

deadly for our brave troops and for the Afghan people.

It is unacceptable to fund a more permanent presence in Afghanistan in a bill that gives our veterans services they need. Our veterans deserve more than we could ever repay. I must support this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO M. POPE BARROW,  
JR., FOR 40 YEARS OF PUBLIC  
SERVICE

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual, M. Pope Barrow, Jr., who is leaving the House after 40 extraordinary years of public service. It is the rare individual who commits himself to such selfless work and Pope has done so with great distinction.

Pope Barrow was appointed to the Office of Legislative Counsel of the House in 1968 and has served under eight successive Speakers. During this time, he has served as the Legislative Counsel for 12 years and Deputy Legislative Counsel for 4 years. Over the years, he has been involved in drafting practically every major piece of energy and environmental legislation passed by the House of Representatives. As a result, he has been instrumental in the creation of the Clean Air Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and omnibus energy bills too numerous to mention.

Pope has worked extensively on legislation addressing public land law, mining law, as well as measures focused on parks, trails, and wild and scenic rivers. He also played a major role in writing the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, which was shepherded through the House by Phil Burton and the Alaska Lands Act working with Mo Udall and John Seiberling. Pope also played a major role in drafting the California Desert Protection Act, which created the Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and the East Mojave Preserve in my own congressional district.

It's worth noting that at a time of increased partisanship in the House, Pope Barrow has provided a consistently steady hand in maintaining the professional, non-partisan nature of the Office of the Legislative Counsel. It is also my understanding that he has literally transformed the Office of the Legislative Counsel through personnel additions and technological innovations to meet the incredible increased demands placed upon the office.

Beyond his professional legislative work, Pope is an avid outdoorsman who has literally kayaked and sailed the world. I am told that he has kayaked rivers in Chile, Canada, Alaska, California, Washington, Idaho, West Virginia, New York, Maine, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and many other locations, including hundreds of times running Great Falls in Virginia. He has also sailed the entire East Coast up to Nova Scotia and down to Key West, the San Juan Islands, San Francisco Bay, the Bahamas and Virgin Islands, the Windward Islands, the Leeward Islands, from St. Martin to Bermuda, off the coast of Croatia and Italy, and across the Atlantic Ocean from Martinique to Portugal. It is re-

ported that these sailing adventures were not entirely without incident. During one such adventure in the 1970s Pope and his dad lost one boat at sea off the coast of Florida and floated to shore in a bad storm. He has apparently been paying more attention to marine weather forecasts since that time.

Most importantly, Madam Speaker, Pope Barrow is a gentleman who dearly loves his three children and genuinely cares about the people with whom he works and the institution of Congress that he has called home over the last 40 years. Over the years, he has been a mentor to many and an inspiration to all of us who have had the pleasure of working with him. I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Pope for his commitment to meeting the needs of Members and staff and for his tireless service to the House. We all wish him calm seas and a steady breeze at his back as he begins the next chapter in his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, July 9th and Friday, July 10th, 2009, due to unavoidable circumstances, I missed the following votes: rollcall No. 520, making appropriations for the Agricultural, Rural Development, Food & Drug Administration and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year 2010; rollcall No. 525, making appropriation for the Department of State, foreign operations and related programs for fiscal year 2010; and rollcall No. 529, making appropriations for military construction, Department of Veterans Affairs and related agencies for fiscal year 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the aforementioned votes.

AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 8, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2997) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2010, and commend Chairwoman DELAURO and the subcommittee for their hard work in crafting this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

This bill will increase funding to many important programs that American families rely on for their health and well-being, especially dur-

ing these challenging economic times. For example, the bill will provide \$61.4 billion in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps), an increase of 15 percent above the funding currently available. With family incomes falling and unemployment rising, these funds are needed more than ever to enable low-income families to purchase food.

In addition, the bill provides \$16.8 billion in funding for child nutrition programs, an increase of 12 percent above the funding currently available, and \$7.5 billion for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program, a 10 percent increase above the currently available funding. These funds will enable children all over America to receive nutritious school lunches and breakfasts, and provide food packages containing nutritional supplements to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women who are nutritionally at risk because they lack the income to provide adequate nutrition.

The bill also includes \$180 million, 11 percent more than provided in the prior fiscal year, for the Commodity Supplement Food Program, to provide nutritious food to over a half million low-income women, infants, children, and elderly citizens struggling to make ends meet. The bill will expand this assistance beyond the 32 states currently receiving it, to six new states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, Delaware, Utah, Georgia and my home state of New Jersey. The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the Farmers Market Nutrition Program also receive substantial funding: \$50 million and \$20 million respectively.

And the bill contains substantial funding for international food assistance, including \$1.7 billion for the Food for Peace Program, 13 percent more than currently provided, and \$200 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, to provide food security and education and developmental support for the world's neediest children.

And I am particularly pleased that this bill includes the full amount of funding for most of the organic programs I had requested funding for. For example, it includes \$5 million for the Organic Transitions Research program, to facilitate the ability of farmers to convert to organic methods of production, \$20 million for the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, and \$5 million each for the Community Food Projects and Hunger Free Communities programs, to facilitate the development of community gardens, community supported agriculture projects, farmers markets, and similar community food security projects.

Especially, I am also pleased that my amendment to the bill to protect and strengthen the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) organic standards was included in the Manager's Amendment to the bill on the floor today. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the USDA Inspector General has the resources it needs to complete a thorough investigation, already underway, into whether or not current inspectors are ensuring that the most rigorous standards for certification are honored when determining if a product may bear the "USDA Organic" label. In addition, the Inspector General needs sufficient resources to investigate whether or not non-organic substances inappropriately remain allowed in small amounts in USDA certified products after organic alternatives have been