

This amendment would bring the International Whaling Commission into line with other international fora, such as the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

It also would signal a shift in our approach to ending commercial whaling in all its forms at the IWC. Under the last Administration the U.S. Commissioner sought to negotiate an agreement that would legitimize commercial whaling and allow the continuation of so-called scientific whaling. This policy direction was very clearly at odds with the wishes of the American people, past Administrations, and numerous Members of Congress. Further, while we all want to reduce the number of whales killed, unfortunately the proposed agreement would not have achieved this goal.

Last year at this time, the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 350, which, among other things, urged U.S. leadership to use all appropriate measures to put an end to all forms of commercial whaling around the globe.

In the first days of the Obama Presidency, I urged him to ensure that the Bush Administration's flawed policies and negotiation tactics become a thing of the past. Just last month, 34 of my colleagues joined me in calling upon the Obama Administration to modernize the IWC and bring it in line with other international conservation treaties.

This bill is the first step in that direction. It is time to set new goals for protecting whales with an explicit commitment to the accountability and transparency that were lost during the last eight years.

In her public statement issued prior to this year's Intercessional Meeting of the IWC, Council on Environmental Quality Chair Nancy Sutley confirmed that the Obama Administration views the commercial whaling moratorium as a necessary conservation measure and believes that lethal scientific whaling is unnecessary for modern whale conservation management.

In that spirit, it's time for a new direction for the IWC, with a new policy and a new agreement to end commercial and so-called scientific whaling. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration, and this bill will ensure that the next U.S. Commissioner, who will be appointed this year, will be an employee of their Administration, fully in step with their new approach and commitment to opposing the resumption of commercial whaling.

As the 61st Annual Meeting of the IWC convenes next week in Madeira, Portugal, I again urge the Obama Administration to take the necessary steps to repair the damage done in recent years and to reestablish our nation's longstanding commitment to protecting whales.

As a symbol of that new day, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING SARAH YANG, MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL HISTORY DAY REPRESENTATIVE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Sarah Yang of Ramsey, Minnesota. Sarah is serving as the Minnesota

representative for the National History Day competition and it is my honor to call attention to the hard work and dedicated effort she has put into her project.

Since October, Sarah has been researching information on Xang Vang, a Hmong community advocate in Minnesota, in concert with the competition theme of, "The Individual in History: Action and Legacies." She was first selected as a winner from Anoka High School and then selected among 30,000 students from Minnesota. Her project, "Restoring Roots: Xang Vang & the Regeneration of Minnesota's Hmong Economy" has culminated in a website that chronicles the life and work of Vang.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Yang and all the students who have participated in National History Day. We're often told, "We can't know where we're going until we know where we've been." Sarah is just one representative of thousands of students who have taken ambitious strides to learn the history that will guide them to a bright and successful future. Congratulations to Sarah for making it this far and I hope we will continue to see more students taking part in National History Day every year.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Mollohan Amendment, which increases funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) by \$100 million.

Each year, American taxpayers spend over \$36 billion to provide health care, education, and incarceration to illegal immigrants. In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that states spend more than \$1.7 billion each year alone to incarcerate criminal aliens. Unfortunately, Congress has only reimbursed about 20 percent of these local expenditures over the years through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program. The difference between actual expenditures and the SCAAP reimbursement level is particularly dramatic for my home state of California, which has the largest number of incarcerated illegal criminal aliens of any state in the nation. This year, the cost to California alone is estimated to be \$1 billion.

This year, the Administration proposed to terminate SCAAP by requesting no funding for this important program for Fiscal Year 2010. At a time when states, especially California, are experiencing unprecedented budget challenges, it is irresponsible for the Administration to terminate this program and place the costly burden of our nation's failed immigration policies on state governments. We cannot afford

to eliminate or reduce this vital program, which already falls far short of what states and local governments actually spend to incarcerate illegal criminal aliens.

Although I am pleased that House appropriators went against the will of the Administration by including \$300 million for SCAAP in H.R. 2847, the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, this is still a far cry from acceptable. My colleagues and I have offered an amendment to increase SCAAP funding by \$100 million, which will fund the program at a grand total of \$400 million for Fiscal Year 2010, which is equal to last year's funding.

If Congress fails to increase funding for SCAAP, states will be forced to cut many of our local law enforcement agencies including sheriffs, police officers, anti-gang violence units, and district attorney offices. Taxpayers should not be burdened with funding the incarceration of criminal aliens who, by law, are the responsibility of the federal government. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment and provide the resources necessary to our state and local governments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 340 through 350. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each. Thank you.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JUDY BARNES AS CEO OF THE HOME BUILDING ASSOCIATION OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions to honor my good friend, Judy Barnes, who retires as Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Rapids Home and Building Association, HBA, of Grand Rapids on June 30, 2009. Judy has been energetic and optimistic in her duties at the Association, where she has served as CEO for 25 years.

Judy's great attitude and outlook on life helped her successfully lead the homebuilding industry in Grand Rapids through good times and bad. When she took over as CEO in 1984, she helped grow the relatively small group to one of the largest HBAs in the nation through her solid work ethic and passion. Her professionalism and leadership skills garnered the respect of her constituency and the community, as she spoke on behalf of the HBA throughout the years.

The Parade of Homes is an annual tradition for the Grand Rapids area, and for Judy Barnes. She played a key role in planning this fantastic event each year, and helped expand the number of homes in the event to over 250 at its peak. While the downturn in the homebuilding industry has reduced the number of

homes in the Parade recently, it is still a great event that visitors have thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to Judy's hard work.

Even as the housing industry fell upon difficult times, Judy never lost her optimism, and showed compassion as people lost homes to foreclosure, and as builders had difficulty staying in business. In an interview with the Grand Rapids Press, Judy said, "The [homebuilding] industry will rebound. . . . I know it will be great again."

I wish Judy, and her husband Stan, the best of everything as they enter a new chapter in their lives. Judy has the wishes and blessings of many, many people who are grateful for her hard work and dedication, and also appreciate her contagious laughter and smile. Her hard work and personality will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE PAUL A. FINO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker:

Judge Paul A. Fino, on June 16th, 2009, at the age of 95. Devoted husband of 70 years to Esther C. Fino. Beloved and dedicated father of Lucille A. DiMuro (Peter DiMuro) of Menlo Park, California and Paul A. Fino, Jr. (Kathleen Fino) of Bronxville, New York. Judge Fino was the proud grandfather of 3 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Judge Fino dedicated the majority of his life to public service. From 1943-1944 Assistant Attorney General of the State of New York (Bureau Chief of the Criminal Division of the Education Bureau); 1945-1950 New York State Senator (Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Affairs of the City of New York); 1950-1952 Commissioner for the Municipal Civil Service Commission; 1953-1968 United States Congressman (Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Member of the House Banking & Currency Committee, Member of the Joint Committee on Defense Production; 1961-1968 Chairman of the Bronx Republican County Committee (County Leader), 1969-1972 Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York (First Department), 1973-1975 member of the law firm of Fino & Fino, PC.

During his lifetime Judge Fino was a member of The Knights of Columbus (Wakefield Council 2922), BPO Elks, USA (New Rochelle Lodge 756), U.S. Assoc. of Former Members of Congress (Life Member), Locust Point Yacht Club, Bronx County Bar Association, Royal Arcanum (Claremont Council), The American Justinian Society of Jurists, Association of Justices of the State Supreme Court, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, PEF Retirees, American Association of Retired Persons, Supreme Court Justices of the City of New York, Civil Service Employees Association, Order of Ahepa (Bronx Chapter No. 175), Retired Public Employees Association. Judge Fino was also the author of "My Life in Politics and Public Service," published in 1986.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUAL FATHER'S DAY "REAL MEN COOK"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Father's Day Real Men Cook, which takes place simultaneously in 10 leading cities throughout the nation, in the Bahamas, on the continent of Africa, in London and Paris, and of course in my Congressional District in Harlem, New York.

Founded by Kofi and Yvette Jackson Moyo in 1990, Real Men Cook has become the largest family celebration in the country, presented annually on Father's Day. Real Men Cook includes average dads and father figures, leading celebrities and elected officials, like Eddie and Gerald Levert, and Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League, and I have cooked, served and hosted Real Men Cook events. President Barack Obama as a United States Senator is among the thousands of men who have rolled up their sleeves and donned a Real Men Cook bandana, apron or chef's hat to make a difference and change the way Father's Day is celebrated for the benefit of others.

Today, Real Men Cook is the leading urban Father's Day experience. It is a food tasting family celebration featuring men volunteering to cook for and serve in their communities. Proceeds from ticket sales are enjoyed by partnering non-profit organizations throughout the ten cities. I am pleased to announce that the Real Men Cook event in my Congressional District will take place in the plaza of our historic Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Harlem State Office Building, featuring Iron Chef Dizzar and other renowned Harlem culinary artists. The proceeds raised from this event will benefit Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc.'s Computer Clubhouse for children ages 10 to 18, the New York City Mission Society and Real Men Cook Charities.

Madam Speaker, let me also thank and recognize our sponsors Mr. Willie Walker and the New York State Office of General Services; Lucile McEwen, President and CEO, HCCI; Affinity Health Plus; TD Bank; MACY's; and WBLs for continuing to make a difference for all of my constituents, especially our children and families struggling during these tough economic times.

Happy Father's Day to all of the participating fathers for giving up Father's Day pampering to make a difference, not only in my district, but throughout this nation and the world.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO PLACE A MARKER IN EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE ROLE THAT SLAVE LABOR PLAYED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 135, directing the Architect of the Capitol to place a marker in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center which acknowledges the role that slave labor played in the construction of the United States Capitol. I commend my colleague, and fellow Congressional Black Caucus member JOHN LEWIS, for acknowledging the importance of this measure and presenting it before the House.

I feel strongly that the history of the African-American struggle must be taught and celebrated, even as we plan for our future. African-Americans performed the backbreaking work of quarrying the marble which surrounds us. Until recently, the history books failed to recognize that slaves provided many of the laborious construction tasks, such as masonry, carting, roofing, plastering, glazing, and sawing—which involved slaves stationed in pits from where, with a partner above ground, they would use a whipsaw to cut logs rolled over the pit. Labor wasn't solely for the adult males—slave women and children were used to mold clay in kilns.

In an article from the Associated Press, Sarah Jean Davidson, founder of the Association for the Preservation of North Little Rock, Arkansas African American History mentioned an important connection that this new marker affords. "We can say our ancestors helped build the Capitol so when we look at it, it's not 'your building, the majority', it's our building . . . It will be a connection not just for African-Americans, but for immigrants who come from all around the country. . . . Once they start feeling connected, then we are one," she said. In addition, the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center was named Emancipation Hall specifically to acknowledge the work of the slave laborers who built the Capitol and this marker provides a source for interested parties to learn about our history.

Madam Speaker, this measure is particularly important as it commemorates an under-appreciated aspect of America's history and I'm pleased to add my voice in support for this resolution. I will work diligently with my colleagues to ensure that this marker is created and maintains the ability to educate those who come in contact with it. This is a significant step in raising the profile and awareness of how African-American history is intertwined with the federal legislative body and I hope that this measure passes unanimously.