk crimson and blue was running in their veins and they pretty much ran me off the court. But I did set some hellish blind side picks, hit 1 out of every 10 flat hook shots, and had great times that are wonderful memories.

Kent's career goes well beyond Capitol Hill. Today he is a successful telecommunications executive, but one of his joys is that he has passed the love of KU basketball to Trevor and Bryan, both of whom proudly sport KU attire on campus at USC and Wisconsin.

Now we have come full circle with the Wells family. Thanks to his Dad's passion for public service, Bryan Wells begins an internship with my office this summer. He is clearly a chip off the old block.

I stand today with all of the Wells family and friends in support of Kent's efforts to promote increased awareness and research for the Multiple Myeloma Foundation. He and others facing this disease are not alone.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity and discuss a former resident of my home State of Kansas and a disease that is affecting millions of Americans and honor him today on a special occasion that is occurring to benefit the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

Multiple myeloma is an incurable cancer of the plasma cell. It is the second most common blood cancer. There are approximately 50,000 people in the United States living with multiple myeloma and an estimated 15,000 new cases of the disease diagnosed each year. The 5-year survival rate for multiple myeloma remains only 32 percent.

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, MMRF, was established in 1998 as a nonprofit organization with a unique mission to urgently and aggressively invest in research that would result in the development of effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure. Today, MMRF has raised over $100 million to support the world's most cutting-edge myeloma research. The MMRF is widely recognized as the driving force behind progress made against the disease and one of the Nation's most groundbreaking cancer research organizations.

Guided by an innovative scientific plan, the MMRF supports one of the world's most strategic and aggressive research drug and development portfolios. This diverse portfolio is comprised of cutting-edge programs in three paths—basic science, validation, and clinical trials—that represent the MMRF's research strategy. Taken together, these research programs will accelerate the pace of scientific discovery, rapidly transform scientific progress into lifesaving treatments, and ultimately lead to a faster cure for multiple myeloma.

I ask Congress to continue to look at ways that we can assist the research and health communities to fight this disease and help treat myeloma patients.

I would like to take a few minutes and tell you about a special Kansan

whom I know quite well and who is currently battling multiple myeloma.

Kent Wells was born and raised in Garden City, KS. Kent's first job was working at the radio station in Garden City. His family moved to Washington, DC, in 1970 while Kent was in high school because his dad was appointed as an FCC Commissioner. Kent attended Jeb Stuart High School for 1½ years before returning to Garden City to complete his senior year and graduate with his class.

Kent attended college at the University of Kansas from 1972 to 1976, interning for Representative Keith Sebelius in 1975, who at the time was the chief of staff of my current Senate colleague from Kansas, PAT ROBERTS. Kent attended law school at George Washington University from 1976 to 1979. Kent's first job after law school was as a legislative assistant to former Senator Nancy Kassebaum from Kansas from 1979 to 1982.

Kent then went to work for Southwestern Bell in 1985, shortly after divestiture and the opening of the Washington offices for the Baby Bells. He moved to the Cingular office in February 2001 and back to AT&T in January 2007.

Kent has kept close ties to Kansas through his love of sports. He follows the Kansas City Chiefs and the Royals closely, but as anyone who knows him will tell you, he is crazy about Kansas basketball and rarely misses a Jayhawks' game. One of his joys is that he has passed the love of KU basketball to his two boys, Trevor and Bryan, both of whom proudly sport KU attire on campus at USC and Wisconsin. Kent's parents moved from Garden City to Lawrence several years ago, which gives him lots of chances to visit Lawrence and Allen Field House just to get another look at that championship trophy. He also is always for a trip to Hutchinson, KS, to play golf at Prairie Dunes Golf Club.

Kent was diagnosed in 2007 with multiple myeloma and has been benefited from the work of MMRF in the research and the clinical drugs that have been established. But as Kent and thousands of other Americans face this disease, there is more work to do.

Colleagues of Kent's and his wonderful wife Debbie are sponsoring an upcoming event on May 13, 2009, that will raise money for Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and continue the efforts to develop the necessary research to fight this disease.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMUNITY BANK OF RAYMORE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Missourians, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Community Bank of Raymore for their 30 years of service to the community.

Community Bank of Raymore opened its doors on May 15, 1979. As the first chartered bank in Cass County, MO, in 45 years, Community Bank of Raymore takes pride in being an independent community owned bank and is committed to serving its customers financial needs.

Starting out in a temporary facility at the current location, Raymore's population was only 3,138 consisting of mostly farm ground.

The first bank building was completed in March 1980. The entire community celebrated the open house and accounts began to grow. It was estimated by an FDIC investigator that total deposits would reach 2 million in 1½ years. This milestone was passed in the first 6 months. Slogans were used such as ''Drive a Mile—Get a Smile'' in 1980 and later as area housing developed the slogan became ''The U in CommUnity is You.''

William R. McDaniel purchased Community Bank of Raymore on October 26, 1992, and immediately became part of the community by hosting Customer Appreciation Days, Open House Celebrations and Chamber Coffees.

By 1994 it was time to expand. A new facility was built adding 2,800 square feet to the existing building. In 1998 expansion accompanied the addition of Trust Services in January and the opening of the Peculiar Branch in June.

Community Bank of Raymore doubled in size in 2003 going through a 14-month remodel while continuing to serve the needs of their customers. The bank also acquired a mortgage lending officer allowing them to serve area residents with their long-term home financing needs.

Many of their employees, directors and customers have been with the Community Bank of Raymore from the very start. The Community Bank of Raymore should be commended for the dedication and loyalty they have earned from the community in which they serve.

I am pleased to honor the Community Bank of Raymore on its 30th anniversary.•

2009 ACADEMIC DECATHLON

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the great work and remarkable accomplishments of Moorpark High School's Academic Decathlon team for winning the 2009 Academic Decathlon and becoming back-to-back national champions. Members of the National Championship team include: Scott Buchanan, Michael Fantauzzo, Danielle Hagglund, Zyed Ismailijee, Sol Moon, Neil Paik, Marlena Sampson, Kris Sankaran, Sarah Thiele, and team coach Larry Jones.

With this win, Moorpark High School has earned the distinction of becoming a four-time Academic Decathlon National Champion, previously winning in 1999, 2003, and 2008. The fourth and most recent championship was won by earning an overall score of 51,289.5, 309.6-points higher than their closest competitor.

Competing in an academic decathlon is a daunting task. Students spend many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their family and friends. However, I know that families across Moorpark are now celebrating the accomplishments of their home team. I invite all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating California's Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon team for becoming 2009 National Academic Decathlon Champions.•

TRIBUTE TO JIM MCCOMB

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I pay special tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of Jim McComb, executive director of the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth—MARFY—since 1989. I have known Jim for many years and I have the utmost respect for him and what he has been able to accomplish for children in Maryland and across the Nation.

Jim McComb is known as one of our Nation's leading child advocates. He was among the first in the country to call for the elimination of restraints and seclusion in the treatment of children. He led the effort that made Maryland one of the first States in the country to ensure that college tuition would be available for young students in foster care.

During his tenure as executive director, MARFY greatly expanded its role in advocating for disadvantaged children and youth, those with disabilities, and their families. Under his leadership, the association played a prominent role in forming several advocacy coalitions including the Maryland Juvenile Justice Coalition and the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children.

Jim McComb began his career in the early 1960s as a part-time childcare worker at Edgemeade, a residential treatment center and school for adolescents with mental illness and severe emotional disturbances in Prince George's County, MD. By the end of the 1960s, he had become the director of residential services for Edgemeade of Virginia.

In 1970, Jim went to Ironton, OH, to become the administrator of the Ohio Center for Youth and Family Development, a residential treatment center for adolescents. From 1975 through 1979 he was administrator for contracts and services with Youth Resources Centers, Inc., Roanoke VA. In 1979, he returned to Maryland as the chief executive officer for Edgemeade and in 1989 he became the executive director of MARFY.

I had the distinct pleasure of working with Jim on the Foster Care Independence Act that was enacted into law in 1999. The bill increased education and support services for foster care children between ages 18 and 21, an age group that had previously been tremendously underserved.

In the next phase of his life, Jim will serve on the board of directors of the

Maryland Foster Youth Resource Center, which provides a variety of supportive resources for both youth in foster care and alumni of the foster care system.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the many accomplishments of Jim McComb and in wishing him success in his future endeavors.●

CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Battery D of the 216th Air Defense Artillery on receiving the U.S. Army's Valorous Unit Award for extraordinary heroism against an armed enemy while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is the second highest unit decoration in the Army and a proud achievement. Our State and our country are grateful to have these brave men and women serving in the Minnesota National Guard.

America's National Guard and Reserve Forces are playing an increasingly important role in today's military, and time and again the Minnesota National Guard has answered the call of duty. Delta Battery answered the call by serving in Iraq during a time of great need, and their actions helped make the formation of an Iraqi government possible. It is stories like theirs that have made the Minnesota National Guard such a well-known and well-respected organization at the highest levels of our Nation's military and Government.

As Minnesota's Senator, I will continue to do my part to make sure that our Government serves our men and women in uniform as well as they have served our country. This includes doing more to make sure that members of the Guard and Reserve Forces who have been called to Active Duty are not treated any differently than their Active Duty counterparts when they return home. There wasn't a waiting line when our National Guard troops signed up to serve, and there shouldn't be a waiting line when they need access to the services and support they have earned through their service.

Every day I feel honored to represent the members of the Minnesota National Guard in the Senate. We owe our thanks to Adjutant General Larry Shellito for his steady leadership and to our troops for what they do every day. It does not go unnoticed.●

CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

● Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery Regiment on receiving the U.S. Army's Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptionally meritorious conduct while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I join the U.S. Army in recognizing this unit for their outstanding devotion and superior performance in military operations against an armed enemy.

Our State and our country are grateful to have these brave men and women serving in the Minnesota National Guard.

America's National Guard and Reserve Forces are playing an increasingly important role in today's military, and time and again the Minnesota National Guard has answered the call of duty. The 1–125th Regiment answered the call by serving in Iraq during a time of great need, and their actions helped reduce violence in that country. It is stories such as theirs that have made the Minnesota National Guard such a well-known and well-respected organization at the highest levels of our Nation's military and Government.

As Minnesota's Senator, I will continue to do my part to make sure that our Government serves our men and women in uniform as well as they have served our country. This includes doing more to make sure that members of the Guard and Reserve Forces who have been called to Active Duty are not treated any differently than their Active-duty Counterparts when they return home. There wasn't a waiting line when our National Guard troops signed up to serve, and there shouldn't be a waiting line when they need access to the services and support they have earned through their service.

Every day I feel honored to represent the members of the Minnesota National Guard in the Senate. We owe our thanks to Adjutant General Larry Shellito for his steady leadership and to our troops for what they do every day. It does not go unnoticed.●

REMEMBERING RAMÓN M. BARQUÍN

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to honor an individual who lived in pursuit of a free Cuba and a better America—Colonel Ramón M. Barquín, who died at the age of 93 on March 3, 2008. Colonel Barquín was an accomplished military leader, an educator, a diplomat, and an entrepreneur. Although Cuba was his native home, he made our Nation a better place during the years he lived in exile.

Ramón was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, on May 12, 1914. At the age of 19, he joined the Cuban Army, served his country, and graduated from the Cuban Military Academy in 1941. During his years of military service, Colonel Barquín attended the U.S. Strategic Intelligence School here in the U.S. Following a distinguished career in the military, Colonel Barquín found his passion in teaching. In the classroom, he worked to instill a culture of civic awareness within the military's ranks and eventually was promoted as director of Cuba's military schools.

Following his career in Cuban military education, Barquín was selected to serve as Chief of Intelligence of the Cuban Army. As an attaché to the United States, Colonel Barquín was honored in 1955 with the Legion of Merit for his military acumen. While serving as an attaché, he learned of the shifting political winds in Cuba and conspired to prevent freedom from losing its foothold in his native home. I can remember as a young boy living through tumultuous times, my father often remarking that in Colonel Barquín, Cuba had the best hope for democracy. His concerns led him to participate in a failed military revolt against the Batista dictatorship and actively work against Castro's totalitarian regime. When Castro came to power, he asked Barquín to serve in the regime's army. Knowing the regime's repressive nature, Colonel Barquín instead chose to serve in an ambassadorial post in Europe, where he was able to flee to the United States to live in exile.

After briefly living in Miami, Barquín rekindled his passion for education by establishing a consortium of schools in Puerto Rico. The consortium consists of several educational institutions, including a K–12 military school, summer camps and an institute for civic education now known as Instituto de Formacion Democratica. He was recognized for his hard work and entrepreneurism by the Puerto Rican government as the 1995 Educator of the Year.

Graduates of the K–12 academy he founded had kind words of appreciation for the Colonel's work and character. According to one student, ''with the Colonel, I learned to love my country and he taught me the values that lead my life today.''

As a Cuban-American, a Floridian, and a U.S. Senator, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to an individual with a legacy as awe-inspiring as that of Colonel Ramón M. Barquín. His unwavering commitment to freedom and democracy, his generosity, and his zeal for serving others is sorely missed.●

SOUTH DAKOTA HONOR FLIGHT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize a group of 122 South Dakota World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on May 1 and 2 to visit the World War II Memorial. This trip was made possible by the Honor Flight Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing World War II veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II Memorial at no cost to the veterans.

South Dakota's veterans have played an important role in making our Nation great. Through their sacrifices, America has triumphed, remained a free and vibrant nation, and helped others obtain their own freedom. I was honored to welcome these American heroes to our Nation's Capital to see the symbols of the freedoms they have protected around the world. I am humbled by their sacrifice and appreciated the opportunity to meet with them and

thank them for their service. We cannot thank our veterans enough for putting their lives on the line when America's security demanded it.

The Honor Flight veterans, in alphabetical order, are as follows: Robert Anderson, Ray Anderson, Arlie Asmussen, Robert Bailey, Albert Barber, Raymond Baumgart, Rudolph Becker, Robert Benz, Edmund Bouvette, Tom Brady, Mark Breuer, Thomas Briggs, Don Brommer, Robert Camp, Robert Carlson, Ralph Christensen, Maynard Christiansen, Elmer Cohlman, Hobart Cole, Leonard Conrad, Cloyd Conroy, Burdell Coplan, Stanley Dahl, Earl Dains, Harland Danielsen, Howard Daugaard, Lyle Davis, Charles Dawes, William Degler, Mildred Diekman, Dale Dieltz, Delmer Dooley, Merle Driggs, Clair Ellingson, Harry Erickson, Edward Erlandson, Gerald Erlandson, John Erlandson, Orwin Fodness, Howard Franey, Kenneth Freeman, Harvey Glover, Fred Gorter, Peter Gortmaker, Kenneth Gregersen, Emmett Guthmiller, Donald Haan, Keith Hagerman, Glen Hansen, Paul Harris, James Harris, Kenneth Harthoorn, Harold Hatting, Raymond Heger, Richard Hempel, Dale Hendricks, Fay Hendricks, Noel Henrichs, Orville Hill, Verlyn Hill, Eugene Hoekman, Walter Holtkamp, Claude Hone, George Huizenga, Harry Irwin, Albert Jager, Louis Jarding, Roland Jensen, Arden Jensen, Ervin Jensen, Ralph Johnshoy, Billy Jones, Erland Juntunen, John Kagel, William Kerr, Alfred Knaack, Ralph Kock, Hampton Lane, Fred Lassle, Cleone Lauer, Eugene Lauer, Howard Lee, John Lewis, Howard Livingston, Richard Luther, Duane Lyman, Morris Magnuson, William Merrill, Norbert Miles, Quentin Miles, Duane Miller, John Miller, Kareen Millis, David Moore, James Moore, James Morton, Harold Muetzel, Howard Opheim, Arnold Pederson, Delbert Petersen, Wayne Pool, Wade Pringle, Roy Radloff, Vernon Ramesbotham, Carl Renz, Kenneth Salisbury, Gerald Sanborn, Ray Schmitz, Ronald Scott, Lloyd Seger, Thomas Simpson, Lowell Stagebert, Herman Ulrich, Robert Van Ningen, Frances Vanderbush, Ivan Vitek, Steven Wachtel, George Wagner, Eugene Weidenbach, John Wilds, Robert Williams, and Ernest Zimbelman.

It gives me great pleasure to honor those who have defended our freedom and to recognize the service and sacrifice of these courageous South Dakotans who served during World War II. I am proud that they were able to see the memorial that was built in their honor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1728. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1728. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reform consumer mortgage practices and provide accountability for such practices, to provide certain minimum standards for consumer mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 515, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform (Rept. No. 111–18).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS for the Committee on Finance.

*Neal S. Wolin, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

By Mr. AKAKA for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*John U. Sepulveda, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Human Resources).

*Jose D. Riojas, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Security, and Preparedness).

*William A. Gunn, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Roger W. Baker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1020. A bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 1021. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an enhanced credit for research and development by companies that manufacture products in the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BURRIS, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1022. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a graduate degree loan repayment program for nurses who become nursing school faculty members; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. REID):

S. 1023. A bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1024. A bill to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1025. A bill to prohibit termination of employment of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel responding to emergencies or major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed service voters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 142. A resolution designating July 25, 2009, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BURR, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 143. A resolution designating May 15, 2009, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. Res. 144. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 145. A resolution designating the week of May 17 through May 23, 2009, as ''National Public Works Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. Res. 146. A resolution commending South Charleston, West Virginia, for celebrating its 50th annual Armed Forces Day on May 16, 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. Res. 147. A resolution to designate the week beginning on the second Saturday in May as National Travel and Tourism Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 141

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of Social Security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse, and for other purposes.

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones from listed property under section 280F.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 451, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, supra.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 535, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 581

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 581, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to require the exclusion of combat pay from income for purposes of determining eligibility for child nutrition programs and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (''WASP'').

S. 632

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 632, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.

S. 696

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 696, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to include a definition of fill material.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to amend the Legal Services Corporation Act to meet special needs of eligible clients, provide for technology grants, improve corporate practices of the Legal Services Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 731, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for continuity of TRICARE Standard coverage for certain members of the Retired Reserve.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 819, a bill to provide for enhanced treatment, support, services, and research for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

S. 832

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 832, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 846, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 850

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 850, a bill to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

S. 883

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 908, a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

S. 922

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 922, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the term ''5-year property''.

S. 923

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 923, a bill to promote the development and use of marine renewable energy technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 936

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 936, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants.

S. 951

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 951, a bill to authorize the President, in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the historic and first lunar landing by humans in 1969, to award gold medals on behalf of the United States Congress to Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to walk on the moon; Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin Jr., the pilot of the lunar module and second person to walk on the moon; Michael Collins, the pilot of their Apollo 11 mission's command module; and, the first American to orbit the Earth, John Herschel Glenn Jr.

S. 970

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to promote and enhance the operation of local building code enforcement administration across the country by establishing a competitive Federal matching grant program.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 985

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1013, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution supporting a base Defense Budget that at the very minimum matches 4 percent of gross domestic product.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 14

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON MAY 7, 2009

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BAYH, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 1013. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have been able to introduce the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Sequestration Program Amendments Act of 2009, S. 1013, along with Sens. BARASSO, DORGAN, TESTER, UDALL, BAYH, LANDRIEU, CASEY, and VOINOVICH. It is critical that we work towards reducing our greenhouse gas footprint while producing safe and secure, clean energy here in America. I believe this bill will go far to incentivize early project developers to start reducing their carbon dioxide emissions through carbon capture and geologic sequestration.

This bipartisan bill establishes a national indemnity program through the Department of Energy for up to 10 commercial-scale carbon capture and sequestration projects. There is a clear need for liability treatments and adequate project financing for early mover projects. An indemnity program is a strong step to building confidence for project developers and demonstrates that the projects will be conducted safely while addressing the growing concerns of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from industrial facilities, such as coal and natural gas fired utilities, cement plants, refineries and other carbon intensive industrial processes.

In addition, the legislation maps out a clear framework for closing down a geological storage site. It is essential to consider the issue of safe, long-term storage of carbon dioxide and take the steps needed for site stewardship during the injection phase, directly following closure and for long-term preventative maintenance of the geologic storage site. Many stakeholders associate maintenance issues with liability concerns, however they should be viewed as two separate entities. Maintenance is essential for reducing risk and limiting liabilities at a storage site, and it is critical to have robust monitoring and verification of an injected carbon dioxide plume at each of the storage sites that would continue well past site closure. With a proper site maintenance program developed for each project, risk will be minimized and developers will have greater confidence that liabilities will not be incurred. This legislation will require science-based monitoring and verification of the injected carbon dioxide plume throughout the life of the project to well beyond the closure phase.

Also, as carbon capture and sequestration projects grow in both scale and number, there will be an increasing need to train qualified regulators to oversee the permitting, operation, and closure of geologic storage sites. This bill creates a grant program whose goal

is to train State agencies and personnel who oversee the regulatory aspects of geologic storage of carbon dioxide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1013

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Sequestration Program Amendments Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. LARGE-SCALE CARBON STORAGE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle F of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16291 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 963 (42 U.S.C. 16293) the following:

''SEC. 963A. LARGE-SCALE CARBON STORAGE PROGRAM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) INDUSTRIAL SOURCE.—The term 'industrial source' means any source of carbon dioxide that is not naturally occurring.

''(2) LARGE-SCALE.—The term 'large-scale' means the injection of over 1,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year from industrial sources into a geological formation.

''(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(A) the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service), with respect to National Forest System land; and

''(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (including land held for the benefit of an Indian tribe).

''(b) PROGRAM.—In addition to the research, development, and demonstration program authorized by section 963, the Secretary shall carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for the capture, injection, monitoring, and long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide from industrial sources.

''(c) AUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to provide financial and technical assistance to up to 10 demonstration projects.

''(d) PROJECT SELECTION.—The Secretary shall competitively select recipients of cooperative agreements under this section from among applicants that—

''(1) provide the Secretary with sufficient geological site information (including hydrogeological and geophysical information) to establish that the proposed geological storage unit is capable of long-term storage of the injected carbon dioxide, including—

''(A) the location, extent, and storage capacity of the geological storage unit at the site into which the carbon dioxide will be injected;

''(B) the principal potential modes of geomechanical failure in the geological storage unit;

''(C) the ability of the geological storage unit to retain injected carbon dioxide; and

''(D) the measurement, monitoring, and verification requirements necessary to ensure adequate information on the operation of the geological storage unit during and after the injection of carbon dioxide;

''(2) possess the land or interests in land necessary for—

''(A) the injection and storage of the carbon dioxide at the proposed geological storage unit; and

''(B) the closure, monitoring, and long-term stewardship of the geological storage unit;

''(3) possess or have a reasonable expectation of obtaining all necessary permits and authorizations under applicable Federal and State laws (including regulations); and

''(4) agree to comply with each requirement of subsection (e).

''(e) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall condition receipt of financial assistance pursuant to a cooperative agreement under this section on the recipient agreeing to—

''(1) comply with all applicable Federal and State laws (including regulations), including a certification by the appropriate regulatory authority that the project will comply with Federal and State requirements to protect drinking water supplies;

''(2) in the case of industrial sources subject to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), inject only carbon dioxide captured from industrial sources in compliance with that Act;

''(3) comply with all applicable construction and operating requirements for deep injection wells;

''(4) measure, monitor, and test to verify that carbon dioxide injected into the injection zone is not—

''(A) escaping from or migrating beyond the confinement zone; or

''(B) endangering an underground source of drinking water;

''(5) comply with applicable well-plugging, post-injection site care, and site closure requirements, including—

''(A)(i) maintaining financial assurances during the post-injection closure and monitoring phase until a certificate of closure is issued by the Secretary; and

''(ii) promptly undertaking remediation activities for any leak from the geological storage unit that would endanger public health or safety or natural resources; and

''(B) complying with subsection (f);

''(6) comply with applicable long-term care requirements;

''(7) maintain financial protection in a form and in an amount acceptable to—

''(A) the Secretary;

''(B) the Secretary with jurisdiction over the land; and

''(C) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

''(8) provide the assurances described in section 963(d)(4)(B).

''(f) POST INJECTION CLOSURE AND MONITORING ELEMENTS.—In assessing whether a project complies with site closure requirements under subsection (e)(5), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall determine whether the recipient of financial assistance has demonstrated continuous compliance with each of the following over a period of not less than 10 consecutive years after the plume of carbon dioxide has come into equilibrium with the geologic formation that comprises the geologic storage unit following the cessation of injection activities:

''(1) The estimated location and extent of the project footprint (including the detectable plume of carbon dioxide and the area of elevated pressure resulting from the project) has not substantially changed.

''(2) There is no leakage of either carbon dioxide or displaced fluid in the geologic storage unit that is endangering public health and safety, including underground sources of drinking water and natural resources.

''(3) The injected or displaced fluids are not expected to migrate in the future in a manner that encounters a potential leakage pathway.

''(4) The injection wells at the site completed into or through the injection zone or confining zone are plugged and abandoned in accordance with the applicable requirements of Federal or State law governing the wells.

''(g) INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF LIABILITY.—In this subsection, the term 'liability' means any legal liability for—

''(A) bodily injury, sickness, disease, or death;

''(B) loss of or damage to property, or loss of use of property; or

''(C) injury to or destruction or loss of natural resources, including fish, wildlife, and drinking water supplies.

''(2) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may agree to indemnify and hold harmless the recipient of a cooperative agreement under this section from liability arising out of or resulting from a demonstration project in excess of the amount of liability covered by financial protection maintained by the recipient under subsection (e)(7).

''(3) EXCEPTION FOR GROSS NEGLIGENCE AND INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary may not indemnify the recipient of a cooperative agreement under this section from liability arising out of conduct of a recipient that is grossly negligent or that constitutes intentional misconduct.

''(4) COLLECTION OF FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect a fee from any person with whom an agreement for indemnification is executed under this subsection in an amount that is equal to the net present value of payments made by the United States to cover liability under the indemnification agreement.

''(B) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall establish, by regulation, criteria for determining the amount of the fee, taking into account—

''(i) the likelihood of an incident resulting in liability to the United States under the indemnification agreement; and

''(ii) other factors pertaining to the hazard of the indemnified project.

''(C) USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this paragraph shall be deposited in the Treasury and credited to miscellaneous receipts.

''(5) CONTRACTS IN ADVANCE OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Secretary may enter into agreements of indemnification under this subsection in advance of appropriations and incur obligations without regard to section 1341 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Anti-Deficiency Act'), or section 11 of title 41, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Adequacy of Appropriations Act').

''(6) CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENTS OF INDEMNIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An agreement of indemnification under this subsection may contain such terms as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section.

''(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The agreement shall provide that, if the Secretary makes a determination the United States will probably be required to make indemnity payments under the agreement, the Attorney General—

''(i) shall collaborate with the recipient of an award under this subsection; and

''(ii) may—

''(I) approve the payment of any claim under the agreement of indemnification;

''(II) appear on behalf of the recipient;

''(III) take charge of an action; and

''(IV) settle or defend an action.

''(C) SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall have final authority on behalf of the

United States to settle or approve the settlement of any claim under this subsection on a fair and reasonable basis with due regard for the purposes of this subsection.

''(ii) EXPENSES.—The settlement shall not include expenses in connection with the claim incurred by the recipient.

''(h) FEDERAL LAND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may authorize the siting of a project on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned in a manner consistent with applicable laws and land management plans and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary.

''(2) FRAMEWORK FOR GEOLOGICAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION ON PUBLIC LAND.—In determining whether to authorize a project on Federal land, the Secretary concerned shall take into account the framework for geological carbon sequestration on public land prepared in accordance with section 714 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140; 121 Stat. 1715).

''(i) ACCEPTANCE OF TITLE AND LONG-TERM MONITORING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of a cooperative agreement under this section, the Secretary may accept title to, or transfer of administrative jurisdiction from another Federal agency over, any land or interest in land necessary for the monitoring, remediation, or long-term stewardship of a project site.

''(2) LONG-TERM MONITORING ACTIVITIES.—After accepting title to, or transfer of, a site closed in accordance with this section, the Secretary shall monitor the site and conduct any remediation activities to ensure the geological integrity of the site and prevent any endangerment of public health or safety.

''(3) FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to carry out paragraph (2).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 963 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (a) through (d) as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) INDUSTRIAL SOURCE.—The term 'industrial source' means any source of carbon dioxide that is not naturally occurring.

''(2) LARGE-SCALE.—The term 'large-scale' means the injection of over 1,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide from industrial sources over the lifetime of the project.'';

(C) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by striking ''IN GENERAL'' and inserting ''PROGRAM'';

(D) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)''; and

(E) in subsection (d)(3) (as so redesignated), by striking subparagraph (D).

(2) Sections 703(a)(3) and 704 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17251(a)(3), 17252) are amended by striking ''section 963(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293(c)(3))'' each place it appears and inserting ''section 963(d)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16293(d)(3))''.

SEC. 3. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STATE AGENCIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Transportation, shall establish a program to provide grants for employee training purposes to State agencies involved in permitting, management, inspection, and oversight of carbon capture, transportation, and storage projects.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2020.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1025. A bill to prohibit termination of employment of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel responding to emergencies or major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator CARPER in introducing a bill that would provide reasonable job protections for our Nation's volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel who save thousands of lives across this country every year.

This bill is a matter of simple fairness. It recognizes that volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel not only serve their own towns and offer mutual assistance to other communities on a day-to-day basis, but also that they are a key component in State and Federal plans for responding to catastrophic natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Across the Nation, our emergency planning relies on the ready availability of these brave first responders. Indeed, volunteers are absolutely critical to mounting a response to disasters, both large and small. My home State of Maine, for example, has slightly more than 10,000 firefighters in 492 departments. Because Maine is a mostly rural State, fully 88 percent of those firefighters are volunteers.

Yet, even if they are called up in a major disaster or a Presidentially declared emergency under the Stafford Act, these volunteers have no official protection for their jobs while they are answering the call to duty.

We should protect volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel who put their lives on the line.

The current lack of job protection is troubling. If large numbers of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel were terminated or demoted after being called away to a disaster or a series of disasters, recruitment and retention of volunteers could be devastated.

The Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Job Protection Act would correct the injustice and mitigate the danger in a measured and responsible way. It would protect the volunteer first responders against termination or demotion by employers if they are called upon to respond to a Presidentially declared emergency or a major disaster for up to 14 work days.

Most employers are strong supporters of our volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, and this bill imposes no unreasonable burdens on employers. They are not obligated to pay the volunteers during their absence, and they are entitled to receive official documentation that an absent employee was in fact summoned to and served in a disaster response.

Finally, I would note that the bill would facilitate the work of emergency managers. Having this job protection in force would allow them to make operational and contingency plans with greater confidence, knowing that volunteer responders would not be forced to withdraw in short order for fear of losing their jobs.

By extending some peace of mind to these brave men and women, we can strengthen the protection and lifesaving response that they provide to many millions of Americans. I believe this bill merits the support of every Senator, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed service voters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Military Voting Protection Act—a bipartisan bill to support our troops and protect their right to vote. In every Federal election in recent memory, American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have encountered substantial roadblocks in the voting process, especially those who are deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. This is a national disgrace.

Our military service members put their lives on the line to protect the rights and freedoms of all Americans. In return, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to support them. The nature of the Global War on Terror and the high tempo of U.S. military operations—including our surge into Afghanistan—will necessitate overseas service by our troops for the foreseeable future. It is imperative that we put in place a system to ensure that American service members serving abroad can participate in the democratic process even as they simultaneously fight to defend our democracy, its institutions, and the American way of life. Surely, these brave men and women have earned at least that much through their blood, sweat, and tears.

Yet the country they defend has repeatedly denied our troops one of our most sacred rights—the right to vote. The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, in studying the 2006 election, found that only 47.6 percent of the military voters who requested absentee ballots were actually successful in casting those ballots. That means that less than half of those troops who wanted to vote were able to do so,

which is appalling. Overall participation rates among military and overseas voters in the November 2006 election were also extremely low. Looking at the big picture, there were roughly 6 million eligible military and overseas U.S. voters at that time, but only 16.5 percent of them were able to request an absentee ballot for the election. According to a 2006 DoD Inspector General report, only 59 percent of surveyed service members even knew where to obtain voting information on their installation, and only 40 percent had actually received assistance from their designated Voting Assistance Officer. Though the official data from the 2008 election is not yet available, the preliminary evidence indicates that our military voters faced the same array of problems in trying to cast their ballots as in previous elections.

Our troops report many procedural hurdles when trying to participate in federal, state, and local elections. States have inadequate processes and unreasonable timelines in place for transmitting blank absentee ballots to our troops, and the methods available to these service members for returning completed ballots to local election officials are both slow and antiquated. Moreover, there are a myriad of absentee voting rules and regulations that are extremely confusing and vary widely with each state. The process is clearly broken, and there is no excuse for not stepping up to challenge the status quo and streamline the process. We ask so much of our troops, and in return we have given them a voting system that is perplexing, frustrating, slow, and often dysfunctional. They deserve better.

The bill I introduce today can help address some of these procedural hurdles. The Military Voting Protection, MVP, Act will give our troops a louder and clearer voice at the polls by ensuring their absentee ballots are delivered back home in time to be counted and do not get lost on the way. It will reduce delays in the absentee voting process by requiring the Department of Defense to take a more active role in the process. The MVP Act will require the DoD to be responsible for collecting completed absentee ballots from overseas troops and then express-shipping them back to the U.S. in time to be counted, allowing troops to track their ballots while they are in transit and confirm their delivery after they arrive at local election offices.

I am pleased that Senators WYDEN and INHOFE have joined me in this effort; it is a testament to their unwavering support for the members of our Armed Forces.

We should pass this bipartisan bill quickly so that elections officials have time to prepare for the 2010 election cycle. Meaningful reform will not come overnight, but now is the time to take up the cause of military voters. There are 18 months until the next election, which is enough time to implement significant improvements. If we fail, further disenfranchisement of military voters will likely result. We must avoid a repeat of 2004, 2006, and 2008.

This bill does not solve all the problems with our current military voting system, but it is an important first step. The Americans who answer the call to serve are a national treasure, and I remain in awe of their selfless sacrifice and commitment to the defense of freedom. In what is now the 8th year of the Global War on Terror, they continue to voluntarily step forward to defend our Nation and our freedom—often requiring immeasurable personal sacrifice by them and their loved ones. The members of this next ''greatest generation'' deserve nothing less than the same constitutional rights and individual liberties that they safeguard for their fellow citizens back home. It is the responsibility of Congress to ensure that they get them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1026

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Voting Protection Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In the defense of freedom, members of the United States Armed Forces are routinely deployed to overseas theaters of combat, assigned to overseas locations, and assigned to ocean-going vessels far from home.

(2) As the United States continues to fight the Global War on Terror, the substantial need for overseas service by members of the Armed Forces will continue, as we live in what senior Army leaders have referred to as an ''era of persistent conflict''.

(3) The right to vote is one of the most basic and fundamental rights enjoyed by Americans, and one which the members of the Armed Forces bravely defend both at home in the United States and overseas.

(4) The decisions of elected officials of the United States Government directly impact the members of the Armed Forces who are often called to deploy or otherwise serve overseas as a result of decisions made by such elected officials.

(5) The ability of the members of the Armed Forces to vote while serving overseas has been hampered by numerous factors, including inadequate processes for ensuring their timely receipt of absentee ballots, delivery methods that are typically slow and antiquated, and a myriad of absentee voting procedures that are often confusing and vary among the several States.

(6) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which requires the States to allow absentee voting for members of the Armed Forces and other specified groups of United States citizens, was intended to protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Forces.

(7) The current system of absentee voting for overseas members of the Armed Forces could be greatly improved by decreasing delays in the process, and certain steps by the Department of Defense, including utilization of express mail services for the delivery of completed absentee ballots, would address the major sources of delay.

SEC. 3. PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY OF MARKED ABSENTEE BALLOTS OF ABSENT OVERSEAS UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103 the following new section:

''SEC. 103A. PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION AND DELIVERY OF MARKED ABSENTEE BALLOTS OF ABSENT OVERSEAS UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.

''(a) COLLECTION.—The Presidential designee shall establish procedures for collecting marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters in regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office, including absentee ballots prepared by States and the Federal write-in absentee ballot prescribed under section 103, and for delivering the ballots to the appropriate election officials.

''(b) ENSURING DELIVERY PRIOR TO CLOSING OF POLLS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the procedures established under this section, the Presidential designee shall ensure that any marked absentee ballot for a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office which is collected prior to the deadline described in paragraph (3) is delivered to the appropriate election official in a State prior to the time established by the State for the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

''(2) UTILIZATION OF EXPRESS MAIL DELIVERY SERVICES.—The Presidential designee shall carry out this section by utilizing the express mail delivery services of the United States Postal Service.

''(3) DEADLINE DESCRIBED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the deadline described in this paragraph is noon (in the location in which the ballot is collected) on the fourth day preceding the date of the election.

''(B) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—If the Presidential designee determines that the deadline described in subparagraph (A) is not sufficient to ensure timely delivery of the ballot under paragraph (1) with respect to a particular location because of remoteness or other factors, the Presidential designee may establish as an alternative deadline for that location the latest date occurring prior to the deadline described in subparagraph (A) which is sufficient to ensure timely delivery of the ballot under paragraph (1).

''(c) TRACKING MECHANISM.—Under the procedures established under this section, the Presidential designee, working in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, shall implement procedures to enable any individual whose marked absentee ballot for a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office is collected by the Presidential designee to determine whether the ballot has been delivered to the appropriate election official, using the Internet, an automated telephone system, or such other methods as the Presidential designee may provide.

''(d) OUTREACH FOR ABSENT OVERSEAS UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS ON PROCEDURES.—The Presidential designee shall take appropriate actions to inform individuals who are anticipated to be absent overseas uniformed services voters in a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office to which this section applies of the procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots established pursuant to this section, including the manner in which such voters may utilize such procedures for the submittal of marked absentee ballots in the election.

''(e) REPORTS ON UTILIZATION OF PROCEDURES.—

''(1) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after each regularly scheduled general

election for Federal office to which this section applies, the Presidential designee shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on the utilization of the procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots established pursuant to this section during such general election.

''(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the general election covered by such report, a description of the utilization of the procedures described in that paragraph during such general election, including the number of marked absentee ballots collected and delivered under such procedures and the number of such ballots which were not delivered by the time of the closing of the polls on the date of the election (and the reasons therefor).

''(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'relevant committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Rules and Administration of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and House Administration of the House of Representatives.

''(f) ABSENT OVERSEAS UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'absent overseas uniformed services voter' means an overseas voter described in section 107(5)(A).

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presidential designee such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

''(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2010 and each succeeding election for Federal office.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 101(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (6);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) carry out section 103A with respect to the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters in elections for Federal office.''.

(2) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Section 102(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (4);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) carry out section 103A(b)(2) with respect to the processing and acceptance of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters.''.

(c) REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Presidential designee under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on the status of the implementation of the program for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots established pursuant to section 103A of such Act, as added by subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a status of the implementation of the program and a detailed description of the specific steps taken towards its implementation for November 2010.

(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''relevant committees of Congress'' has the meaning given such term in section 103A(e)(3) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 4. PROTECTING VOTER PRIVACY AND SECRECY OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

Section 101(b) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)), as amended by section 3(b), is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (7);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) to the greatest extent practicable, take such actions as may be required to ensure that absent uniformed services voters who cast absentee ballots at locations or facilities under the Presidential designee's jurisdiction are able to do so in a private and independent manner, and take such actions as may be required to protect the privacy of the contents of absentee ballots cast by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters while such ballots are in the Presidential designee's possession or control.''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—DESIGNATING JULY 25, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY''

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 142

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as ''cowboys'', helped establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the Nation who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, and rodeo is one of the most-watched sports in the Nation;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 25, 2009, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce a resolution today to designate Saturday, July 25, 2009 as ''National Day of the American Cowboy.'' My late colleague, Senator Craig Thomas, began the tradition of honoring the men and women known as ''Cowboys'' five years ago when he introduced the first resolution to designate the fourth Saturday of July as National Day of the American Cowboy. I'm proud to carry on Senator Thomas's tradition.

The national day celebrates the history of Cowboys in America and recognizes the important work today's Cowboys are doing in the United States. The Cowboy Spirit is about honesty, integrity, courage, and patriotism, and Cowboys are models of strong character, sound family values, and good common sense.

Cowboys were some of the first men and women to settle in the American West and they continue to make important contributions to our economy, Western culture and my home state of Wyoming today. This year's resolution designates July 25, 2009 as the National Day of the American Cowboy. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important role Cowboys play in our country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BURR, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 143

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as ''MPS'') is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disease that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to such cells;

Whereas such cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disease is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS diseases;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS diseases are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood-brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS diseases;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS diseases extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for the study of many other degenerative genetic diseases;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS diseases can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution than can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2009, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''National MPS Awareness Day''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 144

Whereas women of all backgrounds should be encouraged to greatly reduce the risk of common diseases through preventive measures such as a healthy lifestyle that includes engaging in regular physical activity, eating a nutritious diet, and visiting a healthcare provider to receive regular check-ups and preventative screenings;

Whereas significant disparities exist in the prevalence of disease among women of different backgrounds, including women with disabilities, African-American women, Asian-Pacific Islander women, Latinas, American-Indian women, and Alaska Native women;

Whereas healthy habits should begin at a young age;

Whereas it is important to educate women and girls about the significance of awareness of key female health issues;

Whereas the Offices on Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality are vital to providing critical services in supporting women's health research, education, and other necessary services that benefit women of any age, race, or ethnicity;

Whereas National Women's Health Week begins on Mother's Day annually and celebrates the efforts of national and community organizations working with partners and volunteers to improve awareness of key women's health issues;

Whereas May 11, 2009, is National Women's Check-Up Day; and

Whereas in 2009, the week of May 10 through May 16 is dedicated as National Women's Health Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of preventing diseases that commonly affect women;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to use National Women's Health Week, which begins on May 10, 2009, as an opportunity to learn about health issues that face women;

(4) calls on the women of the United States to observe National Women's Check-Up Day by receiving preventive screenings from their health care providers; and

(5) recognizes the importance of federally-funded programs that provide research and collect data on common diseases in women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 17 THROUGH MAY 23, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK''

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas those facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas those individuals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens and communities of the United States; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the public for citizens and civic leaders to understand the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 17 through May 23, 2009, as '''National Public Works Week''';

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—COMMENDING SOUTH CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, FOR CELEBRATING ITS 50TH ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY ON MAY 16, 2009

Mr. BYRD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 146

Whereas Americans appreciate the courage, loyalty, and sacrifice of every individual who serves in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May to honor those Americans serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard;

Whereas Armed Forces Day was established on August 31, 1949, following the consolidation of the military services of the United States into the Department of Defense;

Whereas Armed Forces Day is celebrated with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows around the Nation; and

Whereas on May 16, 2009, South Charleston, West Virginia, will observe its 50th annual Armed Forces Day with a parade, music, and other entertainment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends South Charleston, West Virginia, for conducting Armed Forces Day celebrations for 50 consecutive years and for honoring the selfless dedication and bravery of the men and women of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

SENATE RESOLUTION 147—TO DESIGNATE THE WEEK BEGINNING ON THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY AS NATIONAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM WEEK

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MARTINEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 147

Whereas business and leisure travel are vital to the United States, enhancing our economic prosperity, healthcare, education, cultural understanding, and public diplomacy;

Whereas the travel industry is the fifth largest employer in the United States, supporting 7.7 million American workers and creating one of every eight non-farm jobs across the country;

Whereas domestic and international travel last year generated an estimated $740 billion in direct expenditures and $115 billion in Federal, State and local tax revenues;

Whereas international travel to the United States is a critical tool for enhancing America's image abroad and has significantly benefited the nation's balance of trade for over 20 years;

Whereas overseas visits to the United States are still 633,000 below pre-September 11 levels;

Whereas the U.S. must keep better pace with the expanding global travel market starting with a nationally-coordinated travel promotion program to attract millions of new international visitors;

Whereas meetings, events, and incentive travel programs are core business functions that help companies to strengthen business relationships, align and educate employees and customers, and reward business performance;

Whereas travel and tourism can serve as a catalyst to help stimulate the national economy;

Whereas the Congress designated the first National Tourism Week in 1984 and encouraged celebrations in all 50 States and the Territories; and

Whereas National Tourism Week has been observed and celebrated each May since: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate That—

(1) the week beginning on the second Saturday in May of each year will be designated as National Travel and Tourism Week;

(2) Governors, mayors, and other elected officials from across the country are invited on such week to issue proclamations to raise awareness of the value of travel to the welfare of the nation; and

(3) the President is requested each year to issue a proclamation encouraging the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1061. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1062. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1063. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1064. Mr. UDALL, of Colorado submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1065. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1066. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1067. Mr. COBURN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1068. Mr. COBURN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1069. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1070. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1071. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1072. Mr. JOHANNS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1073. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1074. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1075. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1076. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1077. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1078. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1079. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1080. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1081. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1082. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1083. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1084. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1085. Mr. GREGG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra.

SA 1086. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1087. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1088. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1089. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1090. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1091. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1061. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ____. PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT PURCHASE CARD INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each executive agency that issues and uses credit cards or purchase cards shall post on its public website, in a searchable format, an itemized list of all charges made to credit cards or purchase cards not less frequently than every 6 months, except that charges directly related to national security, defense, and homeland security may be redacted.

(b) DEFINITION OF EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—In this section, the term ''executive agency'' has the same meaning as in section 4(1) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403(1)).

SA 1062. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. NATIONAL CONSUMER CREDIT USURY RATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1606) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) NATIONAL CONSUMER CREDIT USURY RATE.—

''(1) LIMITATION ESTABLISHED.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) or any other provision of law, but except as provided in paragraph (2), the annual percentage rate applicable to an extension of credit obtained by use of a credit card may not exceed 15 percent on unpaid balances, inclusive of all finance charges. Any fees that are not considered finance charges under section 106(a) may not be used to evade the limitations of this paragraph, and the total sum of such fees may not exceed the total amount of finance charges assessed.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) BOARD AUTHORITY.—The Board may establish, after consultation with the appropriate committees of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, and any other interested Federal financial institution regulatory agency, an annual percentage rate of interest ceiling exceeding the 15 percent annual rate under paragraph (1) for periods of not to exceed 18 months, upon a determination that—

''(i) money market interest rates have risen over the preceding 6-month period; or

''(ii) prevailing interest rate levels threaten the safety and soundness of individual lenders, as evidenced by adverse trends in liquidity, capital, earnings, and growth.

''(B) TREATMENT OF CREDIT UNIONS.—The limitation in paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to any extension of credit by an insured credit union, as that term is defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

''(3) PENALTIES FOR CHARGING HIGHER RATES.—

''(A) VIOLATION.—The taking, receiving, reserving, or charging of an annual percentage rate or fee greater than that permitted by paragraph (1), when knowingly done, shall be deemed a violation of this title, and a forfeiture of the entire interest which the note, bill, or other evidence of the obligation carries with it, or which has been agreed to be paid thereon.

''(B) REFUND OF INTEREST AMOUNTS.—If an annual percentage rate or fee greater than that permitted under paragraph (1) has been paid, the person by whom it has been paid, or the legal representative thereof, may, by bringing an action not later than 2 years after the date on which the usurious collection was last made, recover back from the lender in an action in the nature of an action of debt, the entire amount of interest, finance charges, or fees paid.

''(4) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Any creditor who violates this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of section 130.''.

(b) CIVIL LIABILITY CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 130(a) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1640(a)) is amended by inserting ''section 107(f)'' before ''this chapter''.

SA 1063. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE VI—CREDIT CARD SAFETY STAR PROGRAM

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Credit Card Safety Star Act of 2009''.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) competition in the credit card market is severely hindered by a lack of transparency, which results in inefficient consumer choices;

(2) such lack of transparency is largely due to confusing terms and overwhelming information for consumers;

(3) the marketplace has not increased competition based on the merits of credit cards;

(4) a Government rating system that would use market forces by encouraging better transparency would increase such competition and assist consumers in making better credit card choices; and

(5) such a rating system would not preclude additional regulation or legislation that may eliminate certain practices considered unfair or abusive.

SEC. 603. TRUTH IN LENDING ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 127A the following new section:

''SEC. 127B. CREDIT CARD SAFETY STAR RATING SYSTEM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'agreement' means the terms and conditions applicable to an open end credit plan offered by an issuer of credit;

''(2) references to a reading grade level shall be as determined by the Board, using available measurements for assessing such reading levels, including those used by the Department of Education;

''(3) the term 'Safety Star System' means the credit card safety star rating system established under this section; and

''(4) the term 'junk mail' means a form of disclosure that does not inform the consumer in a meaningful and significant way about changes in the contract, including small type, using separate pieces of paper for separate disclosures, and mixing disclosure materials with product advertisements.

''(b) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Board shall issue final rules to implement the Safety Star System established under this section, to allow consumers to quickly and easily compare the levels of safety associated with various open end credit plan agreements.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—The Board shall consult with the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in issuing rules to implement the Safety Star System.

''(c) ELEMENTS OF SAFETY STAR SYSTEM.—The Safety Star System shall consist of a 5-star system for rating the terms and conditions of each open end credit plan agreement between a card issuer and a cardholder, in accordance with this section.

''(d) SAFETY STAR RATINGS.—

''(1) ONE-STAR RATING.—The lowest level of safety for an open end credit plan shall be indicated by a 1-star rating.

''(2) FIVE-STAR RATING.—The highest level of safety in an open end credit plan shall be indicated by a 5-star rating.

''(e) POINT STRUCTURE FOR SAFETY STAR SYSTEM.—

''(1) VALUES.—Each variation of a term in an agreement shall be worth 1 point or −1 point, as applicable.

''(2) STAR SYSTEM.—For purposes of the Safety Star System—

''(A) 5-star credit cards are those with points totaling 7 points or greater;

''(B) 4-star credit cards are those with between 3 points and 6 points;

''(C) 3-star credit cards are those with between −1 point and 2 points;

''(D) 2-star credit cards are those with between −6 points and −2 points; and

''(E) 1-star credit cards are those with −7 points or fewer.

''(f) POINT AWARDS.—One point shall be awarded for each of the terms in an agreement under which—

''(1) no binding or nonbinding arbitration clause applies;

''(2) at least 90 days notice is provided to the cardholder if the card issuer wants to change the terms of the agreement, with the option for the consumer to opt out of the changes, while paying off their previous balance according to the original terms;

''(3) changes are disclosed in a manner that highlights the differences between the current terms and the proposed terms;

''(4) the original card agreement and all original supplementary materials are in 1 document at 1 time, and, when the card issuer discloses changes to the card agreement—

''(A) those materials are not in junk mail form; and

''(B) the changes are disclosed conspicuously, together with the next billing cycle statement, before the changes becomes effective;

''(5) no over-the-limit fees are imposed for the transactions approved at the time of transaction by the card issuer;

''(6) no fees are imposed to pay credit card bills using any method, including over the phone;

''(7) payments are applied to the highest interest rate principal first, regardless of whether the consumer only makes the minimum payment;

''(8) interest is not accrued on new purchases between the end of the billing cycle and the due date when a balance is outstanding;

''(9) security deposits and fees for credit availability (such as account opening fees or membership fees)—

''(A) are limited to 10 percent of the initial credit limit during the first 12 months; and

''(B) at account opening, are limited to 5 percent of the initial credit limit, and requires any additional amounts (up to 10 percent) to be spread evenly over at least the next 5 billing cycles;

''(10) the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires at or below an 8th grade reading level;

''(11) any secondary disclosure materials meant to supplement the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires at or below an 8th grade reading level;

''(12) no late fee may be imposed when a payment is received, whether processed by the issuer or not, within 2 days of the payment due date;

''(13) a copy of the agreement and all supplementary materials are easily available to the cardholder online; or

''(14) a substantial positive financial benefit would be provided to the consumer, as determined by the Board in accordance with subsection (h).

''(g) NEGATIVE POINTS.—One point shall be subtracted for each of the terms in an agreement under which—

''(1) binding or nonbinding arbitration is required to resolve disputes;

''(2) fewer than 30 days notice before the billing statement for which changes in terms take effect are provided to the cardholder when the card issuer wants to change the terms of the card agreement (which shall be assumed if notice of such changes is undisclosed in the agreement materials);

''(3) junk mailer disclosures are used to inform cardholders of changes in their agreements;

''(4) over-the-limit fees are imposed more than once based on the same transaction;

''(5) interest is accrued on new purchases between the end of the billing cycle and the due date when a balance is outstanding;

''(6) the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires a reading level that is above a 12th grade reading level;

''(7) any secondary disclosure materials meant to supplement the terms of the agreement are written in a form that requires a reading level above the 12th grade reading level;

''(8) a late fee may be imposed within 2 days of the payment due date;

''(9) the issuer may unilaterally change the terms in the agreement without written consent from the consumer, or the issuer may unilaterally make adverse changes to the

terms in the agreement without written consent from the consumer and written notice to the consumer of the precise behavior that provoked the adverse change;

''(10) the issuer charges interest on transaction fees, including late fees; or

''(11) there would be a negative financial impact on the interests of the consumer, as determined by the Board in accordance with subsection (h).

''(h) BOARD CONSIDERATIONS.—For purposes of subsections (f)(14) and (g)(11), the Board may consider—

''(1) the level of difficulty in understanding terms of the subject agreement by an average consumer;

''(2) how such terms will affect consumers who are close to the edge of their credit limits;

''(3) how such terms will affect consumers who do not have a good credit score, history, or rating, using commonly employed credit measurement methods (if it creates greater access to credit by reducing safety, or by other means);

''(4) whether such terms create what would appear to a reasonable consumer to be an arbitrary deadline or limit that may frustrate consumers and result in excess fees or worse financial outcomes for the consumer;

''(5) whether such terms, or the severity of such terms, is not based on the credit risks created by a particular consumer behavior, but rather is designed to solely increase revenue through lack of transparency;

''(6) whether any State has sought to limit such terms or terms that are similar thereto;

''(7) whether provisions of State law relating to unfair and deceptive practices would prohibit any such terms, but for the national bank exclusion from non-home State banking laws;

''(8) whether such terms have an anticompetitive or procompetitive effect on the marketplace; and

''(9) such additional terms or concepts that are not specified in paragraphs (1) through (8) that the Board deems difficult for an average consumer to manage, such as terms that are confusing to the typical consumer or that create a greater risk of negative financial outcomes for the typical consumer, and terms that promote transparency or competition.

''(i) LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of subsection (h), the Board may not consider, with respect to the terms of an open end credit plan agreement, the profitability or impact on the success of any particular business model of such terms.

''(j) AUTOMATIC RATING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any other provision of State or Federal law, any open end credit plan that allows the card issuer or a designee thereof to modify the terms of the agreement at any time or periodically for unspecified or unstated reasons, shall automatically give rise to a 1-star rating for such open end credit plan.

''(k) NO POINTS IF TERMS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW.—If a particular term in an agreement becomes required by law or regulation, no points may be awarded under the Safety Star System for that term.

''(l) PROCEDURES FOR RATINGS.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION TO THE BOARD.—Each issuer of credit under an open end credit plan shall certify in writing to the Board, the number of stars to be awarded, separately for each of the card issuer's agreements. Each such certification shall specify which terms in each agreement are subject to the Safety Star System, and how the issuer arrived at the star rating for each agreement based on the Safety Star System in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOARD.—Each agreement that is subject to a Safety Star System rating shall be submitted electronically to the Board, together with a written explanation of whether the agreement has or does not have each of the terms specified in subsections (f) and (g), before issuing or marketing a credit card under that agreement.

''(3) BOARD VERIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall verify that the terms in the submitted agreement and supporting materials (such as examples of future disclosures or examples of websites with cardholder agreements) comply with the certification submitted to the Board by the issuer under this subsection, not later than 30 days after the date of submission.

''(B) AVOIDING DUPLICATIVE VERIFICATIONS.—A card issuer may certify to the Board, in writing, that all agreements that it markets include a particular term, or that the issuer will use certain practices (with supporting documents, including showing how future disclosures will be made) so that the Board is required to determine only once, with respect to that term or practice, how that term or practice affects the star ratings of the credit card agreements of the issuer.

''(4) MISREPRESENTATIONS AS VIOLATIONS.—Any certification to the Board under this section that the issuer knew, or should have known, was false or misrepresented to the Board or to a consumer the terms or conditions of a card agreement or of a Safety Star System rating under this section shall be treated as a violation of this title, and shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with section 108.

''(5) MODIFICATIONS BY CARD ISSUERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the first annual review by the Board, mentioned in subsection (o), before implementing any new term or concept, or new way of approaching a term or concept, with respect to an open end credit plan, the card issuer shall submit the new term or concept and any supporting materials to the Board, other than with respect to an adjustment to the applicable rate of interest in an existing agreement that clearly specifies that such rate would be adjustable and under what conditions such adjustments could occur.

''(B) DETERMINATION OF THE BOARD.—Not later than 30 days after the date of a submission under subparagraph (A), the Board shall complete a review of the effects on safety of the subject new concept or term, and shall issue a decision on whether it affects the Safety Star System rating for the open end credit plan that will include the term or concept.

''(m) DISPLAY OF AND ACCESS TO RATINGS.—

''(1) DISPLAY OF RATING REQUIRED.—The Safety Star System rating for each credit card shall be clearly displayed on all marketing material, applications, billing statements, and agreements associated with that credit card, as well as on the back of each such credit card, including a brief explanation of the system displayed below each rating (other than on the back of the credit card).

''(2) NEW CARDS REQUIRED FOR LOWER RATINGS.—In any case in which the Safety Star System rating for a credit card is lowered for any reason, the card issuer shall provide new cards to account holders displaying the new rating in accordance with paragraph (1).

''(3) GRAPHIC DISPLAY.—The Safety Star System rating for a credit card shall be represented by a graphic that demonstrates not only the number of stars that the credit card has received, but also the number of stars that the card did not receive.

''(4) DEVELOPMENT OF GRAPHIC BY THE BOARD.—The Board shall determine the graphic and description of the Safety Star System for display on materials and the back of cards for purposes of this section.

''(n) CONSUMER ACCESS TO RATINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall engage in an extensive campaign to educate consumers about the Safety Star System ratings for credit cards, using commonly used and accessible communications media.

''(2) WEBSITE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Board shall establish and shall maintain a stand-alone website—

''(A) to provide easily understandable, in-depth information on the criteria used to assign the ratings, as provided in subsections (f) and (g); and

''(B) to include a listing of the Safety Star System ratings for each open end consumer credit plan, information on how the issuer arrived at that rating, and the number of consumers that have that plan with the issuer.

''(o) ANNUAL REVIEW BY THE BOARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall conduct a thorough annual review (of not longer than 6 months in duration) of the Safety Star System, to determine whether the point system is effectively aiding consumers, and shall promptly implement any regulatory changes as are necessary to ensure that the System protects consumers and encourages transparent competition and fairness to consumers, including implementing a system in which terms are weighted to distinguish between different levels of safety, in accordance with the purposes of this section.

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS.—Results of the review conducted under this subsection shall be submitted to Congress, and shall be made available to the public.

''(p) PERIODIC REVIEW OF STANDARDS.—Once every 2 years, the Board shall determine whether the requirements to satisfy 2-star standards and above should be raised on the grounds that card issuers have abandoned the most unfair practices. In making such determination, the Board may not consider the profitability of business models, but may consider whether competition in the credit industry will improve consumer protection, and how the change in standards will affect such competition.''.

SEC. 604. SAFETY STAR ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Credit Card Safety Star Advisory Commission (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'').

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) REVIEW OF THE CREDIT CARD SAFETY STAR SYSTEM AND ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commission shall—

(A) review the effectiveness of the credit card Safety Star System under this section, including the topics described in paragraph (2);

(B) make recommendations to Congress concerning such system;

(C) study whether it would better protect consumers to ban some practices by creditors rather than use a rating system for those practices, including universal default, unilateral changes without consumer consent, allowing interest charges on fees, or allowing interest rate increases to apply to past debt; and

(D) by not later than March 1 of each calendar year following the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress containing the results of such reviews and its recommendations concerning such system.

(2) SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—The Commission shall review—

(A) with respect to all credit card users—

(i) the methodology for awarding stars to credit cards under the Safety Star System, and whether there may be a better way to award stars that takes into account unfair or unsafe practices that remain uncaptured in the Safety Star System;

(ii) the consumer awareness of the Safety Star System and what may make the system more useful to consumers; and

(iii) other major issues in implementation and further development of the Safety Star System;

(B) with respect to credit card users who are at or close to their credit limits, whether such consumers are being specifically targeted in credit card agreements, and whether the Safety Star System should incorporate more terms or be revised to encourage more fair terms for such consumers; and

(C) the effects of the Safety Star System on the availability and affordability of credit and the implications of changes in credit availability and affordability in the United States and in the general market for credit services due to the Safety Star System.

(3) COMMENTS ON CERTAIN BOARD REPORTS.—

(A) TRANSMITTAL TO COMMISSION.—If the Board submits to Congress (or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to the Safety Star System, the Board shall transmit a copy of the report to the Commission.

(B) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Commission shall review any report received under subparagraph (A) and, not later than 6 months after the date of submission of the report to Congress, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress written comments on such report. Such comments may include such recommendations as the Commission determines appropriate.

(4) AGENDA AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS.—The Commission shall consult periodically with the chairperson and ranking minority members of the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the agenda of the Commission and progress towards achieving the agenda. The Commission may conduct additional reviews, and submit additional reports to the appropriate committees of Congress, from time to time on such topics relating to the Safety Star System as may be requested by such chairpersons and members, and as the Commission determines appropriate.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Commission shall transmit to the Board a copy of each report submitted under this subsection, and shall make such reports available to the public in an easily accessible format, including operating a website containing the reports.

(6) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(7) VOTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to each recommendation contained in a report submitted under paragraph (1), each member of the Commission shall vote on the recommendation, and the Commission shall include, by member, the results of that vote in the report containing the recommendation. The Commission may file a minority report.

(8) EXAMINATION OF BUDGET CONSEQUENCES.—Before making any recommendation that is likely to have a Federal budgetary impact, the Commission shall examine the budget consequences of such recommendation, directly or through consultation with appropriate expert entities.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Congress, in accordance with this section.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Commission shall include individuals—

(i) who have achieved national recognition for their expertise in credit cards, debt management, economics, credit availability, consumer protection, and other credit card-related issues and fields; or

(ii) who provide a mix of different professions, a broad geographic representation, and a balance between urban and rural representatives.

(B) MAKEUP OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall be made up of 15 members, of whom—

(i) 4 shall be representatives from consumer groups;

(ii) 4 shall be representatives from credit card issuers or banks;

(iii) 7 shall be representatives from nonprofit research entities or nonpartisan experts in banking and credit cards; and

(iv) no fewer than 1 of the members described in clauses (i) through (iii) shall represent each of—

(I) the elderly;

(II) economically disadvantaged consumers;

(III) racial or ethnic minorities; and

(IV) students and minors.

(C) ETHICS DISCLOSURES.—The Commission shall establish a system for public disclosure by members of the Commission of financial and other potential conflicts of interest relating to such members. Members of the Commission shall be treated as employees of Congress whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate for purposes of title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–521).

(3) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms of members of the Commission shall be for 5 years except that the Congress shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(4) COMPENSATION.—

(A) MEMBERS.—While serving on the business of the Commission (including travel time), a member of the Commission shall be entitled to compensation at the per diem equivalent of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, and while so serving away from home and the regular place of business of the member, the member may be allowed travel expenses, as authorized by the Chairperson.

(B) OTHER EMPLOYEES.—For purposes of pay (other than pay of members of the Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges, all employees of the Commission shall be treated as if they were employees of the United States Senate.

(5) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Congress shall, at the time of appointment of the member as Chairperson and a member as Vice Chairperson for that term of appointment, except that in the case of vacancy in the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Commission, the Congress may designate another member for the remainder of that member's term.

(6) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Commission may, as necessary to assure the efficient administration of the Commission—

(1) employ and fix the compensation of an Executive Director and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its duties (without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service);

(2) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate Federal departments and agencies;

(3) enter into contracts or make other arrangements, as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission (without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 5));

(4) make advance, progress, and other payments which relate to the work of the Commission;

(5) provide transportation and subsistence for persons serving without compensation; and

(6) prescribe such rules and regulations as it determines necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of the Commission.

(e) POWERS.—

(1) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Commission on an agreed upon schedule.

(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out its functions, the Commission shall—

(A) utilize existing information, both published and unpublished, where possible, collected and assessed either by its own staff or under other arrangements made in accordance with this section;

(B) carry out, or award grants or contracts for, original research and experimentation, where existing information is inadequate; and

(C) adopt procedures allowing any interested party to submit information for the Commission's use in making reports and recommendations.

(3) ACCESS OF GAO TO INFORMATION.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of the Commission, immediately upon request for the purposes of periodic audits by the Comptroller General.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission, not more than $10,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this section.

SA 1064. Mr. UDALL of Colorado submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 503. DISCLOSURE OF CREDIT SCORES.

Section 612(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681j(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) INCLUSION OF CREDIT SCORES.—Each consumer reporting agency described in subparagraph (A) that develops or uses a credit score with respect to any consumer shall include the information described in section 609(f) with the disclosures required by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, free of charge.''.

SA 1065. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to

the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 304. COLLEGE CREDIT CARD AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637), as otherwise amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) COLLEGE CARD AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

''(A) COLLEGE AFFINITY CARD.—The term 'college affinity card' means a credit card issued by a credit card issuer under an open end consumer credit plan in conjunction with an agreement between the issuer and an institution of higher education, or an alumni organization or foundation affiliated with or related to such institution, under which such cards are issued to college students who have an affinity with such institution, organization and—

''(i) the creditor has agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds of the credit card to the institution, organization, or foundation (including a lump sum or 1-time payment of money for access);

''(ii) the creditor has agreed to offer discounted terms to the consumer; or

''(iii) the credit card bears the name, emblem, mascot, or logo of such institution, organization, or foundation, or other words, pictures, or symbols readily identified with such institution, organization, or foundation.

''(B) COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT.—The term 'college student credit card account' means a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan established or maintained for or on behalf of any college student.

''(C) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term 'college student' means an individual who is a full-time or a part-time student attending an institution of higher education.

''(D) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the same meaning as in section 101 and 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

''(2) REPORTS BY CREDITORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each creditor shall submit an annual report to the Board containing the terms and conditions of all business, marketing, and promotional agreements and college affinity card agreements with an institution of higher education, or an alumni organization or foundation affiliated with or related to such institution, with respect to any college student credit card issued to a college student at such institution.

''(B) DETAILS OF REPORT.—The information required to be reported under subparagraph (A) includes—

''(i) any memorandum of understanding between or among a creditor, an institution of higher education, an alumni association, or foundation that directly or indirectly relates to any aspect of any agreement referred to in such subparagraph or controls or directs any obligations or distribution of benefits between or among any such entities;

''(ii) the amount payments from the creditor to the institution, organization, or foundation during the period covered by the report, and the precise terms of any agreement under which such amounts are determined; and

''(iii) the number of credit card accounts covered by any such agreement that were opened during the period covered by the report and the total number of credit card accounts covered by the agreement that were outstanding at the end of such period.

''(C) AGGREGATION BY INSTITUTION.—The information reported under subparagraph (A) shall be aggregated with respect to each institution of higher education or alumni organization or foundation affiliated with or related to such institution.

''(3) REPORTS BY BOARD.—The Board shall submit to the Congress, and make available to the public, an annual report that lists the information concerning credit card agreements submitted to the Board under paragraph (2) by each institution of higher education, alumni organization, or foundation.''.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall from time to time review the reports submitted by creditors and the marketing practices of creditors to determine the impact that college affinity card agreements and college student card agreements have on credit card debt.

(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of any study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall periodically submit a report to the Congress on the findings and conclusions of the study, together with such recommendations for administrative or legislative action as the Comptroller General determines to be appropriate.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE FOR INITIAL CREDITOR REPORTS.—The initial reports required under paragraph (2)(A) of the amendment made by subsection (a) shall be submitted to the Board before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1066. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ___. FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION FOR CREDIT CARD ISSUERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 127A the following new section:

''SEC. 127B. IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF ACCOUNTHOLDERS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Board shall prescribe regulations setting forth the minimum standards for card issuers under open end credit plans and cardholders regarding the identity of the consumer, that shall apply in connection with the opening of such a credit card account.

''(b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, require card issuers to implement, and cardholders (after being given adequate notice) to comply with, reasonable procedures for—

''(1) verifying the identity of any person seeking to open a credit card account, to the extent reasonable and practicable;

''(2) maintaining records of the information used to verify a person's identity, including name, address, and other identifying information; and

''(3) consulting lists of known or suspected terrorists or terrorist organizations provided to the card issuer by any government agency, to determine whether a person seeking to open a credit card account appears on any such list.

''(c) FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION.—A card issuer may not accept, for the purpose of verifying the identity of an individual seeking to open an account in accordance with this subsection, any form of identification of the individual, other than—

''(1) a social security card, accompanied by a photo identification card issued by the Federal Government or a State government;

''(2) a driver's license or identification card issued by a State, in the case of a State that is in compliance with title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note);

''(3) a passport issued by the United States or a foreign government; or

''(4) a photo identification card issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security (acting through the Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 127B of the Truth in Lending Act, as added by this section, shall become effective 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 1067. Mr. COBURN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides that ''the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed''.

(2) Section 2.4(a)(1) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that ''except as otherwise provided in this section and parts 7 (special regulations) and 13 (Alaska regulations), the following are prohibited: (i) Possessing a weapon, trap or net (ii) Carrying a weapon, trap or net (iii) Using a weapon, trap or net''.

(3) Section 27.42 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, citizens of the United States may not ''possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges'' of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) The regulations described in paragraphs (2) and (3) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the second amendment rights of the individuals while at units of—

(A) the National Park System; and

(B) the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(5) The existence of different laws relating to the transportation and possession of firearms at different units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System entrapped law-abiding gun owners while at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(6) Although the Bush administration issued new regulations relating to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in units of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System that went into effect on January 9, 2009—

(A) on March 19, 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations; and

(B) the new regulations—

(i) are under review by the administration; and

(ii) may be altered.

(7) Congress needs to weigh in on the new regulations to ensure that unelected bureaucrats and judges cannot again override the

Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens on 83,600,000 acres of National Park System land and 90,790,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(8) The Federal laws should make it clear that the second amendment rights of an individual at a unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.

SA 1068. Mr. COBURN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

SEC. ____. PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM VIOLENT CRIME.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Second Amendment to the Constitution provides that ''the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed''.

(2) Section 2.4(a)(1) of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that ''except as otherwise provided in this section and parts 7 (special regulations) and 13 (Alaska regulations), the following are prohibited: (i) Possessing a weapon, trap or net (ii) Carrying a weapon, trap or net (iii) Using a weapon, trap or net''.

(3) Section 27.42 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, provides that, except in special circumstances, citizens of the United States may not ''possess, use, or transport firearms on national wildlife refuges'' of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(4) The regulations described in paragraphs (2) and (3) prevent individuals complying with Federal and State laws from exercising the second amendment rights of the individuals while at units of—

(A) the National Park System; and

(B) the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(5) The existence of different laws relating to the transportation and possession of firearms at different units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System entrapped law-abiding gun owners while at units of the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(6) Although the Bush administration issued new regulations relating to the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens in units of the National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System that went into effect on January 9, 2009—

(A) on March 19, 2009, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction with respect to the implementation and enforcement of the new regulations; and

(B) the new regulations—

(i) are under review by the administration; and

(ii) may be altered.

(7) Congress needs to weigh in on the new regulations to ensure that unelected bureaucrats and judges cannot again override the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens on 83,600,000 acres of National Park System land and 90,790,000 acres of land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(8) The Federal laws should make it clear that the second amendment rights of an individual at a unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System should not be infringed.

(b) PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BEAR ARMS IN UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System if—

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.

SA 1069. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. FREEZE ON CONSUMER CREDIT CARD RATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2010, no creditor which extends credit to any consumer through a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan may increase the annual percentage rate applicable to any outstanding balance as of such date of enactment on any such account for any reason, except as provided in any agreement between the consumer and a creditor in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(1) the terms ''consumer'', ''credit'', ''creditor'', ''credit card'', and ''open end credit plan'' have the same meanings as in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602); and

(2) the term ''annual percentage rate'' means the annual percentage rate, as determined in accordance with section 107 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1606).

SA 1070. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 205. LIMITATION ON CONSIDERATIONS FOR RATE INCREASES.

Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (12 U.S.C. 1637), as otherwise amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) CONSIDERATIONS FOR RATE INCREASES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no card issuer may reduce a credit limit or raise the interest rate applicable to a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan based on—

''(1) whether the geographic location of the consumer is in an area experiencing a high rate of home foreclosures or significant declines in property values;

''(2) the identity of the holder of the home mortgage of the consumer; or

''(3) employment or involvement by the consumer in a business or industry that is economically distressed.''.

SA 1071. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 305. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) CREDIT CARD PROTECTIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.—

''(1) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—A covered educational institution shall publicly disclose any contract or other agreement made with a card issuer or creditor for the purpose of marketing a credit card.

''(2) GIFTS PROHIBITED.—No card issuer or creditor may offer any gift or other item to a student of a covered educational institution to induce such student to apply for or participate in an open end credit plan offered by such card issuer or creditor.

''(3) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that each covered educational institution should consider adopting the following policies relating to credit cards:

''(A) That any card issuer that markets a credit card on the campus of such institution notify the administration of such institution of the location at which such marketing will take place.

''(B) That the number of locations on the campus of such institution at which the marketing of credit cards takes place be limited.

''(C) That credit card and debt education and counseling sessions be offered as a regular part of any orientation program for new students of such institution.''.

SA 1072. Mr. JOHANNS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 47, line 7, insert ''and small business owners'' after ''borrowers''.

SA 1073. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr.

DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 109. LIMIT ON PENALTY INTEREST RATE.

Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p) LIMIT ON PENALTY INCREASES.—A creditor may not apply, as a penalty with respect to a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan, an increase in the annual percentage rate in excess of 7 percentage points above the interest rate that was in effect with respect to the credit card account of the consumer on the date immediately preceding the first such penalty increase for such account.''.

On page 36, line 21, strike ''(p)'' and insert ''(q)''.

SA 1074. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 304. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) GIFTS TO STUDENTS PROHIBITED.—No card issuer or other creditor may offer any gift or other item to a student of a covered educational institution to induce such student to apply for or participate in an open end consumer credit plan offered by such card issuer or creditor.''.

SA 1075. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 304. COLLEGE CREDIT CARD AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) COLLEGE AFFINITY CARD AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

''(A) COLLEGE AFFINITY CARD.—The term 'college affinity card' means a credit card issued by a card issuer under an open end consumer credit plan in conjunction with an agreement between the issuer and an institution of higher education, under which such cards are issued to college students who have an affinity with such institution, organization, or foundation and—

''(i) the creditor has agreed to donate a portion of the proceeds of the credit card (including a lump sum or 1-time payment of money for access) to the institution;

''(ii) the creditor has agreed to offer discounted terms to the consumer; or

''(iii) the credit card bears the name, emblem, mascot, or logo of such institution, organization, or foundation, or other words, pictures, or symbols that are identified with such institution.

''(B) COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT.—The term 'college student credit card account' means a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan established or maintained for or on behalf of any college student.

''(C) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term 'college student' means an individual who is a full-time or a part-time student attending an institution of higher education.

''(D) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education'—

''(i) has the same meaning as in section 101 and 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 and 1002); and

''(ii) includes an alumni organization or foundation affiliated with or related to such institution.

''(2) REPORTS BY CREDITORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each creditor shall submit an annual report to the Board that contains—

''(i) the terms and conditions of any business, marketing, promotional, or college affinity card agreement with an institution of higher education, with respect to any college student credit card issued to a college student at such institution;

''(ii) any memorandum of understanding between a creditor and an institution of higher education that directly or indirectly relates to any aspect of an agreement described in clause (i) or controls or directs any obligations or distribution of benefits between such entities;

''(iii) the amount of any payments from the creditor to an institution of higher education during the period covered by the report, and the precise terms of any agreement under which such amounts are determined; and

''(iv) the number of credit card accounts covered by any such agreement that were opened during the period covered by the report and the total number of credit card accounts covered by the agreement that were outstanding at the end of such period.

''(B) AGGREGATION BY INSTITUTION.—The information required to be reported under subparagraph (A) shall be aggregated with respect to each institution of higher education.

''(C) FIRST REPORT.—Each creditor shall make the first report required under this paragraph not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Credit CARD Act of 2009.

''(3) REPORTS BY BOARD.—The Board shall submit to the Congress, and make available to the public, an annual report that lists the information concerning credit card agreements required to be submitted to the Board under paragraph (2) for each institution of higher education.''.

(b) STUDY AND REPORT BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, from time to time, review the reports submitted by creditors under section 127(q) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637), as added by this Act, and the marketing practices of creditors, to determine the impact that college affinity card agreements and college student card agreements (as those terms are defined in that section 127(q)) have on credit card debt.

(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of a study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings and conclusions of the study, together with such recommendations for administrative or legislative action as the Comptroller General determines are appropriate.

SA 1076. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 304. PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS.—A covered educational institution may not sell or otherwise provide to a card issuer or consumer reporting agency, as that term is defined in section 603, any information about a student or prospective student of such institution.''.

SA 1077. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 109. FIRM OFFER OF CREDIT OR INSURANCE.

Section 603(l) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a(l)) is amended to read as follows:

''(l) FIRM OFFER OF CREDIT OR INSURANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—The term 'firm offer of credit or insurance' means any offer of credit or insurance to a consumer that specifies all material terms, and will be honored if the consumer is determined to meet the specific criteria used to select the consumer for the offer, based on information in a consumer report on the consumer.

''(2) REQUIRED DISCLOSURES IN OFFERS OF CREDIT.—In the case of a firm offer of credit, the offer shall set forth the specific annual percentage rate, fees, and amount of credit or credit limit applicable to the offer.

''(3) ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS.—A firm offer of credit or insurance to a consumer may be further conditioned on—

''(A) verification that the consumer continues to meet the specific criteria used to select the consumer for the offer, by using information in a consumer report on the consumer, information in the application of the consumer for the credit or insurance, or other information bearing on the credit worthiness or insurability of the consumer;

''(B) the consumer furnishing any collateral that is a requirement for the extension of the credit or insurance that was—

''(i) established before selection of the consumer for the offer of credit or insurance; and

''(ii) disclosed to the consumer in the offer of credit or insurance; or

''(C) any combination of the criteria in subparagraphs (A) and (B).''.

SA 1078. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr.

DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 109. VERIFICATION OF ABILITY TO PAY.

Section 127 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p) VERIFICATION OF ABILITY TO PAY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A card issuer may not open any credit card account for any consumer under an open end consumer credit plan, or increase any credit limit applicable to such an account, unless the card issuer has determined, at the time at which the account is opened or the credit limit increased, as applicable, that the consumer will be able to make the scheduled payments under the terms of the transaction, based on a consideration of the current and expected income, current obligations, and employment status of the consumer.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Board shall prescribe, by regulation, the appropriate formula for determining the ability of a consumer to pay, and the criteria to be considered in making any such determination, for purposes of this subsection.''.

On page 36, line 21, strike ''(p)'' and insert ''(q)''.

SA 1079. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 503. EXTENDING TILA CREDIT CARD PROTECTIONS TO SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) DEFINITION OF CONSUMER.—Section 103(h) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602(h)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(h)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) For purposes of any provision of this title relating to a credit card account under an open end credit plan, the term 'consumer' includes any business concern having 50 or fewer employees, whether or not the credit account is in the name of the business entity or an individual, or whether or not a subject credit transaction is for business or personal purposes.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1603) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting after ''agricultural purposes'' the following: ''(other than a credit transaction under an open end credit plan in which the consumer is a small business having 50 or fewer employees)''; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''$25,000'' and inserting ''$50,000''.

(2) BUSINESS CREDIT CARD PROVISION.—Section 135 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1645) is amended by inserting after ''does not apply'' the following: ''with respect to any provision of this title relating to a credit card account under an open end credit plan in which the consumer is a small business having 50 or fewer employees or''.

SA 1080. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. 503. STUDY AND REPORT ON EMERGENCY PIN TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General of the United States and the United States Secret Service, shall conduct a study on the cost-effectiveness of making available at automated teller machines technology that enables a consumer that is under duress to electronically alert a local law enforcement agency that an incident is taking place at such automated teller machine, including—

(1) an emergency personal identification number that would summon a local law enforcement officer to an automated teller machine when entered into such automated teller machine; and

(2) a mechanism on the exterior of an automated teller machine that, when pressed, would summon a local law enforcement to such automated teller machine.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an analysis of any technology described in subsection (a) that is currently available or under development;

(2) an estimate of the number and severity of any crimes that could be prevented by the availability of such technology;

(3) the estimated costs of implementing such technology; and

(4) a comparison of the costs and benefits of not fewer than 3 types of such technology.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the study required under this section that includes such recommendations for legislative action as the Commission determines appropriate.

SA 1081. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. 304. FINANCIAL EDUCATION COURSES AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

Section 140 of the Truth in Lending Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) FINANCIAL EDUCATION COURSES AT COVERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—

''(1) COURSES REQUIRED.—Any financial institution that markets a credit card on the campus of a covered educational institution, or at an event sponsored by a covered educational institution, shall provide not fewer than 2 financial education courses each academic year that are open to any student of such institution.

''(2) GUIDELINES FOR COURSES.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Education shall issue guidelines for financial institutions regarding the content of the financial education courses required under paragraph (1).

''(3) AGREEMENTS TO PROVIDE COURSES.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Education may approve any agreement between a financial institution and a nonprofit organization for the purpose of providing the financial education courses required under paragraph (1), as the Deputy Assistant Secretary determines appropriate.

''(4) REPORT REQUIRED.—Each financial institution required to provide financial education courses under paragraph (1) shall submit an annual report to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Education that contains the date, location, and time at which each such course was provided.''.

SA 1082. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 503. STUDY AND REPORT ON THE MARKETING OF PRODUCTS WITH CREDIT OFFERS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the terms, conditions, marketing, and value to consumers of products marketed in conjunction with credit card offers, including—

(1) debt suspension agreements;

(2) debt cancellation agreements; and

(3) credit insurance products.

(b) AREAS OF CONCERN.—The study conducted under this section shall evaluate—

(1) the suitability of the offer of products described in subsection (a) for target customers;

(2) the predatory nature of such offers; and

(3) specifically for debt cancellation or suspension agreements and credit insurance products, loss rates compared to more traditional insurance products.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Comptroller shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the study required by this section not later than December 31, 2010.

SA 1083. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION SECURITY TASK FORCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms ''Administration'' and ''Administrator'' mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term ''small business concern'' has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(3) the term ''task force'' means the task force established under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a task force, to be known as the Small Business Information Security

Task Force, to address the information technology security needs of small business concerns and to help small business concerns prevent the loss of credit card data.

(c) DUTIES.—The task force shall—

(1) identify—

(A) the information technology security needs of small business concerns; and

(B) the programs and services provided by the Federal Government, State Governments, and nongovernment organizations that serve those needs;

(2) assess the extent to which the programs and services identified under paragraph (1)(B) serve the needs identified under paragraph (1)(A);

(3) make recommendations to the Administrator on how to more effectively serve the needs identified under paragraph (1)(A) through—

(A) programs and services identified under paragraph (1)(B); and

(B) new programs and services promoted by the task force;

(4) make recommendations on how the Administrator may promote—

(A) new programs and services that the task force recommends under paragraph (3)(B); and

(B) programs and services identified under paragraph (1)(B);

(5) make recommendations on how the Administrator may inform and educate with respect to—

(A) the needs identified under paragraph (1)(A);

(B) new programs and services that the task force recommends under paragraph (3)(B); and

(C) programs and services identified under paragraph (1)(B);

(6) make recommendations on how the Administrator may more effectively work with public and private interests to address the information technology security needs of small business concerns; and

(7) make recommendations on the creation of a permanent advisory board that would make recommendations to the Administrator on how to address the information technology security needs of small business concerns.

(d) INTERNET WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS.—The task force shall make recommendations to the Administrator relating to the establishment of an Internet website to be used by the Administration to receive and dispense information and resources with respect to the needs identified under subsection (c)(1)(A) and the programs and services identified under subsection (c)(1)(B). As part of the recommendations, the task force shall identify the Internet sites of appropriate programs, services, and organizations, both public and private, to which the Internet website should link.

(e) EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—The task force shall make recommendations to the Administrator relating to developing additional education materials and programs with respect to the needs identified under subsection (c)(1)(A).

(f) EXISTING MATERIALS.—The task force shall organize and distribute existing materials that inform and educate with respect to the needs identified under subsection (c)(1)(A) and the programs and services identified under subsection (c)(1)(B).

(g) COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR.—In carrying out its responsibilities under this section, the task force shall coordinate with, and may accept materials and assistance as it determines appropriate from, public and private entities, including—

(1) any subordinate officer of the Administrator;

(2) any organization authorized by the Small Business Act to provide assistance and advice to small business concerns;

(3) other Federal agencies, their officers, or employees; and

(4) any other organization, entity, or person not described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(h) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON.—The task force shall have—

(A) a Chairperson, appointed by the Administrator; and

(B) a Vice-Chairperson, appointed by the Administrator, in consultation with appropriate nongovernmental organizations, entities, or persons.

(2) MEMBERS.—

(A) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson shall serve as members of the task force.

(B) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall have additional members, each of whom shall be appointed by the Chairperson, with the approval of the Administrator.

(ii) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The number of additional members shall be determined by the Chairperson, in consultation with the Administrator, except that—

(I) the additional members shall include, for each of the groups specified in paragraph (3), at least 1 member appointed from within that group; and

(II) the number of additional members shall not exceed 13.

(3) GROUPS REPRESENTED.—The groups specified in this paragraph are—

(A) subject matter experts;

(B) users of information technologies within small business concerns;

(C) vendors of information technologies to small business concerns;

(D) academics with expertise in the use of information technologies to support business;

(E) small business trade associations;

(F) Federal, State, or local agencies engaged in securing cyberspace; and

(G) information technology training providers with expertise in the use of information technologies to support business.

(4) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—The appointments under this subsection shall be made without regard to political affiliation.

(i) MEETINGS.—

(1) FREQUENCY.—The task force shall meet at least 2 times per year, and more frequently if necessary to perform its duties.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum.

(3) LOCATION.—The Administrator shall designate, and make available to the task force, a location at a facility under the control of the Administrator for use by the task force for its meetings.

(4) MINUTES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of each meeting, the task force shall publish the minutes of the meeting in the Federal Register and shall submit to Administrator any findings or recommendations approved at the meeting.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date that the Administrator receives minutes under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives such minutes, together with any comments the Administrator considers appropriate.

(5) FINDINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date on which the task force terminates under subsection (m), the task force shall submit to the Administrator a final report on any findings and recommendations of the task force approved at a meeting of the task force.

(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Administrator receives the report under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives the full text of the report submitted under subparagraph (A), together with any comments the Administrator considers appropriate.

(j) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the task force shall serve without pay for their service on the task force.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the task force shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) DETAIL OF SBA EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator may detail, without reimbursement, any of the personnel of the Administration to the task force to assist it in carrying out the duties of the task force. Such a detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil status or privilege.

(4) SBA SUPPORT OF THE TASK FORCE.—Upon the request of the task force, the Administrator shall provide to the task force the administrative support services that the Administrator and the Chairperson jointly determine to be necessary for the task force to carry out its duties.

(k) NOT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the task force.

(l) STARTUP DEADLINES.—The initial appointment of the members of the task force shall be completed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and the first meeting of the task force shall be not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(m) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the task force shall terminate at the end of fiscal year 2013.

(2) EXCEPTION.—If, as of the termination date under paragraph (1), the task force has not complied with subsection (i)(4) with respect to 1 or more meetings, then the task force shall continue after the termination date for the sole purpose of achieving compliance with subsection (i)(4) with respect to those meetings.

(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $300,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

SA 1084. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 503. CREDIT REPORTS IN CONSUMER'S NATIVE LANGUAGE.

Section 612(a)(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681j(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) NATIVE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS.—The disclosures required under this paragraph shall be provided, upon request, to the extent possible, in the native language of any consumer having limited ability to read, write, speak, and

understand English, subject to such limitations and in accordance with such guidelines as shall be established by the Commission, in consultation with the Federal Interagency Working Group on Limited English Proficiency.''.

SA 1085. Mr. GREGG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ENHANCED TAXPAYER DISCLOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order to consider any appropriations, direct spending, or revenue bill or joint resolution reported by any committee unless the measure contains a debt disclosure section setting forth debt disclosures in the following form:

''SEC. _____. DEBT DISCLOSURE.

''(a) CURRENT DEBT.—The level of the current gross Federal debt of the Nation is $_____.

''(b) PER PERSON.—The level of the current gross Federal debt of the Nation per citizen is $_____.

''(c) DEBT INCREASE WITH PASSAGE OF THIS ACT.—Enactment of this Act would cause the gross Federal debt of the Nation to rise or fall to $_____. The new level of gross Federal debt per citizen would equal $_____.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term 'gross Federal debt' means the nominal levels of gross Federal debt (debt subject to limit as set forth in the Budget Resolution) as determined by the Bureau of Public Debt and published in latest Monthly Treasury Statement, not debt as a percentage of gross domestic product, and not levels relative to baseline projections.''.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

SEC. ____. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF PER TAXPAYER SHARE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC DEBT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7529. ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF PER TAXPAYER SHARE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC DEBT.

''In the case of any booklet of instructions for Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ prepared by the Secretary for filing individual income tax returns for taxable years beginning in any calendar year, the Secretary shall include in a prominent place the per individual taxpayer share of the Federal public debt determined on the last day of the preceding fiscal year and using the most recent census data. The information regarding such share of the Federal public debt shall also be placed prominently on the Internal Revenue Service Internet website.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter 77 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 7529. Annual notification of per taxpayer share of Federal public debt.''.

SEC. _____. NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK DISPLAYED ON GOVERNMENT WEBSITES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given under section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL WEBSITE.—The term ''congressional website'' means—

(A) the website relating to the Senate maintained by the Secretary of the Senate; and

(B) the website relating to the House of Representatives maintained by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(b) NATIONAL DEBT CLOCK.—The website of each agency and each congressional website shall include a national debt clock that displays the national debt and the rate of the increase in the national debt on a continuous basis.

SA 1086. Mr. BUNNING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 109. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in sections 101(a)(2) and 106(b)(2), and notwithstanding section 3 or any other provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, this title and the amendments made by this title shall become effective 9 months after the date on which the Board provides written certification to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that the provisions of this title and the amendments made by this title will not reduce the availability or increase the price of credit for consumers or small businesses.

SA 1087. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 14, strike lines 13 through 21 and insert the following:

''(1) LIMIT ON FEES RELATED TO METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan, the creditor may not impose a separate fee to allow the obligor to repay an extension of credit or finance charge if such repayment is made by mail, electronic transfer, or other means, unless such payment involves an expedited service by a service representative of the creditor.

''(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit card account under an open end consumer credit plan, the creditor may not impose a separate fee to allow the obligor to repay an extension of credit or finance charge if such repayment is made by telephone authorization, unless such payment involves an expedited service by a service representative of the creditor.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE TO EXPEDITED SERVICE.—Any creditor that imposes a fee for repayment of an extension of credit by telephone authorization involving expedited service by a service representative of the creditor shall provide an alternative method that allows repayment by telephone authorization by the obligor without a separate fee.''.

SA 1088. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1058 proposed by Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 21, line 15, strike ''unless a statement'' and all that follows through line 20 and insert ''unless—

''(1) a statement which includes the amount upon which the finance charge for the period is based was mailed or delivered to the consumer not later than 21 days before the date specified in the statement by which payment must be made in order to avoid imposition of that finance charge; and

''(2) a payment by the obligor was not—

''(A) postmarked at least 3 business days before the date specified in the statement by which payment must be made in order to avoid imposition of that finance charge; or

''(B) made by means of an electronic fund transfer initiated on or before the date specified in the statement by which payment must be made in order to avoid imposition of that finance charge.''.

SA 1089. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 503. USURIOUS CREDIT RATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) attempts have been made to prohibit usurious interest rates in America since colonial times;

(2) at the State level, 15 States and the District of Columbia have enacted broadly applicable usury laws that protect borrowers from payday loans and many other forms of high-cost credit, while 34 States and the District of Columbia have limited annual interest rates to 36 percent or less for 1 or more types of consumer credit;

(3) at the Federal level, in 2006, Congress enacted a Federal 36 percent annualized usury cap for service members and their families for covered credit products, as defined by the Department of Defense, which curbed payday, car title, and tax refund lending around military bases;

(4) notwithstanding such attempts to curb predatory lending, high-cost lending persists in all 50 States due to loopholes in State laws, safe harbor laws for specific forms of credit, and the exportation of unregulated interest rates permitted by preemption;

(5) due to the lack of a comprehensive Federal usury cap, consumers annually pay approximately $17,500,000,000 for high-cost overdraft loans, as much as $8,600,000,000 for storefront and online payday loans, and nearly $900,000,000 for tax refund anticipation loans;

(6) cash-strapped consumers pay on average 400 percent annual interest for payday loans, 300 percent annual interest for car title loans, up to 3,500 percent for bank overdraft loans, 50 to 500 percent annual interest for loans secured by expected tax refunds, and higher than 50 percent annual percentage interest for credit cards that charge junk fees;

(7) a national maximum interest rate that includes all forms of fees and closes all loopholes is necessary to eliminate such predatory lending; and

(8) alternatives to predatory lending that encourage small dollar loans with minimal or no fees, installment payment schedules, and affordable repayment periods should be encouraged.

(b) NATIONAL MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE.—Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 140A. MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no creditor may make an extension of credit to a consumer with respect to which the fee and interest rate, as defined in subsection (b), exceeds 36 percent.

''(b) FEE AND INTEREST RATE DEFINED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the fee and interest rate includes all charges payable, directly or indirectly, incident to, ancillary to, or as a condition of the extension of credit, including—

''(A) any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor for—

''(i) an extension of credit or making available a line of credit, including fees connected with credit extension or availability such as numerical periodic rates, annual fees, cash advance fees, and membership fees; or

''(ii) any fees for default or breach by a borrower of a condition upon which credit was extended, such as late fees, creditor-imposed not sufficient funds fees charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds, overdraft fees, and over limit fees;

''(B) all fees which constitute a finance charge, as defined by rules of the Board in accordance with this title;

''(C) credit insurance premiums, whether optional or required; and

''(D) all charges and costs for ancillary products sold in connection with or incidental to the credit transaction.

''(2) TOLERANCES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit obligation that is payable in at least 3 fully amortizing installments over at least 90 days, the term 'fee and interest rate' does not include—

''(i) application or participation fees that in total do not exceed the greater of $30 or, if there is a limit to the credit line, 5 percent of the credit limit, up to $120, if—

''(I) such fees are excludable from the finance charge pursuant to section 106 and regulations issued thereunder;

''(II) such fees cover all credit extended or renewed by the creditor for 12 months; and

''(III) the minimum amount of credit extended or available on a credit line is equal to $300 or more;

''(ii) a late fee charged as authorized by State law and by the agreement that does not exceed either $20 per late payment or $20 per month; or

''(iii) a creditor-imposed not sufficient funds fee charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds that does not exceed $15.

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—The Board may adjust the amounts of the tolerances established under this paragraph for inflation over time, consistent with the primary goals of protecting consumers and ensuring that the 36 percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

''(c) CALCULATIONS.—

''(1) OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—For an open end credit plan—

''(A) the fee and interest rate shall be calculated each month, based upon the sum of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b) charged by the creditor during the preceding 1-year period, divided by the average daily balance; and

''(B) if the credit account has been open less than 1 year, the fee and interest rate shall be calculated based upon the total of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b)(1) charged by the creditor since the plan was opened, divided by the average daily balance, and multiplied by the quotient of 12 divided by the number of full months that the credit plan has been in existence.

''(2) OTHER CREDIT PLANS.—For purposes of this section, in calculating the fee and interest rate, the Board shall require the method of calculation of annual percentage rate specified in section 107(a)(1), except that the amount referred to in that section 107(a)(1) as the 'finance charge' shall include all fees, charges, and payments described in subsection (b)(1).

''(3) ADJUSTMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Board may make adjustments to the calculations in paragraphs (1) and (2), but the primary goals of such adjustment shall be to protect consumers and to ensure that the 36 percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

''(d) DEFINITION OF CREDITOR.—As used in this section, the term 'creditor' has the same meaning as in section 702(e) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a(e)).

''(e) NO EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.—The exemption authority of the Board under section 105 shall not apply to the rates established under this section or the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6).

''(f) DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR CREDIT OTHER THAN OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—In addition to the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6), the Board may prescribe regulations requiring disclosure of the fee and interest rate established under this section in addition to or instead of annual percentage rate disclosures otherwise required under this title.

''(g) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preempt any provision of State law that provides greater protection to consumers than is provided in this section.

''(h) CIVIL LIABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—In addition to remedies available to the consumer under section 130(a), any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor, to the extent that such payment is a transaction made in violation of this section, shall be null and void, and not enforceable by any party in any court or alternative dispute resolution forum, and the creditor or any subsequent holder of the obligation shall promptly return to the consumer any principal, interest, charges, and fees, and any security interest associated with such transaction. Notwithstanding any statute of limitations or repose, a violation of this section may be raised as a matter of defense by recoupment or setoff to an action to collect such debt or repossess related security at any time.

''(i) VIOLATIONS.—Any person that violates this section, or seeks to enforce an agreement made in violation of this section, shall be subject to, for each such violation, up to 1 year in prison and a fine of not more than the greater of—

''(1) 3 times the amount of the total accrued debt associated with the subject transaction; or

''(2) $50,000.

''(j) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—An action to enforce this section may be brought by the appropriate State attorney general in any United States district court or any other court of competent jurisdiction within 3 years from the date of the violation, and such attorney general may obtain injunctive relief.''.

(c) DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—Section 127(b)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)(6)) is amended by striking ''the total finance charge expressed'' and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting ''the fee and interest rate, displayed as 'FAIR', established under section 140A.''.

SA 1090. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 503. ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Nation's multiagency financial services regulatory structure has created a dispersion of regulatory responsibility, which in turn has led to an inadequate focus on protecting consumers from inappropriate consumer financial products and practices;

(2) the absence of appropriate oversight has allowed excessively costly or predatory consumer financial products and practices to flourish; and

(3) the creation of a regulator whose sole focus is the safety of consumer financial products would help address this lack of consumer protection.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms ''Commission'', ''Chairperson'', and ''Commissioner'' mean the Financial Product Safety Commission established under this section and the Chairperson and any Commissioner thereof, respectively;

(2) the term ''consumer financial product'' includes—

(A) any extension of credit, deposit account, payment mechanism, or other product or service within the scope of—

(i) the Truth in Savings Act (12 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.);

(ii) the Consumer Credit Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); or

(iii) article 3 (relating to negotiable instruments) or article 4 (relating to bank deposits) of the Uniform Commercial Code, as in effect in any State;

(B) any other extension of credit, deposit account, or payment mechanism; and

(C) any ancillary product, practice, or transaction;

(3) the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Financial Services and the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and any successor committees, as may be constituted;

(4) the term ''consumer'' means any natural person and any small business concern,

as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632); and

(5) the term ''credit'' has the same meaning as in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1602).

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT; CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the ''Financial Product Safety Commission'' which shall be an independent establishment, as defined in section 104(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be comprised of 5 commissioners, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making appointments to the Commission, the President shall consider individuals who, by reason of their background and expertise in areas related to consumer financial product safety, are qualified to serve as members of the Commission.

(C) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among the members of the Commission.

(D) REMOVAL.—Any Commissioner may be removed by the President for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other cause.

(2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

(i) the Commissioners first appointed under this section shall be appointed for terms ending 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 years, respectively, after the date of enactment of this Act, the term of each to be designated by the President at the time of nomination; and

(ii) each of their successors shall be appointed for a term of 5 years from the date of the expiration of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Any Commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which the predecessor thereof was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of such term. A Commissioner may continue to serve after the expiration of such term until a successor has taken office, except that such Commissioner may not continue to serve more than 1 year after the date on which the term of that Commissioner would otherwise expire under this subsection.

(3) RESTRICTIONS ON OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES.—

(A) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 3 Commissioners may be affiliated with the same political party.

(B) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—No individual may serve as a Commissioner if that individual—

(i) is in the employ of, holding any official relation to, or married to any person engaged in selling or devising consumer financial products;

(ii) owns stock or bonds of substantial value in a person so engaged;

(iii) is in any other manner pecuniarily interested in a person so engaged; or

(iv) engages in any other business, vocation, or employment.

(4) VACANCIES; QUORUM; SEAL; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) VACANCIES.—No vacancy on the Commission shall impair the right of the remaining Commissioners to exercise all of the powers of the Commission.

(B) QUORUM.—Three members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that—

(i) if there are only 3 members serving on the Commission because of vacancies on the Commission, 2 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and

(ii) if there are only 2 members serving on the Commission because of vacancies on the Commission, 2 members shall constitute a quorum for the 6-month period (or the 1-year period, if the 2 members are not affiliated with the same political party) beginning on the date of the vacancy which caused the number of Commissioners to decline to 2.

(C) SEAL.—The Commission shall have an official seal, of which judicial notice shall be taken.

(D) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall annually elect a Vice Chairperson to act in the absence or disability of the Chairperson or in case of a vacancy in the office of the Chairperson.

(5) OFFICES.—The Commission shall maintain a principal office and such field offices as it determines necessary, and may meet and exercise any of its powers at any other place.

(6) FUNCTIONS OF CHAIRPERSON; REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) DUTIES.—The Chairperson shall be the principal executive officer of the Commission, and shall exercise all of the executive and administrative functions of the Commission, including functions of the Commission with respect to—

(i) the appointment and supervision of personnel employed by the Commission (and the Commission shall fix their compensation at a level comparable to that for employees of the Securities and Exchange Commission);

(ii) the distribution of business among personnel appointed and supervised by the Chairperson and among administrative units of the Commission; and

(iii) the use and expenditure of funds.

(B) GOVERNANCE.—In carrying out any of the functions of the Chairperson under this subsection, the Chairperson shall be governed by general policies of the Commission and by such regulatory decisions, findings, and determinations as the Commission may, by law, be authorized to make.

(C) REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—Requests or estimates for regular, supplemental, or deficiency appropriations on behalf of the Commission may not be submitted by the Chairperson without the prior approval of a majority vote of the serving members of the Commission.

(7) AGENDA AND PRIORITIES; ESTABLISHMENT AND COMMENTS.—Not later than 30 days before the beginning of each fiscal year, the Commission shall establish an agenda for Commission action under its jurisdiction and, to the extent feasible, shall establish priorities for such actions. Before establishing such agenda and priorities, the Commission shall conduct a public hearing on the agenda and priorities, and shall provide reasonable opportunity for the submission of comments.

(d) OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Commission are—

(A) to minimize unreasonable consumer risk associated with buying and using consumer financial products;

(B) to prevent and eliminate practices that lead consumers to incur unreasonable, inappropriate, or excessive debt, or make it difficult for consumers to repay existing debt, including practices or product features that are abusive, fraudulent, unfair, deceptive, predatory, anticompetitive, or otherwise inconsistent with consumer protection;

(C) to promote practices that assist and encourage consumers to use credit and consumer financial products responsibly, avoid excessive debt, and avoid unnecessary or excessive charges derived from or associated with consumer financial products;

(D) to ensure that providers of consumer financial products provide credit based on the ability of the consumer to repay the debt incurred;

(E) to ensure that consumer credit history is maintained, reported, and used fairly and accurately;

(F) to maintain strong privacy protections for consumer transactions, credit history, and other personal information associated with the use of consumer financial products;

(G) to collect, investigate, resolve, and inform the public about consumer complaints regarding consumer financial products;

(H) to ensure a fair resolution of consumer disputes regarding consumer financial products; and

(I) to take such other steps as are reasonable to protect users of consumer financial products.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) promulgate consumer financial product safety rules that—

(i) ban abusive, fraudulent, unfair, deceptive, predatory, anticompetitive, or otherwise anticonsumer practices, products, or product features;

(ii) place reasonable restrictions on consumer financial products, practices, or product features to reduce the likelihood that they may be provided in a manner that is inconsistent with the objectives specified in paragraph (1); and

(iii) establish requirements for such clear and adequate warnings or other information, and the form and manner of delivery of such warnings or other information, as may be appropriate to advance the objectives specified in paragraph (1);

(B) establish and maintain a best practices guide for all providers of consumer financial products;

(C) conduct such continuing studies and investigations of consumer financial products and industry practices as it determines necessary;

(D) award grants or enter into contracts for the conduct of such studies and investigations with any person (including a governmental entity), as necessary to advance the objectives specified in paragraph (1);

(E) following publication of a rule, assist public and private organizations or groups of consumer financial product providers, administratively and technically, in the development of safety standards or guidelines that would assist such providers in complying with such rule;

(F) comment on selected rulemakings of departments and agencies designated in subsection (e)(4) affecting consumer financial products; and

(G) establish and operate a consumer financial product customer hotline which consumers can call to register complaints and receive information on how to combat anticonsumer products or practices.

(e) COORDINATION OF ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any concurrent or similar authority of any other agency, the Commission shall enforce the requirements of this section.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority granted to the Commission to make and enforce rules under this section shall not be construed to impair the authority of any other Federal department or agency to make and enforce rules under any other provision of law, provided that any portion of any rule promulgated by any other such department or agency that conflicts with a rule promulgated by the Commission and that is less protective of consumers than the rule promulgated by the Commission shall be superseded by the rule promulgated by the Commission, to the extent of the conflict. Any portion of any rule promulgated by any

other such department or agency that is not superseded by a rule promulgated by the Commission shall remain in force without regard to this section.

(3) AGENCY AUTHORITY.—Any department or agency designated in paragraph (4) may exercise, for the purpose of enforcing compliance with any requirement imposed under this section, any authority conferred on such department or agency by any other Act.

(4) DESIGNATED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—The departments and agencies designated in this subsection are—

(A) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

(B) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(C) the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency;

(D) the Office of Thrift Supervision;

(E) the National Credit Union Administration;

(F) the Federal Housing Finance Authority;

(G) the Federal Housing Administration;

(H) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(I) the Federal Home Loan Bank Board;

(J) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(K) any successor to any department or agency referred to in subparagraphs (A) through (J) as may be constituted.

(5) COORDINATION OF RULEMAKING.—Any department or agency designated in paragraph (4) that engages in a rulemaking affecting consumer financial products shall consult with the Commission in the promulgation of such rules.

(f) AUTHORITIES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT HEARINGS OR OTHER INQUIRIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, by one or more of its members, or by such agents or agency as it may designate, conduct any hearing or other inquiry necessary or appropriate to its functions anywhere in the United States.

(B) MEMBER PARTICIPATION.—A Commissioner who participates in a hearing or other inquiry described in subparagraph (A) shall not be disqualified solely by reason of such participation from subsequently participating in a decision of the Commission in the same matter.

(C) NOTICE REQUIRED.—The Commission shall publish notice of any proposed hearing in the Federal Register, and shall afford a reasonable opportunity for interested persons to present relevant testimony and data.

(2) COMMISSION POWERS; ORDERS.—The Commission shall have the power—

(A) to require, by special or general orders, any person to submit in writing such reports and answers to questions as the Commission may prescribe to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the Commission, and such submission shall be made within such reasonable period and under oath or otherwise as the Commission may determine, and such order shall contain a complete statement of the reasons that the Commission requires the report or answers specified in the order to carry out a specific regulatory or enforcement function of the Commission;

(B) to administer oaths;

(C) to require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all documentary evidence relating to the execution of its duties;

(D) in any proceeding or investigation to order testimony to be taken by deposition before any person who is designated by the Commission and has the power to administer oaths and, in such instances, to compel testimony and the production of evidence in the same manner as authorized under subparagraph (C);

(E) to pay witnesses the same fees and mileage costs as are paid in like circumstances in the courts of the United States;

(F) to accept voluntary and uncompensated services relevant to the performance of the duties of the Commission, notwithstanding the provisions of section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, and to accept voluntary and uncompensated services (but not gifts) relevant to the performance of the duties of the Commission, provided that any such services shall not be from parties that have or are likely to have business before the Commission;

(G) to—

(i) issue an order requiring compliance with applicable legal requirements;

(ii) issue a civil penalty order in accordance with subsection (i)(2);

(iii) initiate, prosecute, defend, intervene in, or appeal (other than to the Supreme Court of the United States), through its own legal representative and in the name of the Commission, any civil action, if the Commission makes a written request to the Attorney General of the United States for representation in such civil action and the Attorney General does not, within the 45-day period beginning on the date on which such request was made, notify the Commission in writing that the Attorney General will represent the Commission in such civil action; and

(iv) whenever the Commission obtains evidence that any person has engaged in conduct that may constitute a violation of Federal criminal law, including a violation of subsection (h), transmit such evidence to the Attorney General of the United States; and

(H) to delegate any of its functions or powers, other than the power to issue subpoenas under subparagraph (C), to any officer or employee of the Commission.

(3) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH SUBPOENA OR COMMISSION ORDER.—If a person refuses to obey a subpoena or order of the Commission issued under paragraph (2), the Commission (subject to paragraph (2)(G)) or the Attorney General of the United States may bring an action in the United States district court for the district and division in which the inquiry is carried out or any other appropriate United States district court seeking an order requiring compliance with the subpoena or order.

(4) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—No person shall be subject to civil liability to any person (other than the Commission or the United States) for disclosing information to the Commission.

(5) CUSTOMER AND REVENUE DATA.—The Commission may, by rule, require any provider of consumer financial products to provide to the Commission such customer and revenue data as may be required to carry out this section.

(6) PURCHASE OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PRODUCTS BY COMMISSION.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Commission may purchase any consumer financial product and it may require any provider of consumer financial products to sell the product to the Commission at cost.

(7) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Commission is authorized to enter into contracts with governmental entities, private organizations, or individuals for the conduct of activities authorized by this section.

(8) BUDGET ESTIMATES AND REQUESTS; LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS; TESTIMONY; COMMENTS ON LEGISLATION.—

(A) BUDGET COPIES TO CONGRESS.—Whenever the Commission submits any budget estimate or request to the President or the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy of that estimate or request to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(B) LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATION.—Whenever the Commission submits any legislative recommendations, testimony, or comments on legislation to the President or the Office of Management and Budget, it shall concurrently transmit a copy thereof to the appropriate committees of Congress. No officer or agency of the United States shall have any authority to require the Commission to submit its legislative recommendations, testimony, or comments on legislation, to any officer or agency of the United States for approval, comments, or review, prior to the submission of such recommendations, testimony, or comments to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(g) COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENTITIES.—

(1) PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this section or any rule promulgated under this section may be construed to annul, alter, affect, or exempt any person from complying with the laws of any State, except to the extent that those laws are inconsistent with a consumer financial product safety rule promulgated by the Commission, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency. For purposes of this section, a State law is not inconsistent with this section or a consumer financial product safety rule, or the purposes of this section or such rule, if the protection afforded by such State law to any consumer is greater than the protection provided by this section or such consumer financial product safety rule. Nothing in this section or any rule promulgated under this section precludes any remedy under State law to or on behalf of a consumer.

(2) PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall establish a program to promote cooperation between the Federal Government and State governments for purposes of carrying out this section.

(B) AUTHORITIES.—In implementing the program under subparagraph (A), the Commission may—

(i) accept from any State or local authority engaged in activities relating to consumer protection assistance in such functions as data collection, investigation, and educational programs, as well as other assistance in the administration and enforcement of this section which such States or local governments may be able and willing to provide and, if so agreed, may pay in advance or otherwise for the reasonable cost of such assistance; and

(ii) commission any qualified officer or employee of any State or local government agency as an officer of the Commission for the purpose of conducting investigations.

(3) COOPERATION OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—The Commission may obtain from any Federal department or agency such statistics, data, program reports, and other materials as it may determine necessary to carry out its functions under this section. Each such department or agency shall cooperate with the Commission and, to the extent permitted by law, furnish such materials to the Commission. The Commission and the heads of other departments and agencies engaged in administering programs relating to consumer financial product safety shall, to the maximum extent practicable, cooperate and consult in order to ensure fully coordinated efforts.

(h) PROHIBITED ACTS.—It shall be unlawful for any person—

(1) to advertise, offer, or attempt to enforce any agreement, term, change in term, fee, or charge in connection with any consumer financial product, or engage in any practice, that is not in conformity with this section or an applicable consumer financial product safety rule under this section; or

(2) to fail or refuse to permit access to or copying of records, or fail or refuse to establish or maintain records, or fail or refuse to make reports or provide information to the Commission, as required under this section or any rule under this section.

(i) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

(A) KNOWING AND WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.—Any person who knowingly and willfully violates subsection (h) shall be fined not more than $500,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both for each such violation.

(B) EXECUTIVES AND AGENTS.—Any individual director, officer, or agent of a business entity who knowingly and willfully authorizes, orders, or performs any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or in part a violation of subsection (h) shall be subject to penalties under this section, without regard to any penalties to which that person may otherwise be subject.

(2) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who violates subsection (h) shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount established under subparagraph (B). A violation of subsection (h) shall constitute a separate civil offense with respect to each consumer financial product transaction involved.

(B) PUBLICATION OF SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES.—Not later than December 1, 2009, and December 1 of each fifth year thereafter, the Commission shall prescribe and publish in the Federal Register a schedule of the maximum authorized civil penalty that shall apply for any violation of subsection (h) that occurs on or after January 1 of the year immediately following the date of such publication.

(C) RELEVANT FACTORS IN DETERMINING AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—In determining the amount of any civil penalty in an action for a violation of subsection (h), the Commission—

(i) shall consider—

(I) the nature of the consumer financial product;

(II) the severity of the unreasonable risk to the consumer;

(III) the number of products or services sold or distributed;

(IV) the occurrence or absence of consumer injury; and

(V) the appropriateness of such penalty in relation to the size of the business of the person charged; and

(ii) shall ensure that penalties in each case are sufficient to induce compliance by all regulated entities.

(D) COMPROMISE OF PENALTY; DEDUCTIONS FROM PENALTY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any civil penalty under this section may be compromised by the Commission.

(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of such penalty or whether it should be remitted or mitigated and in what amount, the Commission—

(I) shall consider—

(aa) the nature of the consumer financial product;

(bb) the severity of the unreasonable risk to the consumer;

(cc) the number of offending products or services sold;

(dd) the occurrence or absence of consumer injury; and

(ee) the appropriateness of such penalty to the size of the business of the person charged; and

(II) shall ensure that compromise penalties remain sufficient to induce compliance by all regulated entities.

(iii) AMOUNT.—The amount of a penalty compromised under this paragraph, when finally determined, or the amount agreed on compromise, may be deducted from any sums owing by the United States to the person charged.

(3) COLLECTION AND USE OF PENALTIES.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is established within the Treasury of the United States a fund, into which shall be deposited all criminal and civil penalties collected under this section.

(B) USE OF FUND.—The fund established under this subsection shall be used to defray the costs of the operations of the Commission or, where appropriate, provide restitution to harmed consumers.

(4) PRIVATE ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may bring a civil action for a violation of subsection (h) for equitable relief and other charges and costs in an amount equal to the sum of—

(i) any actual damages sustained by such person as a result of such violation, if actual damages resulted;

(ii) twice the amount of any finance charge in connection with the transaction, except that such liability shall not be less than $1,000, such minimum to be adjusted on an annual basis by the Commission based upon the consumer price index; and

(iii) reasonable attorney fees and costs.

(B) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Any action under this paragraph may be brought in any appropriate United States district court, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction, not later than 2 years after the date of the discovery of the violation.

(5) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection bars a person from asserting a violation of this section in an action to collect a debt, or if foreclosure has been initiated, as a matter of defense by recoupment or set-off. An action under this subsection shall not be the basis for removal of an action to a United States district court. Neither this subsection nor any other provision of this section preempts or otherwise displaces claims and remedies available under State law, except as otherwise specifically provided in this section.

(6) STATE ACTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS.—

(A) AUTHORITY OF STATES.—In addition to such other remedies as are provided under State law, if the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, has reason to believe that any person has violated or is violating subsection (h), the State—

(i) may bring an action to enjoin such violation in any appropriate United States district court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction;

(ii) may bring an action on behalf of the residents of the State to recover—

(I) damages for which the person is liable to such residents under paragraph (4) as a result of the violation; and

(II) civil penalties, as established under paragraph (2); and

(iii) in the case of any successful action under clause (i) or (ii), shall be awarded the costs of the action and reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court.

(B) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL REGULATORS.—

(i) NOTICE OF STATE ACTION.—A State shall serve prior written notice of any action under subparagraph (A) upon the Commission and provide the Commission with a copy of its complaint, except in any case in which such prior notice is not feasible, in which case the State shall serve such notice immediately upon instituting such action.

(ii) COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION.—Upon notice of an action under clause (i), the Commission shall have the right—

(I) to intervene in the action;

(II) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;

(III) to remove the action to the appropriate United States district court; and

(IV) to file petitions for appeal.

(C) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—For purposes of bringing any action under this subsection, nothing in this subsection or in any other provision of Federal law shall prevent the chief law enforcement officer of a State, or an official or agency designated by a State, from exercising the powers conferred on the chief law enforcement officer or such official by the laws of such State to conduct investigations or to administer oaths or affirmations or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(D) LIMITATION ON STATE ACTION WHILE FEDERAL ACTION PENDING.—If the Commission has instituted a civil action or an administrative action for a violation of subsection (h), a State may not, during the pendency of such action, bring an action under this section against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for any violation of subsection (h) that is alleged in that complaint.

(j) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS TO THE PUBLIC.—The Commission shall determine what reports should be produced and distributed to the public on a recurring and ad hoc basis, and shall prepare and publish such reports on a website that provides free access to the general public.

(2) REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and the appropriate committees of Congress, at the beginning of each regular session of Congress, a comprehensive report on the administration of this section for the preceding fiscal year.

(B) REPORT CONTENT.—The reports required by this subsection shall include—

(i) a thorough appraisal, including statistical analyses, estimates, and long-term projections, of the incidence and effects of practices associated with the provision of consumer financial products that are inconsistent with the objectives specified in subsection (d)(1), with a breakdown, insofar as practicable, among the various sources of injury, as the Commission finds appropriate;

(ii) a list of consumer financial product safety rules prescribed or in effect during such year;

(iii) an evaluation of the degree of observance of consumer financial product safety rules, including a list of enforcement actions, court decisions, and compromises of civil penalties, by location and company name;

(iv) a summary of outstanding problems confronting the administration of this section, in order of priority;

(v) an analysis and evaluation of public and private consumer financial product safety research activities;

(vi) a list, with a brief statement of the issues, of completed or pending judicial actions under this section;

(vii) the extent to which technical information was disseminated to the research and consumer communities and consumer information was made available to the public;

(viii) the extent of cooperation between Commission officials, representatives of the consumer financial products industry, and other interested parties in the implementation of this section, including a log or summary of meetings held between Commission officials and representatives of industry and other interested parties;

(ix) an appraisal of significant actions of State and local governments relating to the responsibilities of the Commission;

(x) such recommendations for additional legislation as the Commission deems necessary to carry out this section; and

(xi) the extent of cooperation with, and the joint efforts undertaken by, the Commission

in conjunction with other regulators with whom the Commission shares responsibilities for consumer financial product safety.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for purposes of carrying out this section such sums as may be necessary.

SA 1091. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. BOARD REVIEW OF SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT PLANS AND REGULATIONS.

(a) REQUIRED REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the effective date of this Act, the Board shall to conduct a review of the use of credit cards by businesses with not more than 500 employees (in this section referred to as ''small businesses'') and the credit card market for small businesses, including—

(1) the terms of credit card agreements for small businesses and the practices of credit card issuers relating to small businesses;

(2) the adequacy of disclosures of terms, fees, and other expenses of credit card plans for small businesses;

(3) the adequacy of protections against unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to credit card plans for small businesses;

(4) the cost and availability of credit for small businesses, particularly with respect to non-prime borrowers;

(5) the use of risk-based pricing for small businesses; and

(6) credit card product innovation relating to small businesses.

(b) SOLICITATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT.—In conducting the review required by subsection (a), the Board shall solicit comment from owners of small businesses, credit card issuers, and other interested parties, such as through hearings or written comments.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Following the review required by subsection (a), the Board shall publish notice in the Federal Register—

(1) that summarizes the review, the comments received from the public solicitation, and other evidence gathered by the Board, such as through consumer testing or other research; and

(2) that—

(A) proposes new or revised regulations or interpretations to update or revise disclosures and protections for credit cards for small businesses, as appropriate; or

(B) states the reasons for any determination of the Board that new or revised regulations are not proposed under subparagraph (A).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–336 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 9:45 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, in 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:15 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''U.S. Strategy Toward Pakistan.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''Energy Security: Historical Perspectives and Modern Challenges.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 4 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Homeland Security Department's Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2010.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled ''Helping State and Local Law Enforcement'' on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing entitled ''Nominations'' on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 12, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Agriculture Committee be discharged en bloc from further consideration of PN230, PN268, PN356, and PN367; that the Senate then proceed en bloc to their consideration; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

Krysta Harden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Rajiv J. Shah, of Washington, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Pearlie S. Reed, of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 79, 129, 130, 131, and 133; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order, and any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Michelle DePass, of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 38 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 38) was agreed to.

DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2009, AS ''ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY''

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 121.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 121) designating May 15, 2009 as ''Endangered Species Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 121) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 121

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, more than 1,000 species are officially designated as at risk of extinction and thousands more also face a heightened risk of extinction;

Whereas the actual and potential benefits that may be derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray whale, the grizzly bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of such species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas ⅔ of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical to habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2009, as ''Endangered Species Day'';

(2) encourages schools to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about—

(A) threats to endangered species around the world; and

(B) efforts to restore endangered species, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship in the protection and recovery of species;

(3) encourages organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate in developing educational information for use in schools; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and opportunities to promote species conservation worldwide; and

(B) to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

DESIGNATING MAY 15, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL MPS AWARENESS DAY''

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 143 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 143) designating May 15, 2009 as ''National MPS Awareness Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 143) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 143

Whereas mucopolysaccharidosis (referred to in this resolution as ''MPS'') is a genetically determined lysosomal storage disease that renders the human body incapable of producing certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas complex carbohydrates are then stored in almost every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to such cells;

Whereas such cell damage adversely affects the human body by damaging the heart, respiratory system, bones, internal organs, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS often results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, a drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of the disease is usually not apparent at birth;

Whereas, without treatment, the life expectancy of an individual afflicted with MPS begins to decrease at a very early stage in the life of the individual;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in the creation of limited treatments for some MPS diseases;

Whereas promising advancements in the pursuit of treatments for additional MPS diseases are underway;

Whereas, despite the creation of newly developed remedies, the blood-brain barrier continues to be a significant impediment to effectively treating the brain, thereby preventing the treatment of many of the symptoms of MPS;

Whereas treatments for MPS will be greatly enhanced with continued public funding;

Whereas the quality of life for individuals afflicted with MPS, and the treatments available to them, will be enhanced through the development of early detection techniques and early intervention;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS are limited by a lack of awareness about MPS diseases;

Whereas the lack of awareness about MPS diseases extends to those within the medical community;

Whereas the damage that is caused by MPS makes it a model for the study of many other degenerative genetic diseases;

Whereas the development of effective therapies and a potential cure for MPS diseases can be accomplished by increased awareness, research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas the Senate is an institution than can raise public awareness about MPS; and

Whereas the Senate is also an institution that can assist in encouraging and facilitating increased public and private sector research for early diagnosis and treatments of MPS diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 15, 2009, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of ''National MPS Awareness Day''.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the reason we say ''MPS'' is the word is hard to pronounce. It is spelled M-U-C-O-P-O-L-Y-S-A-C-C-H-A-R-I-D-O-S-I-S. I commend the Senators for moving this forward. It is a very complex problem many people have. More awareness should be made of this condition. As a result, we are confident and hopeful that because this resolution passes, there will be more medical research about this condition, MPS.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to S. Res. 144.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 144) supporting the goals and ideals of National Woman's Health Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 144) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 144

Whereas women of all backgrounds should be encouraged to greatly reduce the risk of common diseases through preventive measures such as a healthy lifestyle that includes engaging in regular physical activity, eating a nutritious diet, and visiting a healthcare provider to receive regular check-ups and preventative screenings;

Whereas significant disparities exist in the prevalence of disease among women of different backgrounds, including women with disabilities, African-American women, Asian-Pacific Islander women, Latinas, American-Indian women, and Alaska Native women;

Whereas healthy habits should begin at a young age;

Whereas it is important to educate women and girls about the significance of awareness of key female health issues;

Whereas the Offices on Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality are vital to providing critical services in supporting women's health research, education, and other necessary services that benefit women of any age, race, or ethnicity;

Whereas National Women's Health Week begins on Mother's Day annually and celebrates the efforts of national and community organizations working with partners and volunteers to improve awareness of key women's health issues;

Whereas May 11, 2009, is National Women's Check-Up Day; and

Whereas in 2009, the week of May 10 through May 16 is dedicated as National Women's Health Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of preventing diseases that commonly affect women;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to use National Women's Health Week, which begins on May 10, 2009, as an opportunity to learn about health issues that face women;

(4) calls on the women of the United States to observe National Women's Check-Up Day by receiving preventive screenings from their health care providers; and

(5) recognizes the importance of federally-funded programs that provide research and collect data on common diseases in women.

DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 17 THROUGH MAY 23, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK''

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 145.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 145) designating May 17 through May 23, 2009, as ''National Public Works Week.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 145) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 145

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services are of vital importance to the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas those facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, who represent State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas those individuals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens and communities of the United States; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the public for citizens and civic leaders to understand the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 17 through May 23, 2009, as ''National Public Works Week'';

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 tomorrow morning, Wednesday, May 13; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session, with 1 hour for debate, equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Hayes nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon for a Democratic caucus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to come in tomorrow morning, and we will vote at approximately 10:30 on whether we are going to invoke cloture on the motion to close debate on the Hayes nomination. It is a very important nomination for Secretary

Salazar. We are going to recess from 12:30 to 1:30 for a caucus, where a number of the President's people will be giving us information that we and they feel is important.

Tomorrow night, at 6:30, everybody should be reminded there is a Senate spouses' dinner—both Democrats and Republicans with their spouses. We will have a nice dinner at the Botanic Garden. This is done every year following the First Lady's luncheon. It is a good night for us to meet in a nonadversarial role. The Botanic Garden at this time of year is a remarkably beautiful place.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:36 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WILLIAM J. WILKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND AN ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, VICE DONALD KORB, RESIGNED.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

CHRISTINE M. GRIFFIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, VICE HOWARD CHARLES WEIZMANN, RESIGNED.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JEFFREY D. ZIENTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, VICE CLAY JOHNSON, III, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM T. LORD

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 10506 AND 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH J. TALUTO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DENNIS L. VIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD G. BUNCH
BRIGADIER GENERAL STUART M. DYER
BRIGADIER GENERAL GLENN J. LESNIAK
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES D. LUCKEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY W. TALLEY
BRIGADIER GENERAL LUIS R. VISOT

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MARK C. ARNOLD
COLONEL LAWRENCE W. BROCK III
COLONEL DWAYNE R. EDWARDS
COLONEL STEVEN J. FELDMANN
COLONEL FERNANDO FERNANDEZ
COLONEL JONATHAN G. IVES
COLONEL BUD R. JAMESON, JR.
COLONEL BRYAN R. KELLY
COLONEL JON D. LEE
COLONEL MARK T. MCQUEEN
COLONEL THERESE M. O'BRIEN
COLONEL LUCAS N. POLAKOWSKI
COLONEL PETER T. QUINN
COLONEL ROBERT L. WALTER, JR.
COLONEL JAMES T. WILLIAMS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES W. KWIATKOWSKI
BRIGADIER GENERAL JEFFREY S. LAWSON
BRIGADIER GENERAL DEBORAH S. ROSE
BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWIN A. VINCENT, JR.

To be brigadier general

COLONEL STEPHEN M. ATKINSON
COLONEL PAUL L. AYERS
COLONEL DANIEL S.V. BADER
COLONEL DARYL L. BOHAC
COLONEL JOSEPH J. BRANDEMUEHL
COLONEL TIMOTHY T. DEARING
COLONEL SHARON S. DIEFFENDERFER
COLONEL JONATHAN S. FLAUGHER
COLONEL ROBERT M. GINNETTI
COLONEL JOHNATHAN H. GROFF
COLONEL JAMES D. HILL
COLONEL ZANE R. JOHNSON
COLONEL JOSEPH K. KIM
COLONEL KEITH I. LANG
COLONEL ROBERT W. LOVELL
COLONEL JOHN P. MCGOFF
COLONEL GUNTHER H. NEUMANN
COLONEL PAUL A. POCOPANNI, JR.
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER A. POPE
COLONEL CAROLYN J. PROTZMANN
COLONEL CARLOS E. RODRIGUEZ
COLONEL JOSE J. SALINAS
COLONEL WAYNE M. SHANKS
COLONEL WILLIAM H. SHAWVER, JR.
COLONEL JAMES C. WITHAM
COLONEL SALLIE K. WORCESTER
COLONEL WANDA A. WRIGHT
COLONEL WAYNE A. WRIGHT

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. JAMES G. STAVRIDIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. ANN E. RONDEAU

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

DALLAS P. TONSAGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

KRYSTA HARDEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

RAJIV J. SHAH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

PEARLIE S. REED, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, May 12, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM CRAIG FUGATE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CYNTHIA J. GILES, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

MATHY STANISLAUS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

MICHELLE DEPASS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JOHN MORTON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

The above nominations were approved subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted Committee of the Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DALLAS P. TONSAGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

KRYSTA HARDEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

RAJIV J. SHAH, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

PEARLIE S. REED, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ANNOUNCING THE 12TH ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO ON THURSDAY, MAY 14

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan House Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) Caucus, I rise on the occasion of the 12th Annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO, which will be held this Thursday, May 14 from 9:30 AM—5:00 PM in the Cannon Caucus Room. The EXPO is the RE&EE Caucus's signature event and this year will feature over 50 businesses and organizations showcasing cutting edge sustainable energy technologies. An afternoon speakers' series in 340 Cannon House Office Building will highlight the role that renewable energy and energy efficiency can play in the areas of economic growth, job creation, national security and energy independence. The event is free and open to the public. All are welcome and invited to attend.

HONORING THE UNPRECEDENTED CAMPAIGN TO END TYRANNY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Unprecedented Campaign to End Tyranny, which took place on May 9, 2009.

The Unprecedented Campaign to End Tyranny is a Midwest tour across nine states to support the people who have peacefully quit the Chinese Communist Party. It celebrates the condemnation of communism and the evolution of attitudes that encourage freedom of speech, religion, and expression. Since 2004, nearly fifty-four million Chinese citizens have bravely and publicly disassociated themselves with the Chinese Communist Party. This number continues to grow by up to 40,000 each day. The defection movement is gaining in momentum.

Madam Speaker, it is the responsibility and duty of free Americans to stand with those who yearn to be free. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the bravery of those who have had the daring audacity to publicly step forward and denounce the stifling oppression of communism, and embrace the ideals of freedom and liberty.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 338, supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month.

Community colleges offer the opportunity of an affordable college education to students, working adults with busy schedules and people looking for an alternative to a traditional liberal arts education. Their programs help address some of the most pressing workforce demands in our country, including nursing, engineering technology, allied health, law enforcement and computer technology among others. More recently, community colleges have heeded the call for skilled workers necessary to build and maintain wind and water turbines, solar panels and other technology needed to produce a clean, renewable energy infrastructure here in the United States.

During these tough economic times, the need for advanced education and skills is more important than ever to finding well paid work in an increasingly competitive workforce. Community colleges like Palm Beach Community College and Broward College located in my congressional district offer customized continuing education programs to fit the needs of emerging and evolving industries in our community—with online, distance learning courses to better accommodate working adults with families and busy work schedules. The flexibility and affordability of many community college programs allows Americans from every walk of life to pursue an advanced degree or certification that they may not have had the opportunity to pursue otherwise.

By providing everyone in the United States with the opportunity to further their education, we can build a more competitive, innovative workforce, capable of addressing the most pressing issues of our time, and restoring our place as a leader in the global economy. Community colleges will play a vital role in preparing young people and adults looking to further their education, with the skills they need to advance their careers, provide for their families, and get our economy back on track.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Last week marked the 30th anniversary of the first ever Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, made possible by a joint resolution signed by President Jimmy Carter.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse congressional districts in the country. One in four of my constituents is of Asian Pacific heritage—many of whom are of Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese descent.

The 29th Congressional District boasts of an impressive list of Asian Pacific American civic leaders who are strongly committed to this community. John Chiang, serving California as Controller, is the highest-ranking Asian Pacific American elected state official. Also, as one of California's twelve constitutional officers, Judy Chu serves as Vice Chair of the California State Board of Equalization. Other state officials include State Senator Carol Liu and Assembly Member Mike Eng. On the local level, we have Alhambra Council Members Stephen Sham and Gary Yamauchi; Alhambra Unified School Board Members Chester Chau and Robert "Bob" Gin; Garvey School Board Members Janet Chin, Henry Lo, and John Yuen; Monterey Park Mayor Mitchell Ing and Council Members David Lau, Betty Tom Chu, and Anthony Wong; San Gabriel Council Member Albert Huang; South Pasadena Council Member Mike Ten; South Pasadena Unified School Board Member Joseph Loo; Temple City Mayor Judy Wong and Council Member Vincent Yu; and Temple City Unified School Board Member Janet Rhee.

During the 110th Congress, I had the distinct honor of introducing legislation to pay tribute to the former Mayor of San Gabriel, Chi Mui, by posthumously naming the San Gabriel Post Office in his honor. Chi was the first Chinese American mayor in San Gabriel, a city where close to half of the population is Asian American. The bill was signed into law on August 12, 2008 and the post office was dedicated on October 25, 2008, one day before Chi's fifty-sixth birthday, making this the third post office in the nation to be named after a Chinese American. In addition, to commemorate Women's History Month earlier this year, I had the privilege of naming Melinda Hsia and Yin Yin Huang Women of the Year in the 29th Congressional District. They are truly exceptional women who have improved the quality of life for our community.

The contributions of Asian Americans to our country is not limited to the above-mentioned individuals. Our Nation has benefited from the contributions of Asian Americans for decades. The Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments, courageously served our nation during World War II and earned several awards for their distinctive service in combat. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation to pay tribute to the "Go For Broke" regiment by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress's highest civilian honor.

This past April marked the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. It has been three decades since the United States and Taiwan

codified their commercial and cultural relations and a great number of my constituents have benefited greatly from this action. I also recently had the pleasure of participating in the Committee of 100 19th Annual Conference—a forum to address issues regarding U.S.-China relations and issues of importance to the Chinese American community.

Americans of Asian descent are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the nation. I am positive that in the years to come, we will be adding many more names to the growing list of civic leaders and many more distinctions to their list of accomplishments. I am truly honored to represent the many extraordinary men and women in my district and commend their selfless dedication and service to the community.

COMMEMORATING SEABISCUIT AT RIDGEWOOD RANCH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the legendary racehorse Seabiscuit, who lived his final days at Ridgewood Ranch in my congressional district. Today Seabiscuit is being honored by the release of a United States Postal Service commemorative stamped envelope.

This thoroughbred race horse is noteworthy for uplifting the spirit of the nation, for tenacity in the face of adversity and for the beautiful and benevolent ranch where he spent his last years. Described as a ''smallish horse with an ungainly stride'' Seabiscuit grew to be a champion. His owners Marcela and Charles Howard purchased the 16,000 acre Ridgewood Ranch just south of the town of Willits along Highway 101 in Mendocino County in 1919.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s Seabiscuit became a national favorite and a symbol of hope. The American public cheered him and themselves as he beat the odds winning 33 of his 89 career races. He has been the subject of books, movies and countless articles. His crowning achievement happened in 1938 when Seabiscuit beat the Triple Crown winner War Admiral. This victory is commemorated on the new stamped envelope.

Over the years Seabiscuit recovered from injuries and recuperated at Ridgewood Ranch, drawing up to 50,000 visitors, who made their way to this rural northern California retreat until his death in 1947. Upon his retirement from racing Seabiscuit was horse racing's all-time leading money winner. He sired 109 foals and his stud barn has been carefully restored by the local Rotary Club with help from the Willits Chamber of Commerce and the Mendocino County Museum. He was inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 1958.

The Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation protects and preserves the historic buildings and extraordinary natural resources of the surviving 5,000 acres of Ridgewood Ranch. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified the habitat as one of America's most endangered historic places. The Ranch hosts a therapeutic horseback riding program for the developmentally disabled. Christ's Church of the Golden Rule has owned the ranch since 1962. It generously hosts visitors to Seabiscuit's barn, walking tours of the ranch and fundraising benefits for such causes as rescue and aid for injured and retired thoroughbred race horses.

Madam Chair and colleagues, I am pleased to enter these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD honoring the legendary racehorse Seabiscuit, the Heritage Foundation and Ridgewood Ranch. Let us salute their continuing legacy of historic preservation, environmental conservation and public education.

HONORING TIMOTHY J. DEWITT

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Timothy J. DeWitt, upon his induction into the Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Homes Hall of Fame.

As the Executive Director of the Michigan Manufactured Housing Association for over thirty years, Timothy has worked tirelessly to educate consumers, the government, and the media about the quality, affordability, and innovative design aspects of mobile homes. A significant leader in both the Housing and RV industries, he has received much acclaim for his direct involvement in their growth and expansion, including receipt of the Stiner Award for Executive of the Year and the MSAE Key Award.

Mr. DeWitt began his career in 1977 as the Housing Director for MMH as well as for the Recreational Vehicle Campground Association. His hard work, commitment to the industry, and dynamic leadership advanced him to the role of Executive Director in 1984. He is currently a key member of the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes, the Michigan State Advisory Council, and the RV Committee on Excellence. The Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Home Hall of Fame was founded in 1977, and honors Timothy this year for his outstanding contributions as an exceptional spokesperson for the industries.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Timothy DeWitt is an active volunteer and proud leader in his community. He is coaching Varsity Soccer at St. Michael School for the twelfth season, and is also responsible for establishing the Harvest Foundation, a non-profit organization geared at educating and providing scholarships for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the recreational vehicle and campground industries.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to this year's Recreational Vehicle and Manufactured Homes Hall of Fame Honoree, Timothy J. DeWitt, for his dedication to professional excellence and passionate loyalty to our community and country.

IN HONOR OF CYNTHIA DETTLEBACH, ROB CERTNER AND ALICE FINGERHUT OF THE CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cynthia Dettelbach, Rob Certner and Alice Fingerhurt as they retire from the Cleveland Jewish News (CJN) this year following a combined 80 years of service to the Cleveland Jewish community. I stand in recognition of their dedication to their community and their work as they celebrate the upcoming 45th anniversary of the Cleveland Jewish News on June 18, 2009.

Cynthia Dettelbach retires after an illustrious 31-year career at CJN, 29 of which she served as the newspaper's editor. In her capacity as a journalist, she traveled to Lebanon in 1982 to cover the Israeli-Lebanese war; visited refuseniks in the Soviet Union in 1985 and again in Israel and the United States after the fall of the Iron Curtain. During her time in Israel, she attended numerous international press conferences, met with members of the Ethiopian Jewish community and visited Palestinian refugee camps prior to the first Intifada in 1987. Cynthia was recognized countless times for her columns and articles from the Society of Professional Journalists, American Jewish Press Association and Women in Communications, among others. During her time at CJN, she expanded their coverage to include the arts, politics and controversial opinions which were formerly marginalized or omitted. In 2006, she was inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame.

Rob Certner worked at CJN for 11 years, many of which he served as its Chief Executive Officer, overseeing the expansion of CNJ to include the Source, JStyle, CJNs first website and its move to its current location in Beachwood. Rob served as treasurer of the American Jewish Press Association for 3 years, and served as its president for 1 year. He also served on the executive committee as Treasurer of the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce. During his tenure as CEO, Rob nearly doubled CJN's revenue.

Alice Fingerhut began her career at CJN in 1971, writing each subscriber's name by hand in a ledger and stamping each mail label. As the Executive Assistant for the paper, she was the public's first point of contact with the CJN offices and stayed with the paper as its offices moved around Cleveland and as the operations changed to include faxes, copiers and computers. For the last 38 years, Alice provided compassion, understanding, and empathy to the Cleveland Jewish community as they would deliver obituaries and news of happier occasions for the paper through CJNs front door. While working at CJN, Alice raised her 2 daughters, Ruth and Lisa, and her son Eric, who served the Cleveland community as a Member of the House of Representatives in the 1990s.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Cynthia Dettelbach, Rob Certner and Alice Fingerhut upon their retirement from the Cleveland Jewish News and in celebration of CJNs upcoming 45th anniversary on June 18, 2009.

KIMBERLY CROSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kimberly Cross who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kimberly Cross is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kimberly Cross is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kimberly Cross for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

THE MEDICAID BIRTH CENTER REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act.

Birth centers offer an alternative birthing environment to hospitals for mothers with healthy, low-risk pregnancies. They are also part of a vital safety net for Medicaid mothers across the country.

Last year, administrators at a birth center in my district reached out to me, distraught with what they saw as an impending Medicaid repayment crisis. Even though birth centers had been recognized as Medicaid providers by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—and, earlier, by HCFA—since 1987, over the past few years, CMS has begun disallowing federal matching funds for state Medicaid payments for freestanding birth center facility fees.

A recent decision by a federal administrative judge ruled against birth centers in a Texas Medicaid case, stating that CMS is not required to pay any state their federal match for birth center facility fees.

Without payment of these facility fees, birth centers in all states could be pushed to the brink of closure.

Today, I, along with my colleague Representative GUS BILIRAKIS, am introducing the Medicaid Birth Center Reimbursement Act, to ensure Medicaid birth center facility fee payments to states.

I urge you, Madam Speaker, and all of my colleagues, to support this legislation and ensure continued access to quality health care for pregnant women served by our Medicaid system in their districts.

REINTRODUCTION OF ''VOTERS' RIGHT TO KNOW ACT''

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I, along with Representative PETRI (R–WI), reintroduce legislation to subject operators of push polls or phone banks to the same disclosure requirements as other types of political communication. It will not ban push polls or phone banking—it will simply create a level playing field for all types of political communication. Under this bill, any person conducting these types of calls would be required to disclose to each recipient of a call the identity of the organization paying for the call. In addition, the bill would require that campaigns and other organizations that conduct advocacy phone calls report to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) the number of households they have contacted and the script they used in making the calls. The bill would not interfere with legitimate polling, conducted either by candidates or independent organizations, as it would only apply to phone banks in which more than 1,500 households are contacted within the 25 days preceding a federal election.

TRIBUTE TO JACK MALTESTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I acknowledge the passing, on May 1, 2009, of former San Leandro Mayor Jack Maltester. His colleagues have aptly described Jack as ''the most powerful small-town mayor in this country. None of us can duplicate what he did.''

Jack Maltester transformed the face of San Leandro during his 20 years of service as mayor from 1958 to 1978. Even as a private citizen, his influence remained strong in San Leandro, the city in which he was born in 1913.

A printer by trade, Jack served an interim term on the council in the late 1940s. He won election to the council in 1956, was selected by the council as Mayor two years later, and became the city's first Mayor elected directly by the residents of San Leandro instead of the City Council.

He was re-elected in 1966, 1970, and 1974 but was forced to leave office in 1978 after a voter approved two-term limit was enacted.

While serving as San Leandro's chief executive, Jack was president of both the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the League of California Cities. Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford appointed him to a federal commission five times.

Jack remained active in San Leandro affairs until his death at age 95. He founded The Sentinels, a group of local businessmen who provide support to local political candidates and ballot measures. He also served as President of the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce and President of the California League of Cities.

He cultivated political talent, represented private real estate developers, served on the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum board and was a member of local civic and regional committees.

I feel privileged to have known Jack. I treasure the opportunity I had to work with him during his tenure as the City of San Leandro's Chief Executive, and the relationship we maintained when he became a private citizen.

I join the community of San Leandro in honoring Jack Maltester. He truly loved the city of his birth and gave it his all during his lifetime. His presence and contributions will be felt for years to come.

SARAH ELLIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sarah Ellis who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Sarah Ellis is a junior at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Sarah Ellis is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Sarah Ellis for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING DALTON PEPPER

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dalton Pepper, a member of the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team and 2009 Pennsylvania player of the year. Dalton has excelled as a student athlete in Bucks County, and I am eager to see him continue that legacy next year at West Virginia University.

Dalton's hard work and dedication led him and his teammates to four straight undefeated league championships and into their fourth PIAA AAAA State playoff. He was recently named The Associated Press' 2009 Pennsylvania Class AAAA boy's basketball player of the year.

These performances earned Dalton a position on the Pennsylvania all-state team. His high school career record of 2,207 points, nearly 1,000 rebounds and a 104–20 record is an extraordinary accomplishment.

The recognition and awards Dalton has received throughout his high school basketball career are no small feat. For his leadership and determination, he has gained respect from

his coaches and teammates, not to mention the admiration of our community, which has cheered him along throughout his career.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Dalton Pepper for his hard work and dedication to the Pennsbury High School boys' basketball team—he sets an example for student athletes everywhere and I am proud to represent him.

CONGRATULATING JIM YOUNG

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Jim Young on his recent retirement as an Iowa Director for the National Education Association (NEA). Jim has dedicated his life to the education of children and the representation of teachers. Jim has been teaching in Cedar Falls, Iowa, for 25 years at the elementary school level.

Jim has been actively involved at all levels of the National Education Association. He has held virtually every leadership position at the local level serving as president, vice president, treasurer and building representative. Jim has also chaired several different association committees including Governmental Relations, Communications and American Education Week.

In 2003, Jim began his first 3-year term as a member of the board of directors for the NEA. As an NEA director, Jim advocated for issues affecting Iowa teachers at the national level of the NEA. Jim served two terms as an NEA director and retires from the position this year as it is term limited to two terms.

I'm happy to report that Jim will begin his 26th year of teaching this fall. He will be teaching 4th grade at Helen Hansen Elementary School in Cedar Falls. I congratulate him on all of his success and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, from Tuesday, May 5 through Thursday, May 7, 2009, I was provided a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to the hospitalization of my daughter, and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 231–242. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 239, 240, 241, and 242, and "nay" on Nos. 237 and 238.

HANNAH CLAYTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hannah Clayton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Hannah Clayton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hannah Clayton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Hannah Clayton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. LAVERNE RAGSTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and much gratitude that I rise to salute Dr. LaVeme Erin Ragster as she steps down from the Presidency of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Ragster was born and raised on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where she graduated, as valedictorian, from Charlotte Amalie High School in 1969. Her educational career includes completion of a bachelor of science degree in biology and chemistry, in 1973, from the University of Miami, a master of science degree in biology with an algal physiology concentration, in 1975, from San Diego State University, and a doctorate in biology with a plant biochemistry concentration, in 1980, from the University of California, San Diego.

Early in her career, Dr. Ragster served as a member of the teaching faculty at the College, which became the University of the Virgin Islands, where she was promoted from assistant professor to professor of marine biology. During that period she worked with a number of regional organizations, including the Caribbean Studies Association (past president), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (former board member, past chair of the board), Caribbean Conservation Association (past vice president), Island Resources Foundation (board member), The Nature Conservancy (former board member) and the Caribbean Council for Service and Technology (USVI representative).

In addition to her professional activities, Dr. Ragster has always been actively involved in her community. She has served as president of the League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands, and in a number of leadership positions in the territory in non-governmental organizations, particularly in the areas of education and the environment.

The second decade (and beyond) of Dr. Ragster's career has been devoted to professional pursuits leading to positions of progressively greater administrative responsibilities. She held positions such as: Chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics; Faculty Trustee to the UVI Board of Trustees; Acting Vice President for Research and Land Grant Affairs; Vice President for Research and Public Service; and Senior Vice President and Provost at UVI. In addition, during this period Dr. Ragster published a number of papers on the role of natural resources in resource management and development, produced programs for the training of faculty and resource managers, and developed curriculum materials to teach natural resource management at the university level in the Caribbean.

Dr. Ragster helped to link UVI with other higher education institutions in the region when she served as sub-secretary general for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA) and as the coordinator of the Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management. More broadly, Dr. Ragster has served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Environment Program, as a member of the national Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and as a member of the National Commission on Environmental Justice.

For the last seven years of her career, Dr. Ragster has served as President of the University of the Virgin Islands. She became the first female and fourth president of the University of the Virgin Islands on August 1, 2002. Dr. Ragster currently serves as a member of the UVI Research and Technology Park Board, past Chair and current member of the University Consortium for Small Island States Governing Board, Vice President for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA), member of the Liga Atletica Interuniversitaria de Puerto Rico y las Islas Virgenes Governing Board, a member of the American Council on Education's Organization of Women in Higher Education, a facilitator for the American Council on Education's Institute New CAOs, member of the Alexander Hamilton Distinguished Public Service Award Selection Committee, and the Caribbean National Resources Institute Partner, since 2009.

During her tenure as President, Dr. Ragster's leadership and commitment to excellence has been recognized by those both at home and abroad. Among community groups that have honored President Ragster are the Business and Professional Women's Organization, which named her person of the year for 2003. In March 2009, The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II bestowed the Paul Harris Award upon Dr. Ragster, as did The Rotary Club of St. Thomas East. Dr. Ragster has also been an honorary member of The Rotary Club of St. Thomas II for the past three years.

In early 2006, around the mid-point if her Presidency, Dr. Ragster received a Drum Major for Justice Women Leadership in Higher Education Award from the SCLC/W.O.M.E.N., Inc in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Ragster is married to Lloyd Gardner, an environmental planner, and they have two sons, Adrian and Alex.

Madam Speaker, throughout her stellar career, Dr. Ragster has displayed academic and professional integrity which has translated into the advancement of her students, her peers and indeed the entire Virgin Islands community. As she steps down from the presidency of the University, we are sure that this is but a step in the direction of even more commitment to community and advancement in both the personal and professional sphere. On behalf of the people of the United States Virgin

Islands, I would like to wish one of their favored daughters, Godspeed, as she moves forward on her life's journey.

HONORING MEMBERS OF THE DELTA BATTERY, 216TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION FOR RECEIVING THE ARMY'S VALOROUS UNIT AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion as it is honored with the Army's Valorous Unit Award. This award requires an immense display of courage and skill from the United States Army unit when faced with a hazardous situation.

I want to congratulate every member of the Delta Battery for their contributions to the Battalion and especially for the actions that have led to earning this award. As the second highest award a Battery unit can receive, you should be proud of your efforts as individuals coming together to accomplish a mission as a team. Your heroic actions are what make America's uniformed services the pride of America.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Delta Battery, 216th Air Defense Artillery Battalion today. Their heroic acts of bravery are what keep our national values and liberties safe. Every American owes our servicemen a debt of gratitude and I hope these fine soldiers know that we appreciate all that they do.

DANIELLE CONTRERAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Danielle Contreraz who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Danielle Contreraz is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Danielle Contreraz is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Danielle Contreraz for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THE THOUSAND ISLANDS WINERY AS THE NEW YORK WINE AND GRAPE FOUNDATION'S WINERY OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Thousand Islands Winery upon being named the 2009 Winery of the Year by the New York Wine and Grape Foundation at its 38th annual New York Wine Industry Workshop and Unity Banquet. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the winery and its owners, Steve and Erika Conaway, and extend my sincere wishes for their continued success.

The Thousand Islands Winery is located between Clayton and Alexandria Bay in Jefferson County, New York, which I am proud to represent. This incredibly picturesque area is known as the Thousand Islands Region and consists of over 1,000 islands that are located along the U.S.-Canada border within the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario. Tourism has long been a crucial component of the economy.

The winery, which the Conaways established on May 16, 2002, holds the unique distinction of being the northern most farm winery in New York State. It has produced over 25,000 gallons of wines in 14 varieties and has won 21 medals for its wines in national and international competitions. Notably, its blush wine ''Alexandria Bay Rose'' won a double gold, best in class, at the 2008 National Women's Wine Competition in Santa Rosa, California.

Additionally, the winery was a founding member of the Thousand Islands-Seaway Wine Trail, which is over 78 miles long, and has already attracted more than 52,000 visitors since it was launched in 2007. The trail now consists of two grape nurseries, nineteen vineyards, and includes three other local wineries: the Coyote Moon Winery in Clayton, the Otter Creek Winery in Philadelphia, and the Yellow Barn Winery outside of Sackets Harbor.

Given the importance of economic growth to New York's 23rd Congressional District, I am particularly appreciative of the work done by the Thousand Islands Winery and others to develop the wine industry and the wine trail and thereby enhance the economy of the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I voted in favor of H.R. 1728, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, during the first final passage vote. The vote was vacated three minutes into the vote due to a parliamentarian error. I had left the building to return to California due to possible minor surgery on Friday, May 8, 2009.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. MARIAN ALICE ''MALLY'' MOODY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the life and legacy of Dr. Mally Moody, her steadfast service in education, and her willingness to give back to her community in Oxford, Alabama.

Dr. Moody was born in Massachusetts on February 13, 1947, and came to Alabama over 30 years ago. As most folks that knew her can attest, she dedicated her life to education—working with students, teachers and school administrators alike. She taught math at Oxford High School and after retiring served on the Oxford School Board. She was in line to be the next president of the board.

Those she taught and all who knew her lovingly referred to her as ''Doc'' Moody.

Dr. Moody passed away on April 3, 2009, at the age of 62. On April 11, 2009, a celebration of her life was held at Grace Episcopal Church in Anniston, Alabama.

I am honored to help recognize this inspirational educator who spent her lifetime learning and always teaching. It is my hope her memory will serve as an example of what all educators can aspire to be.

BRENDA CATARINO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brenda Catarino who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brenda Catarino is a freshman at Ralston Valley High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brenda Catarino is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brenda Catarino for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE 34TH ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE FESTIVAL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 34th 01 Annual Capital Pride

Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and ''The Main Event,'' a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme ''Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember.''

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act/Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, D.C. Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all D.C. Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a strong history of public service. Everywhere in our community we are surrounded by people working for the common good and devoting their lives to helping others. Our city is very fortunate to count on local, county, state, and federal employees, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our children are taught, our sick are provided the medical care they need, and everyday citizens have access to vital services.

Our public servants are not recognized or thanked enough for the work they do. In honor of public service recognition week, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for our public servants in El Paso, Texas. Here are just a few examples of those who continue to make significant contributions to our community.

Mrs. Deborah Hamlyn is a homegrown El Pasoan and veteran City employee of over 30 years. After being recruited by the City of El Paso for an internship with the Planning Department, Ms. Hamlyn continued to advance within the organization. She maintained various planning positions and in 1987 ultimately became the first female Director of Community and Human Development where she remained for over 15 years. Ms. Hamlyn now serves as Deputy City Manager and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of her fellow El Pasoans.

Mr. Ray Resendez, III serves as the Regional Liasion Manager for the Governor's State Division of Emergency Management. After 20 years of serving the El Paso community as a firefighter, Mr. Resendez spends his energy making sure that our community is prepared for any unforeseen disaster or emergency. In these times of a heightened state of alert, Mr. Resendez serves the people of El Paso well, with great dedication and passion.

Another great example is Mr. Rodney Thompson at the Veterans Affairs Office in El Paso. He has worked diligently over the years to ensure that our nation cares for our veterans and affords them the dignity and respect that they deserve. He manages our veterans' cases and has been a great partner.

In addition to Mr. Thompson, our seniors and veterans in El Paso are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Rosanna Monge, a nurse practitioner at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic. Mrs. Monge has been a reliable advocate for our veterans when it comes to their health needs and is passionately committed to taking care of these men and women who have given so much.

Mrs. Nellie Velez is another great example of an outstanding public servant. She is the District Manager at the Social Security Administration in El Paso and takes great care in advocating on behalf of our seniors.

Ms. Isabel Mullens, the Acting Assistant Director of Field Operations at Customs and Border Protection in El Paso, has also devoted much of her life to serving our community. She started her career with the federal government on November 12, 1973. Initially hired as a GS–02 clerk at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, she has risen to her current position through years of hard work and dedication. Thousands of people cross back and forth from El Paso, Texas to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico both on foot and by car as our communities share strong economic, social, and cultural ties. Mrs. Mullens serves our community with compassion and vigilance ensuring that our ports facilitate trade and commerce and are safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 16th Congressional District. Our community is vibrant and strong because of the individuals I have highlighted and the thousands of other public servants in El Paso who take pride in their work and their service to our nation. I salute all our public servants and honor them for their efforts.

TROY CAOILE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Troy Caoile who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Troy Caoile earned his GED and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Troy Caoile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Troy Caoile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his academic career to his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE ACCREDITATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Chairman BARNEY FRANK, legislation that requires the accreditation of English language training programs for student visa holders.

Accreditation of these programs will ensure that foreign students here on temporary visas receive the high level English language education that they deserve and expect. And this legislation will help give the students a positive experience in America.

The bill prevents fraud in the student visa program and raises the quality of English language training programs in the United States. It does so by requiring accreditation, which is achieved only after certain learning criteria are met.

Under section 101(a)(15)(F) of the ''Immigration and Nationality Act,'' a foreign national can get a student visa to study at a U.S. college, high school, or other learning institution, such as an established ''language training program . . . approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with the Secretary of Education. . . .''

This bill requires that a nonimmigrant foreign student seeking to enter the United

States to study at a language training program must enroll in a program that is recognized as accredited by the Secretary of Education. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent last Congress.

Intensive English Programs (''IEPs'') serve to teach English to foreign students. There are about 75,000 such students in the United States. The programs range in length from 2 weeks to 1 year, but average 12 weeks. There are nearly 1,000 IEPs in the U.S., and students must study a minimum of 18 hours per week to meet their visa requirements.

Currently all IEPs must be officially recognized, but that sometimes means there is just a check to see that the building in which the IEP is supposedly located actually exists. The result of such lax monitoring is fraud in the IEP community.

Illegitimate IEPs either do not teach English well or serve as scams for individuals who want to come to the United States through fraudulent means. In April 2008, the Los Angeles Times reported, ''The operator of two English language schools was charged Wednesday with running a scheme that allowed foreign nationals, including several Russian prostitutes, to fraudulently obtain student visas to enter and stay in the United States.''

And just 2 weeks ago, two individuals who ran an English language school for immigrants in Duluth, GA, were indicted for submitting fraudulent documents to the Department of Homeland Security. They did so in order to get student visas for ''dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of 'students.' ''

Such fraudulent programs, along with IEPs that do not function well, tarnish the reputation of the entire IEP industry. That's why the American Association of Intensive English Programs supports this legislation. And legitimate IEPs are interested in ensuring the quality of their programs.

Under this bill, IEPs can meet the accreditation requirement in one of two ways. First, they can be under the governance of a university or college that has been accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Or, second, they can be individually accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) or the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

The three typical steps in the accreditation process are (1) the completion of a written self-study that documents how the program or institution meets the standards of the accreditation agency; (2) a site visit by an agency team to verify that standards are being met; and (3) follow-up measures on the part of the school to correct any deficiencies, subject to review and final approval by the accreditation agency.

Currently, many legitimate IEPs are voluntarily becoming accredited on their own.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the bill.

KELSEY COMPTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey Compton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey Compton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey Compton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey Compton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE ROCKY FLATS 1969 FIRE

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most fateful days in the history of the State of Colorado, the day the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant outside of Boulder nearly became America's own Chernobyl, some 30 years before that terrible accident in the Ukraine.

On Mother's Day of that year, a fire broke out amid the glove boxes in Building 776, where plutonium spheres were being manufactured for use as cores for some of the most powerful weapons in human history. The fire quickly spread throughout the facility, as many of the fire alarms had been removed to make room for more production. It is estimated that between 0.14 and 0.9 grams of plutonium 239 and 240 were released before a heroic band of perhaps 40 firefighters were able to control and eventually douse the fire. Those firefighters faced the immense decision of whether to battle the blaze with water, which could have set off a chain reaction with the resulting explosion literally contaminating the entire Denver metropolitan area. Luckily for us all, they chose correctly.

Still, plutonium was released into the environment from that accident, through the air vents in the roof of the building and via firefighters exiting it. Thousands of Coloradans were exposed, although how many we'll never know. The firefighters, of course, were exposed most severely, and everyone nearby faced greatly increased risks of serious disease. Indeed, many of those involved have since contracted and died from cancers and other conditions tied to radiation exposure.

I bring up the 1969 accident not only because today, May 11, is its 40th anniversary. I bring it up because the Americans who worked at Rocky Flats and other nuclear facilities around the Nation deserve our thanks, and our support, now that the nuclear arms race is a matter for the history books. They faced enormous risks. They worked with materials that are among the most toxic known to mankind, with half-lives of hundreds of thousands of years, all so that under the prevailing ideology of the time we were able to live our lives safely. They are American heroes every bit as much as our wartime soldiers. In a sense, they were wartime soldiers: Soldiers of the nuclear cold war, and many gave their lives.

Several weeks ago, I along with my Colorado colleagues, Representatives PERLMUTTER, DEGETTE, SALAZAR, and COFFMAN, and Senators UDALL and BENNET, introduced H.R. 1828, the Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act. The act would finally cut through the red tape that has prevented America's nuclear workers from gaining the compensation they were promised in exchange for their dangerous service. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to remember the risks and sacrifices made by heroic men and women in our nation's nuclear production facilities, which were located in virtually every State in the country, and to pass this historic piece of legislation.

FRANK CASADOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Casados who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Casados is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Casados is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Frank Casados for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSA WALKER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Rosa Walker, former Director of the Texas AFL–CIO, for her 38 years of visionary leadership. As a stalwart trailblazer in the Texas labor movement and Democratic politics, Rosa's accomplishments and admirers are many. Beyond her personal politics or civic niche, we can all celebrate her lifelong commitment to community involvement and public service.

Born in the Piney Woods in Hemphill, Texas, Rosa earned her high school degree from Pineland High School before she took up a career at Southwestern Bell. She subsequently joined the Communication Workers of America (CWA) where organizing piqued her interest. With CWA she served as a commercial job steward, rose through the ranks, and

would ultimately become a member of the CWA Executive Board. Later Rosa would join the union movement in a full-time capacity as an organizer for the Industrial Union Department of the AFL–CIO. After working with the Harris County AFL–CIO, she joined the larger Texas affiliate in 1965, where she dutifully served until her retirement in 2003.

For nearly four decades Rosa served as Director of Community Services/Volunteers and Women's Activities Director with the Texas AFL–CIO. Throughout her tenure she championed the causes of "the least of these" and crusaded for social justice wherever it was found wanting. In spite of her often disparate tasks—coordinating disaster relief operations, lobbying the Texas legislature, or directing voter registration drives—Rosa brought a contagious sense of purpose to her duties. Middle class families across Texas owe her a debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts to open doors of opportunity. While politicians are thrust into the limelight, we would be remiss and foolish if we did not salute the too often unrecognized grassroots work of individuals like Rosa Walker. They truly help us to believe that social change can truly percolate from the bottom up.

CONCEPCION ENRIQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Concepcion Enriquez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Concepcion Enriquez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Concepcion Enriquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Concepcion Enriquez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO SLAVCO MADZAROV

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Mr. Slavco Madzarov who will be recognized on May, 5, 2009 by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark as "Humanitarian of the Year." It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for his story is a true embodiment of the American Dream.

Slavco Madzarov was born in Maravci in the Republic of Macedonia on August 16, 1957. After earning an Associates Degree in Skopje and completing his mandatory military service in the Army, Slavco left Macedonia to come here to the United States of America to find a better opportunity to fulfill his potential.

Slavco arrived here in December 1987, settling in Paterson, NJ. Three years later, he married the love of his life, Kamenka, and they moved to Clifton, NJ, where they still reside with their children, daughter Blagica, now 16, and son Steven, now 13. Slavco and his wife are naturalized citizens of the United States.

Within a few years of coming to the United States, Slavco opened his own business. Slavco Construction, Inc., specializes in removing asbestos and professionally executing technical and specific construction tasks. Slavco Construction, Inc. has grown rapidly and is recognized as one of the most respected construction firms in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The company prides itself on abiding by environmental construction regulations. Slavco's talent, hard work and dedication have allowed him to celebrate the 18th anniversary of Slavco Construction, Inc., as a company in continual growth.

Slavco has made the most of the opportunities that have been possible for him, and he is always willing to help others in return. He spends much of his energy, good will and financial resources to improve the lives of the residents of New Jersey and also those in his homeland of Macedonia. Slavco has completed Community Emergency Response Team training, conducted by FEMA, and is a member of the President's Citizens Corps. In addition, he is an active member of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, the President's Club, and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association.

Slavco has received awards and honors from the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, the Polish-American Children's Foundation, Passaic County 200 Club, New Jersey Civil Service Association, the Sheriff Jerry Speziale Foundation for Community Service, and the Giblin Association. He was named Man of the Year by the Greater Paterson Leadership Council. In a resolution passed by the New Jersey General Assembly, Slavco was recognized for his numerous and significant contributions to the State of New Jersey. He has been granted an Honorary Chieftainship in Nigeria and has participated on a mission to the country in 2003 to review and analyze the socio-political and economic situation there.

In the Macedonian community, Slavco is a member and supporter of the Macedonian Orthodox Churches Sts. Kiril and Metodij in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, and St. Nikola in Totowa, New Jersey. He is an avid soccer fan, and is a supporter of the Macedonian Soccer Club of Clifton, New Jersey, and the Miravci Soccer Club in Macedonia. Since its founding in 2004, Slavco has strongly supported the United Macedonian Diaspora, the only Washington, DC-based international organization representing Macedonians and Macedonian communities around the world. Slavco is the recipient of the September 14th Golden Plaque Award from the municipality of Sveti Nikole in Macedonia. Slavco and his family frequently visit Macedonia.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of individuals like Slavco Madzarov.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Slavco's family and friends, all those who have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Mr. Slavco Madzarov to his community.

HONORING LESLIE ANN JONES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leslie Ann Jones, Director of Music Recording and Scoring for Skywalker Sound, in Marin County, California, for her 35 years as a trailblazer in the recording and music industries.

Ms. Jones began her career, making history as the first female engineer at ABC Recording Studio. Next, Ms. Jones joined the team at the legendary Automatt Recording Studios. It was there she began her film score mixing career, working on such acclaimed films as Apocalypse Now. She also recorded with many jazz greats, such as Herbie Hancock, Bobby McFerrin and Angela Bofill.

Ms. Jones took the experience and knowledge she gained while at Automatt and began a long and respected tenure at Capitol Recording Studios in Hollywood. While there Ms. Jones worked with such talents as Rosemary Clooney, Michelle Shocked and Michael Feinstein. Some of her film credits from Capital include, Grace of My Heart, Lost Highway and White Men Can't Jump.

In February of 1997 Ms. Jones joined Skywalker Sound. After only a short time she was elevated to her current position as Director of Music Recording and Scoring, becoming the first woman to hold this position. During her career at Skywalker Sound Leslie has won two GRAMMY awards. The first in 2004 for Best Chamber Music Recording for the Kronos Quartet's "Berg" project; the second in 2005, when she won as a recording engineer for Best Jazz Vocal Album for Diane Reeve's "Good Night and Good Luck" soundtrack.

In keeping with her tradition of "firsts" Ms. Jones also became the first female National Chair of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

Leslie Ann Jones is an inspiration for women in her industry; she continues to lead a fulfilling and accomplished career, marked with a pattern for establishing "firsts." I am honored to call her a constituent; congratulate her for her mastery in the recording studio, and thank her for her efforts to encourage women on the technical side of the recording community.

STEPHANIE CHAPPEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Stephanie Chappel who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Stephanie Chappel is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Stephanie Chappel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Stephanie Chappel for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAPTAIN JOHN FREIDHOFF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain John Freidhoff, a beloved member of the Western New York community who died tragically on October 19, 2007 in a diving accident, while working for our region and our waterfront. Our community honors him today through the dedication of a research vessel operated by Buffalo State College's Great Lakes Center.

Captain Freidhoff's commitment to the Western New York community is evident by simply understanding the multitude of activities, organizations, and causes he was involved in. He was a firefighter and an emergency medical technician for the Lake Erie Beach Volunteer Fire Company in the Town of Evans, a diver for the Lake Erie Rescue Team, a Coast Guard Reservist, and an active member with the ALERT—Advanced Local Emergency Rescue Team organization. He was also a Cub Scout Leader for Troop 578, a softball coach, and a youth group leader for First Church of Evans.

As lead boat captain and field station manager for Buffalo State College's Great Lakes Center for the Environment, Captain John was a champion for the Great Lakes, dedicated to managing water science projects that help us learn more about our waters, marine life and the protection of our environment.

Captain John Freidhoff, at 46 years old, leaves behind his wife Victoria, and their four children: Melissa, Jessica, Shauna and Joseph John. Captain Jeff Ogden eulogized that, even with all of Freidhoff's commitments, he managed to "put his family first."

Captain John touched the lives of many in the Western New York area evidenced by a crowd of nearly 500 people, including 200+ military, law enforcement, and fire personnel, who gathered at his service to pay their respects to this selfless, hard working, and charitable man.

Today, in a fitting tribute, the State University of New York College at Buffalo names a research vessel in Captain John's honor. And as the Captain John Freidhoff Vessel sets sail, Captain John's legacy lives on across the waters of the Great Lakes through the research conducted by future generations.

It is my honor to pay tribute to Captain John Freidhoff's life of service to the community of Western New York. Our community will miss this environmental advocate, family man, friend, co-worker, honorable leader and waterfront hero.

HONORING THE BOROUGH OF DOWNINGTOWN ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a proud southeastern Pennsylvania community celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The Borough of Downingtown was incorporated 1859 thanks to the foresight and leadership of 54 citizens and landowners residing on approximately 1,500 acres, which were part of a land grant from King Charles II of England to Pennsylvania's namesake, William Penn.

Originally known as Milltown prior to the formal establishment of the Borough, the village was an important stop for merchants and others traveling between Philadelphia and Lancaster on our nation's first turnpike. Due to its proximity to Philadelphia, the Borough played a prominent role in our young nation's fight for independence by serving as a storage depot for General George Washington's Continental Army. Water from the East Branch of the Brandywine Creek powered paper mills and fueled industrial growth in the Borough well into the 20th Century. Although the mills have long since closed and might be considered relics of the past, the sturdy stone structures are being rehabilitated and viewed by elected officials and business leaders as an important part of the Borough's future.

Residents, businesses and community leaders will commemorate the 150th Anniversary on Saturday, May 16, 2009 with a celebration parade through the Borough.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Borough of Downingtown on reaching this amazing milestone and congratulating all of those whose tremendous community spirit that have made the Borough a special place to live, work and raise a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 7, 2009, because of a procedural matter my last vote was not recorded on the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, and I had already left to return to do congressional business in the district.

I rise to confirm that I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 242, final passage of the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REVEREND DAVID EVERSON

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, on May 17, 2009, the congregation of First Union Baptist Church in Galveston, Texas will celebrate Reverend David L. Everson, Sr.'s ten years of service as pastor with special "Tenth Anniversary/Appreciation Services." I am pleased to join the First Union Baptist congregation in congratulating Reverend Everson.

First Union Baptist has had numerous achievements under Reverend Everson's leadership. For example, First Union Baptist's Hall Chapel was repaired and adapted to serve as a computer school and resource center for youth and adult literacy. Reverend Everson also led efforts to repair the church parsonage. Currently, Reverend Everson is leading efforts to perform major renovations to repair the damage the church suffered during Hurricane Ike.

Reverend Everson has also ordained three ministers and three deacons. He will be ordaining another minister and deacon during his tenth anniversary celebration on May 17.

Reverend Everson has contributed greatly to both the church and the entire Galveston community by being there for all who need a friend, comforter, and spiritual counselor. Reverend Everson not only cares for those in his congregation, he is always seeking to bring new people into the First Union Baptist congregation. The people of First Union Baptist, and all of Galveston, are certainly lucky to have such a dedicated man as Reverend Everson in their community. I, therefore, again extend my congratulations and best wishes to Reverend Everson on the occasion of his ten year anniversary as the pastor of First Union Baptist Church.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHESTER COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE BOY SCOUTS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Chester County Council of the Boy Scouts of America as the organization celebrates the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. The Chester County Council has 17,200 Scouts and volunteers, and more than 111 million young people throughout the country have participated in the 100 years since the Boy Scouts of America was established. Generation after generation of Scouts have volunteered thousands of hours to clean-up streams, build parks and take on countless other projects aimed at improving the quality of life throughout Chester County and our great nation. In addition to providing a helping hand, Scouting instills critical leadership skills and timeless values such as patriotism, courage and self-reliance. A major reason the tradition of scouting has thrived during the past

century is due to dedicated volunteers and troop alumni, who graciously commit countless hours and endless effort to mentoring youth in their communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring The Chester County Council as they commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts and in recognizing the organization's vital role in building future generations of leaders.

MS. JESSICA LANGE

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in recognition of Ms. Jessica Lange of New York City, the guest of honor, as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of The Butler Institute of American Art. Her work, 50 Photographs, is being celebrated by being on display here starting today through July 5th, 2009.

Ms. Lange began her photography career in 1967 while attending the University of Minnesota. Shortly into her freshman year, she left the University to travel to New York and Paris to pursue her passion for photography. While in Paris and other countries, she documented her travels through her photography. In 1973, she returned to New York and began taking acting classes. Just two short years later, she flew to Hollywood to star in her first feature film, ''King Kong'', launching her award winning acting career.

Ms. Lange has won two Oscars and been honored with countless other awards and nominations for her outstanding work. In 1982, she won her first Oscar, Best Supporting Actress, for her role in ''Tootise''. Her second Oscar, Best Actress in a Leading Role, was won in 1994 for her role in ''Blue Sky''. Her acting career has spanned over 30 years, but has yet to end, as she recently appeared alongside Drew Barrymore in ''Grey Gardens''.

In addition to her acting career and photography, Ms. Lange has done volunteer humanitarian work around the world. She began working for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) as a goodwill ambassador in 2003. During that same year, she took her first mission trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo to raise awareness of the impact of HIV/AIDS and immunization for women and children.

Ms. Lange returned to her passion for photography in the early 90s when she received a Leica camera as a gift. Ever since then, she's been documenting her experiences around the world as an actress and volunteer. The collection of her photographs shown here at the Butler capture a range of diverse subject matter from her years of travel. Due to her artistic vision, we are able to be a part of a fifteen year trek from Romania to Ethiopia and back to her home state of Minnesota.

I would like to commend Ms. Lange for her continued selfless volunteer work and her dedication to the arts.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 338, supporting the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. Community colleges play a vital role in the education of our citizens, and as a member of the Congressional Community College Caucus, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize the fine work done by our community colleges.

We can all agree on the increasing importance of a college education in today's knowledge-based economy. But many Americans do not have the opportunity to attend a 4-year university. These reasons can be many, and range from cost—an extremely important consideration in the current recession—to academics, family commitments, or distance from home. Often, these individuals turn to community colleges instead, and there they can receive workplace training, a GED, or an associate's degree, or to begin a bachelor's degree.

Community colleges often have lower, more affordable tuition costs, locations convenient to many homes, and day as well as evening classes on an extremely broad range of subjects from physics to literature to cuisine. These benefits attract an extremely diverse body of students who can also learn from the life experience of their classmates in a way that is not always possible in higher education.

Community colleges also teach important skills which not only allow students to earn a living, but also to contribute to the community at large. Law enforcement officers, fire fighters, nurses, and health care professionals are all educated at our nation's community colleges. Even the high-tech professionals who help shape the future of our technology and our world economy are products of community colleges.

In my own district, Northern Marianas College has undertaken the challenge of educating our young people. Over nine hundred students are enrolled at the college, located on a fourteen-acre campus on the island of Saipan. The college offers instruction in Business, Human Performance and Athletics, Languages and Humanities, Nursing, Education, Sciences, Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Fine Arts. I know that Northern Marianas College serves a very important function for its students in helping them achieve the goal of a college education and I believe career and vocational education like that provided at NMC is extremely valuable.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I am proud to celebrate the goals of National Community College Month and encourage Americans to recognize their local community colleges as the important institutions they are.

RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Con. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the sixty-first anniversary of Israel's independence.

Just eleven minutes after the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948, President Truman recognized its status as a sovereign nation. That moment marked the beginning of an enduring relationship between our two countries.

Israel and its citizens have made outstanding contributions to global prosperity and culture. The whole world has benefited from Israeli advances in science, medicine, technology, and the arts. As the longest-enduring democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a strong and trusted ally in a volatile region.

After more than six decades, the United States remains committed to its friendship with Israel. This friendship has endured, and will endure, because our countries share fundamental values.

The Jewish People's Council, in approving the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel, articulated many of our common values, stating ''The state of Israel . . . will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.''

On the occasion of its Independence Day, I congratulate the people of Israel for their continued commitment to these democratic principles. I look forward to strengthening our relationship based on our many common ties in the decades to come.

CONGRATULATING THE TRITON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I wish to extend my congratulations to the Triton High School Boys Basketball Team. The Triton Trojans succeeded in placing 2nd in the IHSAA 1-A State Tournament on March 28, 2009 at Conseco Field House in Indianapolis. After playing their way into the finals, they suffered a 55-66 loss to Jac-Cen-Del.

The Trojans worked tirelessly throughout the regular season in order to advance to the IHSAA 1-A State Tournament. They played with focus, determination and grit in the tournament and their tremendous effort closed out an impressive 24-3 season.

The Triton team is led by Senior William Keel, who is the only returning starter from their championship season, and Seniors Joel Meister, Dustin Kreft, Cody Carpenter and

Zachery Moriarty. Juniors include Curtis Nordmann, Benjamin Montalban, Camron Garey, Taran Holderman, and Kreig Voreis. Sophomore members on the team are Austin Davis, Griffyn Carpenter, Jordan Everett, Jordan Koontz, and Blake Lemler.

Also, I acknowledge the wonderful support the team had throughout their spectacular 2009 season. Head Coach Jason Groves and Assistant Coaches Landon Hawkins, Dave Carpenter and Matt Landis guided the Trojans to victory. I would also like to thank Principal Michael Chobanov, Athletic Director Mason McIntyre and above all, the fans in the community, many of whom traveled to Indianapolis for the game and gathered to welcome the team home after their victory.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the boys' basketball team of Triton High School, the coaching staff, the school administration, and the surrounding community for their accomplishments this season on the road to their 2nd place finish in the IHSSA 1-A State Tournament.

IN HONOR OF JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Honorable Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who recently received the 2008 Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government from the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. She was selected as the recipient for her lifelong commitment to good government and her devotion to promoting respect for the highest standards of public service, a record that is a tremendous source of pride among her fellow Arizonans. This annual award recognizes elected or career government officials, or former government officials, whose ideas, writings, or public actions have made a lasting contribution to the practice and understanding of ethical behavior in government.

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first female Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, serving from 1981 after her appointment by President Ronald Reagan until her retirement in 2006. Prior to her appointment to the Supreme Court, she was appointed and re-elected twice to the Arizona Senate, ascending to majority leader in 1973. She was later elected to the Maricopa County Supreme Court and appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. Currently, Justice O'Connor is the Chancellor of the College of William and Mary and serves on the board of trustees of the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Since her retirement, she has frequently spoken on the need to insulate the Court from political pressures. To support an independent judiciary, she has tirelessly advocated for the selection of judges based on merit.

I commend the Douglas Award national selection committee for recognizing such a deserving candidate. Justice O'Connor continues to be an excellent example of what others should strive for in public service. She has lead with courage while maintaining a very high standard of integrity in her public and private life.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Sandra Day O'Connor for bringing the very best to government and for her unfaltering service to her community, state, and country.

COMMUNITY BANKS OF NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARE NOT THE SAME AS WALL STREET FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the small town community banks in Northeastern Minnesota. The vast majority of these institutions are in strong financial condition. They are not AIG, and they are not staring at large sums of "troubled assets".

The bankers living in my district don't need a bailout. They have money to lend to small businesses and families. They know their local communities because they live in them, their kids attend the local schools, and oftentimes, they personally know their customers from various interactions in the community. The financial strength of their communities directly affects them too, so they are actively working with customers who are experiencing problems repaying their loans—people who lost their job though no fault of their own and small business owners hit particularly hard by this historic economic downturn.

My constituents have seen rising foreclosure rates in their communities too, but it was not Northeastern Minnesota bankers who were responsible for many of these bad loans. Instead, it was often out-of-state mortgage companies who had overly risky lending standards and who did not understand the local economies of Northeastern Minnesota, let alone the housing market in general.

Irresponsible lending, over leveraging, and risky financial products by large financial institutions of Wall Street have had devastating economic consequences for families and small businesses located on Main Streets across Northeastern Minnesota. I look forward to working with Chairman FRANK and my colleagues on addressing the regulatory shortfalls that allowed the current financial crisis to occur and on addressing the regulation of so-called "to big to fail" financial institutions. These actions will be important to restoring the public trust in our financial system and our long-term prosperity.

I'm confident we won't have to work too hard on restoring public trust in the small town community banks of Northeastern Minnesota though, because the public trust in these institutions already exists. They have maintained public trust by doing what banks do—accepting deposits and making loans based on responsible leveraging and responsible lending standards.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF DOROTHY O'LEARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Dorothy O'Leary upon the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Dorothy O'Leary has selflessly dedicated her life to serving her community. Following her career at J.L. Hudson, she has become very active in her neighborhood, frequently participating and working with local Red Cross Blood Drives. She also volunteers her time regularly as an usher at the Fox, Fischer and Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit. Dorothy's faithful commitment to the Redford community is exemplified by the success she has had running the Used Bookstore at the Redford Township Library. In this capacity, she raises approximately $20,000 per year to support the library, and is vital to its survival.

In addition to her devoted volunteer efforts, Ms. O'Leary enjoys spending time with the West Side Silver Ladies, a social group of Retired Detroit Police Officer widows. She also loves bowling with her friends, and treasures the time she is able to spend with her three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, as Ms. O'Leary continues her legacy of passionate philanthropy and eager altruism, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending sincere congratulations to Dorothy O'Leary on her 90th birthday for her enthusiastic leadership and loyalty to her community and country.

IN MEMORY OF BILL ROWELL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on May 6th, the community of Lexington County lost a long time leader and friend with the passing of Bill Rowell. As a fellow Republican growing up in South Carolina in the 1960s, I admired Bill and counted him as both a mentor and a friend. His dedication and contribution to the communities he served was an example to all those who will follow in his footsteps. He and his first wife, Bobbe, were founders of the modern Lexington Republican Party and his second wife, Dee, was an inspiration for his public service.

Tim Flach of The State newspaper has thoughtfully penned the following fitting tribute to Mr. Rowell.

[From The State, May 9, 2009]

FORMER TREASURER REMEMBERED FOR CARE, PRINCIPLES

(By Tim Flach)

Friends remember Bill Rowell as a soft-spoken, progressive leader who helped make Republicans the political power in Lexington County.

Rowell, county treasurer from 1992–2007, died Wednesday at age 76 after a long illness. A funeral service for Rowell is set for 11 today at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington.

''He was quiet but he was firm,'' county Coroner Harry Harman said. ''He stuck by the way he felt.''

Friends credit him with investment improvements and modernizing operations that benefited taxpayers.

''He laid a foundation that we are building on,'' current Treasurer Jim Eckstrom said. ''I'm going forward on his shoulders.''

Rowell was in real estate sales before becoming treasurer. He was a leader of the resurgence of local Republicans in the 1960s and was active in several civic groups.

County political leaders called him an adviser who preferred to work mostly out of the limelight.

''He was a lot like a father figure to me,'' Sheriff James R. Metts said. ''He was a guy you could go to talk to, who had quite an insight on things. I'm going to miss him as a person I can contact and bounce things off of.''

Rowell was commemorated for his courtesy, even to those who strongly disagreed with him.

''He reminded me a lot of the Southern gentleman,'' county public safety director Bruce Rucker said. ''As a public official, he was always customer service first.''

Others said he took time to talk with taxpayers frustrated with bills and rules.

''He often took the blunt of ire for things others had done,'' county Councilman Smokey Davis of Lexington said. ''He had the patience to explain things again and again and turn people around.''

Away from politics, Rowell appeared in musical revues during the early days of the Lexington County Arts Association 30 years ago. He also was a fan of local theater.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on Thursday May 7, 2009, I was traveling on official business outside of the country and missed six votes.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 406 (Rollcall 237) providing for further consideration of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act; "yes" on the Frank Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 238); "no" on the Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 239); "no" on the Price Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 240); "no" on the McHenry Amendment to H.R. 1728 (Rollcall 241); and "yes" on final passage of H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (Rollcall 242).

BICYCLE SAFETY AT VIRGINIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center for their safety education and outreach to Minnesota's youth. In addition to their outstanding work at the Medical Center, the RehabCare team educates elementary school students throughout Virginia of the tremendous health risks associated with riding a bicycle without a helmet.

They recognize the importance of educating our youth during their formative years—at the age when they are most receptive—of the possible life-altering brain injuries that could result from not wearing a helmet while riding a bicycle.

In particular, Madam Speaker, I wish to laud the Inpatient RehabCare team in their most recent outreach to fourth grade students at Roosevelt Elementary School in Virginia.

Each fourth grade class participated in a safety awareness session where they learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets.

Students received real-life simulations of what their lives would be like with such brain injuries, demonstrating the difficulty of everyday tasks and making a lasting impression on the students on the importance of taking safety precautions when riding a bicycle.

Such hands-on scenarios—combined with the team's helmet safety information and their direct experience with assisting patients who have suffered brain trauma—provided these elementary students with invaluable life lessons in bicycle safety and the severity of brain injuries.

It is vital that we teach our children about the many benefits of active and healthy transportation and recreation through cycling; and safety education must go hand-in-hand with these lessons.

The RehabCare team's effective outreach to children is noteworthy and ought to be replicated throughout the nation. Their work—and the work of similar groups in the United States—is deserving of our recognition and continued support.

I thank the Virginia Medical Center's Inpatient RehabCare team for their inspiring leadership and dedicated work to instill in our children a lifetime of bicycle safety habits.

[From the Mesabi Daily News, May 6, 2009]

BIKE SAFETY BEGINS WITH A HELMET

(By Angie Riebe)

VIRGINIA—.Writing your name while twirling your foot is not an easy feat. Nor is stacking playing cards in order if you're wearing glasses with lenses blocked by pieces of tape. And finding pencils, paper clips and rubber bands in a bowl of uncooked rice with gloved hands without looking is a downright laborious task.

But permanently living with the effects of a brain injury is much worse.

Fourth graders at Roosevelt Elementary in Virginia learned about the lasting consequences of brain injuries and the importance of wearing bicycle helmets during a presentation Wednesday at the school, led by members of the Inpatient RehabCare team at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The students partook in several activities designed to simulate bike-related brain injuries.

''We don't want to scare them, but we kind of want to scare them''; just enough to motivate the use of helmets, said Robin Aronen, Inpatient RehabCare program director.

Karen Damberg, the rehab's community relations coordinator, approached the school about holding the seminar as part of the program's expanding community outreach initiative.

The school's four fourth grade classes were chosen to participate each in hour-long helmet safety awareness sessions because ''that's the age where they start to think wearing a helmet is not cool,'' said Roosevelt Principal Willie Spelts.

Dr. Winston Schandorf, medical director at the rehab program, taught the kids about the brain and how injuries to different parts can cause such things as loss of vision, coordination and the sense of touch.

Students then got a real-life taste of what it would be like to live with such injuries.

A loss of touch would mean difficulty ''buttoning your pants'' and ''you wouldn't be able to feel a zipper toggle,'' Damberg said to a group of fourth graders trying to find small objects in containers of rice while wearing gloves.

''You wouldn't be able to feel the temperature of water. Getting into the tub and shower would be difficult. You'd have to make sure the water wasn't too hot because you wouldn't know,'' she said, as the kids searched for a spoon, pencil, plastic baggie and other things.

Meanwhile, Aronen asked a group of youngsters to try writing their names on paper while rotating their right legs counterclockwise. ''When you have a brain injury, things slow down. This is how it would feel,'' she said as the students struggled with the request.

At a table nearby, Schandorf had students attempt to put in order a deck of cards while wearing obstructed glasses. ''See how difficult it would be,'' he said, noting that an injury to the back of the head could cause vision problems.

''There's nothing you can do to correct it,'' said the doctor. ''The best thing you can do is prevent it. Wear your helmet all the time and tell someone if you fall and hit your head.''

''It's important they learn at a young age to prevent brain injuries,'' Aronen said. The rehab program works with patients 18 and older who have suffered brain trauma.

''How many of you have been tempted to not put on a helmet because you're only going a block?'' Schandorf asked, and a number of kids raised their hands. ''That's bad news. You should keep your helmet with your bike always to wear even during short rides,'' he said.

''I learned when you fall you might lose your sight and hearing and not be able to feel things that good,'' fourth grader Kaitlin Knutson said after the activities. ''Even if you don't have a helmet you should ask your mom and dad to buy you one, like for Christmas or something. And if you fall and hit your head you should tell somebody.''

''It wouldn't be fun to have a brain injury,'' said 9-year-old Ben Kalinowski.

''Finding objects in the rice was the most difficult task,'' said classmate Mikayla Lutz. ''I learned we should always wear a helmet. Some people don't think they're cool, but you should always still wear one,'' she said. ''Some (helmets) can be really cool,'' she added later during a question and answer time.

''The kids have been asking great questions,'' Aronen said after the last session.

The fourth graders were given helmet safety information to share with their parents, and the students will create posters, based on what they learned Wednesday, for a contest. The rehab program will award helmets next week to the top two winning posters in each of the four classes during a follow-up presentation, and all of the kids will receive ''goodie bags,'' Aronen said.

Spelts said he was thankful for the rehab team's effort. ''Anything we can do to help the kids is great,'' he said.

VOTING AGAINST H.R. 1728

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Millions of Americans are losing their jobs and their homes. A complete lack of oversight, irresponsible lending standards, outright manipulation of the mortgage market place, and the loss of personal responsibility are at the root of the crisis. Such a crisis demands significant, meaningful reforms to prevent hardworking American families from being drawn into mortgages they cannot afford. This past Thursday, I voted against H.R. 1728 because it does not get us there.

H.R. 1728, the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, has some good features, but falls woefully short of serious reform. There are so many exceptions and caveats that lenders can still do most of the very things that got us into this crisis to begin with. Incentives that encouraged mortgage originators to lead people into mortgages they could not afford are not eliminated. New standards focusing on the borrower's "ability to pay" and "net tangible benefit" are a good start to meaningful reform, but the provisions enforcing these ideas are weak, untested, and definitions are left to regulators. Moreover, Wall Street's secondary mortgage market is protected from lawsuits and weaker Federal regulations are allowed to preempt stronger remedies currently available through state laws. It is not responsible for Congress to pass legislation that purports to prevent improper mortgage practices and market manipulations when in reality little will change. I do not agree with putting politics above good policy.

The bill gives regulators 12 months to promulgate a code and another 6 months to put that code in place. Congress should instead use that time to legislate good regulations, regulations that can outlaw the irresponsible practices that led to our current crisis. We have allowed the economy to become dominated by banks that are "too big to fail," banks that created this mess and asked the public to get them out. This bill trusts the actors who led us into the current crisis not to give into avarice and again find ways to manipulate the system, while creating obstacles for the small banks and credit unions that acted responsibly and had nothing to do with creating this crisis. We must take greater care to define what is permissible. We can and we must demand greater responsibility as we look to reestablish a functioning financial system.

In the final analysis this bill still allows Wall Street gamblers to bet on you losing your home. This bill does not make us anymore personally responsible than before. It does not require 10 percent cash down payments and 30 to 40 percent debt to income ratios; if the 31 to 38 percent standards were good enough for TARP and Treasury mortgage refinance and modifications, why not include those standards here? Subprime mortgages are not banned. Securitization of mortgages is still allowed and therefore makes your house still subject to speculation beyond your control. Big profit motivated investment banks and hedge funds, which are still allowed to play their games in the mortgage market in Wall Street's quest for the Holy Grail of "liquidity" over safety for homeowners. These issues need to be proscriptively addressed if there is to be any meaningful reform of the mortgage market. There is a reason the system worked well when community banks and credit unions that knew you personally guaranteed you the opportunity to own a home.

FINANCIAL NET WORTH

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, through the following statement, I am making my financial net worth as of March 31, 2009, a matter of public record. I have filed similar statements for each of the thirty preceding years I have served in the Congress.

ASSETS

Real property	Value
Single family residence at 609 Ft. Williams Parkway, City of Alexandria, Virginia, at assessed valuation. (Assessed at $1,492,813). Ratio of assessed to market value: 100% (Unencumbered)	$1,492,813.00
Condominium at N76 W14726 North Point Drive, Village of Menomonee Falls, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at assessor's estimated market value. (Unencumbered)	155,200.00
Undivided 25/44ths interest in single family residence at N52 W32654 Maple Lane, Village of Chenequa, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, at 25/44ths of assessor's estimated market value of $1,813,100.	1,030,170.04
Total Real Property	2,678,183.04

2009 DISCLOSURE

Common & Preferred Stock	No. of shares	$ per share	Value
Abbott Laboratories, Inc.	12200	47.70	581,940.00
Alcatel-Lucent	135	1.86	251.10
Allstate Corporation	370	19.15	7,085.50
AT&T	5629.63965	25.20	141,866.92
JP Morgan Chase	4539	26.58	120,646.62
Benton County Mining Company	333	0.00	0.00
BP PLC	3604	40.10	144,520.40
Centerpoint Energy	300	10.43	3,129.00
Chenequa Country Club Realty Co.	1	0.00	0.00
Comcast	634	13.64	8,647.76
Darden Restaurants, Inc.	1440	34.26	49,334.40
Delphi Automotive	212	0.06	12.72
Discover Financial Services	156	6.31	984.36
Dunn & Bradstreet, Inc.	2500	77.00	192,500.00
E.I. DuPont de Nemours Corp.	1200	22.33	26,796.00
Eastman Chemical Co.	270	26.80	7,236.00
Eastman Kodak	1080	3.80	4,104.00
El Paso Energy	150	6.25	937.50
Exxon Mobil Corp.	9728	68.10	662,476.80
Fairpoint Communications, Inc.	30.2714	0.78	23.61
Gartner Group	651	11.01	7,167.51
General Electric Co.	15600	10.11	157,716.00
General Mills, Inc.	2280	49.88	113,726.40
General Motors Corp.	304	1.94	589.76
Hospira	1220	30.86	37,649.20
Idearc	67	0.04	2.68
Imation Corp.	99	7.65	757.35
IMS Health	5000	12.47	62,350.00
Kellogg Corp.	3200	36.63	117,216.00
Kimberly-Clark Corp.	1740	26.75	46,545.00
Merck & Co., Inc.	30449	26.75	814,510.75
3M Company	2000	49.72	99,440.00
Medco Health	8218	41.34	339,732.12
Monsanto Corporation	2852.315	83.10	237,027.38
Moody's	2500	22.92	57,300.00
Morgan Stanley/Dean Whitter	312	22.77	7,104.24
NCR Corp.	68	7.95	540.60
Newell Rubbermaid	1676	6.38	10,692.88
JP Morgan Liquid Assets Money Mkt	279.04	1.00	279.04
Pactiv Corp.	200	14.59	2,918.00
PG&E Corp.	175	38.22	6,688.50
Pfizer	22211	13.62	302,513.82
Qwest	571	3.42	1,952.82
Reliant Energy	300	3.19	957.00
RH Donnelly Corp.	500	0.31	155.00
Sandusky Voting Trust	26	1.00	26.00
Solutia	82	1.87	153.34
Tenneco Automotive	182	1.63	296.66
Teradata	68	16.22	1,102.96
Unisys, Inc.	167	0.53	88.51
US Bank Corp.	3081	14.61	45,013.41

2009 DISCLOSURE—Continued

Common & Preferred Stock	No. of shares	$ per share	Value
Verizon	1509.55675	17.38	26,236.10
Vodaphone	323	17.42	5,626.66
Weenergies (Wisconsin Energy)	1022	41.17	42,075.74
Total Common & Preferred Stocks and Bonds			4,498,644.11

Life Insurance Policies	Face	Surrender $
Northwestern Mutual #4378000	12,000.00	86,681.48
Northwestern Mutual #4574061	30,000.00	208,485.38
Massachusetts Mutual #4116575	10,000.00	12,816.82
Massachusetts Mutual #4228344	100,000.00	324,980.56
American General Life Ins. #5–16070591	175,000.00	41,845.21
Total Life Insurance Policies		674,809.45

Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	Balance
JP Morgan Chase Bank, checking account	42,944.77
JP Morgan Chase Bank, savings account	11,315.15
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, checking account	8,809.84
M&I Lake Country Bank, Hartland, WI, savings	371.37
Burke & Herbert Bank, Alexandria, VA, checking account	1,832.44
JP Morgan, IRA accounts	135,819.17
Total Bank & Savings & Loan Accounts	201,092.74

Miscellaneous	Value
2007 Chevrolet Impala	$10,375.00
1994 Cadillac Deville—retail value	2,700.00
1996 Buick Regal—retail value	2,355.00
1991 Buick Century automobile—retail value	1,070.00
Office furniture & equipment (estimated)	1,000.00
Furniture, clothing & personal property (estimated)	180,000.00
Stamp collection (estimated)	120,000.00
Deposits in Congressional Retirement Fund	174,512.00
Deposits in Federal Thrift Savings Plan	335,055.82
Traveller's checks	7,800.00
17 ft. Boston Whaler boat & 70 hp Johnson outboard motor (estimated	6,000.00
20 ft. Pontoon boat & 40 hp Mercury outboard motor	12,000.00
Total miscellaneous	852,867.82
Total assets	8,905,597.52

Liabilities	Amount
None	
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Net Worth	8,905,597.52

Statement of 2008 Taxes Paid	Amount
Federal income tax	$113,028.00
Wisconsin income tax	36,095.00
Menomonee Falls, WI property tax	2,456.00
Chenequa, WI property tax	23,569.00
Alexandria, VA property tax	12,699.00

I further declare that I am trustee of a trust established under the will of my later father, Frank James Sensenbrenner, Sr., for the benefit of my sister, Margaret A. Sensenbrenner, and of my two sons, F. James Sensenbrenner, III, and Robert Alan Sensenbrenner. I am further the direct beneficiary of five trusts, but have no control over the assets of either trust. My wife, Cheryl Warren Sensenbrenner, and I are trustees of separate trusts established for the benefit of each son.

Also, I am neither an officer nor a director of any corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin or of any other state or foreign country.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5341–S5396

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1020–1026, and S. Res. 142–147. **Pages S5371–72**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 515, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform. (S. Rept. No. 111–18) **Page S5371**

Measures Passed:

Use of Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 38, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5394**

Endangered Species Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 121, designating May 15, 2009, as ''Endangered Species Day'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5394**

National MPS Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 143, designating May 15, 2009, as ''National MPS Awareness Day''. **Pages S5394–95**

National Women's Health Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 144, supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week. **Page S5395**

National Public Works Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 145, designating the week of May 17 through May 23, 2009, as ''National Public Works Week''. **Page S5395**

Measures Considered:

Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S5349–65**

Adopted:

By 67 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. 188), Coburn Amendment No. 1067 (to Amendment No. 1058), to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks and refuges. **Pages S5349–60**

Withdrawn:

Coburn Amendment No. 1068, to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks and refuges. **Pages S5349–51, S5360**

Pending:

Dodd/Shelby Amendment No. 1058, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5349**

McConnell (for Gregg) Amendment No. 1085 (to Amendment No. 1058), to enhance public knowledge regarding the national debt by requiring the publication of the facts about the national debt on IRS instructions, Federal Web sites, and in new legislation. **Pages S5360–61**

Vitter Amendment No. 1066 (to Amendment No. 1058), to specify acceptable forms of identification for the opening of credit card accounts. **Pages S5361–62**

Sanders Amendment No. 1062 (to Amendment No. 1058), to establish a national consumer credit usury rate. **Pages S5362–64**

Gillibrand Amendment No. 1084 (to Amendment No. 1058), to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require reporting agencies to provide free credit reports in the native language of certain non-English speaking consumers. **Pages S5364–65**

Hayes Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of David J. Hayes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and that there be one hour of debate equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees; provided further, that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon. **Pages S5395–96**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Michelle DePass, of New York, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dallas P. Tonsager, of South Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development. (Prior to this action, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration.)

Krysta Harden, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. (Prior to this action, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration.)

Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

Rajiv J. Shah, of Washington, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. (Prior to this action, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration.)

Pearlie S. Reed, of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. (Prior to this action, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration.)

Page S5396, S5393–94

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

William J. Wilkins, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Christine M. Griffin, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

Jeffrey D. Zients, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

33 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

23 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Page S5396

Messages From the House: **Page S5371**

Measures Referred: **Page S5371**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5371**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5372–73**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5373–79**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5369–71**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5379–93**

Authorities for Committees To Meet: **Page S5393**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—188) **Page S5360**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:36 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's RECORD on page S5395.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ARMY BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Army, after receiving testimony from Pete Geren, Secretary, and General George W. Casey, Jr., Chief of Staff, both of the United States Army, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs approved for full Committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009.

ARMY AND AIR FORCE BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Army and Air Force, after receiving testimony from Joseph F. Calcara, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations and Housing, Louis Jerome Hansen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Infrastructure and Senior Official Performing Duties of Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Brigadier General James C. Boozer, Sr., Director of Operations, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Major General Raymond W. Carpenter, Acting Deputy Director of the Army National Guard, Brigadier General Julia A. Kraus, Deputy Chief, United States Army Reserve and Deputy Commander for Management, Resources and Support, all of the United States Army, and Kathleen Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations, Brigadier General Joseph L. Lengyel, Deputy Director, Air National Guard, and Brigadier General Howard N. Thompson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Force Reserve, all of the United States Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Andrew Charles Weber, of Virginia, to be Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, who was introduced by Senator Lugar, Paul N. Stockton, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, who was introduced by Representative Farr, Thomas R. Lamont, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, who was introduced by Senator Durbin, and Charles A. Blanchard, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force, who was introduced by Senator McCain, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in the own behalf.

PETROLEUM AND HEATING OIL RESERVE

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 967, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to create a petroleum product reserve, and S. 283, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify the conditions for the release of products from the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve Account, after receiving testimony from David F. Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of for Petroleum Reserves, and John D. Shages, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Petroleum Reserves, both of the Department of Energy; Frank Rusco, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Kevin Book, Clear View Energy Partners, LLC, Washington, DC; and Didier Houssin, International Energy Agency, Paris, France.

EPA BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Peter Silva Silva, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, and Stephen Alan Owens, of Arizona, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Jo-Ellen Darcy, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, who was introduced by Senator Baucus, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine financing comprehensive health care reform, after receiving testimony from Edward Kleinbard, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation, United States Congress; Joseph R. Antos, American Enterprise Institute, Leonard E. Burman, Tax Policy Center, Robert Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Michael F. Jacobson, Center for Science in the Public Interest, James A. Klein, American Benefits Council, Gerald Shea, AFL–CIO, and Steven E. Wojcik, National Business Group on Health, all of Washington, DC; Katherine Baicker, Harvard School of Public Health, and Jonathan Gruber, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both of Cambridge, MA; Stuart H. Altman, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA; John Sheils, Lewin Group, Falls Church, VA; and Gail R. Wilensky, Project HOPE, Bethesda, MD.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Neal S. Wolin, of Illinois, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported nominations of Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, and Susan Flood Burk, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for nuclear non-proliferation.

PAKISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States strategy toward Pakistan, after receiving testimony from Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Cass R. Sunstein, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Klobuchar, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Department of Homeland Security,

after receiving testimony from Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security.

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine helping State and local law enforcement, after receiving testimony from Thomas Perrelli, Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice; Chief Edward A. Flynn, Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee, WI; Lieutenant Kristian Carlson, Burlington Police Department, Burlington, VT; and David B. Muhlhausen, Heritage Foundation Center for Data Analysis, Washington, DC.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Gerard E. Lynch, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Gillibrand, and Mary L. Smith, of Illinois, to be Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Roger W. Baker, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, William A. Gunn, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Jose D. Riojas, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness, and John U. Sepulveda, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 2343–2345, 2347–2377; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res.123–124; and H. Res. 424–426, 428–431 were introduced. **Pages H5483–85**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5485–86**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2101, to promote reform and independence in the oversight of weapons system acquisition by the Department of Defense, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–101);

H.R. 2020, to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–102);

H.R. 31, to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–103);

H.R. 1385, to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–104);

H.R. 2346, making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009 (H. Rept. 111–105); and

H. Res. 427, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities (H. Rept. 111–106). **Page H5483**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Costa to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H5407**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:50 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H5409**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009: H. Res. 413, to support the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 244; **Pages H5411–13, H5446**

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week: H. Res. 387, to support the goals and ideals of National Hurricane Preparedness Week; **Pages H5413–14**

Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009: H.R. 2020,

amended, to amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 to authorize activities for support of networking and information technology research; **Pages H5414–18**

Recognizing National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2009: **H. Res. 192, to recognize National Nurses Week on May 6 through May 12, 2009;** **Pages H5418–20**

Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2009: H.R. 23, amended, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; **Pages H5422–28**

Directing the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes: H.R. 1178, amended, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions; **Pages H5428–30**

Commending the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota: H. Res. 415, to commend the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota and Minnesota; **Pages H5430–33**

Expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as "National Healthy Schools Day": H. Res. 370, amended, to express support for designation of April 27, 2009, as "National Healthy Schools Day"; **Pages H5433–34**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.". **Page H5434**

Celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day: H. Res. 388, to celebrate the role of mothers in the United States and to support the goals and ideals of Mother's Day; **Pages H5436–37**

Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain: H. Res. 378, to recognize the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 339 yeas to 64 nays with 6 voting "present", Roll No. 245; and **Pages H5439–40, H5447**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU): H. Res. 171, amended to express the sense of the House of Representatives on the need for constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the importance of sustained United States engagement in partnership with the European Union (EU). **Pages H5440–43**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H5443**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Congratulating the American Dental Association for its 150th year: H. Res. 204, to congratulate the American Dental Association for its 150th year of working to improve the public's oral health and promoting dentistry, supporting initiatives to improve access to oral health care services for all Americans, and emphasizing the benefits of prevention of disease through support of community prevention initiatives and promotion of good oral hygiene; **Pages H5420–22**

Supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month: H. Con. Res. 84, to support the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; and **Pages H5434–36**

Herbert A Littleton Postal Station Designation Act: H.R. 2162, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, ID, as the "Herbert A Littleton Postal Station". **Pages H5437–39**

Authorizing and directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach Samuel B. Kent, a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas: The House agreed to discharge and agree to H. Res. 424, to authorize and direct the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire whether the House should impeach Samuel B. Kent, a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages H5444–45**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 425, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 182 nays with 15 voting "present", Roll No. 243. **Pages H5445–46**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the Reverend Robert Cornell, former Member of Congress. **Pages H5446–47**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the Analytical Perspectives, Historical Tables, and Updated Summary Tables of his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–3). **Pages H5410–11**

Amendments: Amendments ordered printed pursuant to the rule appear on pages H5486–87.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5445–46, H5446, H5447. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Terrence Salt, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Civil Works; LTG Robert Van Antwerp, USA, Chief of Engineers; MG Merdith Temple, USA, Deputy Commanding General, Civil and Emergency; and Gary Loew, Chief, Programs Integration Division.

GSA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services, General Government, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the GSA. Testimony was heard from Paul F. Prouty, Administrator, GSA.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on the Secretary of Homeland Security. Testimony was heard from Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security.

FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Gail Kimbell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, USDA.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Secretary of Labor. Testimony was heard from Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor.

The Subcommittee also continued appropriation hearings. Testimony was heard from Members of Congress.

U.S. COMPETITIVENESS—HIGH SCHOOL REFORM

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on American's Competitiveness through High School Reform. Testimony was heard from Representatives Castle, Fattah, Grijalva, and Roe of Tennessee; and public witnesses.

CONSUMER CREDIT PROTECTION; MERCURY POLLUTION REDUCTION ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection held a hearing on the following: Consumer Credit Protection Improvement Act and H.R. 2190, Mercury Pollution Reduction Act. Testimony was heard from Eileen Harrington, Acting Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC; and public witnesses.

MEDICAL DEVICE SAFETY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 1346, Medical Device Safety Act of 2009. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

21ST CENTURY GREEN HIGH-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a structured rule. The rule provides one hour of general debate on H.R., 2187, the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee

of the Whole. All points of order against the amendments except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI are waived. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard by Chairman George Miller (CA) and Representatives Titus, Rose (TN), Foxx, and Kirk.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the Department of Labor, 9:45 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10:30 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget request for fiscal year 2010 for the Department of Homeland Security, 2 p.m., SD–192.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine manufacturing and the credit crisis, 10:30 a.m., SD–538.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter M. Rogoff, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator, Department of Transportation, Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Raphael William Bostic, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Sandra Brooks Henriquez, of Massachusetts, to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, and Mercedes Marquez, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Michael S. Barr, of Michigan, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions, 2 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine tourism in troubled times, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), focusing on perspectives of aviation stakeholders, 2:15 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Philip J. Crowley, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, and Judith A. McHale, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, both of the Department of State, 9 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Benjamin, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, and Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Subcommittee on African Affairs, with the Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's Issues, to hold joint hearings to examine confronting rape and other forms of violence against women in conflict zones, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider any pending nominations, time to be announced, room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, focusing on preserving school choice for all, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, and Marisa J. Demeo, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and David Heyman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine torture and the Office of Legal Counsel in the Bush Administration, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine problems for military and overseas voters, focusing on why many soldiers and their families cannot vote, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine small business financing, focusing on a progress report on Recovery Act implementation and alternative sources of financing, 2:15 p.m., SR–428A.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Agriculture, 2 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Veterans Affairs, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, on State Department, 9:30 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of Energy national security programs, 2 p.m., 2112 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''The Role of NeighborWorks and Housing Counseling Intermediaries in Preventing Foreclosures,'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''Implications of the G–20 Leaders Summit for Low Income Countries and the Global Economy,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on Building Capacity to Protect U.S. National Security: The Fiscal Year 2010 International Affairs Budget, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''The President's FY 2010 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security,'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, to consider the following: pending Committee business, including a resolution expanding the responsibilities of the impeachment task force to conduct an inquiry into whether U.S. District Judge Samuel B. Kent should be impeached; and to mark up the following bills: H.R. 848, Performance Rights Act; the Webster Settlement Act of 2009; H.R. 1741 , Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009; and H.R. 2247, Congressional Review Act Improvement Act, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the National Research Council's publication ''Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward,'' 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1916, Migratory Bird Habitat Investment and Enhancement Act; H.R. 2062, Migratory Bird Treaty Act Penalty and Enforcement Act of 2009; and H.R. 2188, Joint Ventures for Bird Habitat Conservation Act of 2009, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, hearing on AIG: Where is the Taxpayer's Money Going? 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 2346, Making Supplemental Appropriations for the Fiscal Year ending September 30 2009, and for other purposes, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, to mark up the National Climate Service Act of 2009, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled ''The Role of Small Business Suppliers and Manufacturers in the Domestic Auto Industry,'' 10 a.m., and to mark up H.R. 2352, Job Creation through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on the Economic Viability of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, (CRAF) Program, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Requests of the Coast Guard, Maritime Administration, and the Federal Maritime Commission, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, hearing on Innovative Technologies and Treatments Helping Veterans, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Intelligence Community Diversity Report, 4 p.m., 304 HVC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of David J. Hayes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and after a period of debate, vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. for the Democratic party conference.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 1209—Medal of Honor Commemorative Coin Act of 2009; (2) H.R. 347—To grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; (3) H. Res. 377—Recognizing Armed Forces Day and the exemplary service of the members of the United States Armed Forces; and (4) H.R. 2101—Weapons Acquisition System Reform Through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act of 2009. Consideration of H.R. 2187—21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (Subject to a Rule).

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