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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 (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 14, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO 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.

CARGO SCREENING SOLUTION

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, last week marked the eighth anniversary of 9/11. Congress should honor the memory of that tragedy by solidifying its homeland security agenda. That means taking the right steps to keep the Nation safe, free and prosperous. At the same time, Congress should resist initiatives that do not actually improve security and impair international trade.

The international maritime community has long voiced their concerns with the blanket application of the 9/11 law mandating 100 percent scanning of all U.S.-bound containers from more than 700 ports around the world. The countries that have raised concern include United States allies such as the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Singapore.

H.R. 1, implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, called the public's attention to issues of supply chain security and the potential threats faced by this Nation and all of those with a stake in this supply chain.

One hundred percent container scanning as a security tool may seem like an appealing way to ensure container security, but it is fraught with various operational and technical challenges. In addition, it provides a false sense of security, as the effectiveness of the analysts become degraded, given that there will be information overload and desensitization of the analysts.

Requiring 100 percent scanning of all in-bound sea containers, more than 11 million containers annually, may be well-intentioned, but it is not feasible, given the current technology. A 100 percent scanning requirement could simply strangle commerce, have a significantly damaging impact on American manufacturing and cost a lot of jobs.

The international flow of containers will also be slowed as a result of the severe bottleneck in busy ports. Similarly, U.S. ports such as Long Beach, New Jersey and Los Angeles will have their congestion problems exacerbated if the international maritime community makes similar reciprocal demands on the United States.

One other important point: The backup in cargo traffic caused by 100 percent scanning could inadvertently cause a higher security risk. Major delays in inspecting and processing containers would put the cargo in greater risk of tampering at the docks. 100 percent scanning will also bring about huge costs to port operators, shippers and ocean carriers. Costs incurred through such a requirement will eventually filter down to the very constituents that we are trying to protect. This will be essentially hurtful as consumers deal with rising prices and a weak economy.

U.S. manufacturers, large and small, have a substantial interest and concern regarding the security of our Nation's ports and the safe transport of their products. This legislation would levy counterproductive Federal mandates on industry, unnecessarily increase costs, cause massive delays and disruptions in the global supply chain and ultimately cost American jobs.

More can and should be done to secure our borders and supply chains against terrorist activities. H.R. 1, however, will impose additional cost burdens on the United States economy, both small and large, with the establishment of cargo security inspection protocols that rely simply on unproven technologies and that do not ensure security improvements that are commensurate with the expenses that would be incurred to implement these programs. This legislation will add uncertainty and costs to the international supply chain, severely impacting the flow of legitimate trade, but with little demonstrative improvement in security.

My colleagues, there is an alternative approach which has broader international consensus, and that is a risk-based approach, coupled with the concept of total supply security along the chain. Such an approach, where all stakeholders in the supply chain undertake security measures to protect their cargo, is less duplicative and more holistic. A layered, risk-based, targeted approach to cargo security, rather than a one-size-fits-all, such as in H.R. 1, will provide more effective security with better utilization of limited resources.

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So, my colleagues, striking the proper balance between security needs and the free flow of legitimate trade will continue to be a challenge that will face all of us into the future. Unfortunately, slowing the international supply chain and adding significant costs by implementing unproven technologies is not consistent with the challenge today.

Congress should rethink cargo screening mandates in H.R. 1 before more time, money and limited resources are wasted by the Department of Homeland Security.

HAVING HONEST, MEANINGFUL DEBATE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate, as always, the chance to address the House.

You know, two days before the President gave his speech here to the joint session last Wednesday, the President was on television, and I watched and typed up his comments, and he talked about the critics of his health care plan, including me as a critic of what I understand his health care plan to be. And the President said these exact words.

He said, ''You have heard the lies. I have got a question for all those folks. What are you going to do? What's your answer? What's your solution? And, you know what? They don't have one.''

That is simply not true. It is so difficult to try to have a meaningful debate over a bill, and even as I have, take H.R. 3200, the bill we have been given, and read directly out loud from that bill to show what it actually says, and then have the President of the United States call critics of the bill liars. We are lying. You have heard our lies.

He keeps talking about ''his plan,'' ''his bill,'' ''this plan,'' ''this bill.'' Then he came over as a guest here in the Chamber. Now, some people don't understand why the President speaks from the lower podium rather than the upper podium. It is because this is the People's House. He is an invited guest into this House, and that is why he is at the lower podium.

We were given just excerpts just minutes before the speech started, and that came by Blackberry, by e-mail, because we were told there was simply not time to get us a copy of the speech, as has always been done in a joint session any time I have been here in the last 4½ years, and I am told that has been the tradition. It is not a right, so nobody made demands. But imagine our surprise when we look up here in the gallery and see that every reporter appeared to have an entire transcript that they looked through as they went through his bill.

But I kept seeing in the transcript of the brief excerpts we were given the President referring to ''the plan,'' ''this plan,'' ''our plan,'' ''this bill,'' and again ''this plan,'' without telling us what bill he is talking about if it is not H.R. 3200.

How do you have debate on a bill that is not the one before you? And there was debate all the next day among people. Is he embracing H.R. 3200? Some thought he was. Some thought he wasn't. Well, what bill? He says he is going to call us out if we misrepresent ''his bill.''

Tell us. Madam Speaker, we need to be told what the bill is before we can be called out as misrepresenting it. I would try read from the bill, if you would tell us what it is.

He also said in that speech, and I will read from the excerpt we were given, he said, ''If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I will be there to listen. My door is always open.''

Well, I talked to my congressional friend TOM PRICE, who says he has been trying week after week to get to come talk to the President about his serious proposal. He has got a great one. I have a proposal. We have called over. And I am not going to call the President a liar, because I believe he knows his door is open. The problem is there are these massive gates and heavily armed guards between us and that open door that he says that is open to us.

Anyway, we had the Speaker of the House previously this year say the CIA lied. Now, of course, we have had the President say that we have spread lies. And they both used that ''L'' word.

We have been told that abortion is not covered, and everybody should know, especially people brilliant like the President, if it is not specifically excluded, it is included.

The President told the CIA they were not going to be pursued over the interrogations, that he had their back. I am not going to say he lied, because he didn't say whether he was going to stab it or protect it.

But it is time for the President and our leadership over here to quit using the ''L'' word, because that ''L'' word goes down in our well, and as my late mother used to say, Madam Speaker, what is in the well will come up in the bucket.

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 42 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 by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LARSEN of Washington) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal Father, strong to save, You are ever faithful in Your love and concern for us all. In turn, You ask us to be faithful, listening to Your word and taking it to heart.

You require us to be faithful to our commitments, to Your commandments, to each other and those we serve in Your holy name.

Forgive our faults and failures. Help us to learn from our mistakes. May we recognize personal shortcomings so to make us all the more understanding of others.

May Your forgiveness free us to live a new life and be more forgiving. Thus may Your compassion for the poor, the weak and the alienated, Lord, guide us now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GOHMERT 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.

HEALTH CARE REFORM FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, in his recent speech to the House and Senate, President Obama stated that leaving Americans without health insurance is wrong and ''should not happen in the United States of America.''

I could not agree more strongly with our President. When it is accessible and affordable, health care ensures high quality of life, helps families, and saves life.

In my home, the Northern Mariana Islands, our health care system is sorely in need of improvement. But the current health care bills being debated in the House and Senate exclude the U.S. territories from the exchange and affordability credits, denying the men, women, and children living there the benefits their fellow citizens will enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, to quote our President, this is wrong, and it should not happen in the United States of America.

I ask for the support of my colleagues in bringing health care reform

to all Americans, including those in the territories.

CONCERNS WITH GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE PLAN

(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. Mr. Speaker, during the August recess, I was honored to host the largest congressional townhalls in the history of South Carolina: 1,700 people in Columbia; 1,500 in Lexington; 1,500 in Beaufort; and 1,200 in Hilton Head. During my 25 years of serving the public in the State Senate and Congress, I have not seen such passionate events full of patriots, 95 percent of whom support health insurance reform, but not a government takeover.

I presented my concerns in a handout with a government-run health care plan: $1.6 trillion in costs, 100 million people losing their current coverage, $818 billion in taxes, 1.6 million jobs lost, according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and rationing of care.

I presented a better way, the Empowering Patients First Act, introduced by the Republican Study Committee led by Dr. Tom Price. It provides for portability, keeping current coverage, tax incentives to purchase insurance, lower costs through competition, and bars government-funded abortions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the Global War on Terrorism.

IT'S TIME FOR US TO TALK ABOUT HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I have got some news here. It says as of September 10, 11:23 a.m., reported by The Hill, Speaker NANCY PELOSI said, Democrats should cease efforts to sanction Representative JOE WILSON. It goes on to quote her and says, It's time for us to talk about health care, not JOE WILSON.

But Democratic leaders, it goes on to say, were looking into what formal action the House might take against WILSON, and then, But PELOSI dismissed that idea as well as a call for WILSON to apologize on the floor.

I am on to health care reform. I am not going to discuss JOE WILSON, she said. I think his actions spoke for itself. He has apologized. He will figure out what is appropriate for him to do.

And I am really confused. What do you call it when somebody says something that they are going to do, and then they don't do it? What is that statement?

AMERICANS' TRUST IN MEDIA REACHES NEW LOW

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' trust in the media has plummeted to an all-time low, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center. According to Pew, only about a quarter of Americans say that news organizations are not politically biased, less than one-third say the media generally get the facts straight, less than one in five say that the media deals fairly with all sides of the story, and just 29 percent had a favorable opinion of the liberal New York Times, the lowest rating for any international organization in the Pew survey.

Americans have lost faith in the national media. Whether it's health care or other issues, it's up to the media to restore the public's trust by reporting the facts fairly.

APOLOGY ACCEPTED

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to make the point that last Wednesday night during a joint session there was a very brief breach of decorum here by Congressman JOE WILSON, someone who is a true consummate Southern gentleman, an officer and a gentleman.

He immediately called the White House, the White House immediately accepted JOE WILSON's apology, and that must be the end of it. A gentleman that conducted himself as a gentleman immediately in the aftermath, without putting his finger to the political winds, he did the right thing.

No one has a claim to any further redress if the President of the United States accepts an apology, and he did.

So I stand with JOE WILSON. Let's get on with the business of this House, and let's start running this country instead of doing cheap political points, which I expect will be coming to the floor of this House sometime about tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by Speaker pro tempore VAN HOLLEN on Tuesday, August 25, 2009:

H.R. 3325, to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

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.

RECOMMENDING TEACHING CONSTITUTION TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 686) recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 686

Whereas the United States Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States;

Whereas people in the United States of all ages, income levels, and political beliefs fail tests of civic literacy;

Whereas a 1998 survey revealed that more teenagers knew who the ''Fresh Prince of Bel-Air'' was than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, more knew the star of the motion picture ''Titanic'' than who was the vice president of the United States, and more can name the Three Stooges and the 3 American Idol judges than can name the 3 branches of government;

Whereas fewer than half of all people in the United States can name the three branches of the United States Government;

Whereas students at top colleges and universities in the United States scored an average of only 59.4 percent for seniors and 56.6 percent for freshmen on tests of civic literacy;

Whereas people in the United States aged 25 to 34 score an average of 46 percent on a test of civic literacy and people aged 65 and over score the same 46 percent;

Whereas research shows that an increase in civic knowledge, including that of the United States Constitution, almost invariably leads to the beneficial use of that knowledge; and

Whereas research shows that greater civic learning leads to more active citizenship, and people in the United States who fulfill their civic obligations beyond voting are more knowledgeable about their country's history and institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) all high school seniors across the country should spend at least one week learning about the United States Constitution in September of their senior year, as knowledge of this historic document, which constitutes the very foundation of our country, is critical to being an effective citizen; and

(2) upon reaching voting age, high school seniors should engage in civic learning activities on an issue of importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 686 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 686 and thank Mr. GRAYSON, the sponsor of this resolution, for his leadership.

Almost 222 years ago, on Thursday, September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia for the last time to sign the document they created, a living and breathing document that stands as the world's longest surviving written charter government.

This resolution brings attention to the importance of this document by calling for all high school students to learn about the Constitution. Many students today have little exposure to this rich document and its history. And without a basic understanding of the Constitution and the benefits it provides, it is less likely that these same students will vote or engage in active citizenship.

One program that combats this lack of knowledge is, ''We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution.'' The program encourages civic awareness and responsibility in middle school and high school students through hands-on activities. Students discover firsthand how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights impact their everyday lives and participate in simulated congressional hearings. At the national level, students utilize higher-order thinking skills as they demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional theory by defending a historical or contemporary issue.

Programs like ''We the People'' make the Constitution come alive and help students connect what they are learning to contemporary issues and events. This type of learning is important not only for its academic aspects, but also for the way in which it improves our democracy. Learning about the Constitution promotes positive civic attitudes and fosters involvement in our democracy.

This Thursday, September 17, is Constitution Day, because on September 17, 1787, the Constitution was signed and history was made. One way students and teachers can observe this important day and celebrate the legacy of our Founding Fathers is by learning more about the timeless document signed 222 years ago and finding ways to actively participate in our democracy.

I want to express my support for this resolution and encourage young people to learn about how the Constitution affects their everyday lives. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 686, recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year. It has been reported that just over half of all Americans can correctly identify the three branches of government. In fact, a recent poll indicated we have more people in America who can identify The Three Stooges than they can the three branches of government.

More than one in five believe that the three branches of government are the Republican, Democrat and independent branches, and only a small percentage of Americans can identify the role of the judiciary in the Federal Government. Yet, if you ask teenagers to name the three judges on ''American Idol,'' they can rattle off their names immediately.

The word ''civic'' originates from the Latin word ''civis,'' meaning ''citizen.'' At the heart of civic education is the concept that we must understand what it means to be a citizen. The importance of civic education is that without a public informed about their civic duties, the rights and freedoms promised by our constitutional structure may not be realized.

Our young people in future generations must understand that it is our constitutional framework and the freedom and liberty it provides which forms the glue that holds our society together. The Constitution is a blueprint for connecting our large and diverse society in a peaceful coexistence, for the most part.

Passing on an understanding of our country's history and the constitutional framework upon which it was founded is the duty of one generation to the next. As my friend from the Northern Mariana Islands mentioned, September 17, 2009, will mark the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

□ 1415

I think it is appropriate that teachers and parents across the country use this anniversary as an opportunity to discuss the importance of our Constitution and the principles it embodies with all students, but especially high school seniors, who are preparing for the next chapter of their lives, and many of them to vote for the first time.

It is also important to note that when the Founders came together and finally agreed on this Constitution, it was born out of a distrust for government. So they put this document together, and it was a long process. In fact, Benjamin Franklin, after 5 weeks, said, We've been going 5 weeks. We have more noes than ayes. And then he went on to say, Of course, We know that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without God's notice. And, How can an empire rise without his aid?

He went on to say, It's written in the sacred writing that unless the Lord build a house, they labor in vain that build it.

He went on to point out and make a motion that they should begin each day with prayer, just as we have from 1787 until now. But then they went on to finally create a document they could agree on with a House of Representatives. But they were concerned. There was all this debate. One House still wouldn't be strong enough to have all the checks and balances to control a government that might try to run away and take away their liberty.

So they didn't feel good about just one House. They wanted two houses. But they didn't want one House, maybe a House of Lords and a House of Commons, where one is more powerful than the other. They wanted both Houses to be able to completely veto what the other is doing to stop the other House from moving forward with the law.

So they got two Houses, where they could do that. And that wasn't good enough. They said, We need an executive, but we don't want to have this thing where a legislative body then elects one of their own. We want somebody elected outside that, and then he can veto what those two Houses did.

You know, that is still not good enough, because we really don't trust government. Let's have another branch outside that, called the judiciary, and we will give them a veto over laws that are made, too. That way, we can control runaway government.

And it was ferocious argument and debate coming around to this final document that my friend from the Mariana Islands has pointed out has been such a tremendous asset for the history of mankind. And it was so moving that at the conclusion they agreed on the Constitution, they agreed to come forward with a Bill of Rights thereafter, that it's reported that Benjamin Franklin said, as he was recognized at the end, looking at the chair behind President George Washington as he stood there—and, by the way, this massive painting can be seen right outside this House—he said, Mr. President, I have been looking at the half of the sun carved in the back of your chair, wondering throughout this process if that were a rising sun or a setting sun. He said, I now believe that is a rising sun.

I agree with him, and I agree so wholeheartedly with my friend that this is an excellent proposal, a resolution to encourage this kind of thing, to recommend this to the State, not to ram it down anybody's throat; but young people need to know this, especially before they vote, know the three branches as well as the three judges from American Idol.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my colleagues in the House to please support House Resolution 686.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 686, which recommends that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior

year. Understanding the Constitution and fundamentals of the government of the United States is essential to being a contributing member of our society. By recommending that the U.S. Constitution be taught to high school seniors, this measure will help prepare people of voting age to participate in the democratic process.

The state of public awareness and understanding of the U.S. system of government requires action to improve civic education. Americans from all walks of life—rich and poor, young and old, and Republican and Democrat—fail civic literacy tests. Moreover, many institutions of learning of all calibers and at all levels do not adequately prepare students to be knowledgeable citizens. Nearly half of the States do not require that U.S. civics and American history be taught in school. Education is vital to improving the vitality of our democracy.

In Texas, teaching of the constitution is part of our social studies curriculum and 91 percent of our students passed our exit exams in the 2007–2008 school year. This shows an effort on our part to educate our students on the governing doctrine of our great nation and the retention by our students of this information. Instituting such requirements helps develop responsible adults who understand their responsibilities as a citizen of this great nation.

I believe that all citizens need to have a strong understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the institutions of U.S. government. Individuals must understand the basic tenets of our Constitution in order to protect their rights and fully participate in the democratic process. Furthermore, civic Recommending to the States that they teach the United States Constitution as a part of the senior year curriculum will send a clear message that civics is an important part of a high school education. Increasing knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and our government will also lead to increased civic engagement among our students. Teaching the basic tenets of government to those students who will then become voters will increase voter participation rates and create a more active citizenry.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 686, 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.

SUPPORTING HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 737) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 737

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping them attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas there are currently about 268 Hispanic-Serving Institutions in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving their communities;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions contributes to the strength and culture of our Nation;

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions are deserving of national recognition; and

Whereas the week of September 20th would be an appropriate week for such recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the country;

(2) supports the designation of an appropriate week as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week'';

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation designating such week; and

(4) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 737 into the record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 737, which encourages the establishment of the week of September 20 as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week. Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions with full-time equivalent enrollment that are at least 25 percent Hispanic. In 1990, there were only 137 recognized Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Today, there are 268 such institutions, educating more than half of all Hispanic college and university students in the Nation.

Hispanic Americans face multiple obstacles in access and completion of higher education. While Hispanic high-school graduates are more likely than their white peers to go on to college, they are less likely to complete their bachelor's degrees because of issues linked to poverty, immigration, and enrollment status.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions play a crucial role in addressing these issues and obstacles while remaining committed to educating underserved students across the country.

Working to increase enrollment and retention, Hispanic-Serving Institutions have created many innovative programs. At El Camino College in California, their ''First Year Experience'' class has rates 10 to 30 percent higher than the rest of the student body. The program provides a learning community through linked classes and a team of instructors and counselors who work together to increase student success.

At the University of Texas, El Paso, deep relationships with the surrounding K–12 community schools have helped bridge a path for students to obtain a higher education and be prepared for college-level work.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions continue to produce extremely accomplished members of our society. Their alumni include Members of Congress and some of the President's closest advisors in his Cabinet.

Lastly, it is important to note that September is Hispanic Heritage Month. This month celebrates the accomplishments and contributions of Hispanics in the United States while honoring the Hispanic culture in our country. It is appropriate that we include Hispanic-Serving Institutions in this honor.

I thank Representative GRIJALVA for his leadership in bringing this important resolution forward. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution and join me in my commendation of our country's Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 737, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established.

I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, for introducing this resolution. Mr. GRIJALVA recognizes the important role that HSIs play for all postsecondary students, especially minority students.

HSIs and their student body are very diverse. The community of HSIs includes 2-year and 4-year institutions and public and private institutions. In 2007, 46 percent of students enrolled in HSIs were Hispanics, and the remaining 44 percent were a diverse mix of students from various ethnicities and backgrounds. Even with this diversity of the student body, geographical location and population served, the principal missions of all of these institutions is to provide a quality education.

HSIs deserve recognition for the contribution they make to the education community and the Nation. While comprising less than 10 percent of the Nation's institutions of higher education, HSIs educate over two-thirds of Hispanic students enrolled in colleges and universities. Most HSIs do not have access to the resources or endowment income that other institutions can draw

on. However, they are still successful in their effort to provide a high-quality education, often to some of our most disadvantaged students.

We have consistently worked to improve the Nation's support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions. Just last Congress, the Higher Education Opportunity Act, the reauthorization bill for the Higher Education Act, included a provision that created a new program designed to allow these institutions to improve their graduate and professional programs. We also provided more flexibility to HSIs through broadening their uses of Title V funds to include activities like the development of articulation agreements, the development of distance learning technologies, and providing additional financial literacy counseling to students and families.

It is important that we recognize the contributions of HSIs and their graduates by celebrating HSI Week. The number of HSIs increases every year. From 2006 to 2007, 13 new institutions qualified as an HSI. These institutions provide an ever-increasing number of students with a high-quality education and leadership skills for the future, and they deserve recognition for such.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my colleagues to support House Resolution 737.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 737.

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.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 6) recognizing the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 6

Whereas coaches are a vital part of organized youth sports;

Whereas approximately 42 million American children participate in organized sports each year, but more than 20 million children in the United States lack the opportunity to participate in organized sports, in part because of an insufficient number of coaches;

Whereas a national effort to promote coaching is needed to increase the number of adults serving as coaches in youth sports;

Whereas the purpose of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports is to educate Members of Congress, the media, and the public on the need to restore a child-centered focus in youth sports that will produce immeasurable positive benefits for the well-being and character development of children;

Whereas sports and coaches help children fight obesity, increase their self-esteem, learn leadership skills, and discover how to incorporate the values of sports into other aspects of their daily lives;

Whereas youth sports activity can reduce gang participation and youth violence;

Whereas children need adults who will believe in them and who give children the support they need to be a success;

Whereas coaches can positively impact the physical, emotional, and educational life of children;

Whereas coaches who volunteer their time help educate children, serve as role models, and, in some situations, are parental surrogates; and

Whereas the designation of the week of September 13 through 19, 2009, as National Coach Appreciation Week would raise awareness and leverage resources to engage millions of children in organized sports that promote health, nutrition, and fitness, as well as other youth development outcomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Coach Appreciation Week; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Coach Appreciation Week with appropriate recognition, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of sports and coaches in the life of children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 6 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 6, which recognizes the immeasurable contributions coaches make in the lives of children who participate in organized sports. This week, our Nation will honor adults who volunteer their time to coach our Nation's young with National Coaches Appreciation Week.

Approximately 42 million American children participate in organized sports each year. Youth sports, along with coaches, help fight childhood obesity, increase player self-esteem, develop leadership skills, and create opportunities for children to explore their passion. Participation in sports also develops discipline and fosters positive peer bonding, which helps keep students engaged in school. Because of their involvement with sports, many young athletes develop a lifelong commitment to exercise and well-being.

The benefits of sports participation cannot be overstated. High school students who participate in athletics are more likely to have a healthy mind and body.

□ 1430

Specifically, girls who play sports have better grades and are more likely to graduate compared to girls who do not participate in athletic activities. The risk of breast cancer, osteoporosis and obesity are also reduced with as few as 4 hours of exercise a week.

In addition to the many physical benefits of youth sports, coaches help athletes overcome personal challenges. The presence of a coach helps keep students engaged and provides alterative support systems that can help children stay away from mischief.

To acknowledge some of the dedication and hard work our youth sports coaches offer to children, the National Alliance for Youth Sports created a Coach of the Year award. This is a very prestigious national award that is given to an individual who is committed to the development of children. Last year's winner, Clarence McQueen, demonstrated his commitment to children by coaching basketball, baseball and flag football while teaching the benefits of teamwork, trust and hard work.

Today, more than 20 million children in the United States lack the opportunity to participate in organized sports due, in part, to the lack of available coaches. We must continue to encourage adults to volunteer and commit time to youth sports, as this resolution suggests.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to express my support for this resolution, and I thank Representative MCINTYRE for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 6, recognizing the significant contributions that coaches make in the lives of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and the ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week.

Coaches make a lasting impression on America's young people. I bet that almost every Member in this Chamber could name at least one coach that has had a profound impact on their lives and encouraged them to become the person that they are today. This resolution brings national attention to the contributions of coaches and recognizes the time and energy that they dedicate to the athletic and moral development of children. In addition, National

Coaches Week aims to encourage more adults to give their time to coaching, enabling more children to benefit from participation in organized sports.

It is widely accepted that children can benefit in numerous ways from participation in organized sports. Research has found that children who play sports, especially girls, are more often likely to have a positive body image and a higher self-esteem. They also are less likely to be overweight. Children involved in sports are less likely to take drugs or smoke, and statistics show that students who are involved in sports while in high school are more likely to experience academic success and graduate from high school.

The role of a coach can vary from a high-intensity, full-time college football coach to a parent who volunteers to coach his 4-year-old daughter's community soccer team every week. Many coaches in high school are primarily teachers of academic subjects, and many volunteer coaches have other full-time careers in addition to their coaching duties.

Approximately 42 million American children participate in organized sports every year. Each one of these children is influenced in some way by the coach or coaches who lead their team. Along with refining athletes' individual skills, coaches are responsible for instilling good sportsmanship, a competitive spirit and teamwork.

I stand in support of this resolution, recognizing the roles and contributions of America's coaches and recognizing National Coaches Appreciation Week, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill that I introduced on the very first day of this session of Congress, House Resolution 6, a resolution which recognizes this week, September 13 through 19, as National Coaches Appreciation Week.

The narrative of the American coach is a powerful testament to the role that volunteerism has played in shaping our country. The passage of H. Res. 6 will build upon this and add another layer of support to those countless individuals and families who give of their time voluntarily to encourage, work with and support our Nation and its young people, as well as time to hold practices, organize games and rally interests within their communities.

I started the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports in 2006 in order to shift the focus of our youth sports culture. There had been a report card done on the attitudes of many toward youth sports and toward the umpires, the referees and the coaches, and the bad language and the ugly fights that were occurring and the way people were putting down those who took time to work with our young people.

This is a chance for us to emphasize powerful values that we all want for our families and our communities; opportunities not only to emphasize things like sportsmanship, but also what goes along with sportsmanship, those concepts of teamwork, of civility, of respect, of discipline, of loyalty and of learning how to graciously accept the victories and the defeats that we all may face in life from time to time.

As a result, I've also had the benefit of meeting with other youth sports organizations from all over this country that are doing wonderful work, trying not to start another government program but to work with the programs that are already working in our communities across this Nation.

Every afternoon, including this afternoon, there will be young people after school, hurrying out to football fields, soccer fields, tennis courts and other venues to get ready, to practice for their games this weekend. There will be all kinds of recreational activities going on, and we need to be supporting those parents, those families and those volunteer coaches who are out there giving of their time to help support our young people.

This isn't about reform or reinventing the wheel. It's about simply recognizing these contributions, honoring them, and then providing the tools and the resources to help them do well what they're already doing and for which we are grateful.

I would also like to thank our caucus cochairman, JIM JORDAN from Ohio, for his work on this, and a fellow Congressman from North Carolina, HEATH SHULER, who chairs the Professional Sports Caucus, because they too have been supportive of this effort.

I remember, as many of you probably do, having the influence of sports in my life. My father, Dr. Douglas McIntyre of Lumberton, North Carolina, coached me growing up, and I've had the same privilege to coach my sons Joshua and Stephen and, in fact, over 130 other young people in three different sports over 7 years who only knew me as Coach MCINTYRE.

I had the opportunity to work with them, to encourage them, to build their self-esteem as well as the other practical benefits of sports not only in character but physical fitness and fighting obesity and a healthier lifestyle. And by working with three all-American, drug-free teams that I coached, they also learned the dangers of getting involved in activities that can only hurt and not help your self-image and your physical well-being.

We all know of coaches who have helped a player make a tough decision, pushed a player to achieve things they never thought possible, and shaped their sense of integrity, character and discipline that now propels them to the successes that they can accomplish today and tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 6 and honor National Coaches Appreciation Week; and in doing so, colleagues, you are supporting and recognizing a vital part of our country's culture and ensuring that our Nation's youth have access to role models who can put them on the path to achievement.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to again express my support for this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 6 to recognize the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and to support the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week. Our coaches deserve to be honored for the work they put forth in developing the young minds of tomorrows leaders. Coaches have long served as the backbone of youth sports, nurturing generations of minds, bodies and souls.

H. Res. 6 applauds the ongoing effort of our coaches who put in extra time and effort to make the difference in the lives of our children; coaches are a vital part of organized youth sports. Their efforts welcome approximately 42 million American children to participate in organized sports each year. However, 20 million children here in the United States are unable to participate in organized sports, in part due to an insufficient number of coaches. A national effort to promote coaching is needed to increase the number of adults serving as coaches in organized sports.

The Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports will educate Members of Congress, the Media, and the Public on the need to restore a child-centered focus in youth sports that will produce immeasurable positive benefits for the well-being and character development of children. Sports and coaches help children fight obesity, increase their self-esteem, learn leadership skills, and discover how to incorporate the values of sports into other aspects of their daily lives. Children need adults who will believe in them and leaders who give children the support they need to be a success. Coaches can positively impact the physical, emotional, and educational life of children. According to Paul Caccamo, President of Up2Us, a national coalition that seeks to increase the impact of and access to youth sports as a tool for positive youth development, "Young people who play sports are higher achievers." He also said that "They are more likely to attend college, land jobs with more responsibility and greater pay, and less apt to fall to drug and alcohol abuse. With dropout rates and gang activity on the rise in our urban cities, we cannot afford to stand by when we know there's an alternative. National Coach Appreciation Week recognizes the men and women who have dedicated their time to give our children better, brighter futures."

Not only will National Coach Appreciation Week recognize the men and women who have dedicated their time to give our children better and brighter futures, it will put forth a great effort to recruit more adults to do this admirable work. As stated by the Up2Us coalition "National Coach Appreciation Week would

raise awareness and leverage resources to engage millions of children in organized sports that promote health, nutrition, and fitness, as well as other youth development outcomes."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6.

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. SABLAN. 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.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 459) expressing support for designation of ''National Safety Month''.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 459

Whereas, after years of decline, the rate of unintentional injuries and deaths in the United States has reversed and has reached unacceptably high levels in recent years;

Whereas deaths from motor vehicle collisions, poisonings from unintentional overdoses, and falls remain as the three leading causes of preventable death in the United States;

Whereas the cost of unintentional injuries to people in the United States exceeds $684,400,000,000 each year and causes great suffering among individuals and their families;

Whereas the cost of unintentional injuries to workers and their employers is $175,300,000,000 each year, including the value of 114,000,000 days of lost productivity;

Whereas preventing unintentional injury and death requires the cooperation of all levels of government, the Nation's employers, and the general public;

Whereas the National Safety Council, founded in 1913, was congressionally chartered in 1953 to lead this Nation in injury prevention through safety and health education, training, and advocacy in the United States;

Whereas the National Safety Council educates the workforce about policies, practices, and procedures leading to increased safety, protection, and health in business and industry, as well as in schools and colleges, on roads and highways, and in homes and communities;

Whereas since the summer season is a time of increased rates of preventable injuries and death, it is an appropriate time to focus the attention of our workforce and community leaders on injury risks and preventions by celebrating June 2009 as ''National Safety Month''; and

Whereas the National Safety Council in 2009 as part of its public education about safety and health will provide this Nation a monthlong campaign in June: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of ''National Safety Month'';

(2) recognizes the contributions of the National Safety Council and its ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the need for the implementation of safe practices in our schools and jobs; and

(3) encourages citizens to observe the ''National Safety Month'' with appropriate ceremonies and educate themselves about the importance of implementing safe practices in our schools and on our jobs to prevent unintentional injury and death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 459 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 459 which recognizes the month of June as National Safety Month and commends the National Safety Council for its ongoing commitment to educating the public on the prevention of accidental injury and death.

The National Safety Council was established in 1912 by a small group of midwestern industrial leaders concerned about safety in the workplace. Since then, the council has broadened its scope to include the home, transportation and the community. Its membership has grown to over 18,000 companies with more than 33,000 locations. All together, the council represents 8.3 million employees across the Nation.

In 1953, a congressional charter was granted to the National Safety Council to lead the country in injury prevention through safety education and training. The council has had a great impact at the local level by providing a variety of community-based programs and services, including workshops, training and conferences, as well as by providing a local voice for safety and health education. Through the efforts of the National Safety Council, more than 8.5 million rescuers have been trained and more than 60 million people have taken one of the NSC defensive driving courses.

The training and information offered by the National Safety Council has helped raise attention to the cost of accidental injuries to this Nation. Each year, accidental injuries cost Americans more than $684 billion. Additionally, unintentional injuries cost workers and their employers $175 billion each year.

We know that the work of the National Safety Council complements the essential injury prevention and emergency response training efforts by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the many excellent State worker safety and health agencies. While National Safety Month is over, the health and safety of our workers and families should be a top priority year round.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for National Safety Month, and I want to thank Congressman ROSKAM for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 459, expressing support for the designation of National Safety Month. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. ROSKAM of Illinois, for introducing this resolution. This resolution recognizes the work of the National Safety Council to educate our citizens about accident and injury prevention.

The National Safety Council works tirelessly through its nationwide networks to prevent accidents in the workplace, in our homes and on our roads. Founded in 1913 and congressionally chartered in 1953, the National Safety Council conducts workshops and training opportunities to help prevent both injuries and illness. These include a diverse range of issues from preventing the spread of H1N1 to making drivers more aware of the dangers of distracted driving.

This week, the council is encouraging parents to ensure proper child safety seat installation. According to the NSC's statistics, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children 2 to 12. And as adults are buckling in children, the council reminds them to use their seat belts as well.

Many injuries are preventible and constant vigilance in our daily activity will go a long way to reduce the risk. I rise today to commend the National Safety Council for its dedication to the important task of raising awareness of accident and injury prevention, and I urge the passage of H. Res. 459, commending the council's service to the Nation. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Having no additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for National Safety Month, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 459, which expresses support for the designation of June as National Safety Month. Promoting safety awareness will help to reduce thousands of preventable injury and deaths in the United

States in the workplace, on roads and highways, and in our homes and neighborhoods.

Each week of National Safety Month focuses on a different aspect of safety: traffic, workplace, home, and community. This year's National Safety Month themes are teen driving, fall prevention, overexertion, and distracted driving. The statistics on the types of safety that comprise this year's National Safety Month are jarring.

According to the National Safety Council, NSC, traffic crashes are the number one cause of teen fatalities, accounting for 38 percent of all teen deaths. In 2007, 20,600 people died from falls in U.S. homes and communities. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Labor documented that 8 percent of all occupational fatalities from trauma were caused by falling. Overexertion, particularly in the form of back injuries, affects over 1 million workers. Lastly, 80 percent of automobile crashes are the result of distracted driving. Given these drastic statistics, I believe that National Safety Month is an important effort to improve the well being of our country.

Injuries and loss of life due to preventable accidents are tragedies that traumatize workplaces, families, and communities. In addition to the suffering of the victims and their families, accidents in the home and on the road created over $600 billion in costs to Americans. Accidents in the workplace created over $175 billion in costs for workers and employers. I believe that National Safety Month will help to improve our national economy as we climb out of the economic downturn.

In my home State, the Texas Chapter of the National Safety Council is working hard to educate and influence the public in order to prevent accidental injury and death. The Texas Chapter contributes to Texas' public safety through events such as National Seat Check Saturday, National Child Passenger Safety Week, National Preparedness Month, and the Texas Safety Conference & Expo. I am proud of the work that the Texas Chapter of the NSC does to train safety professionals, reach out to the public for safety education, and raise awareness of safety.

By raising awareness and educating the public on safety, National Safety Month honors the work of safety experts and professionals. Safety experts research, analyze, and publish information on improving safety in many aspects of our daily lives. Safety professionals provide training in schools and colleges, workplaces, and communities, as well as to drivers across the country. The work of these men and women save countless lives each year, and through this resolution, we honor their contribution to society.

In addition to supporting National Safety Month, we must also recognize the achievements of the National Safety Council, NSC. The NSC was established in Illinois in 1913 to promote industrial safety. Since then, their mandate has expanded to include traffic safety, home safety, community safety, and workplace safety at large. In 1953, the NSC received a Congressional Charter. Today, over 51,000 labor organizations, businesses, schools, public agencies, private organizations, and individuals comprise the NSC. The NSC and its 40 member local chapters coordinate safety events, educate the public, analyze safety research, and raise awareness about safety issues. The NSC inaugurated the first National Safety Month in June 1996. In addition to National Safety Month, the NSC holds an annual Congress & Expo to exchange information among safety experts, safety professionals, and the safety industry. Their work is an invaluable contribution to the well-being of our country.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459.

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. SABLAN. 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.

□ 1445

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SENIOR CAREGIVING

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 59) supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 59

Whereas 8,000 people in the United States turn 60 years old every day;

Whereas an estimated 35,900,000 people, 12.4 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older;

Whereas the United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years to 86,700,000 in 2050;

Whereas the 85 and older population is projected to reach 9,600,000 in 2030 and double again to 20,900,000 in 2050;

Whereas it is estimated that 4,500,000 people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease today;

Whereas it is estimated that number will increase to between 11,300,000 and 16,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias live at home, and these individuals are examples of individuals who need assistance in their homes with their ''activities of daily living'';

Whereas currently over 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their ''activities of daily living'';

Whereas in order to address the surging population of seniors who have significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow;

Whereas there are an estimated 44,000,000 adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends and an estimated 725,000 nonfamily private paid senior caregivers;

Whereas both unpaid family caregivers and paid caregivers work together to serve the daily living needs of seniors who live in their own homes;

Whereas the Department of Labor estimated that paid caregivers for the year 2006 worked a total of 835,000,000 hours, and the projected hours of paid senior caregivers are estimated to increase to 4,350,000,000 hours by 2025; and

Whereas the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in State and Federal governments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes caregiving as a profession;

(2) supports the private home care industry and the efforts of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;

(3) encourages accessible and affordable care for seniors;

(4) reviews Federal policies and supports current Federal programs which address the needs of seniors and their family caregivers; and

(5) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 59 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 59, which is a bill that supports the ideals of senior caregiving and addresses the important issue of affordability.

Research professionals tell us that our seniors are living longer than any previous generation. The number of people over the age of 65 will double in the next 50 years, and the demand for senior care will rise to unprecedented levels. Currently, 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their daily living activities. Families, neighbors, and private care serve this role for many seniors. As demand increases, so does the need for affordable and quality care.

There are between 30 and 38 million adult caregivers age 18 and older. They are our friends, family members, partners, and neighbors. On average, they work 21 hours per week. Not only do these unpaid caregivers provide long-term services to persons of all ages, but they contribute to the economy. In 2006, the AARP estimated that caregiving services have an annual economic value of $350 billion.

Many caregivers put their own health at risk while caring for others. Caregivers are more likely to report chronic illnesses at twice the rate as noncaregivers. Though they save the country billions of dollars, caregivers report having higher medical bill expenses than noncaregivers.

Providing better support for caregivers is essential to the well-being of our health care system, our long-term care system, and our economy.

I want to express my support for this resolution and thank Congressman TERRY for bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support me on this resolution.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today and am proud to do so in support of House Concurrent Resolution 59, supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. I also want to take the opportunity to thank my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) for introducing this resolution.

According to the Administration on Aging, the number of people age 65 and older was 37.9 million in 2007, an increase of 3.8 million since 1997. The population of those 65 and older is projected to increase from 40 million in 2010 to 55 million in 2020. The number of those 85 and older is projected to increase from 4.2 million in the year 2000 to 6.6 million in the year 2020.

In the United States today, it's estimated that 4.5 million people have Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to increase to between 11.3 million and 16 million by 2050. Seventy percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias live at home and need assistance to perform normal daily activities.

Today, a quarter of all seniors need some level of assistance with their daily activities, and according to the Administration on Aging, persons reaching age 65 have an average life expectancy of an additional 19 years.

Caregiving for these individuals takes many forms. Caregivers may be full- or part time, live with their loved one, or provide care from a distance. Caregiving ranges from simple help such as shopping to conducting medical procedures.

There are an estimated 44 million adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends. The longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on our public systems. Caregivers keep individuals out of institutions and help them live out their lives in familiar surroundings and with dignity. It is appropriate that we take a few minutes today to honor these individuals who give so much of themselves to provide care for our aging population.

I stand in support of this resolution recognizing the profession of senior caregiving and supporting the private home care industry, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H. Con. Res. 59—supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability. Our national population of seniors is growing at unprecedented rates. National statistics reveal that 8,000 people turn 60 each day. Moreover, an estimated 44 million adults in the United States currently provide care to their senior relatives and friends. In light of these trends, it is our responsibility to ensure that senior citizens, especially those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, have access to the quality and professional care they need to live their lives to the fullest. I commend Rep. LEE TERRY for bringing this measure before the floor.

This resolution demonstrates that Congress is concerned about our senior citizens and we are actively engaging and learning more about the senior caregiving industry. Today, 35.9 million people, roughly 12.4 percent of the U.S. population, are aged 65 years and older. Moreover, 25 percent of all seniors require some level of assistance with their daily life activities. At this rate, the population of seniors is expected to increase each year and is in danger of exceeding the availability of qualified professionals and trained caregivers. Therefore, it is important that we now begin to take the necessary steps to effectively manage the needs of our aging population.

We can accomplish this objective by providing some much needed support to family caregivers across the country. Family caregivers expend a lot of time, energy, and resources caring for their senior relatives. And many families that do not provide care within their homes rely on non-family private caregivers. In this regard, Congress must help to foster a private home care industry environment that supports enterprises that provide accessible and affordable caregiving services to seniors. This must also include standardized training to paid caregivers with the opportunity for their ongoing professional development. Additionally, Congress must examine and continue to fund current federal programs that address the affordability and accessibility challenges our seniors and their family caregivers face.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H. Con. Res. 59—supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure we continue to provide the necessary resources toward senior caregiving and improve affordability so that all our senior citizens will have access to quality caregiving when they need it.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for conducting this debate on H. Con. Res. 59. This important concurrent resolution supports the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. I would like to thank the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee as well as the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities for their role in bringing this concurrent resolution to the House Floor. Furthermore, I would like to particularly thank the 42 cosponsors of this important resolution.

Seniors are one of our most precious resources. In order to take care of our seniors, we need a nation of caregivers.

On March 30, 2009, I introduced H. Con. Res. 59 in order to help promote the goals and ideals of senior caregiving. The idea for this concurrent resolution was brought to me by the world's large senior care provider, Home Instead Senior Care, which is located in my congressional district in Omaha, Nebraska. Home Instead understands first hand the importance of senior caregiving. Its over 800 franchises worldwide provide care to over 60,000 seniors. Home Instead is just one of hundreds of companies who provide care to seniors. In addition to these paid caregivers, you have millions of individuals who provide care to their elderly parents, siblings, friends etc.

To illustrate the need for senior caregivers, today in the United States, there are more than 38 million people who are 65 years of age or older and this number is expected to more than double by 2050. For this reason, it is critical that we as a nation are prepared to meet and manage the needs of our aging population. We must work to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need assistance to meet their personal needs.

In 2006, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a total of 767,000 paid personal and home care aides providing more than 835 million hours of care to a senior population of 38 million. These statistics speak to the point that seniors prefer to remain in their homes if their needs are met with affordable and safe homecare. I firmly believe the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in state and federal governments.

This important concurrent resolution pledges to study the needs of an aging population and seeks alternatives which can make caregiving more affordable. Moreover, this resolution importantly recognizes the caregivers who provide these homecare services. This resolution will draw attention to our everyday heroes who enhance the lives of our senior population. This resolution also focuses on those caregivers who are excited to have an employment opportunity to work with our seniors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the three national associations who are supportive of this legislation: National Family Caregivers Association; the National Association for Home Care and Hospice; and the National Private Duty Association. These three groups illustrate the widespread support for this resolution amongst the caregiver community.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 59 is an important step in recognizing the important work of caregivers. I encourage my colleagues to support this important concurrent resolution.

NATIONAL PRIVATE DUTY ASSOCIATION,
Indianapolis, IN, July 1, 2008.

The National Private Duty Association formally endorses the Concurrent Resolution which Home Instead Senior Care has circulated. This Resolution does an excellent job of promoting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

The National Private Duty Association is supportive of the intent of this Resolution which is to increase the visibility of senior caregivers in a positive manner. Moreover, the National Private Duty Association believes the six recommendations listed in the Resolution are important steps forward in our effort to educate the public on senior caregiving.

We encourage other associations to support this Resolution effort and we look forward to becoming a part of the coalition in support of this. I would be happy to discuss the merits of this Resolution at any time.

Sincerely,

SHEILA MCMACKIN,
President,
National Private Duty Association.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION,
Kensington, MD, September 1, 2008.

PHYLLIS HEGSTROM,
Secretary of Industry Affairs, Home Instead, Omaha, NE.

DEAR PHYLLIS: The National Family Caregivers Association supports your resolution to bring attention to the work of the private pay homecare industry. Although family caregivers provide 80% of all longterm care services, we can't do it alone. We need a healthy homecare industry that we can turn to for help on a regular or intermittent basis.

As the country continues to age, and as the number of people 85 and older increases, the ability of our nation to support caregiving in the home will increase exponentially. Given that services to assist people with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living are not covered by Medicare, and long-term care insurance is not a realistic solution for many Americans, it is incumbent on all of us to work together to find solutions to the problems that face us individually and as a nation.

Thank you for making this effort on behalf of families, homecare providers, and the caregivers who are the lifeblood of your industry.

Sincerely,

SUZANNE MINTZ,
President/Co-founder.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2008.

PHYLLIS HEGSTROM,
Secretary of Industry Affairs, Home Instead Senior Care, Omaha, NE.

DEAR PHYLLIS: The National Association for Home Care & Hospice is the nation's largest organization that advocates on behalf of providers of home care and hospice services, their employees, and their clients. We congratulate you and heartily endorse your efforts to secure enactment of a Congressional resolution that supports family and professional caregivers, calls for continued funding for programs that provide vital community-based services, and recommends broader education of the public and policymakers on the needs of our growing senior population.

In recent years our nation's health care needs have changed considerably, and one of our greatest challenges at this time is the development of more effective means of caring for individuals with multiple chronic conditions. This challenge can only be effectively met by greater emphasis on the services and supports that allow our population to enjoy maximum functioning in the least restrictive environment possible. For most individuals, that environment is the home. We strongly support any efforts that help to raise awareness and expand access to home and community-based services, as well as to ease the burden on informal caregivers.

Many thanks for your commitment to the disabled and infirm citizens of our nation. Please feel free to call upon us if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

VAL J. HALAMANDARIS,
President.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for this concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, 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. SABLAN. 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.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 260) supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 260

Whereas the infant mortality rate of a nation is an important indicator of that nation's overall health;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have found that the United States ranked 29th in the world in infant mortality in 2004, falling from 12th in 1960;

Whereas there are more than 28,000 deaths to children under 1 year of age each year in the United States;

Whereas preterm birth has a considerable impact on the United States infant mortality rate, in 2005, 68.6 percent of all infant deaths occurred to preterm infants, up from 65.6 percent in 2000;

Whereas the United States infant mortality rate for non-Hispanic Black women was 2.4 times the rate for non-Hispanic White women in 2005;

Whereas in 2005, the United States infant mortality rates were above average for non-Hispanic Black women at 13.63 deaths per 1,000 live births, for Puerto Rican women at 8.30 deaths per 1,000 live births, and for American Indian or Alaska Native women at 8.06 deaths per 1,000 live births;

Whereas in Memphis, Tennessee, the infant mortality rate is three times higher than that of the United States (higher than any other city in the country), and the 2005 infant mortality rate in the 38108 zip code of Memphis was deadlier for babies than that of the countries of Vietnam, Iran, and El Salvador with 31 deaths per 1,000 live births, 5 times that of the 2005 national average of 6.86 deaths per 1,000 live births;

Whereas adequate prenatal care has a studied, positive effect on the health of the baby;

Whereas prenatal care is one of the most important interventions for ensuring the health of pregnant women and their infants;

Whereas 29 percent of mothers 15 to 19 years of age received no early prenatal care in 2004 according to the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas non-Hispanic Black mothers were 2.6 times more likely than non-Hispanic White mothers to begin prenatal care in the third trimester, or not receive prenatal care at all;

Whereas babies born to mothers who received no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers received prenatal care, as stated by the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas the United States' high infant mortality rate reflects in part racial disparities in premature and low birthweight babies; and

Whereas the racial disparities in infant mortality may relate to socioeconomic status, access to medical care, and the education level of the mother: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports efforts to understand racial disparities and the rate of infant mortality in order to lower the rate of infant mortality in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 260, a resolution that supports efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States.

The United States amazingly enough ranks 29th in the world in the incidence of infant mortality. That is a shocking figure. And while there are a lot of reasons for infant mortality—there's education, there's health care, there are certain other issues that may be existent—health care is the primary one. And as we discuss health care in this Congress, it is hard to submit looking at the United States being 29th in the world in infant mortality, that we don't have a problem somewhere with our health care system.

The extremely high incidence of infant death in the African American community is particularly troubling. In Shelby County, Tennessee, the county which I represent, African American babies die at three times the Nation's infant mortality rate. Prematurity is the number one cause of infant death in the United States, accounting for at least 60 percent of those deaths. Poor women are much more likely to deliver a premature or a low-weight baby as they cannot afford prenatal care or are simply not educated about what is required for women during pregnancy or have access to health clinics or inner-

city doctors, general practitioners, which might be provided if we can pass a health care bill here.

We must work together to lower our country's infant mortality rate, and that starts with lowering our rate of premature births and educating people and providing access to health care.

I was spurred to introduce H. Res. 260 by the devastating rate of infant mortality in Memphis, in Shelby County. And I represent part of Shelby County; the honorable gentlewoman from Brentwood, Tennessee, represents a part of Shelby County, as well, on the Republican side.

In 2007 the 38108 ZIP code in north Memphis, which is a predominantly low-income neighborhood, had an infant mortality rate of 31 deaths per 1,000 live births. That's almost five times the Nation's rate of 6.78 deaths per 1,000 live births; and that ranks the 38108 area worse than the developing nations of Iran, Indonesia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Syria, and Vietnam in infant mortality.

In my own family, there was an incident of infant mortality. My mother and father's first child, Rosemary, died at 1 month of age in 1945. She was buried with some other family members, not direct family, in 1945. When my father passed in 1992, we buried him at Elmwood Cemetery, a different cemetery than where my sister was buried. But my mother was so touched and always was by the loss of her child that she had her name put on the stone with my father even though her remains were at another cemetery where her name was also.

That taught me something about infant mortality: a mother never forgets the loss of a child, and it affects that mother forever. So it's a problem that affects people of all races and stays with us for all time.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Africa, several countries there, one of which was Liberia, which has a very high rate of infant mortality as well. They have very few doctors there. They don't have good health care. And that has got to be a problem that we need to deal with and we try to with our foreign aid, and I commend President Bush as well as President Obama for extending aid to Africa and so many humanitarian efforts, particularly PEPFAR, but also others.

This month Nicholas Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, authored a book, published it, entitled ''Half the Sky,'' which is about women in the world and how they have had difficulties rising to the level that they could and that we could empower women and have a tremendous economic advantage, particularly in disadvantaged countries, by giving women the opportunity to participate in the workforce and be educated. Much of the book is dedicated to the enslavement of women but also to maternal mortality and infant mortality as well. I encourage everybody to consider reading the book and taking up this cause.

This September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month; so I am especially proud that we are considering this important resolution today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of House Resolution 260, which supports efforts to address this important public health problem and a moral problem, and understand racial disparities that persist in infant mortality and try to make America better than 29th in the world.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support H. Res. 260, supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States.

I want to thank my colleague Congressman COHEN for his work on this resolution. It has been exemplary, and we thank him for his leadership. I also want to recognize other members of our delegation who have stood with him and with me in this work to address infant mortality, Congressman TANNER and Congressman GORDON, both of whom are original cosponsors, as is Congressman WAMP; and we thank them for their participation.

Congressman COHEN has championed the cause of prenatal care since he and I served together in the Tennessee Senate, and I am honored to stand and work on this resolution with him now. I stand in support of the legislation, and I hope that all of our colleagues will join us in this effort. It is an important issue for Memphis, Tennessee, which, as Mr. COHEN said, is a community we both represent. And I hope that our conversation on the floor today will be just one more step in a unified effort to end the staggering rates of infant mortality that plague many of our communities.

In this conversation, I am reminded of the Healthy Start program that was reauthorized and signed into law by President George W. Bush on September 3, 2008. Healthy Start provides services tailored to the needs of high-risk pregnant women, infants, and mothers in geographically, racially, ethnically, linguistically diverse communities with exceptionally high rates of infant mortality. The goal of the program has been to reduce the factors that contribute to infant mortality, particularly among minority groups, and remains a very important program to help reduce the deaths of children each year.

□ 1500

Congressman COHEN's work certainly builds on this goal. Adequate prenatal care should be available to all mothers in Tennessee and certainly in this country to ensure healthy infants and pregnant women.

The Department of Health and Human Services has stated that children of mothers who receive no prenatal care, and this is a staggering statistic to me, those children born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight and five times more likely to die than those born to mothers who receive prenatal care. Again, that is three times more likely to be born at a low birth weight which makes that first year very difficult, and five times more likely to die. This is an area where working together, we can do something.

It is important that our communities and also young mothers get the care that they need in early pregnancy. Memphis, Tennessee, has one of the highest infant mortality rates of any city in the U.S. That isn't a statistic that only impacts the neighborhoods in Memphis where infant mortality is a daily reality, it is a tragedy that all of Tennessee mourns.

By stating today that the rate of infant mortality in Memphis, Tennessee, and in America is unacceptable, we are making another important step toward solving the problem.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Tennessee for her remarks which are so appropriate; and I would like to add that there are efforts in Shelby County, the Blues Project and the ABC Project that the county has, to combat infant mortality and work with pregnant women and new mothers.

If a child is born premature, it costs at least 20 times as much money to keep that child alive for the first year. So if their efforts could be successful to eliminate and reduce infant mortality, and some of that comes through programs such as the county and others have—Blue Cross/Blue Shield has the Blues Project—we could save money in the health system because we won't spend so much keeping premature babies alive at the trauma center. It is an example where if we have preventive care and wellness programs, by investing money, we can save money. And we can save so much with infant mortality.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, just to add to the gentleman's comments and to talk a little bit about the efforts that we have participated in in our State, as you look at Shelby County and Memphis, you see there has been a wonderful partnership between your local, State, and Federal entities to address this. Also between the community and the not-for-profit sector, individuals who have said this is a problem. These children deserve to have a healthy start in life. They deserve to have a good solid first year.

Recognizing that you have a problem is the first important step in solving that problem. Certainly we have all worked together for many years to make certain that education is an enormous component of the step forward to address low birth weights, to address infant mortality, and to make certain that our children get that healthy start that they need in life.

I commend those who have worked with us at the local, State and Federal level, as well as the community partners in Shelby County and across the State of Tennessee, who have made this a priority. I thank the gentleman for his leadership on the issue.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, 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. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 260, 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. COHEN. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE PERSISTENTLY HIGH RATES OF DROWNING FATALITIES AMONG CHILDREN

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 57) expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 738

Whereas in recognition of the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, on September 13, 1994, President Bill Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (hereinafter referred to as ''VAWA'') as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994;

Whereas subsequent reauthorizations of VAWA include the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (hereinafter referred to as ''VAWA 2000''), signed by President Bill Clinton, and the Violence Against Women Act and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (hereinafter referred to as ''VAWA 2005''), signed by President George W. Bush;

Whereas VAWA was the first comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women;

Whereas the protections and provisions afforded by VAWA were subsequently expanded and improved by VAWA 2000, which created a legal assistance program for victims and expanded the definition of domestic violence crimes to include dating violence and stalking;

Whereas VAWA and interventions funded by that Act have reduced the incidence of domestic violence, have lowered sexual assault rates, and have averted societal costs by reducing the need for emergency and medical responses;

Whereas VAWA has succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including combined efforts by law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, victim services, and community-based programs to develop long-term plans for addressing such crimes locally and statewide;

Whereas VAWA has provided crucial Federal support to Indian tribes to combat the problems of sexual and domestic violence in Indian country;

Whereas VAWA brings innovative practices to the field by funding demonstration projects and training, and supporting the development of specialized courts and police teams;

Whereas the Sexual Assault Services program, authorized by VAWA 2005, enabled the 1,300 rape crisis centers in the United States to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas VAWA provides a means for many victims of domestic violence who were dependent on their batterers for immigration status to self-petition and obtain legal immigration status on their own, and to access legal services to flee violence and recover from trauma;

Whereas organizations throughout the United States have received grants under VAWA to provide legal assistance to young victims of dating violence;

Whereas VAWA has provided crucial Federal support for efforts by criminal justice officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep stalking victims safe;

Whereas the continued support of VAWA and subsequent Acts combating violence against women is essential to best serve the 3,400,000 individuals in the United States who are stalked each year; and

Whereas September 13, 2009, marked the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994;

(2) continues to support the goals and ideals of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and its subsequent reauthorization Acts; and

(3) recognizes the need to continue vigorous enforcement of the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and similar Acts and programs to deter and prosecute crimes of violence against women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. 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 gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 57, a resolution recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 3,582 unintentional and fatal drownings in the United States in 2005. This figure represents an average of 10 drowning deaths a day.

Children are the most susceptible to fatal drowning incidents. In fact, drowning is the second most common cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 14.

On top of this startling statistic, for every child who fatally drowns in the United States, there are four near-drowning incidents that require emergency care. These accidents can lead to brain damage and result in permanent disabilities ranging from loss of memory to the loss of all basic functions.

Drowning rates among minority children greatly exceed those of their non-minority counterparts. The fatal drowning rate for African-American children is over three times that for Caucasian children. American Indian and Alaskan Native children have rates over two times as high as Caucasian children.

Contributing to these disparities is limited access to swimming lessons. African Americans and Latinos are more likely to live below the poverty line, putting lessons that can cost hundreds of dollars per course out of reach.

House Resolution 57 not only condemns the persistently high rates of drowning among children, but it also recognizes the hard work of organizations that promote access to swimming education and teach skills that will help save lives.

I urge my colleagues to help bring awareness to this serious issue, and join me in supporting final passage of House Resolution 57.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 57 expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States. With almost 10 unintentional and fatal drowning deaths each day in our country, it is important to recognize those most vulnerable to drowning, and it is usually our precious children under the age of 14 who have not yet learned to swim. Swimming education programs in communities and swimming lessons for those as young as 4 years old could help lower the number of fatal drownings each and every year.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which was signed into law in December 2007 by President Bush, has led to increased pool and spa safety requirements and education.

I thank the gentlewoman from Florida who has joined us on the floor for her excellent leadership and outstanding work on that issue. It is one that was important to all of us in dealing with the FTC and the regulations. We commend you, and we thank you for your work.

Effective prevention strategies like the Pool and Spa Safety Act and nonprofit initiatives like the U.S.A. Swimming Foundation's ''Make a Splash''

program have been successful in teaming up with local communities to offer all children access to swimming education and lessons.

I want to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative ALBIO SIRES from the Garden State of New Jersey, for his work on this resolution. I stand in support of the legislation, and I hope that my colleagues will join me.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), as long as she doesn't mention anything about the Tennessee-Florida game on Saturday.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I will reserve that option until later on in the week as the stakes get higher.

I thank the gentleman from Tennessee. I rise today in support of House Resolution 57, and thank the gentlelady from Tennessee for her kind words. We are in support of this legislation today to express our support for the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.

Drowning is, as you have heard, the leading cause of unintentional deaths in America to children ages 1 to 4. Last year alone, 13 children in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, which are in my congressional district, died as a result of accidental drowning in swimming pools and spas.

In fact, a recent report issued in May by the Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates that the average number of drowning deaths involving children younger than 5 in pools and spas has actually increased from a yearly average of 267 from 2002 to 2004 to 283 from 2003 to 2005.

I have been involved in the issue of pool safety throughout my career, and worked hard with many of my colleagues in this body and in the Florida legislature to pass swimming pool safety legislation and drowning prevention legislation. The passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act which was signed into law by President Bush on December 19, 2007, was a milestone in our efforts. The goal of that law is to improve the safety of all pools and spas by increasing the use of layers of protection and promoting uninterrupted supervision to prevent child drowning and entrapments.

Although I have been pleased to see public pools around the Nation come into compliance with the new regulations, it is clear that we must continue to raise awareness about the necessity of swimming lessons for all of our children.

Unfortunately, African Americans, Latinos, and other minority groups are more likely to live below the poverty line, putting expensive swimming lessons out of reach for too many kids. That is why we must encourage communities around the country to provide free lessons to low-income children as part of an overall child safety program.

I want to commend the organization Swim Central in my home county of Broward for the exceptional example that they provide in doing just that, providing swimming lessons for more than 30,000 children, to kids in Broward County since the year 2000.

House Resolution 57 not only condemns the persistently high rates of drowning among children, but it celebrates the hard work of organizations that are offering access to swimming education and are teaching skills that will help save lives.

I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman SIRES, for introducing this important resolution and urge my colleagues to help bring awareness to this serious issue by joining me in support of its passage.

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to discuss a serious issue that affects all children: unintentional drowning.

This summer millions of children took to the water as the weather warmed and pools opened all over the United States, but not all children receive the proper, life saving education that can play a critical role in drowning prevention. Minority children, more often than other children, do not participate in swimming lessons or do not have access to swimming lessons.

Roughly 3,500 people fatally drown each year in the United States—that is about 10 people a day—and more than 25 percent of these victims are children 14 and under. In fact, drowning is the second most common cause of accidental death among children. Alarmingly, fatal drowning rates are 2 to 3 times higher among minority children. According to a study by the University of Memphis, almost 60 percent of African-American and Latino children do not know how to swim as compared to roughly 30 percent of nonminority children. These statistics are not just shocking; they are shameful.

In order to help spread awareness about these startling statistics and how we can better protect our children, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I introduced H. Res. 57, a resolution recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children. The resolution expresses the danger of fatal unintentional drowning in the United States, and condemns the high rates of fatal drowning among all children.

This resolution also celebrates the hard work of initiatives that currently provide swimming lessons to underprivileged communities as well as other efforts that help educate children, parents and caregivers about drowning prevention.

The ability to swim is an important and essential skill, and according to Safe Kids USA, in order to help prevent drowning, children should be enrolled in swimming lessons as early as age 4 to learn how to float, tread water, and enter and exit the pool.

The USA Swimming's Make A Splash Program has partnered with organizations in 31 states and has reached out to over 90,000 children to provide access to swimming education.

Together with these organizations, we must promote access to the type of education that can not only improve children's health, but help save their lives. I urge my colleagues to help bring awareness to this serious issue, and support final passage of H. Res. 57.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 57, which expresses the importance of swimming lessons and recognizes the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children. Though interest in swimming throughout the United States has increased due to national attention to sporting events like the success of the U.S. Olympic Swim Team, drowning is still amongst the leading causes of death of American children. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that in 2005 there were 3,582 unintentional drownings in the United States, and average of 10 per day!

According to an article in the NY Times, an even more daunting statistic is that African children and teens ages 5 to 19, are 2.3 times more likely to drown than Caucasian children in this age group. For children 10 to 14, the rate is five times higher. Nearly 6 out of 10 African-American and Hispanic children are unable to swim, nearly twice as many as their Caucasian counterparts, a concern often highlighted by U.S. Olympian Cullen Jones, who is African-American and swam the third leg of the winning men's relay this week. This unprecedented statistic is unacceptable as it is fairly easily preventable, steps such as adult supervision, regularly using life jackets, learning CPR, and fencing of backyard swimming pools can help save the lives of many of our youth according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Some alarming statistics as stated by my very own district of Houston, TX declare that from May of 2005 to May of 2007:

HFD responded to more than 50 drownings, resulting in at least 8 deaths.

Traditionally, apartment pools account for most of the submersions.

60 percent of the pool incidents occurred at apartments.

We also had several bathtub drowning incidents and several in lakes or bayous.

Most of the children involved submersions involved 4 years old and infants (0–1 year old). Although, all age groups had submersions.

Incidents occurred every hour of the day, though 1–2 p.m. and 4 p.m.– 7 p.m. had the higher number of incidents.

In 2006, The New York Times story "Everyone Into the Water" reported on why the barriers to swimming for black children are so high. The report stated that "studies have shown that many Africans were avid swimmers when they were brought over as slaves, most slaves born in the United States were not allowed to learn to swim because it was a means of escape. That created generations of non-swimmers and spawned the myth that African-Americans could not swim. Though widely discredited, a 1969 study titled "The Negro and Learning to Swim: The Buoyancy Problem Related to Reported Biological Difference," was printed in The Journal of Negro Education and fed the stereotype. The problem was compounded by segregation, which kept blacks out of many pools and beaches. The USA Swimming Foundation is trying to address the problem through its Make a Splash program, which is working to educate parents and increase swimming rates among all children. Donors who want to help can sponsor swimming lessons for children.

The passing of H. Res. 57 expresses the importance of providing access to swimming lessons for all communities in the United States as an integral part of drowning prevention. This Resolution celebrates the work of initiatives like USA Swimming Foundation's "Make A Splash" and Safe Kids USA to educate parents and caregivers on water safety and drowning prevention messages. H. Res. 57 also encourages the public and private funding to support current and future initiatives that provide all children access to swimming education.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Congressman SIRES for their hard work on this, and my counterpart from Tennessee for her excellent work.

With that, 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. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 57, 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: ''A resolution recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 738) recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 57

Whereas the success of the United States Olympic swim team, including the record-breaking eight gold medals won by Michael Phelps, has brought great attention to swimming;

Whereas a New York Times article entitled ''Despite Olympic Gold, Swimming Statistics Are Grim'', highlighted the irony of the United States Olympic glory in light of a shocking number of drownings in the United States;

Whereas the New York Times has also highlighted the discrepancies in swimming education between African-American children and White children in the article ''Everyone Into the Water'';

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were 3,582 unintentional and fatal drownings in the United States in 2005 representing an average of 10 drowning deaths each day;

Whereas for every child who fatally drowns in the United States, there are four near-drowning incidents that require emergency care and can lead to brain damage resulting in permanent disabilities ranging from loss of memory to the loss of all basic functions;

Whereas children are the most susceptible to fatal drowning incidents with one out of four victims being 14 years old or younger;

Whereas drowning is the second most common unintentional cause of death among children ages 1 to 14;

Whereas minority drowning rates greatly exceed the rates of White children;

Whereas according to the CDC, the fatal drowning rate for African-American children between the ages of 5 and 14 is over three times higher than the rate for White children, and the rate for American Indian and Alaska Native children is over two times higher;

Whereas according to a study by the University of Memphis, almost 60 percent of African-American and Latino children do not know how to swim as compared to roughly 30 percent of White children;

Whereas long-existing stigmas regarding minorities and swimming have contributed to the lack of swimming education in minority communities, and nonswimming minority families are far less likely than nonswimming White families to enroll in swimming lessons;

Whereas according to the United States Census Bureau, in 2007, 33.7 percent of African-Americans, 28.6 percent of Latinos, and 12.5 percent of Asian-Americans lived below the poverty line as compared to 10.1 percent of Whites, and swimming lessons can cost hundreds of dollars per course;

Whereas the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into law in December 2007 addressing the pressing need for increased pool and spa safety requirements and education to prevent accidental deaths by drowning;

Whereas effective drowning prevention strategies require several approaches such as supervision, fully gated pools, CPR training, and swimming skills;

Whereas the ability to swim is an important and essential skill, and according to Safe Kids USA, in order to help prevent drowning, children should be enrolled in swimming lessons as early as age 4 to learn how to float, tread water, and enter and exit the pool; and

Whereas nonprofit initiatives, like the USA Swimming Foundation's program ''Make A Splash'', are working hard to meet the need for swimming lessons by partnering with local communities to offer all children access to swimming education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses the importance of access to swimming lessons for all communities in the United States as an integral part of drowning prevention;

(2) recognizes the danger of fatal unintentional drowning in the United States;

(3) condemns the persistently high rates of fatal drowning among all children, and the particularly high rates of fatal drowning among minority children;

(4) celebrates the passage of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act;

(5) celebrates the work of initiatives like USA Swimming Foundation's ''Make A Splash'' and Safe Kids USA to educate parents and caregivers on water safety and drowning prevention messages; and

(6) encourages public and private funding to support current and future initiatives that provide all children access to swimming education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1515

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 738 recognizes the 15th anniversary of the passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

Signed into law on September 13, 1994, by President Bill Clinton, the Violence Against Women Act, also known as VAWA, recognizes the severity of crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

This historic legislation was the first comprehensive policy package designed to dramatically reduce violence against women. Its protections and provisions were subsequently expanded and improved in the Violence Against Women Acts of 2000 and 2005.

When VAWA was reauthorized in 2000, it improved the foundation established in VAWA 1994 by creating a legal assistance program for victims and by expanding the definition of domestic violence crimes to include dating violence and stalking. I could not be more proud of these accomplishments, and I am honored to be here today to help recognize this significant program's 15th year of success.

VAWA-funded interventions have lowered both domestic violence and sexual assault rates. Not unimportantly, since the 1994 passage of VAWA it is estimated that more than $14 billion in societal costs have been averted by reducing the need for emergency and medical responses.

This important legislation has also succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Currently, law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim services, and community-based programs work together on the grassroots and State-wide levels to develop long-term plans for addressing the four categories of crime.

VAWA funding of demonstration projects, trainings, and development of specialized courts and police teams has led to the creation of new techniques to successfully prevent violence against women. For example, the Sexual Assault Services program created in VAWA 2005 enabled our Nation's 1,300 rape crisis centers to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved

communities and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault. But that's not all this monumental legislation has done to help eradicate violence against women. In addition, VAWA 2000 created T and U visas to allow victims of human and sexual trafficking and violent crimes such as sexual assault to come forward and seek law enforcement assistance without the fear of deportation.

Over 1,300 victims of human trafficking have received T visas. The National Center for Victims of Crime has also witnessed dramatic improvement during the past 15 years in the way our Nation responds to stalking cases. This progress, too, is attributed to the Violence Against Women Act.

Undoubtedly, VAWA has provided crucial Federal support for criminal justice officials and victim service providers who work so hard each day to hold offenders accountable and keep stalking victims safe.

The holistic approach to addressing violence against women that VAWA promotes is inextricably linked to the improved safety and security of victims of domestic and sexual violence and their families. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this House resolution, which, as the gentlelady from Florida said, recognizes the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, or VAWA.

One out of every three people in the United States has been a victim of domestic violence, and that is according to Department of Justice statistics. Legislation proposing a Federal response to this violence against women was first introduced in 1990, although such violence was identified as a serious problem as early as the 1970s. So in 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act to protect women against violent crime, including domestic abuse. The act created grant programs to be administered by the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Funding under the bill recognized enforcement as well as educational and social programs to combat violent crime targeted against women. VAWA grants provide funding for the investigation and the prosecution of violent crimes perpetrated against women and support increased pretrial detention of defendants. VAWA also imposes automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted.

In 2000, Congress reauthorized many VAWA programs, set new funding levels, and created new grant programs to address sexual assaults on campuses and assist victims of domestic abuse. These programs continue the essential work begun by the earlier act and add important services for immigrant, rural, disabled and older women.

The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2000 also created new stalking offenses by creating penalties for a person who travels in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to kill, injure, harass or intimidate a spouse or intimate partner.

VAWA was reauthorized for an additional 5 years when President Bush signed the act in 2005. The legislation expanded VAWA to include initiatives to help children who have been exposed to violence and to train health care providers to support victims of abuse.

The 2005 reauthorization also provided funding for crisis services for victims of rape and sexual assault. The act also improved support services, such as transitional housing, to women and children who have been forced to leave their homes because of this violence.

As the resolution notes, over the last 15 years VAWA has provided Federal support for efforts by law enforcement officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep those victims safe.

I join my colleagues in recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of VAWA and urge continued support of the goals and the ideals of the Violence Against Women Act.

Mr. Speaker, in yielding back the balance of my time, I would thank so many of the volunteers in our communities who have been instrumental in working with many of us in starting rape and sexual abuse centers and supporting those victims, especially the children that we've been able to reach out and provide additional help and support for over the last few years. I know many of my colleagues have served in local and State legislative bodies, and we have had this as a very important focus of much of our work to make certain that women and children were protected from this strike of violence, and so I commend all of them.

I thank the gentlelady from Florida.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to concur and associate myself with the remarks of the gentlelady from Tennessee as we celebrate 15 years since the first passage of the Violence Against Women Act.

I remember back in my early days in the Florida Legislature when we were struggling—and I'm sure that you went through the same thing in Tennessee—just to get domestic violence recognized as a serious crime. And we fought to pass laws like this one around the country, fought subsequently to get a crime like stalking declared as a crime and not just get sort of brushed aside as something trivial that women shouldn't worry their pretty little heads over. These kind of crimes, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, are taken seriously now by law enforcement. They have the resources behind them as a result of the Violence Against Women Act.

We look forward to the reauthorization, the discussions that will occur next year, and celebrate the 15th year since VAWA's first introduction and passage.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce H. Res. 738 to recognize the accomplishments we have made in the fight to end violence against women in the United States in the fifteen years since President Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act into law on September 13, 1994 as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. This recognized the severity of the crimes associated with domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, we have made great progress.

In 1993, a woman was raped every six seconds in the United States and a female was beaten every 15 seconds.

In July 1994, there were three times as many animal shelters in the United States as battered women shelters.

No doubt about it—the Violence Against Women Act has vastly improved access to support and care to women and families who are victims of domestic violence and stalking.

During a time, when women were still considered secondary to men, my colleagues of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues and I battled to explain the importance of protecting women form the horrors of violence and abuse.

In the House, I worked with former Representatives Patricia Schroeder, Constance Morella and now Senators OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, and BARBARA BOXER and CHUCK SCHUMER to author the Violence Against Women Act. In the Senate, Vice President BIDEN, then the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, championed the Senate version of VAWA.

The 1994 bill was a watershed, marking the first comprehensive legislative package designed to end violence against women. The protections and provisions afforded by the 1994 law were subsequently expanded and improved in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 and they Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005.

VAWA has led to the reduction of domestic violence incidents reported. By reducing the need for emergency and medical responses, VAWA has averted more than $14 billion dollars in societal costs as VAWA-funded interventions have lowered domestic violence frequency and sexual assault rates.

VAWA has succeeded in bringing communities together to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Prior to VAWA, few helping systems in a community addressed these crimes. Now law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, victim services and community based programs work together on the grassroots and statewide levels to develop long-term plans for addressing the crimes. VAWA has brought innovative practices to the field by funding demonstration projects, trainings, and supporting the development of specialized courts and police teams.

The Sexual Assault Services Program, created in VAWA 2005, enabled the country's 1300 rape crisis centers to reduce waiting lists, reach out to underserved communities, and provide more comprehensive services to survivors of sexual assault across the nation.

Since 1997, VAWA has funded the Sexual Assault Coalition Resource Sharing Project

(RSP) to develop and strengthen state and territorial sexual assault coalitions. In 1997, there were only 26 states with either no coalition or a coalition with no paid staff. Through VAWA and the efforts of the RSP in 2009 all 50 states and 5 territories have sexual assault or dual issue sexual assault/domestic violence coalitions in place.

During the last fifteen years, the National Center for Victims of Crime has witnessed dramatic improvement in the way our nation responds to stalking cases, progress greatly owed to the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). By including stalking in the original landmark bill, Congress elevated this crime in our nation's consciousness and highlighted it as a serious offense requiring heightened attention.

With VAWA funding, the National Center for Victims of Crime created the Stalking Resource Center raise national awareness of stalking and to encourage the development and implementation of multidisciplinary responses to stalking in local communities across the country. VAWA has also provided crucial federal support for efforts by criminal justice officials and victim service providers to hold offenders accountable and to keep stalking victims safe.

VAWA has supported the Stalking Resource Centers work to create a model stalking code that will serve as a guide for lawmakers' initiatives to update their states' stalking laws to keep pace with an ever-changing, and has enabled the SRC to train over 30,000 multidisciplinary professionals across the country who work with and respond to stalking victims, better equipping them to respond to the crime of stalking.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of VAWA which took place on September 13, 1994 while recognizing the accomplishments we have made and the continuing commitment in the fight to end violence against women.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 738, Recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Violence Against Women Act, offered by my friend and colleague Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER of New York.

The 15th anniversary of President Clinton signing this landmark legislation into law offers us the opportunity both to see how far we have come and to recognize that there is still much ground to be covered as we continue to protect vulnerable women and work on behalf of abused women across this nation.

What is so important about VAWA, just as much today as it was 15 years ago, is that it specifically identifies women as an at-risk population because of violence perpetrated against them. Violence against women ranges from rape to physical and mental abuse to stalking to other forms of domestic violence. It was appropriate to pass legislation specifically geared toward identifying different forms of violence, who was affected by this violence, and what judicial and social services were available for victims and potential victims. Our current Vice President JOE BIDEN played a leading role in shaping and forwarding this legislation when he was in the Senate, and we should acknowledge him for championing the bill and being instrumental in its final passage.

Since the enactment of VAWA into law, there has been a proliferation of community and advocacy organizations, shelters, health clinics, and law enforcement divisions and programs dedicated to protecting women from abuse and to giving them time to heal and piece their lives back together.

VAWA funding has made it possible for women—and often times their children—to be able to leave their batterers and seek the help they need to begin life anew, more so than at any other time in our Nation's history. And given the unprecedented rate at which state and local budgets have been slashed during the recent economic downturn, VAWA funding is more crucial than ever: to date the Office of Violence Against Women, created under the Department of Justice to implement VAWA, has issued $3.5 billion in grants and cooperative agreements.

I have long strived to be a voice for those who have difficulty being heard. Despite the significant inroads that VAWA has made in the lives of countless women throughout this country, we continue to see alarming trends in the rates of abuse, rape, and murder of women. Under the auspices of VAWA and other initiatives meant to protect women, I will continue to champion women and to offer and sponsor legislation to protect and empower them.

I was proud to vote for the passage of VAWA 15 years ago. So let today mark an important milestone to commemorate the work that has been done over the last 15 years. But let it also force all of us to redouble our efforts to continue legislating and advocating on behalf of women who find themselves in abusive and dangerous relationships and situations.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 738 and I commend Representative SLAUGHTER for offering it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support for H. Res. 738, Recognizing the 15th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. I express my gratitude to Ms. SLAUGHTER for her leadership in introducing this important bill. This is legislation that I have worked on since becoming a member of the House Judiciary Committee in 1995 and I have worked with my colleagues through the years to improve the legislation.

The need for such legislation is punctuated by the tragic murder of Yale graduate student Annie Le. While an investigation into this matter is still ongoing, Ms. Le's death appears to have been related to her wedding scheduled for today. As a Yale alumnae, I'm particularly grieved by this tragedy, and my heart and sympathies go out to Ms. Le, her family, and her mourning fiancée, on what would have been their wedding day.

Ms. Le's murder in a Yale research building shows that domestic violence has no barriers, and crosses racial, ethnic, and economic boundaries. It is in this backdrop that we celebrated legislation proposing a federal response to the problem of violence against women.

A review of history shows that the first legislative action on this matter was introduced in 1990, although such violence was first identified as a serious problem by Congress in the 1970s. In 1994, this legislative action culminated by the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Funding under the bill emphasized enforcement as well as educational and social programs to prevent crime. The focus of the funding was on local government programs, an approach that the sponsors of the bill believed was the most promising technique for reducing crime and violence. They also cautioned that, because of the variety of programs funded through the states, the impact of the bill may be difficult to quantify. Funding through FY2000 was authorized through the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund (VCRTF). Authorization for VCRTF expired at the end of FY2000. Nonetheless, most of the programs in VAWA received appropriations for FY2001.

On October 28, 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, which included the Violence Against Women Act of 2000. The Violence Against Women Act of 2000 (VAWA 2000) continued to support VAWA by reauthorizing existing programs and adding new initiatives, including grants to assist victims of dating violence, transitional housing for victims of violence, a pilot program aimed at protecting children during visits with a parent who has been accused of domestic violence, and protections from violence for elderly and disabled women. It also made technical amendments, and required grant recipients to submit reports on the effectiveness of programs funded by the grants to aid with the dissemination of information on successful programs. The bill amended the Public Health Service Act to require that certain funds be used exclusively for rape prevention and education programs. Moreover, the bill made it easier for battered immigrant women to leave and to help prosecute their abusers.

This last element is important to note. Under the old law, battered immigrant women could be deported if they left abusers who are their sponsors for residency and citizenship in the United States. VAWA 2000 created special rules for alien battered spouses and children to allow them to remain in the United States.

The original VAWA, established within DOJ and HHS discretionary grant programs for state, local, and Indian tribal governments. VAWA 2000 reauthorized many VAWA programs, set new funding levels, and created new grant programs to address sexual assaults on campuses and assist victims of domestic abuse.

VAWA 2000 also authorized the Attorney General to award grants to private nonprofit entities, Indian tribal governments, and publically funded organizations to increase the availability of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault in legal matters, such as immigration, housing matters, and protection orders, at minimum or no cost to the victim. These grants may be used to establish or expand cooperative efforts between victim services organizations and legal assistance providers, by providing training, technical assistance, and data collection.

VAWA 2000 included grants to be administered by HHS for short-term transitional housing assistance and support services for victims of domestic abuse. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 and the PROTECT Act authorized funding of both HHS and DOJ transitional housing assistance programs for victims of domestic violence.

VAWA 2000 amended the language of the existing STOP grants and "Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies" to provide funds to increase protection of older individuals and individuals with disabilities from domestic violence and sexual assault through policies and training for police, prosecutors, and the judiciary. It

also created new grants, administered by the Attorney General, for training programs to assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and court officials in addressing, investigating and prosecuting instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and violence against individuals with disabilities, including domestic violence and sexual assault.

VAWA 2000 authorized the Attorney General to award grants to state, local, and Indian tribal governments to provide supervised visitation and safe visitation exchange for children involved in situations of domestic violence, child abuse, or sexual assault.

Several studies were authorized in VAWA 2000. These included studies of (1) insurance discrimination against victims of domestic violence; (2) workplace effects of violence against women; (3) unemployment compensation for women who are victims of violence; and (4) parental kidnapping. VAWA 2000 also required the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to develop a research agenda and plans to implement the agenda based on the National Academy of Sciences' recommendations in the report Understanding Violence Against Women.

VAWA 2000 contains the Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act of 2000, which provides for increased protection of immigrant women who are victims of domestic abuse, and creates special rules for alien battered spouses and children to allow them to remain in the United States. VAWA 2000 also established a task force to coordinate research on domestic violence.

VAWA 2000 established a definition for "dating violence" and amended the existing law so that STOP grants, Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies, and Rural Domestic Violence grants can be awarded for programs to combat dating violence, defined as violence committed by a person (A) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and (B) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: (I) the length of the relationship; (ii) the type of relationship; and (iii) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

In 2005, Congress reauthorized VAWA, through the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). VAWA 2005 reauthorized many existing programs for FY2007 through FY2011, and authorized a number of new programs for victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The act emphasized collaboration among law enforcement, health and housing professionals, and women, men, and youth alliances, and encouraged community initiatives to address these issues.

VAWA 2005 advanced the ball to protect battered women and children. Specifically, VAWA 2005 programs sought to focus on young victims of violence; improve the health care system's response to violence; inform the public and employers about domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; protect the privacy of victims of violence; provide housing assistance, including public housing, for battered women and children; and support outreach efforts to underserved populations such as ethnic, immigrant, and racial populations.

In an effort to more closely monitor the status and performance of some of these programs, VAWA 2005 provided for some grant recipients to submit reports on policies and procedures they followed. The act also provided funding for studies and research on effective interventions that prevent both acts and effects of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Over the past 15 years, the federal government, with the use of the public treasury has funded interventions which have lowered assault rates. This intervention is estimated to have saved over $14 billion in public safety resources that would have been required had VAWA programs not prevented or addressed cases of domestic violence in each of the fifty states and all of the U.S. territories.

I have worked with formidable organizations such as Texans Against Sexual Assault, who work to bring voices to women who have been victims of sexual crimes, and helping them along an emotional recovery. Also, the Texas Council on Family Violence, which has connected more than 15,000 Texas victims of domestic violence with emergency shelter and protection.

In 2005, I offered an Amendment to the VAWA to provide $2 million for the Office on Violence Against Women, the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs account for "child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners." This allocation would be offset by the Edward Byre Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program and transferring the funds to the Office on Violence Against Women, Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Program. Instead, I proposed that this money be channeled to a program that has been significantly under-funded for many years, the Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Program's account for child abuse training programs for judicial personnel and practitioners as authorized by section 222 of the 1990 Act. Domestic Violence is of the utmost concern, to me and my constituents. However, in the past, the chronic lack of funding and resources has left a number of child victims in the cold to cope with the horrible and immense physical and psychological effects of the abuse that they have endured.

As we look down the road for future VAWA reauthorizations, I urge my colleagues to focus on how we can take a more comprehensive look at domestic violence. Indeed, violence between family members and others related by special relations requires a dedication of resources to address problems that could be addressed by conflict management counseling and other mental health treatment. Indeed, juvenile justice data shows that families who are separated as a result of VAWA programs may also have an unintended consequence of contributing to juvenile delinquency, particularly amongst children of color, young boys in particular.

Together we must take a stand and work together for Women's rights, as well as the rights for families. We must work on building a brighter future, and make gender based and family based violence a thing of the past. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 738.

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.

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 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIMES) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 6, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 459, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 59, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on H. Res. 260 will resume later in the week.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL COACHES APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6, 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 the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 6.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 696]

YEAS—388

Abercrombie	Bachmann	Berkley
Aderholt	Bachus	Berman
Adler (NJ)	Baird	Berry
Akin	Baldwin	Biggert
Altmire	Barrow	Bilbray
Andrews	Bartlett	Bilirakis
Arcuri	Barton (TX)	Bishop (GA)
Austria	Bean	Bishop (NY)
Baca	Becerra	Bishop (UT)

Blackburn
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
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)
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
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
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
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
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
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—45

Ackerman
Alexander
Barrett (SC)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Buyer
Capuano
Crenshaw
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Dicks
Frelinghuysen
Gerlach
Grijalva
Harper
Hoekstra
Hoyer
Israel
Issa
Johnson, Sam
King (NY)
Kirk
Lipinski
Lynch
Marchant
Markey (MA)
McHugh
McMahon
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Neal (MA)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Tanner
Towns
Waters
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 1857

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.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459, 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 the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 459.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 697]

YEAS—386

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
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)
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
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
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
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
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
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder

Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—47

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Alexander
Barrett (SC)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boren
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Buyer
Capuano
Crenshaw
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Dicks
Frelinghuysen
Gerlach
Grijalva
Harper
Hoekstra
Hoyer
Israel
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kirk
Lipinski
Lynch
Marchant
Markey (MA)
McHugh
McMahon
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Neal (MA)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Tanner
Towns
Waters
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 1906

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.

Stated for:

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 697, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SENIOR CAREGIVING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 59, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 698]

YEAS—387

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
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)
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
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
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
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
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
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—46

Ackerman
Alexander
Barrett (SC)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Buyer
Capuano
Carter
Crenshaw
Davis (IL)
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Dicks
Doyle
Frelinghuysen
Gerlach
Grijalva
Harper
Hoekstra
Hoyer
Israel
Issa
Johnson, Sam
Kirk
Lipinski
Lynch
Marchant
Markey (MA)
McHugh
McMahon
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Neal (MA)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Shimkus
Smith (WA)
Tanner
Towns
Waters
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 1914

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent 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.

ELIMINATE PAY-TO-PLAY CONTRACTS

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3427, the State Ethics Law Protection Act.

In a day and age where indictments and allegations of wrongdoing have become all too common, in fact, in Illinois, people read the scandal du jour in their newspaper. In this event, many States and local governments have enacted laws to eliminate awarding contracting based on pay-to-play, a practice of trading campaign contributions for lucrative government contracts.

Sadly, a loophole in the Federal Highway Administration's contracting requirements is making it difficult, if not impossible, for States to implement these anti-corruption laws if they want to continue to receive Federal highway support. It is up to us in Washington to make sure that our constituents are best served and their taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely.

By amending the Federal Highway Administration's contracting requirements, we in Washington can ensure that States have every tool at their disposal to encourage and ensure transparency and accountability. Please join me in supporting H.R. 3427, the State Ethics Law Protection Act, to ensure our dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, this month Lincoln Montessori School of Nebraska is celebrating its 40th anniversary. Started in 1969 by Mary and Larry Verschuur, Lincoln Montessori School is one of the first schools in the United States to be custom built to facilitate the Montessori curriculum. The school has served hundreds of families over two generations and is fully a part of Nebraska's diverse educational community.

Forty years later, Mary and Larry are still the school's motivating force. They guide young children daily with beautiful and purposeful materials, offer after-school enrichment classes for older children, conduct classes to help parents understand and implement the Montessori philosophy, and lecture on education in Nebraska and around the world. The result: children who are self-directed and self-disciplined, joyful, and eager to learn. The children are free to discover the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the First District of Nebraska and the United States Congress, I thank the Verschuurs, two extraordinary people, for their dedication to the formation of young children and congratulate them on the 40th anniversary of Lincoln Montessori School in Nebraska.

WELCOMING HOME PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise Pennsylvania National Guardsmen who just arrived home after serving 8 months in Iraq. Members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team's First Battalion 112th Infantry have arrived at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Some 1,500 U.S. flags will line their route, along with countless yellow ribbons placed by Pennsylvanians who want to show their thanks.

The soldiers come from Crawford County and from the cities of Bradford and Ridgway. Earlier, guardsmen from the 2nd 112th Regiment Infantry Regiment from Bellefonte and Lewistown came home.

The brigade operated in 800 square miles that was home to 900,000 Iraqis. They captured some 80 hidden supply dumps, causing severe shortages and disrupting enemy operations.

As these men and women are reunited with their families, we realize the sacrifices they have made. The child's birth that they missed, the report cards, the joys of a sports milestone, they can't replace those lost moments. But we can pause and stop and say thank you, and God bless and welcome home.

STOP THE INNOVATION TAX

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue the debate on health care, we must remain cognizant of the impact on both jobs and health care innovation.

That's why I strongly oppose the new $40 billion innovation tax on the medical device industry that's being proposed in the Senate. Minnesota, and the Third Congressional District in particular, is home to many of the top medical device manufacturers responsible for life-saving technologies. Hundreds of small businesses and entrepreneurs in the medical technology field also call Minnesota home.

I visited and I have met with many of these entrepreneurs. They are hard working. They are employers that provide tens of thousands of good-paying jobs for Minnesotans. Moreover, these medical breakthroughs save money, and they improve the quality of care.

A massive new tax increase will stifle job growth. It will stifle innovation, and it will ultimately harm quality health care. I strongly urge the Senate, the President, and my colleagues to oppose this misguided new tax.

THE PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, freedom's bell has sounded across this Nation. It is loud; it is clear. The people's resistance to big, bloated government has begun in the hearts and minds of the American people.

It was shown in their actions over the weekend. Over a million Americans took time off from work, gathered up their families, made their signs, brought their flags and came to D.C. with the cry for government to listen. Their message to Congress and the administration: We have had enough.

They have watched in stunned horror as this Congress has made government bigger and less accountable. Congress has lavishly spent trillions of their tax dollars, money that does not belong to the government, but to the people.

Now the threat of a government takeover of their health care has made it personal to them. It doesn't matter how many times it's said otherwise, the American people understand what government-run health care looks like, and they don't like it.

Thomas Jefferson once said: ''The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.'' But the tide is turning, Mr. Speaker. The American resistance is awake and on its feet and on the move. People are not happy, and we ignore them at our own risk.

And that's just the way it is.

CZARS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, as I have been in my own district and spoken with many individuals who have attended my townhall meetings, they have exercised their right to bring their grievances before this Member of Congress.

And one of the issues they have talked about is the question of the constitutional importance of these so-called czars. We now have over 30 czars in this administration, those that have not been subject to the scrutiny of consideration by the United States Senate, those who apparently have decision-making responsibility in areas, who have traditionally been in Cabinet level officers, and others who have in fact been vetted by the Senate. It seems the longer I am here the more it appears that political life in Washington seems to follow art.

Now, you might say we have come to a situation in Washington, D.C. in which we now have a new show. It's called ''Dancing with the Czars.'' It could last more than a full TV season because we have more than 30 of them. It can continue on into the summer. It's not a joke, it's serious, and the American people deserve answers.

PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WANT TO CUT SPENDING

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this weekend on national television, Mr. Axelrod, who works for the President at the White House, said that the big meeting on the Mall really didn't amount to much, and it really didn't represent what the American people think.

I don't know what that guy is smoking down at the White House, but I think it might be illegal.

The people in this country at the TEA parties and on the Mall this weekend are telling every Member of Congress and in the Senate they want to cut spending. They don't want more government intrusion into their lives, and they want just to be left alone.

But this body here, and my colleagues on the Democrat side, continue to come up with new proposals, new spending, and we are spending trillions and trillions of dollars that we simply don't have. And our kids are going to bear the responsibility for that because we are not doing our job.

And, secondly, I just wanted to say one more thing. This ACORN group needs to be investigated. They are getting access to almost $10 billion, and we know there are an awful lot of

crooked things going on. It needs to be investigated by this body. My colleagues on the Democrat side, who are the chairmen of the committees, need to listen.

We need to investigate ACORN.

LEHMAN BROTHERS COLLAPSE

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it was 1 year ago today that Lehman Brothers collapsed. And as we mark this 1-year anniversary, it is also with trepidation that we remark that the Federal Government today is the leading insurer, the leading lender, and the leading carmaker in the United States, the Federal Government.

Since the inception of Bailout Nation less than 1 year ago today, an economist from Arizona State University has documented, today the Federal Government owns or controls 30 percent of private business profits. That's right, 30 percent. And if President Obama gets his way and nationalizes an additional 18 percent of private wealth in the health care industry, that would be nearly 50 percent of private business profits.

Think of that, 50 percent of private business profits nationalized in less than 1 year's time. We can do better. Let's enjoy freedom. Let's embrace freedom and let's say no to Bailout Nation and to the Federal Government taking over the private economy.

And let's investigate ACORN.

HONORING NASA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just a few months ago we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Apollo mission for NASA, and we are excited as a Nation to think of the brightness and the genius of our country.

Tomorrow, before the Science and Technology Committee, the author of the ''Augustine Report'' will present his findings regarding NASA. As a representative from the Houston area, where the Johnson Space Center is, I encourage America to be that same genius.

Let's continue manned space flight and continue our exploration in space, as well as our support for the international space station. Out of those efforts come new inventions, new cures for diseases, and new opportunities for the genius of America to be seen around the world. We must continue manned space flight.

Supporting the space centers in Florida and Alabama, California, Mississippi and Texas, I know America can achieve for the future.

□ 1930

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.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

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. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, there was a townhall meeting not too far from here in Reston, Virginia. Over 3,000 people were inside and about that many outside who could not get into the school. Now this townhall event was held at South Lakes High School, and one of the security officers there, a Wesley Cheeks, Jr., did not like one of the signs that the protesters were carrying and holding up. The sign apparently was not to the officer's political liking.

So the security officer demanded that out of the thousands of signs at the event, the one he didn't like was going to come down, and he ordered the person to take it down because it was obviously critical of the administration. Note, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing illegal about the sign.

This officer told the man with the sign to put his sign away or he would be arrested. Yes, arrested for freedom of speech and the right to protest. The protester said, This used to be America. Officer Weeks said in response, Well, it isn't any more, okay.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not ''okay.'' Not by a long shot. This is still America, the land of the free—the land where we can disagree with government, whether government likes it or not—the land paid for in blood by bold men of noble character and heart and noble action, who understood that free speech undergirds liberty and freedom. They understood that the right to speak the truth to authoritarian power is granted by the Almighty to those bold enough to stand and claim that right. No king, no government, no dictator, and no high school security officer has the right to abuse their authority and suppress freedom of speech.

One of the founding principles of this Nation is freedom of speech. It is so fundamentally important that our Founding Fathers put it first in our Constitution's Bill of Rights, made it the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights, because it is the most important. Without the First Amendment, the rest are meaningless.

The First Amendment simply says, Congress—that's us, folks—shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

It is the tendency of all governments to encroach upon the rights of people in this Nation, and other nations. And while many Americans are going about their daily business of work, taking their kids to school, to football practice, to Boy Scouts, grocery shopping, and going to dinner, mowing the grass, and living their lives, don't underestimate that these people are paying attention to what government is doing to them.

Freedom of speech is crucial for folks to get the attention of fellow Americans when the size of government no longer fits the Constitution. Freedom of speech is sacrosanct, and not just for those who agree with government, but it is a holy right, especially for those who disagree with government oppression.

It is the right of a free people to speak truth when the government is wrong. It is the right of the people to gather and stand in the face of their elected officials and speak what they see—tyranny of a government gone amok.

It is the right of a self-governing people to come together in cities around the Nation to speak out and to hold the government accountable when those who seek to rule over us have stepped out of their constitutional bounds.

There can be no more fundamental display of our God-given right to freedom of speech than what we're seeing from the American Resistance Movement today. From townhalls to city streets, the right of free speech is one of the very guardians of the freedom and liberty that make this Nation the greatest in history. And it is the government that would do well to listen, be silent, and then act in the interest of the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

START OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 1-year anniversary of the fall of Lehman Brothers. Just prior to that, former Treasury Secretary and former Goldman Sachs executive Hank Paulson; Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke; and then-President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and now Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, bailed out Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and orchestrated the first of multiple tranches of taxpayer money to AIG.

Some mark the fall of Lehman as the start of our financial crisis, but it started long before. It started on Wall Street, the very place that President Obama gave his financial regulatory reform speech today. The President stated, Restoring a willingness to take responsibility—even when it is hard—is at the heart of what we must do. Very carefully worded, Mr. President. But what real reform will assure it?

Willing to take responsibility. Mr. President, Wall Street has responsibility for the greed they bred, for ripping off American taxpayers and taking exorbitant profits, destroying anything and anyone in its path, and then taking more bonuses and continuing to live their high life.

Wall Street will never willingly and openly accept its responsibility for their role in our financial system's downfall. It's our responsibility to hold them accountable.

It is too late to ask Wall Street to play nice and make reforms. They had their chance, and they blew it. You can be sure they are going to pay millions to lobbyists and PACs to protect their bonuses, loopholes, their safety nets, and the current structure of banking in this country.

It's time to face down Wall Street and stand up for Main Street. The time spent waiting for Wall Street's willingness to change is over. The results of the taxpayer bailout are clear: More profits for Wall Street, plus massive bonuses, while foreclosures skyrocket across this country.

Wall Street had its chance to open credit lines to business, as well as to direct funds they got from the taxpayers to help millions of families facing foreclosure work out those loans, but instead they took the money for themselves and racked up huge profits in the last quarter.

Wall Street had its chance to be responsible as stewards of the tax dollars they got. They failed. They didn't even try. Wall Street banks cannot even tell us where the TARP dollars, that is, the taxpayer dollars, went.

The arms of their businesses which service loans are moving at a snail's pace to help people find ways to work out their mortgages. Why? Because they can make more money when loans are delinquent. The pace of loaning to businesses and people is almost stuck. What are fast and furious are the payouts of bonuses and profits.

Wall Street executives like Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs are waltzing around the changes they should make around compensation and bonuses, but talk is cheap because it costs them nothing. It's a good press release. Name me one Wall Street money-center bank that has restructured its compensation structures. Wall Street is fighting to have custom credit default swaps and other derivative instruments remain unregulated in the coming reforms.

This moment in history marks the time for each Member of Congress and public servants at the FDIC, the SEC, the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and associated regulators to act and create the kind of reform that creates a credit system which stands strong for generations and contains moral hazard.

Will America allow itself once again to be bought out by Wall Street? Or will we stand together thoughtfully, deliberately to empower regulators and to reform this system with a new banking system that respects communities, encourages savings, assures sound credit? Will we break up the megabank trusts or continue to allow the concentration of financial power in the few greedy hands that are holding it today? Will we move forward with a stronger, more creative, more prudent, more sound community-oriented financial system again?

It's time to work on a bipartisan basis to do this. We can't race. We have to debate real financial reform here, not cosmetic bills that are brought up on this floor. We must share the rationale behind reform and make it real. And we must shift the balance of credit power from Wall Street back to Main Street and the American people.

The challenge is crystal clear. The question is: Do we have the will to do it here—to create a financial regulatory system again for the betterment of all people in our Nation, to strengthen community lending and sound and prudent credit practices at the local level and, in turn, the world's financial system? The jury is out.

THE URGENCY OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week we commemorated a sad anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our Nation. On that fateful day 8 years ago, we realized that protecting our homeland and defeating our enemies would require innovative approaches and an unconventional view of the threats that we face. However, when looking at the Iranian nuclear threat, it would appear that some have forgotten the lessons of 9/11.

Many believe that because Iran has not yet mastered all of the elements needed for an operational nuclear weapon, we have the luxury of time. Mr. Speaker, that is not so. Iran has already produced 1,400 kilograms of low-enriched uranium, which can easily be used for a ''dirty nuke.''

As former President Clinton noted in the year 2005, if you have basically a cookie's worth of fissile material and you put it into a traditional bomb, you can amplify the destruction power by hundreds-fold or more.

So the nuclear threat from Iran already exists in a radiological form. Yet, the U.S. and the U.N. Security Council have actually lowered the requirements imposed on the Iranian regime with respect to its nuclear activities. The initial U.S. position with respect to Iran's nuclear program was to demand its complete, verifiable, irreversible dismantlement. Then it went down to a mere temporary suspension of uranium enrichment. And now, reportedly, only a commitment from the Iranian regime that they will not use growing supplies of enriched uranium to make nuclear weapons.

This, as a U.S. government official was quoted as saying just last week, ''Iran is now either very near or in possession already of sufficient low-enriched uranium to produce one nuclear weapon'' and is closer ''to a dangerous and destabilizing possible breakout capacity.'' And this means a breakout capacity for producing not a dirty nuke but a conventional nuclear weapon.

Iran is pouring enormous resources into its nuclear program. Its missiles can already strike U.S. forces, can strike Israel and our allies in the Middle East and Europe, and it is only a matter of time until it has the capability to hit us here at home.

Inexcusably, one administration after another has not fully implemented the range of sanctions that are called for in current U.S. law, nor have we leveraged our resources to secure cooperation from our allies, particularly those on the U.N. Security Council. And this year we have filed another bill for another range of sanctions on Iran, and we have yet to get that bill out of committee, in spite of over 300 sponsors for that bill.

Next week at the United Nations in New York, for the first time a President of the United States will chair a meeting of the U.N. Security Council. The Council will be holding a special summit on the general issue of nuclear nonproliferation, but will ignore the actions of specific countries such as Iran.

The U.S. will also not use its presidency on the Security Council this month to pursue further sanctions targeting the Iranian regime. In fact, rather than using our platform at the U.N. to urge immediate action against the regime, the U.S. has again succumbed to Iranian manipulation.

Joined by France, Germany, Britain, Russia, and China, we will meet with the regime in Brussels on October 1 to resolve the disputes over Tehran's nuclear program.

Let's get this straight. As the threat posed by the Iranian regime increases, as the Iranian regime inches closer to weaponizing its nuclear program, the response from the so-called international community is to schedule more talks—legitimizing the regime by engaging them directly.

By its own statements, the regime is committed to the destruction of Israel and the U.S. as well. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly denied the existence of the Holocaust, called for Israel be wiped off the map, spoken of achieving ''a world without America and Zionism.''

□ 1945

Iran is also the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, assisted the attacks on our soldiers and continues to this day in Iraq and Afghanistan, and poses a growing threat to the Persian Gulf, a major source of the world's oil. This threat is becoming global, as Tehran expands its presence and influence throughout the Middle East and South and Central Asia and right here

in Latin America as well as Africa. But right here in our own hemisphere, one need look no further than the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community center in Argentina, Buenos Aires, to demonstrate Iran's willingness and ability to attack targets half a world away.

In July, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for even stricter sanctions on Iran to try to change the behavior of the regime. I couldn't agree more, but we need them now. Let's act now.

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ABOUT THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor the United States Constitution. Earlier today, the House unanimously passed my bill, House Resolution 686, the Teach the Constitution Week resolution. Congressman RON PAUL and I combined our efforts on this important legislation because society is losing its knowledge of our Nation's most fundamental principles. The Constitution lays out the tenets of our Republic, and House Resolution 686 specifically proposes that seniors in high school across the Nation be taught about the Constitution at the start of their senior year in high school for 1 week.

Mr. Speaker, the Constitution is the highest law of the land. If we're not teaching our children about a document so fundamental to our Nation's past, present and future, then what are we teaching them? Too many Americans have no real understanding of the principles of this historic document. More teenagers can name the judges of American Idol and more teenagers can name the Three Stooges than can name the three branches of our government. This is a true disservice to our Nation and its citizens, and this is the reason why we should promote a better understanding of the Constitution on the part of our Nation's youth.

The resolution also encourages seniors to petition the government on an issue of personal importance to them to demonstrate their understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States. They can write letters, organize a trip to Washington, D.C., to see Congress in action, or call their Representatives to voice their opinions about bills and laws in which they have an interest.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to say that earlier this afternoon, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 686, just 3 days before we celebrate Constitution Day, which marks the 222nd anniversary of the original signing of the U.S. Constitution by members of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787.

I want to thank the 222 Representatives who signed on as cosponsors of this bipartisan bill. I hope that it will help to reinforce the great importance of the U.S. Constitution to our Nation.

THE 19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS' VIEWS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, like many Members in the House, I spent a good part of August visiting with people in the 19th Congressional District that sent me here. I had several coffees all across my district. One of the things that they spoke loud and clear of is that they are very concerned about the direction of their country. And as I listened to the President's speech and I listened to some of his advisers, they think these people are not Main Street America, that they are somehow disillusioned. Well, they are disillusioned. They are disillusioned with our government. They see their government bailing out banks. They see their government bailing out car companies. They see their government taking over every aspect of their lives and now wants to take over our health care. I want to read you some of the comments from the people of the 19th Congressional District.

Janie from Lubbock, Texas: ''I am self-employed and pay my taxes. I firmly believe we currently have way too much government in our business and daily lives.''

Jennifer from Wolfforth, Texas: ''Keep the government out of our health care. Remind them of our broken systems, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. We don't need another one.''

Bobby from Lubbock: ''I do not want the government to run my health care. America does not need any more debt.''

Rick from Lubbock asked this question: ''Why can't government cut back on its spending like the rest of us have to?''

Nelma from Lubbock: ''My husband and I were born into very poor families. We were able to realize the American Dream. I want this opportunity for the upcoming generations.''

Michael from Lubbock: ''Reform is definitely necessary, but not the kind that has been proposed.''

James from Lubbock: ''Read, understand and apply the Constitution.'' A novel idea, James.

Mandy from Lubbock: ''We want to keep our great insurance that we pay premiums for. We don't want to have our tax dollars fund another fiasco and become another Canada.''

Holly from Wolfforth: ''Stop the spending. When I was deeply in debt, I stopped buying, worked hard and paid for things slowly but surely. I am out of debt now. I did not ask anyone to print money for me or pay for me.''

John from Lubbock: ''Promise us that you will sign yourself, your family on the same plan that you force us into.''

Grace from Lubbock: ''I hope you have listened to the many people here in Lubbock who do not have health insurance and who cannot afford it.''

James from Lubbock: ''The U.S. Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, in particular, should limit their reach to what is allowed by our Founding Fathers' documents.''

Robert from Lubbock: ''We must stop this crazy deficit spending and borrowing.''

Marilyn from Lubbock: ''I hope that you will find a way to use the programs already available to cover all Americans.''

Rosalie from Lubbock: ''Government is spending too much money. Back off.''

Larry from Lubbock: ''In the bill there is language limiting the growth of physician-owned hospitals. These hospitals are able to supply health care services more efficiently than other community-based larger hospitals. I am against this bill.''

Sandra from Lubbock: ''We need to slow things down and people need to read all of the bill before doing any voting.

Kayla from Lubbock, who attended with her grandmother: ''I am 9 years old, and I am wondering why the heck you're spending my future. Thank you for listening.''

Ron from Lubbock: ''When my kids were in college, my friends called me the ATM. I don't know the President. I don't want to be his ATM.''

George from Lubbock: ''As Big Government continues to expand, there is a commensurate loss of individual freedom, accompanied by excessive spending and an amassing of a ridiculous deficit.''

Michelle from Lubbock: ''I am a RN in a local emergency room. I am personally against the health care bill. How do we fix overcrowding of ERs? ER nurses are working twice as hard and seeing twice as many patients compared to the past.''

Jack from Lubbock, ''Say 'no' to the government health care and protect our borders.''

Joel from Lubbock: ''Please say 'no' to all excessive spending. Some of it does not fit with our Constitution.''

Susan from Lubbock: ''I have been an RN for 34 years. I am tired of seeing patients turned away due to lack of insurance. This takes such a toll on families and health care providers.''

Mary from Lubbock: ''Please do all that you can to keep health care in our hands, not the government.''

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, these are not people that are off on some tangent. These are people that are concerned about their country. They are concerned that the government is taking over every aspect of their lives. They're concerned that we are mortgaging the future of their children and their grandchildren. They're concerned that their personal liberties and freedoms are at risk.

Mr. President and Madam Speaker, it's time to listen to the American people and quit giving speeches.

CORRUPTION IN ACORN

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. You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that concerns me is that the more liberal media seems to ignore some of the things that are extremely important to the people of this country and to the freedoms we enjoy and the money that's being spent by the Congress.

This weekend and today I watched a number of these shows that I watch on a regular basis because those of us in this body, we follow the news very, very closely. Mr. Glenn Beck, Sean Hannity and Mr. O'Reilly, who are all on FOX, focused attention over the past few weeks on this ACORN organization. It's really interesting to find out that ACORN, which helped the President get elected, was such a strong force for him and whom he congratulated on the support they gave him, and he told them he wanted to work with them and he wanted to have their advice on issues of major concern. So he's very close to ACORN.

ACORN, which received $53 million from 1993 until now—that's 16 years. They received $53 million over 16 years. This year, they now have access to $8.5 billion. Now, I mean, that's a heck of a reward, it seems like to me, for being supportive of the administration. Then Mr. FRANK, on the Banking Committee, puts legislation through, which has passed the House, that would give them access to an additional $1.5 billion. That's $10 billion ACORN has access to.

If you were watching any of these television shows in the last week, you'll see that some people went in and they posed as a prostitute and a man who was soliciting for a prostitute. I think they call him a pimp. They asked the advice of ACORN, and ACORN gave them advice on how to circumvent the law, how to hide what they were doing from the law, how they could make money and not report it to the Government of the United States.

Then these people asked, Well, we want to bring some young people in from South America. They're underage, and we want them to work for us in this prostitution ring. The people at ACORN said—and there were two or three of them—they said, Well, here's how you do it. And they explained to them how they could claim them as children or dependents and expand their ring of prostitution. This is all documented. It's on television, and it's in the papers—some papers, very few. Yet ACORN is going to get almost $10 billion.

They have been involved in other nefarious activities, and they were supposed to work on the Census. Can you imagine? The way the States get money from the Federal Government is based, in large part, on the Census that's taken—how many people live in a congressional district, how many people live in a State—and the money that comes from the Federal Government is divvied up, in large part, on the basis of the Census.

So ACORN was going to have a major role in working to count the number of people throughout the country and, in effect, decide where this money is going to be going. This is an organization that has a tremendous amount of corruption. They're finding more and more corruption every single day, and the taxpayers of this country are allowing them, through the Congress, to have access to almost $10 billion of our taxpayers' dollars. That is insane.

We've asked the Congress and leaders of the Democrat Party, the chairmen of these various committees, to hold hearings on this, to have an investigation, and we have yet to have any investigation whatsoever, not one. So today I wrote a letter to Chairman TOWNS of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, who is a very good friend of mine and a very fair man. I have asked Chairman TOWNS to have an investigation into ACORN.

When you're talking about $10 billion of the taxpayers' money going to an organization that we know has been involved in various nefarious activities and that we know has been involved in corruption, we certainly should at least look into what they're doing and stop them from using taxpayers' dollars to do these things.

This is something that we shouldn't allow anybody to shovel under the rug. The administration should take responsibility for conducting an investigation and pushing for it, and the Members of Congress on the majority side that has the chairmanships in both the House and the Senate need to push very hard for an investigation, and we need to do it now. We need not to give them one dime until that investigation is completed.

CAREFULLY CRAFTING HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, as we're having a debate on the issue of health care and a lot of different ideas and different things are being passed around, I think it's really important that we look at the real reason why we need to make reforms to our health care system in America.

Clearly there are problems with health care, but there are very narrow problems with people who don't have the ability and the access to get health care at an affordable price. What we need to do is focus on fixing the problems in the system that don't work, but at the same time, we need to be very careful not to destroy the things that make medical care in the United States the best medical care in the world.

I think what concerns many of us is this proposal of a government takeover of our health care system where the government would come in all under the guise of competing against private companies. Of course anybody that understands what competition really means and who looks at the concept of the Federal Government, with taxpayer backing, coming in as your competitor when they write the rules that both of you have to play by—they've got this health care czar that they're creating in their bill, which, by the way, I think the count is up to over 30 czars now created in this administration.

We need to sunset these czars. We need to get rid of these czars. We shouldn't have people with these unbridled powers that have absolutely no accountability to the public, did not go through the scrutiny of the normal process that a cabinet secretary or high-ranking official would have to go through with Senate confirmation, testifying before committees and being answerable to the American people. Yet you've got these czars with these powers, and now they're trying to create a health care czar that would literally have the ability to make major decisions over individual families' health care.

□ 2000

I think it's very important to go through and talk about some of these claims that are being made because they are claims that are being made that completely are contradicted by the bills that we have before us in the Congress that are brought by and supported by this President and this administration.

One of the first claims that's been made a whole lot is if you like the health care you have, you can keep it. Now, personally I think that's a very important claim. I think that's one of the sacred parts of health care that we should maintain. If people like the health care they have, they should keep it. The problem is in the bill that President Obama supports in the House, the only bill this administration, Speaker PELOSI, and others are promoting, is H.R. 3200. In that bill, in fact, on page 15 of that bill, they give the power to the health care czar, again an unappointed bureaucrat, a person who did not go through any confirmation process, who was just appointed by the President, who is wholly unaccountable to Congress, this health care czar would have the power to decertify private plans.

That's right. That means if you have a health care policy you like, the health care czar, in their bill, has the power to take away your health care plan even if you do like it. It's in their bill. We actually tried to take that out in committee.

Another claim that's been made a whole lot that was made here on this

House floor deals with the issue of illegal immigration and do illegal aliens have access to health care. Now, many have claimed that illegal aliens wouldn't be able to get health care in their bill. The problem is, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's bill allows 8 million illegal aliens to have access to his government-run health care plan. That testimony was given by the Congressional Budget Office. That's not a Republican or a Democrat who said that. That's the bipartisan group that we actually have to follow who scores these bills, who makes a determination whether or not these statements are accurate. The Congressional Budget Office has said 8 million illegal aliens would have access to this government plan that the President is supporting, H.R. 3200.

And there are a lot of other claims that are similar to those that are just not accurate. One of the ones that's thrown around a lot by the President and others is this straw man that we've got to fix health care and if we don't pass his bill, then everybody else is for the status quo if they're not for his bill, if they don't want the government to take it over.

That's not true. If you look at the bills that are out there, there are many bills that I and others support that are very different approaches than the bill that the President and Speaker PELOSI support. One good one is H.R. 3400. H.R. 3400 has nearly 40 Members of Congress that are cosponsors, including four medical doctors, people that really understand the problems in health care. In our bill we actually address the problems that exist. We address the problems with preexisting conditions. I don't think it's fair or right that somebody can be denied health care coverage because they're battling maybe a disease like cancer or some other tragic disease that in the current system they are currently discriminated against. We fix that problem in our bill. We invoke real competition, but it's not by bringing in the government; it's by allowing people to buy across State lines and have competition.

So we need to address these problems in a real, honest way.

THE NATION'S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the context of my remarks is engaging the issue of the current financial situation that the United States finds itself in.

Mr. Speaker, it was less than 1 year ago that the government began Bailout Nation, which was $700 billion in tax money that was given to the United States Treasury Secretary for the purpose of stabilizing America's financial situation. Let's take just a brief history of what has happened in the United States in just less than 1 year's time.

This Congress appropriated essentially a blank check to the Treasury Secretary of $700 billion, a blank check. The Treasury Secretary literally could do anything he wanted to do with that $700 billion. That $700 billion went to the Treasury Secretary. It's gone to bail out banks. It's gone to bail out an insurance company, and it has gone to set up the automobile task force.

In that time we have seen $700 billion go not only for that bailout; we also saw $29 billion go to Bear Stearns to shore up that investment banking house. We also saw $200 billion go for Fannie and Freddie, the secondary mortgage company, because, remember, all of this began with a meltdown in the housing industry. So we thought, first of all, money needed to go to bail out the secondary mortgage provider.

Almost all loans today in the United States are now backed up by the Federal Government. This is amazing what has happened to our country in less than 1 year's time. We saw over $100 billion of our tax money go to bail out the largest insurance company in the United States, AIG. Still the United States taxpayer has yet to be repaid the money for AIG. We have yet to be made whole.

We have yet to be made whole for the money that was extended to General Motors and Chrysler. That's tens of billions of dollars that were given to the car companies. We were told that we had to give them tens of billions so they wouldn't go into bankruptcy. Well, lo and behold, what happened? Both GM and Chrysler went into bankruptcy.

We were told that we had to give all of this money to Freddie and Fannie so that they won't go into bankruptcy, and we continue to pour taxpayer money into Freddie and Fannie. Not only that, the American taxpayer was told to give another $75 billion in mortgage bailout money.

At what point do we say enough is enough? Two hundred billion dollars for the secondary mortgage company, another $75 billion for mortgage bailout. But that wasn't enough because the American taxpayers were told we needed to give a trillion dollars in stimulus programs. A trillion dollars. That money hasn't been completely let out, thank God. Every penny that hasn't let out at this point should be reeled back in, and we shouldn't be committing any more of that money.

We also agreed in this body to spend another $400 billion in an end-of-the-year budget gap that we were able to shore up.

At this point we know the Congressional Budget Office has said that our country will be in deficit $1.6 trillion this year, and it may get worse. How do we know that? Unemployment is at 9.7 percent, and President Obama's own economic adviser has said if we pass his version of the government takeover of health care, we will lose 5.5 million more jobs. We have lost 4 million jobs. If we pass President Obama's health care reform, by his numbers, we will lose another 5.5 million jobs. And if we pass his national energy tax, the cap-and-trade bill, this energy tax, by President Obama's own numbers, will cost our economy an additional 2.5 million jobs lost every year going forward. This doesn't seem to be working for us as we look at this 1-year anniversary of Lehman Brothers collapsing.

So now the Federal Government owns or controls 30 percent of all private business profits. And if President Obama gets his way and takes over another 18 percent of our economy in health care, that means the Federal Government will own or control 48 percent of private business profits. Just think, a year ago 100 percent of private business profits were private. Today we're looking at the specter of 48 percent of private business profits owned or controlled by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, that's why the American people are nervous. That's why they don't want government to own or control any more of our economy.

GOSPEL MUSIC, FOREIGN POLICY, AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have some joyous moments in this body, and I am delighted to say that we will have that tomorrow.

Gospel music is part of America's culture, and I was very pleased to pass the legislation, House Joint Resolution 12, to acknowledge gospel music as part of the great culture of America.

Tomorrow here in this House, we will celebrate the gospel music heritage legislation that was passed in this House and in the Senate by my colleague and friend Senator BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN. And we will celebrate it with the wonderful sound of Richard Smallwood.

We have the privilege and honor of celebrating this cultural aspect of America reaching from the East to the West, from the North to the South, in places like Nashville, Tennessee; to Iowa; to Atlanta, Georgia; to Houston, Texas; to New York, New York; and places in California and around this Nation. We had the pleasure of celebrating it at the Kennedy Center. Bryon Cage and the Ebenezer Choir, AME Church, was there on Saturday evening celebrating gospel music heritage.

We're excited about it. And we thank our House leadership for helping us pass this honoring of those wonderful gospel musicians that all of us have enjoyed over the years and decades: some starting out or gaining their rock and roll status like Elvis Presley from their original origins of gospel music

or Al Green, the gospel singer, or Mahalia Jackson or Marian Anderson or Yolanda Adams. So many great gospel singers have given all of us joy no matter from whence we have come.

So I would like to thank the House leadership. I would like to thank the majority leader and his staff and Chairman TOWNS and the ranking member of the Government Oversight Committee, all of whom helped this day come to fruition.

As we move into issues that require our attention, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment very briefly on our position in Afghanistan. Tomorrow I will have the opportunity to join in listening to Ambassador Holbrooke, who has just returned back from Afghanistan, and I would like to offer these thoughts.

I do believe that Afghanistan is very important to the United States, and after 9/11 it was important to respond to the attack on this Nation. But now I think it is important to emphasize a diplomatic surge and the stand-down of the military soldiers, all who are valiantly working there. I believe it is important to allow the Afghan people, through the building of schools and roads and through the building of the Afghan Army, to take control of their own security. We cannot allow this to be a 20-year war as it was with Russia, and the Afghan people must stand up.

Some may say it is not the time, that it is a difficult time. And they are right, because instead of pursuing the cause in Afghanistan, over the last 8 years we failed and detoured into Iraq, Iraq that took thousands of American lives and still unfortunately and tragically struggles today with democracy and leadership in their own country. But I do believe it is time for a surge of diplomacy in Afghanistan, and I am going to work with my colleagues to see this happen.

I wish to mention Iran, as well, as the General Assembly gathers in the United Nations and particularly to focus on Camp Ashraf that has displaced Iranians. These individuals are in Iraq and they are subject to abuse. I'm calling upon the administration to demand for the people that are displaced that happen to be Iranians who are in Iraq to be treated with human dignity and for that camp to be protected and for the Iraqi military to protect that camp and not allow the intrusion into that camp and the rampage that's going on and the attack on women and children. Enough is enough. If Iraq claims itself to be a democracy, it is important.

I also call upon the General Assembly to comment on the abuses in Iran, the human rights abuse, the press abuse, the lack of freedom of press. Even as we debate this question of nuclear proliferation, we should not allow the kinds of abuses that are going on in Iran.

As I move to the domestic issue, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we clarify that health care is something that America wants. Sixty percent of the American people want health care. And as I was coming here to Washington, I met someone, Mrs. Wallace, in the airport who indicated that her son will have to have surgery costing a million dollars, and she pleaded that we get our job done. I said I would take her message to Washington, D.C. She was sending off her sister going to New Zealand. They have not been hampered by a program that is, in essence, underwritten by the government, but we're not asking for a program to be underwritten by the government; we are asking for people to have choice. But more importantly, we are asking to have an option, a public option, that will provide for the competitiveness that is so very important in providing health care for all Americans.

Let's stop all the myths and the attacks, and let's have an evenhanded debate to recognize that a public option provides for competition.

□ 2015

I want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by simply saying we have celebrated this 1 year with the Lehman Brothers, but I will say to you that we have to have a recovery that makes sense, and this administration is working on it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS 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 gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as some people might know and some of my colleagues know, I have been appearing before this House for the leadership hour now for approximately 12 weeks, and I have been talking about this House of hypocrisy that we seem to be thriving in here as we have all of these issues that involve multiple people concerning ethical issues, and in some instances maybe even criminal issues that need to be addressed. I have raised the issue because I want to remind the leadership of this House that if we don't address these issues, we are failing in our duty as Members of Congress.

As we sit here with the Democrat majority blasting JOE WILSON for a very inadvertent outcry in the House of Representatives, we seem to have forgotten what I have been talking about for the last 12 weeks which is Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL's decades of tax evasion and ethics violations that have been raised over and over on the floor of this House. This is the ultimate of hypocrisy. So I am going to talk about it again tonight. I think it is important that we listen.

It is important to also know this has not just started in the last few months. Today is a very important day. This is September 15, I believe. Close to it anyway. On September 15, 2008, the New York Times, certainly not one of the more conservative newspapers, and I don't think anyone would consider them a Republican newspaper, called for the resignation of Chairman RANGEL as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee because of the allegations that he himself had pointed out to this House on the floor of this House of his failure to report certain items of value and failure to pay taxes on about $75,000 worth of income that he realized in the Dominican Republic on a vacation home that he owned there and rented out. He rightfully said he was going to correct that by paying the taxes and amending his return and that he felt bad about it, and that he had turned himself in to the Ethics Committee.

Well, this turning yourself in to the Ethics Committee is almost the hypocrite's dream because you say I want you to judge me. Well, are they? They have had a year now. This was turned in to the Ethics Committee a year ago. We were promised when this new Congress started, we were promised in the fall of last year by the Speaker of this House, NANCY PELOSI, that she was sure that all of the Rangel issues would be resolved by the first or second week of January of this year. And yet they are still not resolved.

The Ethics Committee's job is to be the charging body in this Congress, and they are to look into these allegations and they are to make decisions. It is our method of policing ourselves. Quite frankly, when you find your method of policing yourself has failed, and I would argue 1 year on one person is pretty close to failure, then maybe we need to come up with a new system. Maybe we need to come up with a new

way. Maybe we are not capable of policing ourselves.

There have been bodies like bar associations and medical associations that have historically policed up their own members; and other associations, certified public accountants, architects, and others have boards that police up their members. If they do a good job, they should be commended. And if they fail, they should be condemned. There is an old adage in the law, and having spent the vast majority of my life in the trial court in Texas, serving 20 years on a trial bench as a district judge, for 20 years prior to my coming to Congress 8 years ago, I can tell you we have an adage that justice delayed is justice denied. That is why we have things like speedy trial acts in the courts of America where a defendant can say I want this case brought to trial within a set time period because justice delayed is justice denied.

That's why we have multiple terms of grand juries and we promote the grand jury process to move cases along through the system so we can deal with felony criminal cases in an opportune way so justice is not delayed. Therefore, justice is not denied. That is why we come up with alternative forms of resolution of disputes in the courthouse because our civil dockets and our family law dockets get so bogged down in numbers that justice becomes delayed; and, therefore, justice is denied.

Well, I would argue that when one man stands at that microphone and for about an hour confesses his transgressions to this House, defended by the speech and debate clause of the Constitution, and states in no uncertain terms that he had made some serious errors and he was going to correct them and that he was turning it over to the Ethics Committee to get it resolved, then he has not been fairly treated by the Ethics Committee not resolving this. That is one of the things that I want to point out. I am about resolution of disputes. I am about solving these types of things that put an evil light upon this House of Representatives.

We have enough trouble with the public right now. Our poll numbers are terrible. But the reality is that the history of this place calls upon us to be honorable people. We address each other as honorable people. And if you are going to be an honorable person, then we have to have a means of recourse when honor is challenged even if you challenge it yourself. And I would argue that our methods that we are using right now in the Ethics Committee are failing this House of Representatives and the leadership whose committee it is is failing this House of Representatives. This needs to be resolved.

When we talked about this 1 year ago, we heard about Mr. RANGEL's issues concerning the rent that he failed to report as income, and he announced to us that he was paying the taxes and would pay any penalties and interest that may be assessed against him. Later we learned that he paid taxes but he didn't pay any penalties and interest because they weren't assessed against him. That looked to me like the IRS was giving special privileges to Mr. RANGEL. Why would they do that? Could it be because he is the chairman of the committee that oversees the IRS and the chairman of the committee that writes the tax laws of this Nation? It could be, but that is not right. That is not the way it ought to be. Just because 652,000 Americans decide to send one of us to Congress, does that mean that we have special rights that others in this country do not have? No, it does not. And we need to stand up and say so. We go through that same line everybody else does at the airport. We get our pockets emptied at the airport, and we go through the magnetometer just like everybody else at the airport, and we should. We are not different than anybody else in the United States.

And yet I think it is totally, totally inappropriate for the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, who has admitted that he failed for years to pay taxes on income that he received in the Dominican Republic, that he should not be assessed penalties and interest. For 10 years I practiced law in Texas, and I represented a lot of people who had trouble with the IRS. And I always saw when we finished it up and resolved their issues, penalties and interest. In many instances, the penalties and interest were more than the taxes. And Mr. RANGEL, and I don't have exact numbers, but it was for a period of 10 or 15 years that he didn't pay on this income. Why shouldn't he pay penalties and interest?

So I wrote him a letter. I said very respectfully, Mr. Chairman, I am sure that you do not want to be treated any differently than any other American. I would request that you speak to the IRS and ask them to assess the appropriate penalties and interest, and that you pay them. I received no reply to that.

So I introduced a bill that I call the Rangel rule. The Rangel rule says very simply if you owe penalties and interest on income that you fail to pay, when you pay that tax, write on your tax form ''exercising the Rangel rule'' and you as an American citizen will be treated the same as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

I thought that was fair. I thought that was just. It is still in the hopper. I am perfectly willing, if the leadership of this House will bring it up, to put it to a vote of my colleagues, and we might be surprised; the Rangel rule might actually become law. But we should at least have that find of fair treatment for Americans, the same kind of fair treatment we expect to have. We don't expect people in this Congress to get different treatment.

That is what I have been talking about, failing to report. We have to file a report every year. It is required by law. It is like an oath, and if you violate that oath, there are consequences of violating that oath. You basically swear this is what I owe, this is what I made. This is dividend income or interest income, or whatever. We sign and swear to that. That would at least make it subject to perjury. And we file it every year.

Now the complaint that we give ranges is true. You can report that I own property that is worth between $250,000 and $500,000, and you don't know exactly what end of that rainbow you are talking about, that that is the range. I didn't write the forms; those are the forms. But if you fail to report it, you are given a certain amount of time to amend it. That is fair. People can miss something. And many of the things that Mr. RANGEL talked to us about when he talked on the floor of this House was the things that he didn't report. That is good. He was being honest with the American people and with the Members of this House. He turned that over to the Ethics Committee, too. I assume that he filed the amended reports. And that is sort of what we have been trying to get resolved before the Ethics Committee, is this something that should be sanctionable by the House? The Ethics Committee's job is to tell us that. We have certain sanctions that this House can have. They are set out in our rules. Those rules were given to us by Thomas Jefferson, a fairly famous scholar and famous Democrat. We have got these rules, we have these sanctions, and that committee is supposed to function to start the process.

□ 2030

Today is the first anniversary of the process starting for that, just what I told you so far.

But since then, since that time other things have come forward. In fact, recently, other things have come forward. Mr. RANGEL has been found, in many newspaper articles that have been coming out about this, in a potential additional violation of underreporting income and assets in 2007 by more than half, including the failure again to report the income from his Caribbean resort property. He has aides that work for him that also failed to file these reports and failed to disclose this information.

His lease of a multi rent-controlled apartment was part of the discussions that took place at that time. He is using his House parking space as a storage place for a car he didn't want to pay to be stored. His failure to report or pay taxes on his rental income in the Dominican Republic, the alleged quid pro quo trading legislation action in exchange for the new Rangel Center and College and New York College. All of these things are part of previous accusations. But now we have new properties, brand new retirement accounts, brand new investment accounts, five different investment accounts that, oops, we just discovered those. And

we've just discovered rental properties over in Brooklyn, New York, and over in New Jersey, just discovered and have just come out in the newspapers. And there's article after article after article.

As we celebrate this anniversary, here are some of the things that are out there. We just talked about some of them, the parking spot and all those things. There is also a trip taken by Mr. RANGEL and others to the Caribbean; it was paid for by lobbyists when we had a firm promise by the Speaker and the leadership of this House, the Democrat leadership, that this was a new Congress, they were draining the swamp. Well, the swamp is not drained; in fact, we're knee deep in alligators right now. But the draining of the swamp was there would be no more lobbyists paying for trips, when we have multiple Members of this House, including Mr. RANGEL, who went on a lobbyist-paid trip where they are on film thanking the individual lobbyists for their contributions to the trip.

People say, why isn't this working? Why isn't this Ethics Committee working? And of course the newspapers, who like to speculate, have pointed out that three of the five Democrat members on the Ethics Committee have received major campaign donations from CHARLIE RANGEL. We asked why Speaker PELOSI hasn't taken a hand in this and we found out 119 Democrats have been given money by Mr. RANGEL for their next campaign. And so he's a source of funds for the majority party here in this House, and that may be it, but we don't know.

But you know what? What this is all about is I am sick and tired of everybody being lumped together as evil people in this House. And therefore, justice delayed is justice denied, and it's time we address some of these issues.

I am joined by my friend, who is a classmate of mine, from Iowa. He is one of the stars of this floor because when he speaks, he speaks from the heart. Brother KING, tell us what you've got to say. I will yield you what time you may need.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman and the judge from Texas. I thank you, Judge CARTER, for your leadership on this issue. And I know that it's hard for a lot of Members to come down to the floor and raise an issue that has to do with the ethics of any other Member. Whatever party they might be, if they're a Democrat or if they're a Republican, there's a certain restraint that exists in this House Chamber. And sometimes it's because Members are afraid that they or their agenda will be punished by a powerful committee Chair who holds a gavel.

There are some, though—as you have done for 12 or 13 or more weeks—that have stepped up here and stood on principle and talked about real ethics and talked about the standards of this House and the standards that we need to hold the other Members to—and ourselves to for that matter—regardless of the consequences that might come along within this circle of people that work together every day. We've got to be the ones that raise the standard of this House and hold it up.

Now, if you have someone who is in charge of the IRS who doesn't pay their taxes, immediately they lose the moral authority to claim anyone else's tax money. That's the case with Tim Geithner. And it's a point that I think has been alluded to at least by the gentleman from Texas. And if you have the chairman of the most powerful committee in the House of Representatives, the Ways and Means Committee, and the lists of these questions, the ethical questions and the problems with his own taxes gets longer and longer after this—happy birthday, Chairman RANGEL—a year since The New York Times called for the chairman to step down, CHARLIE RANGEL to step down as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

And I can remember the excoriation that took place when Republicans were in the majority and Democrats were looking for anything that they could fabricate to allege against the people in power on this side. I remember constant attacks on Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, who had something like 74 charges brought against him; every one of them specious, none of them substantive, and none of them stuck during all that period of time. But it was designed to focus on the person that held the most power here in the House of Representatives.

And so that taints this. And people think that it's purely a political battle that's going on. Well, it's political in a lot of ways. Judge CARTER talked about how political it is with 119 Members of the Democrat Caucus in the House of Representatives having received a campaign check from CHARLIE RANGEL. When you have a majority—close to it anyway—near the majority of your own caucus that you've contributed to their campaign, somehow they just magically, over time, lose their conviction to stand up for pure ethics.

And it's a shame, but the reality of the political world today is that it isn't just a matter of altruism, it isn't just people that come here—and many do come here to do the right thing; many come here because they want to help America; many come because they believe—they're either liberals or conservatives or someplace in between, but they believe in what they do and they stand up and speak out about it. That sense of conviction, that sense of altruism is something that should be applauded and honored and respected whatever that judgment is, whether they're liberals or whether they're conservatives.

I think a lot of America believes that that's what drives this House. I'd like to think it is, it's part of what drives this House. But another part that drives this House is political power, political patronage, campaign contributions. The influence that comes from being able to direct policy as chairman of a committee is a powerful thing, it's an influential thing. And why does Chairman RANGEL have all that money to give to 119 Members of his own caucus? Because he controls the tax-writing committee. He controls a lot of the regulations that control the economy of the United States of America—at least the free market economy and what's left of it.

And so there are those who disagree with the philosophy and the policy that CHARLIE RANGEL drives as the man who holds the gavel chairing the Ways and Means Committee. And there are many people in this country, many companies, many corporations, many entities that will find a way to get checks into that campaign fund because they don't want to be punished. And that money gets delved out to Members of their own caucus. And the chairman forgets to pay his taxes and underestimates his liabilities and assets by more than half, including forgetting to report the income off of his villa property in the Dominican Republic and forgetting to report that he is receiving rent subsidy on apartment houses for years in New York City.

The failure to report and pay taxes on rental income from the villa in the Dominican Republic is as clear as it can be. And was it an attack of conscience that Chairman RANGEL had when he finally amended the statement? I think not, because to falsify those statements is a felony. But when the issue was raised by Judge CARTER, by The New York Times, by a number of others, then the chairman stepped forward and amended his returns, and then amended them again—I actually don't know how many rounds it's been that those ethics reports or financial reports have been amended.

But they're not, I can't envision, being amended because of an attack of conscience; they're being amended because the news media, JOHN CARTER, other Members have stepped forward and laid the facts out before the American people. They're being amended to avoid the embarrassment and perhaps the prosecution in order to comply with and hopefully avoid an Ethics ruling when it comes out of the dysfunctional Ethics Committee in the House of Representatives.

So I think it's pretty interesting that there is an alleged—this is one of the list of things that have emerged in the last year—an alleged quid pro quo of trading legislative action in exchange for donations to a center named for CHARLIE RANGEL at City College of New York. I remember one of our Members, JOHN CAMPBELL from California, in particular, came down to the floor and offered an amendment to strike $1 million out that was earmarked for a center that was named after CHARLIE RANGEL. And he asked Mr. RANGEL, would you really ask that they name a center after you? And the answer was, essentially, I wouldn't want it to be named

after you, Mr. CAMPBELL, but yes, I've been here a long time, it's okay, I think we're allowed to do that.

House Members don't do that. There are posthumous names for Federal buildings for Members of Congress, but it's very rare to find a Member of the House of Representatives to ask for real estate to be named after them; kind of a self-glorification. Quid pro quo? Possibly. It certainly raises a question.

But trips to the Caribbean, this is something that's fairly astonishing. The gift rule violation, the trips to the Caribbean that were sponsored by the Carib News Foundation in 2007 and 2008, raised all kinds of questions. Now the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee—which, by the way, shouldn't be in the business of trying to direct the IRS to examine anybody; he should be worried about national policy and how that affects on a broad perspective, not micromanaging and focusing on an IRS investigation. But he had the audacity to push for a crackdown on U.S. taxpayers who make honest mistakes on their own returns, and then on the heels of Secretary Geithner's crackdown of UBS depositors for failing to pay their own taxes. The timing of this couldn't be worse.

And it goes on. The statement that I thought was really interesting was the Democrats' House of hypocrisy. They made a lot of allegations, but the House of hypocrisy—the IRS should investigate both CHARLIE RANGEL and TIM GEITHNER. And the problem is Tim Geithner controls the IRS. And so if you control an entity, it's pretty unlikely that they're going to do a vigorous job of investigating the people that actually decide what's going to go on within the operation.

The House Committee on Standards hasn't produced anything yet—that's the Ethics Committee. It's been dysfunctional for a long time. It took place that the former ranking member of the Ethics Committee, who is now the chairman of the Justice Appropriations Committee from West Virginia, funny—under investigation himself. And he holds the gavel that controls the appropriations to the people that are investigating him and he controls their purse strings, ALAN MOLLOHAN.

Interesting. House of hypocrisy: Geithner controlling the IRS; CHARLIE RANGEL controlling the Ways and Means and the tax code; the House Committee on Standards can't seem to move; the chairman, CHARLIE RANGEL, has given campaign donations to three of the five Democrats on the Ethics Committee. Now, it should be unethical to make contributions from the House to Members on the Ethics Committee because, after all, especially if you're under investigation, surely that would turn the focus on him.

And the other interesting thing—this is one that really stands out—we had a little investigation going on on these Caribbean trips that are in question that Mr. RANGEL was on. Well, it turns out that the chairman of the investigation of the Caribbean trips was also along on the trip, so he knows what was going on there. If he would have thought there was a problem, he would have blown the whistle at that time, one would think.

This isn't the America that the people in this country pay for, that they want to have. It's not the America that the people I know deserve. This country is full of hardworking, honest, decent people, white collar and blue collar people, people that get their hands dirty every day, people that keep their hands clean and use their brain and their fingers and their computers or calculators, their telephones and their steering wheels, people that are down in the trenches, people that are in the meatpacking plants, people that are producing a product every single day, and they give up time away from their families and their homes and they pay their taxes and they comply with the regulations. And they fear the IRS coming into their kitchen or their office and doing an audit of them. And they respect the government.

And we have a House of hypocrisy here where the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee can't seem to get his own filings right on his own accounting forms, the rules that he writes, and has the audacity to turn up an IRS investigation on people that may not be.

119 Democrats have received money from CHARLIE RANGEL. Funny, the Ethics Committee can't move. Three of the five Democrats on the Ethics Committee seem to have received money from CHARLIE RANGEL.

□ 2045

So I would just say this: that we've got to clean this House up. We've got to end this House of hypocrisy. If anyone is under investigation, under question, and if the chairman of a committee and if the Speaker of the House can't see fit to bring the right kind of decorum and the right kind of decency and when a liberal newspaper like The New York Times is indignant at this House of Representatives—the House of hypocrisy run by Speaker PELOSI—and is thumbing its nose at the people of the United States of America, if The New York Times can see it, I guarantee you the people in my district can see it. They know it in Iowa. They know it in Texas. They know it in the heartland of America. They know it across the red zones of America. Everybody who gets up, who goes to work, who punches a time clock, who earns a salary, who pays his taxes, who carries his weight, and who contributes to this country understands that we've got to have a Nation that's a rule of law.

You can't write enough laws to make a decent people out of an indecent people. You can't cure hypocrisy by covering it up. At some place, at some time, somebody has got to dig up that rotting corpse, and it's going to have to have the light of day shine upon it. When that happens, we'll learn the truth, and there will be a day when the American people rise up again as they did last Saturday, when they came into this city by the hundreds of thousands.

Hundreds of thousands of people came to Washington, D.C., on Saturday and registered their rejection and their contempt for the profligate overspending that has taken place in this Congress, for the corruption that's here and for the House of hypocrisy that it is. They want clean, decent people, like they are, representing them in this Congress. Between them, they have the solutions to everything that's wrong with America. They aren't all good ideas, but among them are all the ideas that we need to solve the problems that we have.

We need to listen to the American people. We need to listen to the Founding Fathers. We need to be re-anchored back to the Declaration and to the Constitution. We have got to reform our fiscal responsibility. We have got to take this IRS out of our lives and get back our freedom. We have got to give people school choice. We have got to make sure that the younger generations learn it right and that they learn about God and country—our true history—and about our Founding Fathers, about personal responsibility and about the price for freedom and what freedom is and about the pillars of American exceptionalism.

This House of hypocrisy is not a pillar of American exceptionalism. It is a corrosive entity that undermines the pillars of American exceptionalism. We must clean it up. It needs to happen now. Why not on the first anniversary of The New York Times' calling for the resignation of CHARLIE RANGEL as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee? As my father always said, there is no time like the present.

I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend for everything he had to say, and I agree with everything he said.

I want to say something that is concerning me. It has come to my attention, through the rumors that have spread around the Halls of Congress, that some are saying this issue that I have raised about Mr. RANGEL has something to do with his race. I want to make it very clear: I spent 20 years on the bench. I believe in that Lady Justice who stands there with that blindfold. I can tell you in no uncertain terms—and I will leave it up to the people in my district, and you can check with them—that I never gave a sentence to a criminal defendant based upon his race nor did I even see the color of his skin. I based it upon his behavior, and the behavior that needed punishing I certainly punished. It had nothing to do with the race of anybody. When people start accusing someone of being a racist because he raises an issue of right and wrong, there's something wrong in this House of Representatives.

I bring this up now because I would hope this wouldn't happen, but if it does, I stand ready, willing and able to point out that this has absolutely nothing to do with race.

By the way, Mr. RANGEL isn't the only Member of this Congress whom I have spoken against and said that we needed to do something about. I just had to get that off my chest. Before this stuff starts, I want you to know the race card has nothing to do with what I'm trying to do on the floor of the House. I'm trying to see that we get justice at this level.

Mr. KING pointed out the fact that the Chairman of the IRS has got issues of not paying taxes. Who is going to go after him? The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee has issues of all sorts, which we've talked about here. Who is going to go after him? Well, I'll tell you who can—the Justice Department.

You know, when there are allegations of improper behavior, if those things rise to the level of criminal behavior, it is the duty and responsibility of the Justice Department to investigate, and I think the Justice Department should. It's supposed to be like that Lady Justice—blind to the political ramifications and going forward based only upon doing justice. That's why it is called the ''Justice Department.'' If there are issues here that people see, the Justice Department ought to do something about it.

This Congress has the ability to hold hearings on these issues, and they have the ability to hold hearings on the other issues that have been talked about here tonight, and it's about time we did it. We have issues of major proportions that are being totally ignored by this House. This has become the House of hypocrisy, as Mr. KING said. There are those who accused others of a culture of corruption just 2 years ago and actually, blatantly, stepped forward on the floor of this House and admitted so. Now, as the corruption is being exposed, all of a sudden, we don't hear anything more about that. It is hypocrisy. I wanted to bring that up because it's important.

I've spent my lifetime trying to be like that Lady Justice—blind as to who you're dealing with. If people will think back, I have said the reason I stand here tonight is because the rule of law is the glue that underpins the very basic foundation of this Republic, and if we let the rule of law be forgotten or to be discarded and if we, as a people, are not bound together by those agreed laws we've agreed to through our legislative process and if political power or influence changes that, then we're no different than a banana republic. Therefore, nothing is more sacred to the basic premises of a Republican form of government and a democracy than that all people, no matter what their statuses, are bound by the law.

Together, we just sent a man who stole in a Ponzi scheme billions of dollars from people around the world. Do you know what? It speaks to the American system. He is in prison tonight. That's the rule of law, and that's the way it's supposed to be.

So, when we talk about this—and occasionally I do—I smile and have fun with the Rangel rule, but the reality is, if we surrender the rule of law, we surrender our freedom and we surrender our Nation. We just can't do it. With all the political back-and-forth that may go on on the floor of this House, I believe in my heart—and I hope in my heart—that every person who sits in these seats is about standing up for the rule of law. If they are not, they don't belong here, because the rule of law is the glue that holds our society and our Republic together. It's very simple. It's not a complex issue. It's that people, as a people, decide to govern themselves with certain rules and regulations that are required of us as citizens. It's what we promise to do by being good citizens. So we're not going to take a handgun and walk across the street and rob the grocery store, because that is disruptive, and society has decided we're not going to tolerate that. That armed robbery in Texas will put you in prison for life, and believe me, I can tell you several people who know that very fact.

There's a reason we have laws: They hold our society together. It's not a law that says the poor immigrant gets the prison sentence and the rich executive does not. If they both break the law and the punishment is prison, they both ought to go to prison because that's the rule of law.

So, when we have issues that affect the rule of this House and, maybe, the rules of law of this Nation—right now, I'm talking about the rules of the people's House. This is the House of the people. This is the only House of the people. Don't let those Senators fool you, okay? They're not the House of the people. This is the House of the people. If someone dies in this House or is removed or leaves office in the middle of a term, nobody appoints his replacement. It is unlawful to appoint his replacement, because the Constitution of these United States says this is the House that is elected by the people. If we have a Senator die, the States can have a rule which says the Governor—and in fact, my State has that rule. If a Senator dies or leaves office in the middle of the term, our Governor gets to appoint a replacement Senator until such time as an election is held, and most States have something along those lines, which means they're not necessarily placed in that office by the people. That's the difference. When we say this is the House of the people, this is the only House of the people.

If we can't abide by our own rules when we are in charge of making those rules that govern life in America, what kind of example is that? Maybe these folks who've been in the streets for the last couple of weeks, who've been marching and yelling and fussing about Congress, have got something to fuss about; because the truth is, if we can't govern our own House, how can we be expected to govern our Nation?

I have been pointing out to the Democrat leadership of this House, who has this responsibility—you know, when you're in the majority, you govern. When we were in the majority, we governed. Governing is hard. It's harder than being in the minority. In the minority, you can just vote your conscience, and that's what we all should do anyway, but in the majority, you're responsible for the results just like whoever sits in the White House is responsible for the results.

Well, if we can't even figure out our own little rules and make our own little rules happen, how can we make laws that are responsible for the results that affect the people in Iowa or the people in Texas or the people in Louisiana or the people in Oregon or the people in Maine? How can the people have confidence if we can't even take care of our own business?

By the way, an issue is coming up, I think, in this House. Whether you're for it or against it, Joe Wilson made an outcry the other night, and he knows and has admitted that he should not have done that. In the heat of emotion, he made an outcry while the President was speaking. Joe is a very honorable man, and he immediately apologized to the President of the United States, and he immediately, in writing, apologized to the White House and to the Vice President. Now there's another street rumor that a privileged resolution is going to be filed on the floor of this House to censure Mr. WILSON before this Congress.

Of course, it's kind of interesting that the process is normally done through privileged resolutions, but there's usually some involvement by the Ethics Committee. I don't see any here. The Speaker has already said she didn't think it was appropriate to do this, and she made public statements that we should move on with health care and that he has apologized. I read that in the newspaper. Yet we're going forward on this. Then I'm crying for 12 weeks about really offensive behavior: When you pay your taxes, don't you think the guy who runs the Ways and Means Committee ought to pay his taxes? I don't see anybody jumping up, except the one time I did, and offering a privileged resolution. Mine was tabled on party lines and didn't get addressed, but I find it curious. I think Joe Wilson has apologized. He has acted like a gentleman, and I think that's where it ought to be. I agree with Speaker PELOSI's statements of 3 days ago to the press that we should move on. We'll see, but I hope we don't do that because it's just going to add, I say, to the hypocrisy of what we're talking about.

I yield back to my friend from Iowa.

□ 2100

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the judge from Texas.

And listening to the dialogue here on floor, I have to also rise in defense of the individual that everybody knows here is a true gentleman, a true Southern gentleman, and that's Congressman JOE WILSON of South Carolina. Anybody that knows JOE knows that he is the consummate officer and a gentleman.

He comes from generations of military personnel. He has four sons that have served in the military. And JOE spends his life and his time respecting others, respecting our military people who serve this country. And I have never known JOE to be anything other than a respectful, polite, gentleman, and, yet, duty, honor, country.

He was offended by what he heard here in the House of Representatives. And, for me, so was I.

The President of the United States came into the House of Representatives, as our guest, and stood here at the podium, here in the well, from the rostrum of the Speaker, and he threw the first stone. And he said, the prominent politicians had lied, and he began to tell how. That's how this was set up.

The President threw the first blow in here as a guest of the House of Representatives. And JOE WILSON, a man of honor, was offended at that, instantaneously. It was an instinctive thing, if you know the man.

And, also, so was the instinct to go to the phone immediately after the speech and call the White House and do what he did. That's enough. There doesn't need to be more, and the people in this House that are seeking to gain a partisan advantage and turn this into a circus over two words that probably were said a lot of other times that night here in the House of Representatives too, but they were covered by the other chatter, that happened to be two words that went into a pause of silence, and the timing of it really was unfortunate.

But I don't think JOE WILSON was unique in his emotion. It just happened to be made clear and embellished by the press. And so I don't make excuses for that and neither does he.

But if the President of the United States accepts an apology, no other person has any grounds to request redress beyond that point. And this House of Representatives shall not be turned into a circus to deal with minutiae because Democrats in this country have decided to run this country over the cliff into socialized medicine. And they can't sell it to the American people, so they want to change the subject. That's what it is.

And, by the way, the President of the United States injected himself into an incident that took place up in Boston when a professor at Harvard was breaking into his own house and the neighbors, out of good will, called the cops and Officer Crowley showed up, and the President himself made intemperate remarks.

They were emotional, they were knee-jerk and they show his bias—no really bias in JOE except duty, honor country, truth, justice in the American way. That's not a bias; that's an altruistic belief system that's in the gentleman JOE WILSON.

But the President injected himself and injected race into that situation up in Boston with the professor and the police officer, and he invited them out to the White House for a beer. And so it became a global story about how the President's masterful diplomacy brought everybody together at the White House. And we all knew what kind of beer everybody drank sitting there at the picnic table sitting outside—I actually don't know if they drank any. We know that they served it.

Well, so the President has accepted JOE WILSON's apology, and we are watching, through the majority whip, drive a resolution towards the floor tomorrow to try to excoriate a Southern gentleman.

And the President is sitting there now, having accepted the apology, and all he has to do is tell Rahm Emanuel, pick up the phone, call up there and talk to CLYBURN or PELOSI or STENY HOYER, the majority leader, and call off the dogs. We don't need this circus on the floor of the House of Representatives over something that may or may not have offended the President of the United States.

But that's over because he has accepted the apology. So now if we have a circus on the floor of the House, and the President doesn't come in and be a referee—and maybe call for a beer summit, so invite JOE WILSON out to the White House, that's what I would like to see happen—if the President doesn't call for that you have to wonder if he isn't secretly sitting there watching the fight, enjoying it, enjoying the circus that they are staging for tomorrow.

The circus itself will bring disgrace on the House of Representatives, and it's designed to cover this House of hypocrisy that we have. But instead it will illuminate it. And as the judge was saying about the rule of law, when I write rule of law, I capitalize it. Rule of law, R and L, capitalize it, in everything I write. Sometimes the staff slips by, but I get it in there, because I have such reverence for the rule of law.

And if we are going to be a Nation that functions, we all have got to have reverence for the rule of law. And if you look at some of these other countries that have some gifts and some blessings that look like they might be comparable to that of the United States and you wonder what's wrong, why can't Russia get their act together. Why can't Mexico get their act together and go there and look.

I can go almost anywhere in the world and tell you what I think we ought to do at least to fix it. But I can go to those places, and I can't tell what you ought to do. Because I don't know how to fix corruption.

When corruption is endemic in the culture of a country, you cannot have enough law enforcement officers. You cannot clean it up. It's got to be something that is a habit of the heart of the culture of the people.

We have had that throughout these centuries in the United States of America. And the things that threaten it, it isn't just a reflection of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee that has this whole list of ethical problems, including tax avoidance, and that's the nicest way I can say that. It isn't just that. It's the culture that supports it.

It's the Speaker of the House that enables it. It's the majority leader that backs it up. It's the fact that we are dealing with this House of hypocrisy while we are trying to set standards for the people of the United States of America and saying be altruistic, pay your taxes, follow through and do your part. And if you do that, we are a greater country.

But if people decide to take the CHARLIE RANGEL/Tim Geithner route, we can't have enough enforcement officers out there working for the IRS to go out and collect enough taxes to go out and run this government. It's got to be because people have great respect and reverence for the rule of law, and it should start here. This should be the highest standard in the House of Representatives.

But if I go to Mexico or if I go to Russia, I see there are natural resources, I see a good labor force, people that are pretty good workers—more so I think in Mexico than Russia from my observations, but they also were used to payola. They are used to payoffs. They don't think they can make a difference. They don't think their voice matters.

And when it gets to that point in the country where people don't believe any longer that their voice matters, and if they don't believe in the people that are making the decisions for them, and if they don't willingly comply with the laws and pay their taxes, then it all becomes a whole nation of gotcha, and who was the victim of enforcement, and who knew how to pay somebody off that had influence so they can avoid doing the right thing. And that might be paying taxes. It might be completely violating it in a violent way, just plain out and out theft.

If they can get by with it, if they have influence, the rule of law. The rule of law is the central pillar of American exceptionalism. Without it, we would have never become the unchallenged greatest Nation in the world.

But we are, because of that central pillar, the rule of law. Now, there are many other pillars, but the central pillar is a rule of law, and we have got to respect it.

And if you don't like the law, we will run for office or support somebody that does and ask them to change it. That's why we have this system. We have amendments to the Constitution. We don't like the Constitution, find a way to amend it.

If the people speak, we are supposed to listen here. Hundreds of thousands

showed up in Washington D.C. over this past weekend. And we need to hear what they have to say.

But they want to respect their elected Representatives. They want the rule of law to adhere to. They don't want to see this country flooded over with the level of corruption that we have seen in places like Mexico and Russia, or I go there and I think, what can be done?

I can prescribe the solutions that I think are very constructive to those countries, but if you could snap your fingers and get rid of the corruption in those countries, that would be the biggest thing that could be done. And then the people would have hope; they would have faith again. They would believe again that their government was responsible and responsive to them.

But the rule of law—and I think about how important it is to comply with the letter and the intent of the law, not just avoid prosecution, not just find a way to skirt around the edge of it, respect and revere the law and comply with the letter and the intent of the law.

And I had this little thought that popped up into my head—I was listening to the judge talk about this—this little phrase recurs back to me: no controlling legal authority. Do you remember that?

The Vice President of the United States, Al Gore, said, well there is no controlling legal authority. So, therefore, if there isn't any way that you can control his activities by enforcing a law that one can point to, therefore, whatever he might do apparently is acceptable or maybe even moral.

In the absence of prohibition, things become moral in this era of morals relativism.

I reject that. We have got to have high standards, high standards of conscience, high standards of morality, and our laws uphold those standards. And the people on the left will constantly argue you can't legislate morality.

Well, but if you de-legislate the morality that others legislated, now you have, now you have lowered the standard. Now you have lowered the bar. And now people believe it's acceptable, and it has happened over and over again. Our legislation is morality. Our legislation, the laws of America, the laws of our States and our local subdivisions uphold the moral standards of the people that pass them.

It's often our faith; our Judeo-Christian values are what shaped this country. The Declaration and the Constitution are infused with Judeo-Christian values. And those values are part of the culture reflected in the documents, not the documents that drove the culture.

And if we lose our culture, the documents will become meaningless to us. That's why we have got to stand up for the rule of law here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and everybody in America has to stand up for the rule of law, the letter and the intent of law, and the moral and ethical foundation that underpins it, or we lose our way, and we lose our country.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for that impassioned speech. We have about 5 minutes more left.

So I make it very clear, I don't think I made it clear, but Roll Call newspaper reported on August 25 some of these issues with Mr. RANGEL.

I am going to go through them very quickly. He filed an amended return about his 2007 assets and income disclosing more than $600,000 in assets, tens of thousands of dollars in income, that he had failed to report. He failed to report, for instance, a Congressional Federal Credit Union, which is just right down the hall from us here, account of at least $250,001; an investment fund account also worth at least $250,001.

He originally claimed assets of $516,000 to $1.316 million. Now he has revised it to $1.028 million to $2.5 million.

And once again he failed to report the income on his Dominican Republic account. He failed to report investments that netted him between 29,000 and 81,000 in capital gains dividends and in rental income when he previously claimed between 6,000 and 17,000.

He failed to report his investment in certain stocks, at least 1,001 of Yum brands; 15,001 in PepsiCo; and 250,001 in funds of Allianz Global Investors Consults Diversified Port III, half the limit, number three.

He failed to report rental income, and that's on top of the multiple allegations we have been talking about. It's time for a Member that justice must be swift and justice delayed is justice denied.

I ask the leadership of this House to move this process, reconcile these issues of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and let's resolve this crisis of this House so we can no longer be called the House of hypocrisy.

□ 2115

EXAMINING THE FACTS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to take a little time to examine some of the statements President Obama made when he addressed Congress on the issue of health care. Many of the things he mentioned in his address deserve some clarification or outright rebuttal.

The President said that, Not a dollar of the Medicare trust fund will be used to pay for this plan. That was easy for the President to say, and it is technically correct. It is technically correct only because there is no Medicare trust fund. It is an accounting mirage, a sham of government IOUs, thanks to decades of government deficit spending.

And, furthermore, among more than $500 million in proposed savings from Medicare, the Democrat bills also propose redirecting $23 billion from the Medicare Improvement Fund to fund new health care entitlements. According to current law, the Medicare Improvement Fund is designated specifically ''to make improvements under the original Medicare fee-for-service program.''

Then there is the issue of taxpayer-funded abortion coverage. President Obama said, Under our plan, no Federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and Federal conscience laws will remain in place. But independent groups have confirmed that the legislation will result in Federal funds being used to pay for abortions—both through the government-run health plan and through Federal subsidies provided through the exchange, despite various accounting gimmicks created in a so-called Energy and Commerce Committee ''compromise.''

Republicans offered amendments in all three of the committees to say this money cannot be used for abortions, and they were rebuffed at each turn.

President Obama also went on to claim that, ''Reducing the waste and inefficiency in Medicare and Medicaid will pay for most of this plan. Much of the rest will be paid for with revenues from the very same drug and insurance companies that stand to benefit from tens of millions of new customers.''

But the Congressional Budget Office had previously found that the cuts to Medicare Advantage plans included in the Democrat legislation would result in millions of seniors, including thousands and thousands in my district in North Carolina, losing their current plan—a direct contradiction of the President's assertion that, Nothing in this plan requires you to change what you have.

The President could have strengthened his statements by quoting sections and lines to back up the statements. We who have presented our alternatives and who have stood to refute the comments have been able, in most cases, to quote the section and the line of the bill to show that what we are saying is the truth.

As you can see from this discussion of the President's speech, when it comes to the debate over health care reform, there are often two sides to the issue, and it is simply not as cut and dried as President Obama has tried to make it out.

Many of us have serious misgivings and disagreements with the proposed legislation and will not allow our disagreements to be mischaracterized and sidelined by lofty rhetoric.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from

Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to enter remarks into the RECORD on this topic.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Certainly I appreciate the opportunity to join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, for this Special Order. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable Barbara Lee from the Ninth Congressional District of California.

My name is Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, and I represent the 11th Congressional District of the State of Ohio. CBC members are advocates for the human family nationally and internationally and have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress, but understand all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As Members of Congress, CBC members also promote legislation to aid neglected citizens throughout the world. We understand that the United States, as a bellwether, has the ability to positively impact our neighbors abroad.

The United States is a leader in advocating for the underprivileged at home and abroad. Americans understand that if we uplift others, then we, too, will be advanced.

With this in mind, tonight's CBC hour will focus on poverty reduction and the economic, social and political outlook for the continent of Africa. Specifically, I will discuss increasing access to both education and financial services in Africa.

As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I know well the far-reaching effects of education on individuals' quality of life and a nation's economic competitiveness. In the context of improving developing nations such as many African countries, the basic education offers the hope of a more prosperous world.

The benefits of basic education are innumerable. For instance, we know that when all citizens receive a good education, their nation's economic prosperity is increased, preventable illness is decreased, democratic ideals are spread, violent conflicts are reduced, and women are able to advance further than if they were discouraged from pursuing their studies.

Mr. Speaker, I see we have been joined by our Chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE from California. I would now like to yield to the gentlelady, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank the gentlelady for yielding and also for organizing once again the voice of the Congressional Black Caucus. Thank you so much, Congresswoman FUDGE, for continuing to raise the critical issues that our entire country must address at this moment in our history, and thank you so much for having a focus tonight on the continent of Africa, which is often forgotten.

Africa faces numerous challenges, which you mentioned earlier, but also enormous opportunities, and the promotion and the strengthening of the United States-Africa relationship is really vital to realizing the progress that's being made in addressing enduring crises related to food insecurity, the devastating health pandemic, such as HIV and AIDS, and the growing rates of inequality and poverty. Also, the economic prosperity.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud to point out that the Congressional Black Caucus is privileged to draw upon the wisdom and the expertise of our colleague on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey. Congressman PAYNE is more than a member, however; he is a resident expert on Africa. He understands the continent and each country on the continent.

He is the Chair of the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee. He is recognized on the continent of Africa as being a person who seeks global peace and security every step of the way. He is also the leader of our Congressional Black Caucus International Affairs Task Force.

The Congressional Black Caucus also is ably represented on the Foreign Affairs Committee by Congressman GREGORY MEEKS of New York; Congresswoman and former ambassador DIANE WATSON of California; Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE of Texas; and also Congressman DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

President Obama has likewise demonstrated a clear commitment to turn the corner in Africa, most notably with his announcement of a government-wide United States review of the U.S. Global Development Policy. Also, a renewed $3.5 billion food security initiative. And also we must remember his very stern and forthright speech in Ghana, where he asserted America's responsibilities to help advance a brighter future in Africa with action, not just with words.

Further, Secretary of State Clinton's recent visit to Africa brought much needed attention to the global fight against HIV and AIDS, violence against women, trade opportunities with the continent, and all of the development and aid issues which the Department of State is responsible for.

Despite such a positive outlook for our administration's strategy, the persistence of health pandemics, chronic food insecurity, a global economic crisis, and a looming threat of climate change continues to threaten the livelihood of millions of individuals across Africa each and every day. There are currently more people going hungry in the world than ever before. According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, almost a sixth of the world's population, or 1 billion individuals, are now undernourished.

Encouraging sustainable, long-term development will require a significant contribution from the United States and international partners. Recent estimates indicate that it will cost $500 billion to $600 billion for the next 10 years to allow developing nations such as those in Africa to grow, using renewable energy sources rather than relying on dirty fuels.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and its International Affairs Task Force under the leadership of Chairman PAYNE have long been a leading voice in Congress in calling for the United States to provide support for adaptation and sustainable development abroad, as well as assistance to ensure affordable access to emerging clean technologies.

The reality is that any strategy to combat global warming and climate change will need to include meaningful and equitable action on the international level. The scale of these challenges reflects the urgency of our efforts here in Congress.

The goal of the Congressional Black Caucus is to find and fund long-term, sustainable solutions to these threats at the household, community, and national levels.

Despite this great moral imperative, the United States continues to spend a disproportionately small amount of funding on nonmilitary foreign affairs programs. Most people in our country think that we spend a large portion of our budget on foreign affairs, but we just do not do that.

Instead of spending a staggering 52 percent of the Federal discretionary budget on an inflated defense budget for the Pentagon, that continues to invest in Cold War-era weapons systems to the tune of about $100 billion for, really, an enemy that does not exist, we should be investing in diplomacy and development activities that will help bring stability to nations on the brink of collapse and conflict. That is the essence of how we ensure our own national security.

That's why I have introduced H. Con. Res. 63, a resolution calling for an increase in nonmilitary foreign assistance to an amount equal to no less than 1 percent of GDP. It's hard to imagine we're not even at 1 percent yet.

Foreign assistance programs are essential in promoting national security and improving the credibility and standing of the United States in the world. To that end, our Congressional Black Caucus will continue to work to

develop clear goals and strategies for alleviating poverty, improving global health, and encouraging sustainable development, particularly in Africa. We will also continue to strengthen America's foreign assistance and diplomatic capacities, which is critical to this effort.

In noting the critical role of the United States in Africa, I must also speak out with regard to our responsibility to urgently seek peace for the residents of Darfur and the Sudan. When it comes to Darfur and the Sudan, it's important to recognize that the people of Sudan's desire for a just and longstanding sustainable peace has been crushed repeatedly by one of the most brutal regimes in the world.

More than 2 million South Sudanese have died in the 21-year war, and suffered countless atrocities, mostly committed by the same regime in Khartoum.

□ 2130

That's why it's so important to do the right thing now, which is to support the International Criminal Court in its efforts to hold Sudan's President Bashir accountable for his crimes against humanity. And let me tell you, they are crimes against humanity. I have visited the refugee camps on three occasions and witnessed the effects of genocide that were taking place right in front of my eyes. I tell you, we cannot lift sanctions at this point. We have to keep the pressure on to help make sure that people in the Sudan are protected and that the humanitarian assistance gets to them and gets to them immediately.

The Congressional Black Caucus under Congressman PAYNE's leadership was instrumental. We encouraged President Obama to appoint a special envoy for Sudan who is fully empowered and resourced to focus on Sudan as a whole and with special attention to the ongoing genocide in Darfur, the full implementation of the CPA and the humanitarian crisis.

I have to applaud and thank President Obama for appointing Major General Gration as the special envoy for Sudan because General Gration, who I met the first time I was in Sudan, is really uniquely qualified to undertake this critically important post. I know that I speak for all of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus when I say that we look forward to working with the special envoy to move us past the current stalemate, to end the genocide in Darfur and to bring peace to the long-suffering people of the Sudan. These are just a few—and I mean just a few—of the many critical issues with which the Congressional Black Caucus is taking a leading role.

The continent of Africa is strong. It's resilient. The Congressional Black Caucus is committed to working with our colleagues here in Congress to enact policies which support African nations in their efforts to ensure good governance, to prevent violence and conflict, and to provide a foundation for future stability, human development and sustainable economic growth.

So thank you again, Congresswoman FUDGE, for this evening and for giving us the chance to, once again, speak our minds and tell the American people what the Congressional Black Caucus not only continues to work on but also to encourage their support for many of the policies and the funding initiatives that we have been long calling for for many, many years. Thank you.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Speaker, I would just very much like to thank our Chair for being here at every Special Order, for the support that she has given to me personally but, more importantly, for the leadership she gives to the CBC. I thank you, Madam Chair, for being here.

Mr. Speaker, if I may continue, I wanted to just talk about the economic prosperity on the African continent. Many African countries do still, indeed, struggle to achieve economic sustainability and growth. This pursuit is undermined in part by the large number of citizens who have not received a basic education. Not a single economically viable nation achieved its prosperity without implementing near universal primary education. Additionally, education increases a Nation's gross domestic product. Adults with a primary school education earn twice as much as adults without any schooling.

In the areas of health, education and behavior changes are also the most effective way to address preventible diseases, including smallpox, tuberculosis, diarrhea and other water-borne illnesses. According to some estimations, if all children completed primary education, 700,000 new cases of AIDS and HIV could be prevented each year.

We also need to improve the political stability and reduce conflict. Education and the free exchange of ideas also encourages democratic styles of government. When citizens are well informed, they are more likely to participate in their democracy. As it relates to violent conflicts, education that teaches tolerance, the value of each individual, and respect for different beliefs is the best method to reduce violence and extremism.

Basic education provides girls and women with expanded employment opportunities, which is important for the overall advancement of families. Women's employability is especially crucial if they are the family's sole support. Children of educated women are in better health and are twice as likely to be enrolled in school.

Mr. Speaker, 75 million children worldwide are not at school; 55 percent of them are girls. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly one-half of the world's school-age children who are not enrolled in school. Twelve percent of the developing world's primary school-age population is not in school; more than 80 percent of them are in rural areas, and the vast majority are poor. Globally, 134 countries account for two-thirds of the out-of-school children, and current projections show that those countries will have 29 million out-of-school children by the year 2015.

Among African nations, there are various barriers to basic education. The lack of school buildings, shortage of teachers, prohibitive compulsory fees, and unique challenges faced by girls all limit many Africans' abilities to access formal education. However, these challenges are not insurmountable. Nearly 80 million new places of instruction must be created in order for all school-age African children to be accommodated. This will be a large undertaking, to say the least.

I applaud African governments for making progress towards the goals advanced in the Dakar Framework for Action in 2000. That framework was a statement signed by 164 countries during the 2000 World Education Forum stating that their commitment to universal education was strong. But without diligent support from the international community, these great goals will remain elusive.

In addition to the need for new schools, it is estimated that an additional 3 million teachers are needed in Africa in order for the continent to reach its goal of universal education by the year 2015. In Nigeria, which is the most populous country in Africa, there is a shortage of 1 million teachers.

Not only are workforce shortages caused by the difficulty to obtain thorough education, the availability of teachers on the continent is also impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The disease, itself, has robbed education systems of manpower and knowledge and continues to drive up cost. In a report released by the World Bank in 2002, an estimated 860,000 children in sub-Saharan Africa lost teachers to AIDS in 1999. In some cases where there has been an increase in class enrollment, the loss of one teacher can affect hundreds of students. The cost of replacing these instructors is prohibitive for many countries. If the nation of Swaziland hired and trained enough staff to replace the teachers lost to HIV and AIDS, the estimated cost would be $233 million, more than half of the government's budget for 2001–2002.

Again, there are too many primary and secondary schools in the developing world that are forced to rely on student fees to supplement government funding. These fees, while modest by American standards, often prevent children from enrolling. Similarly, some families cannot afford the uniforms commonly required by the schools.

In 2003, Kenya eliminated primary school fees in a step towards universal primary education for its entire population. In Kenya alone, 1.5 million students who had not previously attended school then enrolled, increasing the average class size from 40 to 120. Kenya

took a step in the right direction, but these actions must be coupled with greater investment by local governments and donors to address the issues of quality that arise when access to education is increased.

While this statistic represents an improvement in the rate of primary school enrollment during the early nineties of over 10 percent, we should also be aware that the problems still remain. In countries such as Djibouti, Ethiopia, Niger and Mali, less than half of all school-age children go to school, and there is a disparity in enrollment rates between boys and girls. Forty-two percent of girls as opposed to 38 percent of boys are out of school.

As the international community and donors discuss the importance of quality education, we must remember the vast numbers of teachers who will need to be trained and what this means to the international partners who work with African governments and civil society groups. Education is a long-term path to economic viability. Stimulating small businesses through microlending is another method of improving the economies of developing nations, which will ultimately lead to expanded trade and business opportunities for all of the world.

I and several Members recently returned from a congressional delegation to Tunisia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Senegal. Our goal was to educate Members on the impact that the global financial crisis has had on the continent of Africa. Additionally, we examined the regional impact of multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, and the International Monetary Fund.

The codel spent significant time examining the effect of the global economic crisis on local economies. We were especially interested in how the multilateral development banks and the United States supports, particularly the African Development Bank, are helping countries to obtain grants, loans and technical assistance. We also explored the role and impact of the IMF on the region during this period of economic crisis.

Africa is of increasing strategic interest to the global economy. The continent is expected to soon provide the United States with more petroleum than the Middle East. Again, I will repeat. The continent of Africa is expected to soon provide the United States with more petroleum than we get from the Middle East.

Several reports state that more than half of all Africans are estimated to live on a dollar or less a day. The nations we visited were interested in help up, not a handout. Well-intentioned countries and organizations have poured billions of dollars into improving conditions for Africans, but their efforts have repeatedly failed to stimulate large-scale sustainable growth. This is, in part, because many of these groups do not fully incorporate local traditions, values and attitudes into their assistance programs. Assistance can only be successful if it is culturally sensitive and adapts to the needs of the local community.

The direct impact of the global crisis on Africa, however, has been relatively contained. Many African nations have not been severely affected by the crisis since African banks generally are not well integrated into the global financial system. Nonetheless, African countries still are at risk of indirect adverse effects, such as reduced worldwide demand for African exports, a dampening of economic growth, a tightening of credit, and reduced remittance flows. Despite these setbacks, Mr. Speaker, African countries can greatly benefit from programs that both encourage productivity and promote economic independence.

Access to formal financial services is a key component of economic development. One method to facilitate development is microfinance. Microfinance is when banking institutions or even individuals grant small loans to other individuals, usually to establish or expand a small or self-sustaining business. When individuals gain access to credit, they can start a business, hire their neighbors, and stimulate local economic growth. For example, a loan made to a woman to buy a sewing machine can yield an income when she offers her sewing and tailoring services. Or if a loan helps a family purchase a cow, the milk produced from the cow can generate both nourishment and income.

The average microfinance loan amount ranges from $50 to $5,000, and the repayment cycle can range from 90 days to 18 months. Repayment of microfinance loans is 98 percent compared to regular business loans by traditional lenders. Official microfinance organizations are currently only reaching 5 to 8 percent of the businesses who are in dire need of loans. Access to credit for the poor is in dire need as well. Microfinancing institutions also provide access to savings accounts.

Microfinance has proven to be successful because of its ability to reach the poor, especially women with highly sustainable programs that have a positive impact. As the United Nations Office of Special Adviser on Africa reports, women are a better credit risk than men and more responsible managers of meager resources. Furthermore, women are, and I quote, more committed to using their loans for the benefit of their household rather than self-gratifying consumption, as is common among many African men. Empowering women sets families on the path toward economic independence. This case study demonstrates how microfinance can help alleviate poverty.

In 2007, Absa Bank Group in South Africa established a dedicated microenterprise finance unit to make funding more readily available to businesses that are formally excluded from getting regular bank loans. It has been estimated that as many as 97 percent of microentrepreneurs in South Africa had no access to loans prior to receiving funding through the AMEF. Today, more than 4.5 million people on low incomes use Absa Bank services for everything from microloans to saving accounts and transactions, leading the way for microenterprise loans in South Africa.

In addition to providing loans, microfinance institutions can also support individuals by keeping savings in a secure manner and by helping to accumulate interest on deposits.

□ 2145

This allows the poor to lift themselves out of poverty.

Self-reliance, Mr. Speaker, is the key. I've seen both the despair and the resiliency of Africans. In Rwanda I met a woman who was given a cow. Shortly after she received the cow, the cow had a calf, which she was then obligated to give to her neighbor. But based upon the cow she had and the milk that she could harvest from that particular cow, she was able to not only feed her family but to sell enough milk to then buy a bicycle.

She bought a bicycle, Mr. Speaker, so that she could ride the 3 miles it took to get clean water. So instead of walking, now she could ride and send her children to get clean water. She then made enough money to send her children to school and pay the fees. She then took out a loan and bought another cow, and with that cow she is able now to buy food and clothing. She is able to do much more than she was before. She is really quite an entrepreneur. And, by the way, Mr. Speaker, this woman has AIDS. But she is raising five children on her own because someone gave her a cow and she had the ability to go from there.

Mr. Speaker, in the very near future, microloans that support small-scale entrepreneurship will improve the lives of Africans and empower them to work their way out of poverty. Microfinance is already proven in India and Bangladesh to be an effective economic development strategy. According to World Vision, one loan, just one loan, can create 40 jobs in a community of approximately 600 to 700 people.

The difficulties faced by African nations should not deter us from providing assistance. Through America's support of expanding basic education and access to financial services, we can assist African leaders and people in creating a more vibrant continent and, in turn, a richer world. My recent experience has confirmed for me that both of these approaches can empower people by providing them with confidence, self-esteem, and the financial means to contribute to their economic advancement. Our leadership and our moral strength is only enhanced when we help others. Truly, Mr. Speaker, we lift as we rise.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, it is an honor to have the privilege to represent my constituents here on the floor of the House of Representatives and convey the thought process for myself and a good number of my colleagues about the issues of the day. And hopefully we will be able to cap off this evening and send some people to bed with some thoughts that they'll wake up in the morning supporting or else have good reasons to oppose.

A lot has transpired here since the August break began, and we only have 1 week behind us here in the House of Representatives since we have returned. That deep tradition has been that Members of Congress would leave Washington, D.C. in the hot, humid month of August. This tradition began before air conditioning. It's a good tradition, and I think we should keep it because we saw something phenomenal in America this past August, and it seemed like a never-ending series of townhall meetings that took place in community after community. Nearly every congressional district held something. Some held many, many meetings. I don't know the record on the number of the townhall meetings that were had, but I'm sure it fell in the dozens of meetings for a single Member.

For myself I represent 32 counties in western Iowa, the western third of the State, that's sliced from Minnesota down to Missouri, 32 counties, 286 towns. I held a good number of townhall meetings, and it was a very rewarding experience.

The thing that I take away from it, Mr. Speaker, and there are many—I got some ideas on the health care issue that are on my list that I will talk about here in a moment, Mr. Speaker. But the thing that I will remember the most, it isn't a single issue or a single individual or a way an argument was phrased or worded or how compelling they were, and there were many that were compelling arguments, but it was the image of town after town, meeting after meeting, rooms full of people, often people in standing room around the outside, some people standing and looking in the doorway. We always found a way, I think, though, where everybody could hear. If they wanted in, they could get in. We couldn't always hear the comments of everyone because there were just too many.

But the dissenters had their say. And they actually had, I think, a disproportionate amount of voice within the meetings that I had, but that's all right. We got to hear from both sides of the argument. We got to hear from more of those that oppose a national health care plan than those that support it. Those that supported it were a distinct minority in my district, but they had more than their fair share to say.

So I weighed those issues, and I watched their reaction. But the thing I remember the most were hundreds of attentive people sitting there with focused attention, listening to every word, listening to the words that were spoken by their friends, their neighbors, their family members, listened to the responses that I gave, and weighing this and putting it into their calculator for what America is going to look like.

I will never forget those faces, those eyes looking up to the front of the room, paying attention to every word, taking notes. Some of the questions were so well worded, so carefully phrased, you could tell that there was a deep amount of research that went into the questions. I wondered if some of them didn't stay up nearly all night long to be ready just for their chance, their chance to have that moment to have their say.

And I'm so encouraged by their commitment, and I wish they had more voice. I wish we could hear them now, Mr. Speaker. I wish we could fill this Chamber up with the people that filled up these townhall meetings, and especially the leadership, but the rank and file of all of us that have the privilege here to serve in the House of Representatives could hear those voices again in here.

I hope when we debate a health care bill here on the floor of the House that this gallery is full of people. I hope the C–SPAN camera, Mr. Speaker, represents millions out there that are watching every move, listening to every word, people that are taking notes, people that are tape-recording our actions and our words and carefully analyzing, and I hope we're held accountable for the decisions that are made in committee where generally it doesn't get the press that it gets here on the floor.

But when the day comes, the American people need to know that they have been heard, that we went home, that we traveled our districts, we did our townhall meetings, and that we came back and conferred with each other and arrived at a decision that's the right decision for the long-term best interests of our descendants, our progeny and their descendants as well, Mr. Speaker.

So I hope that's what happens. And I don't know that it will. I don't know that it will because there are forces at play, and some of the people, especially in the majority, have voiced this, that their townhall meetings with their constituents are just one of the places where they get the information to decide. Other places might be the lobby. It might be their coffers. It might be their leadership. And it could be just simply a deeply entrenched philosophy that favors Big Government over freedom.

So for me in my townhall meetings, if there was one position that I took that I was clear on that had the most support of all, it was I will not support a bill that diminishes the people's freedom in the United States of America. That's my pledge, Mr. Speaker. I will not diminish our freedom. It's my freedom too. And I have taken an oath to uphold this Constitution, and it's our Constitution and it's about freedom. It isn't just about individual freedom. It's about the 10th Amendment. It's about the freedom of the States to control those things which are not specifically designated and enumerated for the Federal Government. This Federal Government has reached across the 10th Amendment and violated at least the spirit and I will say also the letter of the Constitution over and over again.

And if this United States of America passes a health care bill that looks anything like H.R. 3200, it will be a violation of our Constitution consistently in several different ways.

So I'm very concerned about where we go with this: the disregard, the cavalier attitude that many Members of Congress have towards the Constitution, towards their oath to the Constitution, towards its meaning and towards its content.

And this drive to create this single-payer system, you know, you just couldn't drive the wooden stake in the heart of HillaryCare back in 1993 and 1994. When Senator Phil Gramm stood on the floor of the United States Senate right down this hallway where I'm faced right now and he said this health care bill, this national health care bill will pass over my cold, dead political body, a lot of people thought that Senator Phil Gramm was going to become a cold, dead political body and that HillaryCare was going to pass. But it has not. It's been 15 years and more since Phil Gramm made that statement, and he has held off this nationalized health care, this socialized medicine juggernaut. He has and many others have too. It has been a national effort.

Yes, there are people out there that think that they'd be better off if somebody else would take the responsibility for their health care, and they are large in number but small in percentage, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I will make this point that we have constantly heard the words and the statistics that are over 40 million people that are uninsured in America, that we have got to do something about the uninsured. And this number of 40 million usually rounds up to around 44 million. Now it has kind of crept up to 47 million and probably the most reliable number is close to 46 million people uninsured in America. Now, that's a pretty large percentage of our population. We have about 306 million Americans, and if 46 or 47 million are uninsured, that's, let's see, one-sixth or a little bit less of our population.

It's funny that the uninsured is about the same percentage of our population as the GDP is consumed by health care.

But if that number is 47 million, and that's the highest number that's consistently delivered by the other side, and sometimes they stretch it and round it up to 50 million, but if the uninsured in America are 47 million, they would have us believe that these are chronically uninsured people that are stuck on these uninsured rolls year after year after year.

Well, that's not the case, Mr. Speaker. A lot of these people are just temporarily uninsured and they're in transition between policies. So as those policies change, occasionally they find themselves without coverage.

But I began to ask this question a little more carefully, and that is, Who are the people with affordable options? If somebody's uninsured and they're making a million dollars a year, I'm sorry, my heart doesn't bleed for them. They have decided that they don't care to have a health insurance policy and they're willing to take the risk with their equity. So that's not my concern. In fact, the United States Senate Republican conference staff set the bar at $75,000 a year. If you make $75,000 or more a year and you don't have health insurance, we are not going to put you in the category where you get a lot of our governmental compassion to extract dollars out of somebody else's labor to provide that person making over $75,000 a year with health insurance.

Now, the President has decided to do class envy at $250,000; but let me just say that if you're making more than $75,000, you can find a way to pay for your own health insurance even if you just buy catastrophic, and you should get a health savings account and grow that health savings account and buy a major medical policy, a catastrophic health insurance policy, take care of your own incidental health care bills. But 47 million uninsured at any given time, the biggest number that we get.

Now, to boil this down, Mr. Speaker, to who are the people without affordable options, you take the 47 million and you subtract from it those that we really don't want to provide health insurance for out of the taxpayers' pocket at least, and that's going to be those that are in the country illegally. Even the President of the United States doesn't insist that we insure illegals under this policy. It was a new position that he took the other night. I'm not sure that he's as serious as we would like, but I was encouraged that right back here a few feet behind me, the President of the United States said, no, we are not going to fund illegals. Well, H.R. 3200 does. The Congressional Budget Office thinks so. The Congressional Research Service thinks so.

□ 2200

The vote that took place in the Ways and Means Committee that voted down the citizenship standard requirements in order to qualify for under H.R. 3200, this health care bill. That partisan vote. Or Democrats voted down the language that would require proof of citizenship that's tried, tested and true, and used to be part of our Medicaid policy from the beginning, was voted down by a vote of 29–28 in the Ways and Means Committee. Democrats then wanted to leave a door open, at least in committee, so illegals could be funded under that newer policy.

That also was the case in the Ways and Means Committee, right down the party line exactly. They voted down the effort to try to raise the standard and require proof of citizenship. But the President is now taking the position he doesn't want to fund illegals in this. I think he got pushed into that pretty hard.

So 47 million uninsured at a given time minus 5.2 million illegals, this is according to the Republican Conference in the United States Senate. I think there are a lot more than that, Mr. Speaker. They use 5.2 million. I'll use that for the sake of our discussion. Subtract that from 47 million.

We also do not want to—and cannot under current law and should not—fund those who are new immigrants here. They're under the 5-year bar; no welfare until you've been here 5 years, take care of yourself for half a decade, and then you can qualify if you come legally. Under the 5-year bar, another 5 million.

Now we're adding this up. So you have 5.2 million illegals, 5 million new immigrants, but legal, under the 5-year bar, now we're at 10.2 million. Those making $75,000 a year or more, I mentioned those, there are 9 million of those. Those who qualify for government programs, all part of the 47 million, 9.7 million Americans qualify for government programs but don't sign up, mostly Medicaid, Medicaid eligibles but not enrolled. They don't know that they didn't enroll in anything—and if we take it and hand deliver it to them. So we're adding up some numbers here. Then, those Americans who are eligible with their employer but they've either opted out or not bothered to opt into the employer-offered health insurance.

So those numbers, 5.2 million illegals, 5 million legal here under the 5-year bar, 9 million making more than $75,000 a year or more, 9.7 million eligible for government programs, mostly Medicaid, but not signed up, and 6 million eligible for employer programs not signed up. That comes to 34.9 million Americans of the 47 million that we don't want to cover with this new policy under H.R. 3200, this health care plan.

There is a consensus out there that says we're not really worried about these categories. The one we're worried about are the Americans without affordable options. That number is not 47 million any longer. If you've done the math, Mr. Speaker, you will have subtracted each of these categories from the 47 million. All these categories add up to 34.9 million. Take that from 47 and you come to 12.1 million Americans without affordable options. That is the universe we're trying to fix.

The President has said we have two problems with health care in America; the first one is the economic crisis that we're in—it's a year long now, still a crisis—well, it's a problem; the stock market was good today, I might say. And he says we can't fix the economy unless we first fix health care. In fact, the cost of health care is the problem with our economy. And he would tell us if we could fix the health care problem, we would fix the economy.

Well, what's the problem with health care? According to the President of the United States—mostly as a candidate, but also as a President—we spend too much money. Health care costs too large a percentage of our gross domestic product. There's a problem. We have to fix it, otherwise we can't fix the economy; the President's position.

The other position that he has, the two points on health care, is that we have too many uninsured. Well, let's deal with the big problem first. We spend about 14.5 percent of our gross domestic product on health care in America. That's premiums and the care and the litigation and all of those things. The average of the industrialized world is about 9.5 percent of their GDP on health care. Well, we spend a high percentage on recreation and a high percentage on other things too. We are a rich nation. One of the reasons we spend that kind of money on health care is because we do have the wealth in order to distribute it to the health care industry, to that one-seventh of the economy that is our health care industry.

So we have wealth, and we decide to spend it on health. It's not the worst thing, but we should examine it objectively. I do think we spend too much, too large a percentage, but by the same token I don't think they get very good health care in those countries that spend a lot less. But we spend about half again on health care in the United States as a percentage of our GDP as they do in other countries, but we produce more per capita than most of those countries too. And I need to pull that back and equate the two, and I haven't done that yet. I hope somebody does and gets me the information, otherwise I will sit up some night and do the doodling, Mr. Speaker.

But we spend too much money on health care. What would you do about that? If you have a problem in your family budget and you are spending too much money, you don't solve the problem by going out and spending a lot more money. The score on this bill is someplace between $1 trillion and $2 trillion; on the low side it's $1 trillion. The most consistent number that has been produced, the analysis of it is $1.6 trillion.

So according to the President, we spend too much money on health care. And I don't necessarily disagree, but his solution is to spend another $1.6 trillion on it. That's not a solution. It doesn't solve the family budget to spend more money when you're spending too much, and it doesn't solve the

government problem to spend more money when you're spending too much. And so even if the President identifies the problem correctly, he has the erroneous solution to apply to it: Voila, we spend too much money, therefore, the solution is spend more.

This was the approach he brought to this economic crisis to demand more money through the stimulus fund, too, when we came to our conference and said, FDR lost his nerve, he should have spent a lot more money. He convinced us that the President of the United States wasn't going to make that mistake, he was going to spend a lot more money. He was going to be FDR/Keynesian economics on steroids. And that's what we got, Mr. Speaker. And the White House made a $2 trillion mistake on their projections, $2 trillion.

I remember when the junior Senator from Iowa, Tom Harkin, made the statement that $6 billion was just pencil dust. And his opponent here walked around with a man-size pencil to talk about pencil dust. Well, I don't know that $6 billion was pencil dust—in that context it can be questioned. But I can tell you that $1.6 trillion is not pencil dust. Getting within $2 trillion of the target is not pencil dust. That's real, huge money.

But if we're spending too much money on health care, then why wouldn't we address the things that fix the problem? Why don't we come at this in a different way and go after those most obvious things that we can use to fix the problem? Now, for example, how much money does defensive medicine cost? What does it work within the macro economics of the health care equation? And there are some numbers that will rattle on down to around 5.5 percent of overall health care costs. The health insurance underwriters, the top legislative officer gave me a number of 8.5 percent, the cost of medical malpractice premiums and litigation and defensive medicine. Those three things together, 8.5 percent, are overall health care costs.

If you take the 8.5 percent and you apply it to the 14.5 percent of our GDP, you can come up with a number of about $203 billion a year that's going all for defensive medicine and malpractice premiums and trial lawyers and litigation. In other words, it isn't being spent on good health care; it's money that's being churned up in the system to pay other people to do other things other than deliver a product to people for the benefit of their good health.

Defensive medicine. Some of the providers got together and advised me in one of my meetings that their consensus was between 20 and 28 percent of the tests that they do are for defensive medicine purposes. In other words, get the test, get it on the record to protect them in case somebody files a malpractice lawsuit against them. They can always roll out the test and go to court and say, Well, I did this and this and this, and I ran this test, and these were all negative, so therefore our medical conclusion was thus. And of course we all know there are anomalies when it comes to health.

Defensive medicine. Twenty to 28 percent of the tests, the unnecessary costs in health care that have to do with malpractice and premiums and in litigation and in defensive medicine, perhaps 8.5 percent, I see numbers to 10 percent, numbers up to 16 percent of the overall health care bill.

□ 2210

I'll settle on that 8½ percent number—perhaps it's slightly less—but if it's the 16 percent, as a number of doctors have pointed out, then you're looking, roughly, in the area of $400 billion a year. Over 10 years, there's the $4 trillion, Mr. President.

I remember his speech, and I know there were some folks who saw the humor when the President of the United States said, If you adopt my policy, over time, it will save $4 trillion.

Over time. How long is ''over time''? Is that right before the end of infinity? Is it 1 year? 5 years? 10 years? 20 years? a generation? a half a century or a century? a millennia? Over time, his policy would save $4 trillion. Now, there is an ambiguous statement. You know, if you'd invest a penny and drop it in your passbook savings account, over time, you'd be worth $4 trillion, too, Mr. Speaker. I think you wouldn't want to wait that long.

So, as to the high cost of health care, if it needs to be addressed—and I think it does—let's go where we can get the most money, the best results the quickest. Let's do lawsuit abuse reform. Let's adopt the California policy. Let's adopt the Texas policy. We passed it out of the House of Representatives about 4 years ago. We passed it out of the Judiciary Committee, where I sat; brought it to the floor; passed it here; messengered it over to the Senate. The wholly-owned subsidiary of the Trial Lawyers Association decided to kill our malpractice reform, our lawsuit abuse reform, that passed this House under the leadership, at that time, of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, JIM SENSENBRENNER. So it's the simplest thing we couldn't do, the most effective thing we couldn't do.

If you do the scoring on this—now, I don't think we're going to get it all. I don't think we'll fix all of those problems, but if we did, it would be around $203 billion a year, just by my little back-of-the-envelope calculation. Over a decade—we do our calculations here on a 10-year budget—that's $2 trillion. We could save as much as $2 trillion from health care just simply by cutting the trial lawyers out, still letting people get whole and letting the doctors do their doctoring without having to do defensive medicine, and it would reduce dramatically their malpractice premiums. As I say, they passed medical malpractice reform in Texas, and the doctors who had undergone an exodus from Texas began to come back to Texas again. It's interesting.

So, if health care costs too much, why don't we address the problems of costly health care? Why don't we put more competition in it?

In some States, as much as 80 percent of the health insurance that's available to them is offered by one company. One company so dominates the market that it's 80 percent. In my State, one company dominates the market up to 70 percent. Why don't we let the people in New Jersey buy health insurance in Kentucky? Why don't we let the people in New York buy health insurance in Texas? Why don't we let them buy it in Iowa for that matter? We have pretty good policies available in Iowa. If we'd let people buy insurance across State lines, that would solve another allegation of the President of the United States.

He has said that they need to inject competition into the health insurance industry because too few companies dominate the market so much that they can dictate premiums, and that probably is true in localities. In fact, I just won't take issue with that statement. Yet the solution is not to establish a Federal government-run health insurance policy. We know how that goes. Many of us have made the argument:

If you do that, if you set up Federal health insurance, it will swallow up the rest of the private insurance companies in the country. We have 1,300 health insurance companies in the United States today that are selling a possible combination of 100,000 policies. If we get ObamaCare, we're going to get a national health insurance system that will be subsidized by the taxpayers, and all of our private insurance companies will also have to meet new standards written by the new Health Choices Administration, czar-issioner. That's what we'll see happen. The result of that will be the pattern that is out there for us. Here is one pattern:

In 1968, they passed National Flood Insurance. Yes, there were private property and casualty insurers in the business of selling flood insurance to people who lived where they could be flooded. That happened. It wasn't a great big market back in those years, but we didn't have a great big infrastructure to protect either back then. We do now. The Federal Government stepped in and passed the National Flood Insurance Act, and in a short period of time, all property and casualty flood insurance companies dropped the selling of flood insurance, and today, you can only buy one kind of flood insurance. That is the Federal Government's. They have the monopoly now. They dominate the market. They have squeezed everybody else out, and they have destroyed the private market in flood insurance. Well, you don't have to just buy that model. You could think that's an anomaly.

We could look at another situation that's going on. How about the student

loan program in the United States with all of the private companies, the private banks and the lending institutions that manage the student loans and the good competition that we've had? Now we have GEORGE MILLER, who's deciding that he wants to replace it all with Federal. A smaller and smaller percentage of our student loans are provided now through the private sector. They want to eliminate it all. If GEORGE MILLER has his way—and I'm confident the President would sign whatever GEORGE MILLER puts on his desk—you won't be able to go to a bank and borrow money to go to college. It will all be through the Federal Government. The Federal Government will control it all.

Oh, by the way, Federal flood insurance is a monopoly. The only flood insurance you can buy in the United States is from the Federal Government. The owned, operated, managed, marketed premium is set by the Federal Government. Federal flood insurance is $19.2 billion in the red, and there's no way to get it back. So do we want more of this?

Let me throw another concept out here. Here is another interesting thing that comes out in listening to people at townhall meetings. Mr. Speaker, some proponents of ObamaCare would say, Well, listen. We have Medicaid and we have Medicare and we have Social Security, and they're all government programs. You like those, don't you?

Well, yes. The people who are receiving the benefits like them better than nothing, and some parts of them are pretty good, but there's a big difference between what they're proposing here and Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. In all three of those categories that I've mentioned, of those government programs that we have, the people receiving the benefits are predominantly not the ones paying for them at the time they receive them. They are the beneficiaries of someone else's labor and largesse. The highest producing people in America are paying the most taxes, and now the President and the liberals in this Congress are determined to tell the freedom-loving, top-producing Americans that not only are they going to have to continue to fund somebody else's Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, but now they're going to have to fund a whole lot of other people's health care, those who are in the most productive years of their lives, and by the way, you're going to fund everybody else's, but your choices are going to be diminished because the Federal Government has to be able to compete and push out a lot of the private providers. I guarantee you, if they pass this bill, there will not be 1,300 health insurance companies any longer. There will not be 100,000 possible policy combinations any longer. That number will diminish overnight and over time, and we'll see how long it takes before there's the same number of private health insurance companies in America as there are property and casualty companies that are selling flood insurance.

I see my friend from Minnesota, MICHELE BACHMANN, has arrived at the floor—persistent, relentless and ever on the ball. I would be so happy to yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I could never hold a candle to the stunning STEVE KING of Iowa, so I thank you for deferring to me for a few minutes, and I am extremely grateful for the gentleman's comments on the floor so far this evening.

One thing that has been brought to my mind from your comments is you'd recalled that you'd remembered that President Obama came to meet with House Republicans down in the bowels of the Capitol building, just below where we're standing now, and he gave a private speech to us where there were no members of the press. One thing that I recall from that meeting with the President is the President had said to us he would prefer to enact his full agenda and be a one-term President rather than not enact his agenda and be a two-term President.

I think that the American people cannot underscore enough the fact that the President is very determined in his desire to enact this health care legislation, and perhaps never again will one party hold the type of cards that have been dealt in their hands as they hold right now. That's why I think the American people recognize that, with an overpowering one-party domination, we see an intention to enact this government takeover of health care that literally will lead to life-and-death decisions.

You talked about three different areas where the government has gotten involved, and it reminded me of yesterday, when I was meeting with a group of constituents, and a gentleman told me this story. He said he'd just purchased from what is now known as ''government motors'' in our country—because the Federal Government has taken over not one but two car companies. The United States Government is now the largest car manufacturer in the United States. Well, government motors—and again, this is nothing derogatory against our dealerships. Our dealerships, through no fault of their own, are in the current situation that they're in. We know 3,500 car dealerships have received pink slips from our government, putting out of work about 150,000 good American-paying jobs.

□ 2220

Well, in the midst of this, a gentleman told me yesterday he went to what's now called Government Motors, fondly. He purchased a top-of-the-line vehicle, brand new. His dashboard split, so he has a brand-new dashboard in this top-of-the-line vehicle from Government Motors.

He went down to the good dealership, excellent dealership that he purchased the car from. Dealership said, sure, it's under warranty, we will take care of that for you. The gentleman waited. He didn't hear back. He said, hey what's up with my dashboard, brand-new car, top of the line, Government Motors? It's under warranty, what gives?

I am calling all around the country. This wonderful local dealer turned over every stone that he could. And do you know what he discovered? In the entire country, in the United States, there isn't one single dashboard available to replace this brand-new top-of-the-line dashboard in the car he just purchased.

What am I going to do?, he said. Well, since the Federal Government took over GM, suppliers have been let go. No new suppliers are in place.

So here this gentleman purchased a car. It's the last of its series. How many suppliers are going to be out there bidding for a car that will never be built again?

That's part of the problem when government takes over. Because does government really have to worry about customer satisfaction the same way that a private business has to worry about government satisfaction? I think that's what the American people in their innate genius understand in the middle of this health care debate.

They understand that when government is in charge, government doesn't necessarily have to worry about customer satisfaction unless you are an elected official. Then you know you have to go back to your constituency. You have to answer for the votes that you cast and the decisions that you make.

But if you are government and you own the company and you dominate the company, what do you worry about customer satisfaction, especially if you are not only the car maker, but you also control the contracts with the dealerships and you are the lender? Because, let's face it, now the Federal Government is also the lender when it comes to car sales.

And the Federal Government is backing a lot of the credit card loans that are out there now. So where is the public going to go, and who does the Federal Government have to answer to?

And this is what people know, because now it's about my health care and my child's health care, and my elderly mother's health care. And I really care about my mother, but will a bureaucrat, a nameless, faceless bureaucrat give a rip if my mother can't get her hip replacement or she can't get the pacemaker?

Remember, that question was asked of President Obama. He held a townhall meeting in the White House, and, recall, there was a woman who stood up and said, President Obama, my mother was 100 years old. I couldn't get one doctor to give her the pacemaker she needed until finally I found a doctor who said your mother has a lot of spirit. I will get her a pacemaker. He did, and her mother was still living 5 years later, doing very well with her pacemaker.

President Obama's response? He said, Well, you know, maybe a pill would be the better answer than surgery.

Well, the woman didn't need a pain pill. What she needed was the surgery. And this is exactly the point.

Will we have bureaucrats and politicians looking at their bottom lines in their constituencies rather than having a doctor who, really, his best interest is to make sure that patient is healed and becomes well? Who will make the decisions in this upcoming scenario? That's really what the American people want to know.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentlelady from Minnesota.

I was just listening to the General Motors part of this discussion, and I am thinking about the components of General Motors, Government Motors, and how this all transpired. And it first came about with the first little dialogue going on. And some of us said put them through chapter 11. We are not going to be without cars. Somebody will take up those assets and turn them into a competitive company.

Speaker PELOSI said, I am not going to get the unions—I am not going to let the car makers get bargaining leverage over the unions. So you had the bond holders, the secured creditors involved in this.

And then the President effectively fired the CEO of General Motors.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right.

Mr. KING of Iowa. And hand-picked his own guy to go in there as the CEO of General Motors and over, close, near that period of time, picked, hand-picked all but two members of the board of directors on General Motors. And the Federal Government ended up with 61 percent of General Motors. That's the U.S., the Federal Government, the Canadian Government, 12.5 percent, the unions, 17.5 percent. Now I didn't do the math on what's left. It's not much.

And then on top of that you have Cash for Clunkers that goes out and buys these cars or puts the down payment down. And the Federal Government guaranteeing some of the loans for the cars, it is the perfect circle of socialized economy. It's astonishing to me.

Now what do you do if you are out here making a car that you can't sell, and you need to pay the scale for the workers that didn't give up anything if we pass a national health care act? The unions didn't give up anything in this deal, but they got 17.5 interest in a company.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Let's go back to the crux of this issue, and it is the economy, what's happening in the United States economy.

And as we have seen, the Federal Government comes in and effectively nationalizes about 30 percent of our economy, and they are on a deep, long drive to make sure that they can nationalize another 18 percent by taking over health care. And what's more, with the national energy tax, they want to take over even more of the national economy so that the Federal Government would effectively own or control well over 50 percent of the private business profits earned in this company. What has it yielded for the economy?

And I just looked at an article today that was in the Hill newspaper. And it said President Obama's chief economist has said, today, the jobless rate will remain high despite economic growth. She voiced worry that the economic growth expected in the coming years won't be enough to bring down the unemployment rate to pre-recession levels.

Christina Romer said, in 2010, that's next year, Representative, next year, the economy will likely grow, but the jobless rate will peak at 10 percent.

We are at 9.7 percent unemployment now. It's going to grow, according to the President's chief economist, up to 10 percent. It won't start falling at a rapid clip.

In fact, the administration, independent economists expect next year steady but not over-the-top GDP growth of between 2 to 3 percent. That will bring unemployment down slowly, but not by big movement; Unemployment on the right trajectory, but not coming down.

This is incredible. We were told we had to pass in 3 days a trillion-dollar stimulus plan because the President said otherwise we would go to 8 percent unemployment. We could only wish we had 8 percent unemployment.

We are at 9.7 percent. The President's chief economist said we are going to over 10. And according to the President's chief economist, if this health care plan goes into effect, we will lose another 5.5 million jobs. If we put his national energy tax into plan, it will be another 2.5 million jobs lost every year. The President is bent on a China-India jobs stimulus plan.

We are losing American jobs, ceding them to our national competitors, and the Americans aren't gaining anything for it. That's why last week the flash point, when President Obama stood here in this Chamber and gave a speech to the joint session of Congress, there was one story that overshadowed the entire night, and that was one of our colleagues, Mr. JOE WILSON of South Carolina who had made a statement to President Obama.

And in the midst of that statement, Representative JOE WILSON became effectively the point at the tip of the spear on this debate. And it was over the issue of whether the President was accurate in his statement that illegal aliens would be receiving health care benefits coequal with other Americans that are here lawfully in our country and at the expense of taxpayers. That was really the flash-point issue.

And what we found out last Friday night, we saw Democrat Members of Congress saying we are willing to put that verification in the bill, in other words proving that our colleague, JOE WILSON, was right, which makes it almost incomprehensible to me to believe that the Democrat majority plans to bring about a resolution tomorrow in this very Chamber condemning our colleague for his words.

He has already apologized for his lack of decorum, everyone agrees with that.

But to think that you would say to one of our colleagues, who the Democrats have already proved right by admitting that they are going to take the provision out of the bill that Representative WILSON was referring to?

It's almost uncanny to me that we would live to see such a day when that would happen.

□ 2230

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentlelady. I believe it says in the book of John that if you forgive men's sins, they are forgiven them. If you hold them bound, they are held bound.

President Obama said he accepted the apology. That's forgiveness. Because the President accepted the apology from the officer and the gentleman, JOE WILSON, no one else in the country has a claim to any other redress whatsoever.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Which is why I thank the gentleman from Iowa, Representative STEVE KING, for penning a letter asking others of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join that letter in support of our colleague, JOE WILSON. I was very happy to sign on to your letter.

But you, STEVE KING, the stunning STEVE KING of the State of Iowa, you took the initiative on that front. You were right to do so. And I am extremely grateful for your leadership on this issue. Because this is the point. When we're talking about this, it isn't about the President; this isn't about any Member of Congress. This is about the American people. Will the American people continue to enjoy the finest health care system that the world has ever known or will we lose our freedom of choice over health care and will Americans lose the control over another 18 percent of private business profits.

This is a big deal. This is a really big issue. Because, since the inception of Bailout Nation less than a year ago, 30 percent of private business profits are now owned or controlled by the Federal Government. If President Obama gets his way, that's another 18 percent—almost 50 percent.

This is the issue right now. Will our economy be better off by government taking over the economy. No? Are you kidding. We've already seen demonstration of that in the last few months. Surely, we would not be better off with President Obama nationalizing health care and the energy industry.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Let me just roll this question back across your analytical accountant, CPA, tax lawyer mind, and that is, if 30 percent of the private

profits today are controlled by the Federal Government, and if another 18 percent would be swallowed up in a national health care plan, taking us to 48 percent of the private, what if all private interests were rolled up in shares, and you could buy derivatives of those shares of the private sector? What if you could do that?

And what if the Federal Government then controlled 48 percent of all the shares of the private sector? Because that would be the equivalent, I would think. They would almost be to the point of having controlling interest over the private sector of the economy of the United States of America. Is that how the equation works out?

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's exactly right, Representative. Again, we know President Obama's intention is to effectively nationalize the energy by giving the Federal Government control over the use and distribution of energy.

Remember, we had a conversation earlier.

Then-candidate Obama, Senator Obama, made the statement during the course of his campaign. He said, Americans can't think that they can drive SUVs, set their thermostats at 72 degrees, or eat as much as food as they want, and think the rest the world will be okay with that.

Well, let's take a look at the report card since President Obama has come into office. By taking over GM and Chrysler, what we're seeing is the diminution of the SUV. We're seeing a lot of these high-end vehicles now being phased out, and instead we're seeing the new cars that the President wants to have put in place by Government Motors. That's the SUV portion.

What about setting our house temperature at 72 degrees and buildings like this one at 72 degrees? Well, once we have the government effectively nationalizing energy, people won't be able to afford to set their thermostats at 72 degrees. They will be sitting at home shivering at 55 degrees in winter, and in summer most likely won't even be able to turn on the air-conditioning.

And what about food? President Obama said we can't eat as much food as we want and think the rest of the world will be okay about that, as if that matters to freedom-loving Americans. Well, we just heard last week that the Federal Government now under the Obama administration is calling for a reordering of America's food supply. What is that going to mean? Now will the White House decide how many calories we consume or what types of food we consume?

You're from an agriculture State, I'm from an agriculture State. My farmers are very concerned about this. Our farmers are some of the greatest geniuses the world has ever seen. When you think of the percentage of farmers that we had in this country producing the food when the Nation first began, we're now at less than 2 percent of our population produces all of the food that Americans consume. Not only that, a good portion of the world as well.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, you triggered something in my memory here, Mrs. BACHMANN, and that would be the hearings that we held before the House Agriculture committee. This would have been March 13, 2007. It has to do with what people should be eating and what is healthy, and how we're going to legislate that from the Federal level.

There were those on that committee that thought that we should increase food stamps substantially. In fact, they were pushing to increase food stamps 46 percent. For the most part, they got that job done.

Mrs. BACHMANN. That's right.

Mr. KING of Iowa. But, how do you justify that when you can't find people that are suffering from malnutrition or people that are actually hungry, chronically hungry. There are people that miss meals. I'm among them. But we don't have chronic hunger in America.

In order to justify the expansion of food stamps, they brought before us the president of La Raza, that's the organization that stands for The Race. Her name is Janet Murguia. And in that testimony she said this—and this is a quote, ''There is also mounting evidence that the overweight and obesity trends in the United States are due, in part, to high levels of food insecurity.''

So we have a situation where the argument is being made to the United States Congress that we have fat people in America that are overweight because they were worried about some meals that they might miss one day in the future, and they tended to overeat in the present tense. So if we would just give them an unlimited supply of food stamps, then they would eat less, lose weight, and live healthy and happy thereafter, that's what she's telling us. Food insecurity.

So I'm wondering, Where has this world gone, George Orwell? How did we get to this place? And I remember walking down along Franklin Delano Roosevelt's monument and looking at the symbols that he has of the speech that he gave that is sort of the idea of the four freedoms. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion—I'll stand and defend those. They are rights. They are freedoms. They are guaranteed.

But freedom from want and freedom from fear can't be guaranteed by anybody but God. And I'm not sure it's healthy to have freedom from want, because want is what drives us to produce and be better. And then our philanthropy that comes from the times we're short causes us to help other people that are short.

Mrs. BACHMANN. If the Representative would allow me to intervene, there is one want that we don't have to worry about any more, and that's one organization in the United States that has been given a great abundance, and that's the organization ACORN.

I know that you have done a great deal of work in trying to expose the nefarious activities of ACORN. We learned last week that ACORN, which has a persistent record of voter fraud indictments across the country, was brought under indictment for 11 counts of voter fraud down in the State of Florida. And then there were videos that came out showing that ACORN, which is a grand recipient of Federal money, was found facilitating bringing in underage girls illegally across not only State lines but across our country's borders into the United States for the purpose of prostitution.

ACORN was not only enabling this illegal criminal business, they were also coaching people on how to avoid their tax payments that they would have to pay and how to go into federally funded housing.

That's why I have been writing letters to the Census Bureau, to the Housing and Urban Development Agency, to call on them to stop all current and future grants and to investigate all past grants.

ACORN has been a recipient of $53 million in Federal funds since 1993. Now, since President Obama, who is a former employee of ACORN, since he has become the President, now ACORN has access to $8.5 billion. And in another bill that passed through the House, an additional $1 billion—a billion dollars, $8.5 billion ACORN has access to.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mrs. BACHMANN, why didn't you do something about it?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Why didn't I do something about that?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Yes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I did. I have and you have. We've been writing letters.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did you offer an amendment in Financial Services?

Mrs. BACHMANN. I did. I offered an amendment in Financial Services. It did pass out of the committee. And the amendment said that organizations like ACORN or similarly situated organizations that are currently under indictment for voter fraud would be ineligible to have access to Federal grants.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did Chairman FRANK vote for that amendment?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Chairman FRANK voted for that amendment in the committee, yes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Why isn't it law?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Well, it came to the House floor and Chairman FRANK said in the course of his remarks here on the floor that he was not—he didn't read the amendment fully. He wasn't aware of what the amendment said. And so he said it came to his attention later by his staff, and so now he was going to change that.

□ 2240

Mr. KING of Iowa. Could that be interpreted to mean that ACORN talked to his staff after the committee meeting and advised him that he should come to the floor and change the language?

Mrs. BACHMANN. I can't tell you whether ACORN spoke with him or not. I have no knowledge of that. All I know

is that when Chairman FRANK came to the floor, he proceeded to pull my amendment out of the bill, which he did, which meant that now ACORN would have access to another $1.5 billion in addition to the $8.5 billion that they already have access to.

ACORN, in my opinion, should have the Internal Revenue Service look at their tax-exempt status. In my opinion, I think ACORN has a very tough time proving that they should hold onto their tax exempt status. Not only that, they have a tough time proving that they should be a recipient of any more Federal housing grants. If they want to be an organization, they can, but they shouldn't be a recipient of Federal taxpayer funds.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Here is an image. In fact, this poster is not here tonight, but I will try to bring it down later this week so everybody can see it, Mr. Speaker. I thought it would be good for me to go down to the headquarters of ACORN to see what it looked like. So I went on down there to 2609 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. That's the national headquarters and, for all I know, the international headquarters of ACORN. In there is where they process the paperwork for many of—probably most of—and probably not quite all of their affiliate corporations. But inside those doors, the most fortified building in that neighborhood—I yield back.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Aren't there over 200 affiliated organizations housed, and it's a two story building?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Yes. But it's a four- or five-story building. I would have to look at the picture to count the stories. But the first two are all bars, and it's fortified. Then above that, it's high enough so that the crowds can't get in. But behind the glass in ACORN's national headquarters on the street side, there's a huge poster: ''Obama for President '08,'' and hanging right next to it is an ACORN flag. I have that picture. I have turned it into a poster. I brought it down here on the floor.

ACORN is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. It is unlawful for them to engage in partisan politics, and yet they are a get-out-the-vote organization for Democrats. They are taking Federal tax dollars, and they're pushing it through to run political campaigns, and then they boldly advertise it in the front window of their national headquarters in New Orleans with an Obama poster.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Over and over, I have had people tell me that ACORN is effectively the electioneering arm of the Democratic Party, and that is concerning. At least I would think that the Democrat majority that controls this House would want to hold hearings to clear their name, to say that ACORN is not our electioneering arm and prove that assertion false. I would think that's exactly what they would want to do, which is why I wrote letters to Chairman BARNEY FRANK and to Speaker PELOSI, demanding that we have oversight hearings and investigate ACORN to take a look at all of the grants that ACORN has received to see if they have been spent wisely, if they've been used according to the rules that have been set up for their disbursement.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mrs. BACHMANN, you have raised a lot of children, foster children, your own natural born children. It is a phenomenal thing. Have you ever caught any of your children with their hand in the cookie jar?

Mrs. BACHMANN. Oh, yes, I have.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Did any of them ever call for a hearing to clear their name?

Mrs. BACHMANN. No. They knew they were guilty, Mr. KING.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I think that is the case. Clearly, it's a partisan get-out-the-vote organization. They're everywhere in America, in over 100 major cities, and then subdivisions within the cities. Their reach doesn't just go into politics. We saw what was going on with the—what's the nicest word—subornation of prostitution, child prostitution, the encouragement of what appears to be illegal immigration, saying that they're going to help with a child tax credit, the refundable tax credit which is a transfer from the taxpayers to the pimp and the prostitute out of the pocket of the taxpayers, enabled by ACORN.

Mrs. BACHMANN. This is ACORN enabling it. And one of our colleagues said that he would hold hearings about ACORN. Several months ago there was one indictment after another that came out after voter fraud. Now these latest indictments deal with the housing grants that ACORN is receiving. He announced that he was going to hold hearings and investigate ACORN. Then the next thing we knew, he was not going to hold those hearings because he said the higher ups told him—these are his own words—he said, the higher-ups told him that he was not to hold hearings.

I think the American people have a right to know. I think they have a right to know that these red flags about ACORN didn't just happen last week. These red flags have gone up months and years ago. Remember, the Speaker of the House said that she was going to drain the swamp. That's what she was going to do, drain the swamp of corruption. But could anything be more corrupt than a taxpayer-funded tax-free organization doing the electioneering bidding for a dominant political party? Does it get any more circular than that and, some might suggest, incestuous?

Mr. KING of Iowa. Well, it's circular, and it's incestuous. The statement that was made about investigating ACORN was made by Chairman JOHN CONYERS, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I was sitting in the room when that was going on. We had a hearing before the Constitution Subcommittee, the subcommittee chairman is JERRY NADLER from New York. Chairman CONYERS said, I think there's substance here. I think we should look into it. Chairman NADLER said, When I see something substantive, then I will consider hearings. There was plenty of substance. There is plenty more substance here now.

But since that time, JOHN CONYERS has said, Well, the powers that be—not necessarily the higher-ups—but the powers that be have decided that there wouldn't be hearings. Now who could ''the powers that be'' be when you are the chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives? You really only look up and you think, well, the powers that be are either the Speaker of the House or the President of the United States.

Well, what we do know is the President of the United States used to work for ACORN. That's irrefutable and not arguable. He not only worked for ACORN but he also was a trainer for ACORN, and he headed up Project Vote, which is part and parcel of ACORN. The President wore an ACORN jersey. He was a player and a coach, and now he is an alumni who has hired ACORN to help facilitate hiring people at a minimum on the Census and now they've backed off of that. I'm not all that optimistic that that will stick. But we have a President of the United States with a chief of staff named Rahm Emanuel who used to serve in the House of Representatives. He is known for hardball, hard-core Chicago-style politics. And we're going to have to wonder if we can actually get hearings and investigations.

Here's what needs to happen, Mr. Speaker: this Congress needs to have multiple committees with bipartisan hearings and investigations on every aspect of ACORN. The Department of Justice has to deploy an entire division to go in and do a complete forensic audit of every dollar that comes and goes from ACORN and every one of their affiliates. They have to bring the IRS into this so we can track every dollar, and we've got to see indictments. We've got to see the perp walk. We are going to have to see people put in prison for what they're doing to the American taxpayers, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And also there's video footage today of the President speaking to ACORN, saying that ACORN would be a part of his decision-making on various bills.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, did I hear a gavel? Does that mean my time has expired?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 60 seconds.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Okay. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I will just simply conclude. I didn't pick up the sound very well.

I appreciate the gentlelady from Minnesota coming to the floor to engage in this discussion and dialogue that we have. I'll appreciate it when this Congress steps forward and does the investigations of ACORN and multiple committees, the Finance Committee, the

Ways and Means Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Government Reform Committee, those, among others. And when the Justice Department steps up and instead of shutting down an investigation of voter intimidation, which was an open and shut case of intimidation in Philadelphia, if they will step in and really do an investigation of ACORN, let's give the taxpayers their due, let's represent the American people, let's clean this place up, and let's have the high standards that were envisioned by the Founding Fathers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. CRENSHAW (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family medical issue.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. MCHUGH (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and September 15 on account of a family medical matter.

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 Mr. GRAYSON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, September 15, 16 and 17.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, September 15.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCALISE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 3325. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on September 10, 2009 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3325. To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize for 1 year the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security program.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3295. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Poultry Improvement Plan and Auxiliary Provisions; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: APHIS-2007-0042] (RIN: 0579-AC78) received August 7, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3296. A letter from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Grape Crop Insurance Provisions and Table Grape Crop Insurance Provisions (RIN: 0563-AC09) received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3297. A letter from the Acting Director, Bureau of Land Management Chief, Forest Service, Department of the Interior Department of Agriculture, transmitting 2008 report, ''Monitoring Fuel Treatments Across the Continental United States for Overall Effectiveness and Effects on Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat, Air and Water Quality''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3298. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Sodium Lauryl Sulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0041; FRL-8430-5] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3299. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Excutive Office of the President, transmitting notice of funds transfered between Office of National Drug Control Policy agency programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3300. A letter from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting Inventory Lists for the Department of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, pursuant to section 2330a Title 10 of the U.S. Code as amended by section 807 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3301. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the proposed test and evaulation (T&E) budgets that are not certified by the Director of the Defense Test Resource Management Center (TRMC) to be adequate for FY 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3302. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of the Navy, transmitting Report to Congress on Public-Private Competition Result; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3303. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID FEMA-2008-0020] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3304. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the 2009 Report to Congress, ''Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act (SAFE Act)''; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3305. A letter from the Council for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Section 108 Community Development Loan Guarantee Program: Participation of States as Borrowers Pursuant to Section 222 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 [Docket No.: 5326-I-01] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3306. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Interest Rate Restrictions on Insured Depository Institutions That Are Not Well Capitalized received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3307. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Capital Classifications and Critical Capital Levels for the Federal Home Loan Banks (RIN: 2590-AA21) received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3308. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Capital Adequacy Guidelines: Treatment of Perpetual Preferred Stock Issued to the United States Treasury under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1336] received September 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3309. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Fiscal Year 2006 Report to Congress on the Impact and Effectiveness of Administration for Native Americans Projects'', pursuant to Section 811(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3310. A letter from the Acting Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3311. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting FY 2008 Performance Report to Congress for the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3312. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Risk Communication Advisory Committee; Termination and Recharter [Docket No.: FDA-2009-N-0310] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3313. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Energy Information Administration, transmitting the Administration's report entitled, ''Annual Energy Review 2008''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3314. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Consumer Products Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1129; FRL-8941-9] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3315. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans of Michigan: Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0294; FRL-8944-7] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3316. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions, Pinal County, Arizona [EPA-R09-OAR-2009-0521; FRL-8946-2] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3317. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for Delaware [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0238; FRL-8936-4] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3318. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, Kern County Air Pollution Control District, Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0566; FRL-8939-2] received August 12, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3319. A letter from the Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008 [MD Docket No. 08-65] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3320. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting reports in accordance with Section 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3321. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3322. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Cote d'Ivoire that was declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006., pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3323. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-52, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3324. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-35, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3325. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-45, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3326. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-48, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3327. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-49, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3328. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3329. A letter from the Executive Director, Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's required General/Trust Fund Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3330. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3331. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Systems and Chief Information Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting report on the training on, and use of the government-wide authority for category rating in competitive examining; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3332. A letter from the Solicitor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3333. A letter from the Deputy Associate Director for Management and Administration and Designated Reporting Offical, 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.

3334. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of the boundary description and classification of the North Fork of the Smith Wild and Scenic River, Rogue River — Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3335. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of the boundary description and classification of the Upper Rogue Wild and Scenic River, Rogue River — Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3336. A letter from the General Counsel (Acting), National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Various National Indian Gaming Commission Regulations (RIN: 3141-0001) received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3337. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ending December 31, 2008, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3338. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting annual ''Report to Congress: National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)'', submitted in accordance with the NICS Improvement Amendemts Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-180); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3339. A letter from the Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Foreign Officials: Definition of Immediate Family Members, As Amended [Public Notice: 6676] received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3340. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department Homeland of Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3299-EM in the State of New York, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3341. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1846-DR for the State of Oklahoma, pursuant to Public Law 110-329, section 539; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3342. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30680; Amdt. No. 482] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3343. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30678 Amdt. No. 3332] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3344. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30679; Amdt. No. 3333] received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3345. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Model G-IV, GIV-X, and GV-SP Series Airplanes and Model GV Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0683; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-129-AD; Amendment 39-15991; AD 2009-17-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3346. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers Model SD3-60 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0464; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-15992; AD 2008-16-09 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3347. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0004; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-160-AD; Amendment 39-15995; AD 2009-17-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3348. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1844-DR for the state of South Dakota, pursuant to Public Law 110-329, section 539; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3349. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Special Rules Governing Eligible Combined Plans received August 14, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3350. A letter from the Chairman, Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting report entitled ''Bridging the Gap: Improving SSA's Public Service through Technology''; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3351. A letter from the Regulation Coordinator, Department of Health and Medicaid Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 [CMS-1538-F](RIN: 0938-AP56) received August 4, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

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:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on September 10, 2009 the following report was filed on September 11, 2009]

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee: Committee on Science and Technology. H.R. 3246. A bill to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy; with an amendment (Rept. 111–254). 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. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 3556. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a self-referral disclosure protocol under the Medicare Program to enable health care providers of services and suppliers to disclose violations of section 1877 of the Social Security Act; 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. JONES:

H.R. 3557. A bill to provide an emergency cost-of-living increase for Social Security benefits for 2010; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 3558. A bill to allow incumbent contractors to be eligible to re-compete for Government contracts as small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. NEAL of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3559. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve awareness and access to colorectal cancer screening tests under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes; 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. SIRES (for himself, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3560. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to establish the Health Technology Program in the United States Agency for International Development to research and develop technologies to improve global health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TEAGUE (for himself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona):

H.R. 3561. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of educational assistance provided to certain veterans for flight training; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 3562. A bill to designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building''; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EDWARDS of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 183. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug to the United States and the world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York:

H. Con. Res. 184. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the bankruptcy proceedings of Lehman Brothers Holding Inc. and Lehman Brothers Europe Inc. be resolved in an equitable and expeditious process between the United States and United Kingdom, and that the interests of American investors be given due consideration and be treated with urgency throughout; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and the Judiciary, 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. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BACA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BECERRA, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H. Res. 737. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established; to the Committee on Education and Labor; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HODES, and Ms. McCOLLUM):

H. Res. 738. A resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KISSELL, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WALZ, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PUTNAM, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):

H. Res. 739. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug for his many contributions to alleviating world hunger; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BOSWELL (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. LOEBSACK):

H. Res. 740. A resolution recognizing the valuable contributions of the extension offices of land-grant universities; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MARKEY of Colorado (for herself, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. SCHAUER, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. McMAHON, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 741. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 8, 2009, as national Jumpstart's ''Read for the Record Day''; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr.

BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H. Res. 742. A resolution congratulating the Warner Robins Little League softball team from Warner Robins, Georgia, on winning the 2009 Little League Softball World Series; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H. Res. 743. A resolution honoring the life of Frank McCourt for his many contributions to American literature, education, and culture; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 52: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 55: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 124: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 197: Mr. KRATOVIL.
H.R. 272: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 275: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 294: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 422: Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 433: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 501: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 503: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 537: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 571: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 621: Mr. FARR, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HALL of New York, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 634: Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 646: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CHU, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 669: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 678: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 758: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 793: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 868: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 916: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 930: Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 932: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 953: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 997: Mr. ISSA and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1021: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 1038: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1053: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 1067: Mr. COHEN and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 1188: Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 1193: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 1213: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1215: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 1228: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1245: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1327: Ms. CHU, Mr. NYE, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1392: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1428: Mr. KING of New York, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FLEMING, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 1441: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1478: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1570: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. PUTNAM.
H.R. 1615: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 1618: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1621: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1625: Mr. KAGEN, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1639: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1646: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1685: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1691: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 1708: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1751: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1821: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1826: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 1831: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1868: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 1884: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 1894: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1908: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1927: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1932: Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.
H.R. 1941: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 1946: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1956: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 1977: Ms. SUTTON and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2002: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2058: Mr. CARTER and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2062: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2068: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2095: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 2115: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2149: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 2190: Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2220: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MINNICK, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2222: Mr. HIMES and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 2243: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 2246: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 2254: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HODES, Mr. LANCE, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. STARK, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 2262: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2292: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2308: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 2329: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2358: Mr. PITTS.
H.R. 2377: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2397: Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 2408: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2421: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 2425: Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2456: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 2499: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2524: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 2542: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 2543: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 2567: Mr. OLVER and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2578: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2607: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2625: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 2626: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2685: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 2715: Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 2766: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 2810: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2817: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2842: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 2859: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2866: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 2891: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2935: Mr. OLVER, Mr. CAO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 2941: Ms. TITUS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2969: Mr. REYES.
H.R. 3017: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3024: Mr. ARCURI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 3039: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3040: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3043: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3044: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. UPTON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 3048: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3077: Mr. FARR and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3092: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3149: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3164: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3168: Mr. CASTLE.
H.R. 3173: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 3212: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3220: Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 3226: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. SCALISE.
H.R. 3274: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 3286: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3307: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 3310: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3339: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3365: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 3380: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 3381: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 3383: Mr. WESTMORELAND and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3400: Mr. COLE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 3404: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3406: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 3407: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3408: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 3418: Mr. BRIGHT.
H.R. 3421: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3465: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3467: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. NYE.
H.R. 3471: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3472: Mr. ADLER of New Jersey and Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 3492: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 3502: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 3506: Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3524: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
H.R. 3527: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3535: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3536: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3545: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3548: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 3549: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3554: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. NYE, and Mr. ADLER of New Jersey.

H.J. Res. 42: Mr. COBLE and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.J. Res. 47: Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. REYES.

H. Con. Res. 128: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.

H. Con. Res. 138: Mr. OLSON.

H. Con. Res. 139: Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Con. Res. 149: Mr. CAO.

H. Con. Res. 170: Mr. MINNICK and Mr. BOSWELL.

H. Con. Res. 178: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MASSA, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ARCURI.

H. Res. 81: Mr. SESTAK.

H. Res. 167: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. NYE.

H. Res. 215: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 260: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H. Res. 266: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H. Res. 267: Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Res. 443: Mr. SESTAK.

H. Res. 494: Mr. CARTER, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 554: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COLE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. AUSTRIA.

H. Res. 558: Mr. SESTAK.

H. Res. 577: Mr. SESTAK.

H. Res. 604: Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MACK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 615: Mr. LATTA.

H. Res. 619: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H. Res. 638: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H. Res. 649: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H. Res. 660: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. MCINTYRE.

H. Res. 672: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. STARK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 676: Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 679: Mr. SKELTON, Mr. DREIER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Res. 686: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. GIFFORDS.

H. Res. 692: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HODES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. SHULER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. NYE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SPACE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. MASSA, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. HARE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 700: Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 704: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. INGLIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN.

H. Res. 707: Mr. HARPER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Res. 721: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. LATOURETTE.

H. Res. 725: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 727: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H. Res. 733: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WALDEN, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. CARTER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. CHU, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. KINGSTON.

H. Res. 734: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. BILBRAY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative GORDON of Tennessee, or a designee, to H.R. 3246, the Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009 No. 129

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, empower our Senators to have clean hands and pure hearts worthy of a nation that depends on You. Spare them from impure thoughts, careless manners, and compromising conduct. Keep them humble and eager to accept Your forgiveness and renewing grace. Lord, infuse them with such a spirit of civility that they will be peacemakers who are called Your children. Create in them pure hearts that they may understand Your will and follow where You lead.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK WARNER 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, September 14, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business until 3 o'clock—for 1 hour. After that, we are going to move back to the Transportation appropriations bill. There will be a vote at 5:30 p.m. today on a matter relating to the Transportation appropriations bill.

NOT LETTING HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a year ago today, our economy came precariously close to its breaking point—as close to the brink as it had in generations. One year ago today, Lehman Brothers, part of the foundation of Wall Street for more than a century and a half, collapsed.

Much is being made of this anniversary. The media is dedicating significant amounts of air time, newsprint, and bandwidth to analyzing what it means, to recording how far we have come since that day, and to describing the work we still have before us. President Obama went to Wall Street today to reiterate the importance of strengthening the system that keeps financial firms in check.

But as significant as this occasion is, it is critical to remember that the economic crisis was not created in a day. As dramatic as it may sound, the reality is that our economy did not wake up on the morning of September 14 and suddenly find itself in the emergency room. In fact, this was a long time coming. The Lehman collapse was simply the final straw that broke a vulnerable economy's back, the final spark that ignited a highly flammable and flawed system.

The conditions that created this crisis had been brewing for years. A lethal combination of government deregulation and industrial irresponsibility meant Wall Street could run wild. And run wild it did. Greed, excess, and reckless risk ruled the day. Disdain for government oversight—even though the singular purpose of oversight is to protect the people—was in vogue. Loopholes were exploited. When the rules did not offer any loopholes, those rules were broken.

More than a year and a half before his company's collapse, a Lehman executive told his boss how risky the mortgages that had artificially inflated their business were. He knew the bubble was bound to burst, and he knew that once the housing market fell, it would fall onto the nearby dominos in the banking markets and credit markets. He saw it coming.

I repeat, he knew that once the housing market failed, it would fall onto the nearby dominos in the banking markets and credit markets. He saw it coming.

Bear Stearns knew as early as 2005 that the complicated loans it packaged were too good to be true. The Securities and Exchange Commission saw 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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warning signs and started an investigation but then dropped the case. They saw it coming too.

But the industry did not act alone. For years, the previous administration put the interests of Wall Street before those of Main Street. The mantra of the last 8 years was deregulation, deregulation, and more deregulation. The last White House refused to police lenders when they deceived and defrauded Americans looking for loans and necessity to protect consumers when they were being abused.

The previous administration did nothing while Wall Street traders bid up the price of oil, took windfall profits, and left the tab for the rest of a Republican idea Warren Buffett called financial weapons of mass destruction.

It is interesting to note, I believe the Presiding Officer was in a meeting last Thursday when Warren Buffett told us, in an effort to help General Electric, he bought their credit division. He looked this over and found that some of the swaps were not due for 100 years—100 years. He said he knew he couldn't help that and lost hundreds of millions of dollars. He said: I want nothing to do with that, even though the original investment was to help the economy. What Warren Buffett called financial weapons of mass destruction is what they were.

Instead, the previous administration sat and watched while the subprime mortgage market sent millions into foreclosure and nowhere worse than in Nevada. It gave tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans but gave no thought to how we would make up for the lost revenue.

It looked the other way while the executives who got us into this mess took home bonuses and golden parachutes and continued to look the other way while taxpayers, consumers, and investors were taken to the cleaners.

It declared war on fiscal responsibility and accountability. It said anything goes, but all Americans saw go were their jobs. That is all they saw go. They saw their jobs, their homes, and their economic security go down the drain.

The previous administration simply refused to safeguard the American people from an impending crisis clearly visible on the horizon. It was a time of blissful ignorance, at best, and willful neglect, at worst.

The hard-working Americans who lost everything did nothing wrong, but their leaders did nothing—period.

We all know what happened next. Our economy was paralyzed and credit was frozen. Families and businesses were forced to make painful cuts—cuts that were felt in every corner of our country and every industry in our economy.

The stock market lost a third of its value in just a few months in 2008. Consumer confidence was at an all-time low as the cost of living went up and incomes went down. Families and financial institutions alike could not pay the bills. People could not get car loans, students could not get college loans, and small businesses could not grow their companies.

Economic experts, from Nobel Prize winners to former Cabinet Secretaries, to Ivy League professors, said we needed to act fast to keep a bad situation from getting worse.

Despite it all, those in the Bush White House and some Republicans in Congress told us the economy was fundamentally sound at a time when it was fundamentally flawed.

The history books will tell the tale of what happened in the weeks and months after September 14, 2008: major investment banks that for decades simply disappeared; institutions that were once synonymous with success became synonymous with distress; and America took unprecedented steps to stabilize a bleeding economy.

But the history books will also tell the tale of what happened before September 14, 2008. The singular lesson from that gilded age is that we cannot wait until a system collapses before we act to save it.

Today, the system headed for its breaking point is the health insurance system. We have already seen what happens when we do nothing about rising health care costs and reckless health insurance policies. We have already seen what happens when we let the market take care of itself, as some of my colleagues have urged us to do.

Over the past 8 years of inaction, the price of staying healthy in America rose to record levels, and the number of Americans who cannot afford insurance did the same.

For the millions of families who file for foreclosure because they cannot afford both their house and their health care, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who filed for bankruptcy because their medical bills grow higher and higher, not acting is not an option.

For the millions of Americans who skip doctor visits or treatments they need to stay healthy or who never fill the prescriptions their doctor gives them because health care is simply so expensive, not acting is not an option.

For the 600,000 Americans—including 46,000 from Nevada—who, we learned last week, joined the ranks of the uninsured between 2007 and 2008, not acting is not an option.

During that time, 600,000 Americans have lost their health insurance. In Nevada, 220 families a day lose their health insurance. The number is much higher in densely populated States such as Virginia.

That is a lesson we need to hear extra loud today. We again see the storm clouds gathering. This time they hover over the health care system. We again can predict the very real and very painful consequences of not acting. We again see disaster but again one that is avoidable. Again, we have a choice.

If we learn the lessons of the financial crisis, the choice we will make is to put the future of the American people first. We will choose to recognize that working people, not greedy executives, are the backbone of our economy, and we will choose to give them the security and stability they deserve.

We will choose to act in the short term for the sake of the long term.

We will choose to put the American people first and fulfill our fundamental duty to promote their well-being.

We will choose to keep the insurance companies and government bureaucrats out of people's medical decisions.

We will choose to keep health care companies honest and accountable.

We will choose to give the American people more choices in their health care coverage.

And we will choose to make quality, affordable care available to every single American.

Those in Congress who think we cannot afford health insurance reform sound an awful lot like those who didn't want to risk the windfall profits during Wall Street's heyday.

Those in the health insurance business who let their profits and bonuses, rather than their conscience or ethics, guide their decisions sound an awful lot like those who got us into this mess in the first place—those who saw all the warning signs and stuck their heads in the sand.

This country has no place for those who hope for failure and this time has no patience for those who seek more of the same failed policies.

George Santayana famously said:

> Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

My response to those who want to ignore the lessons of last year is simply we cannot afford to let history repeat itself.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, over the past months, Americans have grown increasingly alarmed about the high levels of spending and debt we have seen under the new administration. They have become increasingly vocal about these concerns out of a growing sense that the White House does not seem to be listening to them, that it is talking over them.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the debate over health care and never more so than in the President's speech to Congress last week. For weeks and weeks, Americans had expressed their concerns about the Democrats' health care proposals at townhall meetings across the country. Yet the President returned from the August break with a speech that did not address any of them.

Instead, he stated his intention to spend nearly $1 trillion on a plan he says will expand coverage without increasing costs or adding to the deficit. These are precisely the claims Americans are finding so difficult to square with reality. The speech itself was certainly well delivered, but in the end Congress is not going to be asked to vote on a speech. It is going to be asked to vote on specific legislation.

In my view, the President's speech only highlighted the concerns that millions of Americans and Members of both parties in Congress continue to have with the Democratic plans for health care reform because when you strip away the pageantry of the speech itself, what you are left with is simply this: one more trillion-dollar government program and a whole lot of unanswered questions about how we are going to pay for it. What is it going to mean for seniors and small business owners, and how is it going to affect the quality and availability of care for millions of Americans, the vast majority of whom are happy with the care they have? These are legitimate questions, and it is unfair for anyone to dismiss those who ask them as either cranks or scaremongers. The answers to these questions impact some of the most important aspects of people's lives, and people just aren't getting answers.

Take the issue of cost. The President says he is going to pay for his plan by cutting waste, fraud, and abuse out of the system. That raises a couple of questions. First of all, if there is such waste, fraud, and abuse, then why isn't the administration doing something about it already? Second, if we are seeing this kind of waste, fraud, and abuse in an existing government program, why shouldn't we expect it to exist in the new government program the White House wants to create? Of course, we should root out waste, fraud, and abuse. I don't know anybody who is against that. But let's do it for its own sake, not to justify a very brandnew government program most Americans aren't even asking for.

How about Medicare? The administration plans to pay for much of its health care proposals with hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to Medicare. A significant portion of this would involve cuts to Medicare Advantage, a program that serves more than 11 million American seniors, nearly 90 percent of whom say they are satisfied with it. But faced with questions about his proposed cuts to Medicare, the administration insists services to seniors won't be cut. Mr. President, this is absurd. How can the administration tell America's seniors with a straight face that it is about to cut $½ trillion from Medicare but that those cuts won't affect the program in any noticeable way?

What about the hundreds of billions of dollars the administration would have to raise to pay for its plan even after its proposed cuts to Medicare? The White House hasn't said where it plans to get all of that money, but to most people, the answer is pretty obvious: more spending, more taxes, higher deficits—or, most likely, all three.

What about the deficit? The White House says its health care plan won't add a dollar to the deficit. How do they square that with the fact that the Congressional Budget Office has said repeatedly and unequivocally that every proposal they have seen would, in fact, add hundreds of billions of dollars to the deficit?

Any schoolkid in America could tell you that creating a massive new government program will cost a lot of money, that cutting Medicare by hundreds of billions of dollars will lead to cuts in services people currently enjoy, and that higher taxes on small businesses will lead to even more job losses.

These are serious questions. The administration's response to them is not. Their response is to accuse anyone who asks them of being a scaremonger and to give them the same two-word answer they gave everybody who questioned the stimulus: Trust us.

When it comes to health care, Americans are saying these arguments don't add up. These are simple questions. The administration should answer them. If they can't, it is even further validation that the questions are worth asking.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NORMAN BORLAUG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to pay tribute to a fellow Iowan, Dr. Norman Borlaug, a 1970 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. That honor—Dr. Borlaug's winning the Nobel Peace Prize—was because he was the father of the Green Revolution.

Dr. Borlaug passed away over the weekend at the age of 95. I am honored to have known Dr. Borlaug. He was a remarkable man, a true son of the Iowa soil. A tenacity found through wrestling, a love of the soil, and a twist of fate helped Dr. Borlaug develop the scientific breakthroughs to ease malnutrition and famine around the globe. His effort to spare people from the sharp hunger pains that strike an empty stomach is an example for generations to come that one person can, in fact, make a difference—and, in his case, a big difference.

Dr. Borlaug's notoriety most often comes, as I have just said, as the father of what is called the Green Revolution, a time when drastically increased crop yields over a short period of years helped alleviate world hunger. It is from this work that he is credited with saving more lives than any other person in history.

It is said that Dr. Borlaug's desire for a sufficient food supply came from his childhood. He grew up in a small town on a family farm in northeast Iowa. His education came in a one-room schoolhouse full of immigrant children. It was there where he and his schoolmates learned the common threads between them, similar to what their own parents learned, that working together to provide food for their families was more important than any ethnic differences that might divide them.

In true Iowa tradition, as a young man Dr. Borlaug was an outstanding wrestler. His wrestling skills took him to the University of Minnesota, where he, besides wrestling, earned a bachelor's and master's degree in forestry and, by a twist of fate, a doctorate in plant pathology.

It was after his graduation and World War II service that Dr. Borlaug first saw the plight of poverty-stricken wheat farmers in rural Mexico. In the early going, his work in Mexico was discouraging, but Dr. Borlaug showed his tenacity and willingness to get dirt under his fingernails and, in fact, over a period of time ingratiated himself to the local farmers. With the help of Mexican farmers, Dr. Borlaug and his scientific team eventually developed a disease-resistant wheat—a breakthrough in the fight against hunger.

His success in Mexico gave Dr. Borlaug the opportunity to help developing countries all around the world. His innovative work brought an agricultural revolution to poor and hungry countries. I don't think it is a stretch to say that Norman Borlaug transformed these countries. His work helped these countries avoid starvation and famine, but he also helped to lift the social conditions and create more peaceful societies.

His commitment to this important cause has been recognized worldwide. I already alluded to the fact that he was a 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He is one of only five people to be awarded three different medals of honor: the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and this Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal. That may not sound like much, but let's just put that into context. The other four recipients of all three of those awards—again, the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal—include Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Mother Teresa, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. President, Dr. Borlaug may not be a name known at every kitchen

table, but this man is one of the greatest humanitarians who have ever lived. He dedicated his life to the development of scientific breakthroughs in order to ease malnutrition and famine all over the world.

One of Dr. Borlaug's latest efforts began in the early 1980s. There wasn't anything in the Nobel armada of prizes that represented agriculture, which is why he received the Peace Prize for recognition of his research in agriculture, and so Dr. Borlaug thought there ought to be an annual award for research in agriculture and helping with the problems of food production. Through his initiative, the World Food Prize was initiated. It recognizes the achievement of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, and availability of food in the world. Just as Dr. Borlaug dreamed, the World Food Prize is helping to continue to inspire future generations of scientists and farmers to innovate and lift those mired in poverty and preserving Dr. Borlaug's legacy over the years. The World Food Prize is the idea of Dr. Borlaug, and so his scientific work will live on.

The World Food Prize exists today because of the John Ruan family endowing it. They are an outstanding Des Moines business family, and they have endowed this. President of the World Food Prize is the former Ambassador to Cambodia, Dr. Ken Quinn. The World Food Prize has been headquartered in Des Moines since 1992, about 4 or 5 years after its founding.

An extraordinary man, with a brilliant vision and Iowa common sense who turned his dreams into reality—that was Dr. Norman Borlaug.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, how much time is remaining?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 30 minutes remaining in morning business, with Senators having a 10-minute limit. The Senate goes out of morning business at 3 o'clock.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Will the Chair please let me know when 1 minute is remaining—after 9 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will so advise.

PUSH OUT THE CZARS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, according to news accounts, there are approximately 32 or 34 so-called czars in the Obama White House and government. Respected voices in the Senate—Senator BYRD, a senior Democrat and Senator HUTCHISON, a senior Republican—have pointed out that these czars are an affront to the Constitution. They are anti-democratic. They are a poor example of a new era of transparency, which is what was promised to this country. I would add that they are a poor way to manage the government, and they seem to me to be the principal symptom of this administration's 8-month record of too many Washington takeovers. We have an AIDS czar, an auto recovery czar, a border czar, and a California water czar. We have a car czar, a central region czar, and a domestic violence czar. There is an economic czar, an energy and environment czar, a faith-based czar and a Great Lakes czar. The list goes on, up to 32 or 34. One of these, for example, is the pay czar, Mr. Kenneth Feinberg, the Treasury Department's Special Master for Compensation. He will approve pay packages at seven firms receiving TARP funds, thus deciding how much pay is too much. This will affect the top earners at some of the major corporations in America.

According to Mr. Feinberg, in answer to some questions, he said:

> The statute provides guideposts but the statute ultimately says I have discretion to decide what it is that these people should make and that my determination will be final. Anything is possible under the law.

That is the pay czar. Then we have a manufacturing czar. The manufacturing czar's name is Mr. Ron Bloom. He is also the car czar. We have had manufacturing czars before in other administrations, but as Rollcall pointed out on September 8, Mr. Bloom's background and new position differs from the two czars who served under former President George W. Bush:

> Bloom is a former union official, remaining close to leaders in organized labor. Bush's manufacturing czars were placed in the Commerce Department. Bloom, on the other hand, was entrusted with a high profile Presidential task force on autos, and will operate within an office that has broad authority over domestic policy. He will head the auto task force which is in the Treasury Department.
>
> According to the policy director for the AFL–CIO, Mr. Bloom is expected to have a major role in the development of climate change legislation. So-called buy American provisions that favor home-grown products, and tax credits for domestic industry need to be included, said the policy director for the AFL/CIO, in the climate change provision. If it's not done right, the President could lose votes, said the AFL/CIO Policy Director.

In other words, Mr. Bloom may end up being the protectionist czar as well.

Then there is the health czar, a very distinguished Tennessean, Nancy-Ann DeParle, a very able woman I know well. But who is in charge of health care policy? Is it the Secretary of Health and Human Services, confirmed by the Senate, accountable to the Congress, accountable, therefore, to the people of the country? Or is it someone in the White House who, an administration official says will ''wake up every morning focused on health care reform, and she is going to be focused on that the entire day through?''

There have been czars in the White House, at least since President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Of the 32 or 34 we have today—and I am using those two numbers because there are different reports and 2 or 3 czar positions are vacant—only 8 are confirmed by the Senate. We have had czars before, but there has never been anything quite like this.

Let me take my concerns one by one. Article I of the Constitution of the United States gives to the Congress the appropriations power and sets up, in articles II and III, the executive and judicial branches, a system of checks and balances to make sure no one branch of the Federal Government runs away with the government. Senator ROBERT BYRD, the President pro tempore of the Senate, wrote a letter to President Obama on February 23. Senator BYRD, who is often called the Constitutional conscience of the Senate, expressed his concern over the increasing appointments of White House czars and the relationship between these new positions and their executive branch counterparts, noting:

> Too often, I have seen these lines of authority and responsibility become tangled and blurred, sometimes purposely, to shield information and to obscure the decision-making process.

That is Senator BYRD speaking. He goes on to say:

> The rapid and easy accumulation of power by White House staff can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials.

Continuing:

> As presidential assistants and advisers, these White House staffers are not accountable for their actions to the Congress, to Cabinet officials, and to virtually anyone but the president. They rarely testify before congressional committees, and often shield the information and decision-making process behind the assertion of executive privilege. In too many instances, White House staff have been allowed to inhibit openness and transparency, and reduce accountability.

More recently, one of the senior Republicans, Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas, who is the senior Republican on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, said in an op-ed in the Washington Post:

> I oversee legislation and agencies that cover policy areas as vast and varied as trade, technology, transit, consumer protection and commercial regulation. As many as 10 of the 32 czars functionally fall under my committee's jurisdiction. Yet neither I nor the committee chairmen have clear authority to compel these czars to appear before our panel and report what they are doing. The Obama administration presented only two of these officials for our consideration before they assumed their duties. We have had no opportunity to probe the others' credentials.

That is Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON of Texas. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks the comments of Senator ROBERT BYRD and the op-ed of Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1).

Mr. ALEXANDER. As the Senator said, many of these czars have no vetting by the Senators, no appropriation requests to be considered by us, no testimony given, and answer no hard

questions. Who is making the policy, then, on health care, on climate change, on energy?

I have been reading President James K. Polk's diaries. I may be the only one in the United States reading them these days. They are actually very interesting. He wrote down every night what he did that day, back in the 1840s. Among the things he did, he had a Cabinet meeting every Tuesday and Saturday and every major issue that came before him, whether it was the war with Mexico, annexation of Texas, the argument with Great Britain about what to do in Oregon—he submitted all those questions to his Cabinet, and then the Cabinet, of course, had to go before the Congress and testify. He didn't always agree with the Cabinet.

Secretary of State Buchanan disagreed with President Polk quite a bit, but Secretary Buchanan then had to go before the Congress and come back and tell the President what he heard. That was a long time ago, but what the Framers had in mind was checks and balances where the President leads the country, the Cabinet manages the government, and the Cabinet, as the managers of the government, are accountable to the people through their elected Representatives.

The 32 or 34 czars are not representative of the way the American system of government is supposed to work. This is not an era of transparency. It creates so much centralization of power that it is the antithesis of freedom, which is the principal characteristic, the principal aspect of the American character.

The second aspect of this large number of czars that is troublesome is the issue of managing the government. Forty years ago, I worked in the White House for President Nixon under a wise man named Bryce Harlow.

I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business until I am finished with my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Harlow had worked for President Eisenhower. He was a wise counselor to President Johnson. He knew a lot about how the American Government is supposed to work. He said to me, then a very young staff member—he said:

> Lamar, our job here in the White House is to push the merely important issues out of the White House so that we can reserve to the President only that handful of truly Presidential issues.

George Reedy, who was Lyndon Johnson's Press Secretary, wrote:

> The job of the President is three things—to see an urgent need, to develop a strategy to meet the need, and persuade half the people he's right.

Mr. Reedy didn't say anything about managing the Government of the United States out of the White House. He talked about leading the country.

Our current President is very skilled at persuading half the people he is right. He has demonstrated that in an election. He continues to demonstrate that with his speeches. That is not the issue. The issue is whether he ought to bring into the White House, or closer to him into the government, a large group of men and women who are accountable to him but not accountable to anybody else. It is not good for the President of the United States, I would submit, to have close to him people he listens to who do not have to listen to anybody else, or at least who do not have to listen to the elected Representatives of government.

Everyone knows the first thing that happens when a new President is elected is people pick offices, and which office do they pick? They want the office closest to the President because it is an unwritten rule in Washington DC, that influence in Washington is measured in direct proportion to the number of inches one is physically from the President of the United States. So the First Lady usually ends up with the most influence. After that, go right down the hall in the West Wing over to the Executive Office Building. After a while you get out around the Cabinet offices.

I used to be in one of the Cabinet offices in the first President Bush's administration. It is true, the persons with the most influence with the President are almost always the men and women who are closest to him.

The other aspect of management that this seems to contravene in the White House is the ''one thing at a time'' idea. One thing at a time is best exemplified, I suggest, by President Eisenhower when he said ''I shall go to Korea.'' He said that more than a half century ago when the big issue before the country—there were many, but the biggest issue was the Korean war. President Eisenhower said, in October of the election year, ''I shall go to Korea,'' and in December he went. And he said to the American people, ''I will focus my attention on the war in Korea. It will have my full attention until the matter is concluded.''

Because he was President and because he had capacity for leadership, people believed he would probably get that one thing done. In fact he did because, in our system of government, people know if the President selects a single issue—say it is health care, say it is climate change, say it is resolving the debt, or fixing Social Security—if he picks one thing and throws himself into that for as long as he is there, the odds are he is going to wear everybody else out. He might have to compromise a little bit along the way.

I used to think this as Governor—and the Presiding Officer was once Governor in Virginia. Often our best proposals would get changed in the legislature. I learned a long time ago you could either condemn that or say: Well, they improved my proposal. Give the other side some credit, and go on to the next issue.

But a Governor and certainly a President who picks one thing can get a lot done. We have a lot of very talented people in and around the President. The President himself is highly intelligent and well liked by the American people, as well as he is by those of us in the Senate. But sometimes I am afraid the Obama White House resembles the Harvard Law Review meeting where everybody has a bright idea, everybody is very smart, but everyone forgets that someone has to be the operator. Someone has to make it run. Someone has to pick one thing and lean into it for as long as it goes.

My point is, having a large number of bright advisers or czars for every issue under the Sun, clustered around the President, coming up with bright ideas, and who are unaccountable to the Congress for most of what they have to say, is not the best way for a President to pick a single, major issue—let's say health care—and lead the country.

Finally, the number of czars we now have today, who have accumulated over the last several administrations and today have reached a record level is anti-democratic. Czars are usually Russians; they are not Americans. Czars are usually imperialists, not Democrats.

The dictionary says a czar is an autocratic ruler or leader or an emperor or king. A czar is not associated with a democracy, not associated with an era of transparency.

Czars are alien to our way of thinking and our way of government. I am afraid czars are becoming a symbol of this administration and the number of Washington takeovers. Let me not just use my own words, a New York Times article today said:

> But one year after the collapse of Lehman Brothers set off a series of federal interventions, the government is the nation's biggest lender, insurer, automaker and guarantor against risk for investors large and small.
>
> Between financial rescue missions and the economic stimulus program, Government spending accounts for a bigger share of the nation's economy—26 percent—than at any time since World War II. The Government is financing 9 out of 10 new mortgages in the United States. If you buy a car from General Motors, you are buying from a company that is 60 percent owned by the Government.

If you take out a car loan or run up your credit card, the chances are good that the Government is financing both your debt and that of your bank. And if you buy life insurance from the American International Group, you will be buying from a company that is almost 80 percent Federally owned.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this article from September 14 following my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2).

Mr. ALEXANDER. Czars are becoming a symbol of a runaway government in Washington with too many Washington takeovers. Dr. Samuel Johnson, the British moralist a few centuries ago, was once introduced to a talking dog in a London pub. The proud owner

of the dog asked Dr. Johnson what did he think of how well his dog talked.

Dr. Johnson is reported to have said, he was not so impressed with how well the dog talked, but that the dog talked at all.

That is about the way I feel about the nearly three dozen White House czars and government czars. I am not so worried about who they are, I am worried that the czars are there at all. I believe that the American people in addition to respected Senators, such as Senator BYRD on the other side of the aisle, and Senator HUTCHISON on this side of the aisle, sense this is a problem.

My respectful suggestion to the President is along the same lines as Senator BYRD and Senator HUTCHISON have made. I believe it is time to push these czars out of the White House, and leave the management of government to the managers of government in the Cabinet and the positions in the departments of government who are accountable to the Congress. The positions who are accountable for their confirmation, accountable to answer the questions of Members of Congress, accountable for appropriations that have to be approved by Congress before they can spend the people's money. That is the American way.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of czars published in the newspaper Politico on September 4.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 3).

EXHIBIT 1

BYRD QUESTIONS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON ROLE OF WHITE HOUSE ''CZAR'' POSITIONS

WASHINGTON, DC—Senator Robert C. Byrd, D–W.Va., the Constitutional conscience of the Senate, has written to President Barack Obama expressing his concerns over the increasing appointments of White House ''czars,'' and the relationship between these new White House positions and their executive branch counterparts, noting that ''too often, I have seen these lines of authority and responsibility become tangled and blurred, sometimes purposely, to shield information and to obscure the decision-making process.''

Byrd, in his February 23 letter, specifically referenced the creation of new White House Offices of Health Reform, Urban Affairs Policy, and Energy and Climate Change Policy, noting that ''the rapid and easy accumulation of power by White House staff can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials.''

''As presidential assistants and advisers, these White House staffers are not accountable for their actions to the Congress, to cabinet officials, and to virtually anyone but the president. They rarely testify before congressional committees, and often shield the information and decision-making process behind the assertion of executive privilege. In too many instances, White House staff have been allowed to inhibit openness and transparency, and reduce accountability,'' Byrd's letter continued.

Byrd cited President Obama's recent memorandum to the executive departments and agencies in which Obama noted that, ''A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency.''

''As you develop your White House organization, I hope you will favorably consider the following: that assertions of executive privilege will be made only by the President, or with the President's specific approval; that senior White House personnel will be limited from exercising authority over any person, any program, and any funding within the statutory responsibility of a Senate-confirmed department or agency head; that the President will be responsible for resolving any disagreement between a Senate-confirmed agency or department head and White House staff; and that the lines of authority and responsibility in the Administration will be transparent and open to the American public,'' the letter requested and concluded.

EXHIBIT 2

[From the New York Times, Sept. 14, 2009]

U.S. IS FINDING ITS ROLE IN BUSINESS HARD TO UNWIND

(By Edmund L. Andrews and David E. Sanger)

WASHINGTON.—When President Obama travels to Wall Street on Monday to speak from Federal Hall, where the founders once argued bitterly over how much the government should control the national economy, he is likely to cast himself as a ''reluctant shareholder'' in America's biggest industries and financial institutions.

But one year after the collapse of Lehman Brothers set off a series of federal interventions, the government is the nation's biggest lender, insurer, automaker and guarantor against risk for investors large and small.

Between financial rescue missions and the economic stimulus program, government spending accounts for a bigger share of the nation's economy—26 percent—than at any time since World War II. The government is financing 9 out of 10 new mortgages in the United States. If you buy a car from General Motors, you are buying from a company that is 60 percent owned by the government.

If you take out a car loan or run up your credit card, the chances are good that the government is financing both your debt and that of your bank.

And if you buy life insurance from the American International Group, you will be buying from a company that is almost 80 percent federally owned.

Mr. Obama plans to argue, his aides say, that these government intrusions will be temporary. At the same time, however, he will push hard for an increased government role in overseeing the financial system to prevent a repeat of the excesses that caused the crisis.

''These were extraordinary provisions of support, not part of a permanent program,'' said Lawrence H. Summers, director of the National Economic Council at the White House. ''You're seeing a process of exit every day. It's a process that's going to take quite some time, but the prospects are much brighter today than they were nine months ago.''

That process unfolds every day in a bland bureaucrat's haven, an annex connected by an underground tunnel to the Treasury's main building on Pennsylvania Avenue. There, about 200 civil servants—accountants, lawyers, former investment bankers—oversee the $700 billion program that pumps taxpayer money into banks, insurance companies and two of Detroit's Big Three auto companies.

In the main Treasury building, senior officials hold veto power over executive pay packages for the biggest recipients of government loans, like Citigroup and Bank of America. A separate group, working closely with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, oversees the multibillion-dollar bailout of American International Group. Ten blocks away, at the Federal Reserve, officials are still providing the emergency liquidity that keeps a battered economy moving.

To Mr. Obama's critics, thousands of whom took to the streets of Washington this weekend to protest a new era of big government, all these efforts are part of a plan to dismantle free-market capitalism. On the ground it looks quite different, as a new president and his team try to define the proper role, both as owners and regulators.

A LIGHT HAND ON THE REINS

Far from eagerly micromanaging the companies the government owns, Mr. Obama and his economic team have often labored mightily to avoid exercising control even when government money was the only thing keeping some companies afloat.

A few weeks ago, there were anguished grimaces inside the Treasury Department as the new chief executive of A.I.G., Robert H. Benmosche, whose roughly $9 million pay package is 22 times greater than Mr. Obama's, ridiculed officials in Washington—his majority shareholders—as ''crazies.''

Causing even more unease to policymakers, Mr. Benmosche insisted that A.I.G.—one of the worst offenders in the risk-taking that sent the nation over the edge last year—would not rush to sell its businesses at fire-sale prices, despite pressure from Fed and Treasury officials, who are desperate to have the insurer repay its $180 billion government bailout.

But in the end, according to one senior official, ''no one called him and told him to shut up,'' and no one has pulled rank and told him to sell assets as soon as possible to repay the loans.

A similar hands-off decision was made about the auto companies. Shortly after General Motors and Chrysler emerged from bankruptcy, some members of the administration's auto task force argued that the group should not go out of business until it was confident that a new management team in Detroit had a handle on what needed to be done.

But Mr. Summers strongly rejected that approach, and the Treasury secretary, Timothy F. Geithner, agreed.

''The argument was that if the president said he wasn't elected to run G.M., then we couldn't hire a new board and then try to run any aspect of it,'' one participant in the discussions said. The auto task force took off for summer vacation in July, and it never returned.

But it will probably be several years before the government can begin to sell its stake in G.M. back to the public, and even then, according a report issued last week by the independent monitor of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, some of the $20 billion or so funneled to G.M. and Chrysler is probably gone forever.

WINDING DOWN PROGRAMS

By contrast, Mr. Obama's team and the Federal Reserve have been more successful than generally recognized at winding down many of the support programs for banks. Nearly three dozen financial institutions have repaid $70 billion in loans to the Treasury, and officials predict that $50 billion more will be repaid over the next 18 months. Indeed, the government has earned tidy profit on the first round of repayments.

One of the biggest backstops has been the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which now guarantees about $300 billion worth of bonds issued by banks.

The volume of new guarantees has declined to less than $5 billion a month in August from more than $90 billion a month earlier this year. The F.D.I.C. announced last week that it would either end the program entirely on Oct. 31 or reduce it further by substantially increasing the fees that banks have to pay.

Similarly, one of the Fed's biggest emergency loan programs, the Term Auction Facility, has shrunk by more than half in the last 12 months. A second big program, which finances short-term i.o.u.'s for businesses, has shrunk to $124 billion, from $332 billion a year ago.

Obama administration officials bristle at even the hint that their rescue measures have ushered in a new era of ''big government.''

But supporters and critics alike worry that it will be difficult to shrink the government to anything like its former role. For one thing, Mr. Obama is determined to expand government regulation of business and to beef up federal protections for consumers.

SEEKING MORE OVERSIGHT

Mr. Obama's proposals to overhaul the system of financial regulation would give the Fed new powers to supervise giant financial institutions whose failure could threaten the entire financial system.

To limit the dangers posed by insolvent institutions that are ''too big to fail,'' the F.D.I.C. would receive new authority to close them in an orderly way.

The administration would impose much tougher regulation over the vast market for financial derivatives like credit-default swaps and other exotic instruments for hedging risk.

It would also create an entirely new Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which would have broad power to regulate most forms of consumer lending.

In his speech on Monday, White House officials say, Mr. Obama will step up pressure on Wall Street to accept tougher oversight. Even though his proposals have made little headway in Congress, largely because of the battle over health care, Democratic lawmakers said they were determined to pass comprehensive legislation by next year.

''Big government now is the consequence of too little government before,'' said Representative Barney Frank, chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. ''What you have right now, with the government owning companies, is the result of insufficient regulation before.''

On a practical level, experts say it will take years for the government to unwind some of its rescue programs.

Thanks to the mortgage crisis and the collapse in housing prices, private investors have fled the mortgage market, and the federal government now finances about 9 out of 10 new home loans in the United States.

The Treasury took over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored finance companies that own or have guaranteed more than $5 trillion in mortgages, in the first week of September 2008. Fannie and Freddie now buy or guarantee almost two-thirds of all new mortgages. The Federal Housing Administration guarantees another 25 percent.

The cost of keeping the two giant companies afloat has been huge. The Treasury has provided Fannie and Freddie with $95 billion to cover losses tied to soaring default rates and losses in value on their own mortgage portfolios. Analysts predict that the companies will need considerably more in the year ahead. At the same time, the Fed is buying almost all the new mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the F.H.A. Buying up those securities drives up their price and pushes down their effective interest rates, and ultimately lowers borrowing costs to homebuyers.

AN ENORMOUS SCALE

The scale of the Fed's intervention has been staggering. The central bank has acquired more than $700 billion in mortgage-backed securities so far, and officials have said they will buy up to $1.25 trillion—a goal that should take the Fed until early next year. To help Fannie and Freddie raise the money they need to buy mortgages from lenders, the Fed is also buying $200 billion of their bonds.

All told, the government is propping up almost the entire mortgage market and, by extension, the housing industry.

As the government backs away from its rescue operations, economists and others worry about unknown consequences. Some analysts are already predicting that mortgage rates will bump higher when the Fed stops buying mortgage securities, potentially delaying a recovery in housing.

But the much bigger puzzle is how the government will untangle Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with their combustible mix of taxpayer support, public policy goals and for-profit structures.

''It will be very difficult to unwind, having stepped in as big as they did,'' said Howard Glaser, a senior housing official during the Clinton administration and now an industry consultant in Washington. ''There is no structure, no mechanism, for private investors to come back into the market.''

Other experts and policy makers have begun to raise broader concerns. Even if the Obama administration and the Fed do manage to shrink the government's role to precrisis levels, has the government's immense rescue simply set the stage for more frequent interventions in the future?

''This crisis, whether it's because of the Fed or the Treasury or Congress, has created a lot of new moral hazards,'' said Charles I. Plosser, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. ''Once you have done this once, even though it was in a severe crisis, the temptation will be for people to figure that in the next crisis you'll do it again. You've got to figure out a way to say no.''

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 13, 2009]

CZARIST WASHINGTON

(By Kay Bailey Hutchinson)

The Framers of the Constitution knew that the document founding our democracy must be the anchor of liberty and the blueprint for its preservation. Wisely, they provided a balance of powers to ensure that no individual and no single arm of government could ever wield unchecked authority against the American people.

Nearly 250 years later, these critical lines of separation are being obscured by a new class of federal officials. A few of them have formal titles, but most are simply known as ''czars.'' They hold unknown levels of power over broad swaths of policy. Under the Obama administration, we have an unprecedented 32 czar posts (a few of which it has yet to fill), including a ''car czar,'' a ''pay czar'' and an ''information czar.'' There are also czars assigned to some of the broadest and most consequential topics in policy, including health care, terrorism, economics and key geographic regions.

So what do these czars do? Do they advise the president? Or do they impose the administration's agenda on the heads of federal agencies and offices who have been vetted and confirmed by the Senate? Unfortunately—and in direct contravention of the Framers' intentions—virtually no one can say with certainty what these individuals do or what limits are placed on their authority. We don't know if they are influencing or implementing policy. We don't know if they possess philosophical views or political affiliations that are inappropriate or overreaching in the context of their work.

This is precisely the kind of ambiguity the Framers sought to prevent. Article One tasks the legislative branch with establishing federal agencies, defining what they do, determining who leads them and overseeing their operations. Article Two requires the president to seek the advice and consent of the Senate when appointing certain officials to posts of consequence. Thus, authority is shared between government branches, guaranteeing the American people transparency and accountability.

As the senior Republican on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, I oversee legislation and agencies that cover policy areas as vast and varied as trade, technology, transit, consumer protection and commercial regulation. As many as 10 of the 32 czars functionally fall under my committee's jurisdiction. Yet neither I nor the committee chairman have clear authority to compel these czars to appear before our panel and report what they are doing. The Obama administration presented only two of these officials for our consideration before they assumed their duties. We have had no opportunity to probe the others' credentials.

Recently we saw the kinds of dangerous details that can slip by when a powerful federal official isn't put through the Senate confirmation process. Before assuming the post of ''green jobs czar,'' Van Jones had engaged in such troublesome activities as endorsement of fringe theories about the Sept. 11 attacks. He has ties to a socialist group. The Senate confirmation process would typically provide an appropriate forum for identifying and discussing these types of issues and for allowing for public input. Jones's case highlighted the lack of accountability that is becoming commonplace under the Obama administration.

While Jones rightly resigned, there are dozens of other administration czars about whom we still know very little. It is Congress's duty to know who is serving at the highest levels of government, what they are doing, and what qualifications or complications these people bring to the job. It is also our responsibility to make this information known to the people who have elected us to serve and protect them. This is how we ensure accountability.

The deployment of this many czars sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the Constitution's guarantee of separated powers. It must be stopped. President Obama should submit each of his many policy czars to the Senate so that we can review their qualifications, roles and the limits on their authority. To deliver anything less is to deny the American public the accountability and transparency the Constitution guarantees.

EXHIBIT 3

[From Politico, Sept. 4, 2009]

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ''CZARS''

Politico has compiled a wide-ranging list of President Barack Obama's various ''czars.'' The bolded names were confirmed by Congress, and the italicized names are statutorily created positions created by Congress in legislation.

Afghanistan Czar—Richard Holbrooke.
AIDS Czar—Jeffrey Crowley.
Auto Recovery Czar—Ed Montgomery.
Border Czar—Alan Bersin.
Car Czar—Ron Bloom.
Central Region Czar—Dennis Ross.
Domestic Violence Czar—Lynn Rosenthal.

Drug Czar—Gil Kerlikowske.
Economic Czar—Paul Volcker.
Energy and Environment Czar—Carol Browner.
Faith-Based Czar—Joshua DuBois.
Great Lakes Czar—Cameron Davis.
Green Jobs Czar—Van Jones (resigned on Sept. 6).
Guantanamo Closure Czar—Daniel Fried.
Health Czar—Nancy-Ann DeParle.
Information Czar—*Vivek Kundra*.
International Climate Czar—Todd Stern.
Mideast Peace Czar—George Mitchell.
Pay Czar—Kenneth Feinberg.
Regulatory Czar—Cass Sunstein.*
Science Czar—John Holdren.
Stimulus Accountability Czar—Earl Devaney—statutory position.
Sudan Czar—J. Scott Gration.
TARP Czar—Herb Allison.
Terrorism Czar—John Brennan.
Technology Czar—Aneesh Chopra.
Urban Affairs Czar—Adolfo Carrion Jr.
Weapons Czar—Ashton Carter.
WMD Policy Czar—Gary Samore.

*Nomination was sent to Senate on April 20, no action yet taken.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 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.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3288, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3288) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are again here on Monday afternoon talking about a very important bill that came to the floor last Thursday. That is the investment in infrastructure, transportation, and housing across the country. We have many issues important to many Members who want to get this bill passed and to the President as quickly as possible so we can move forward. My colleague from Missouri and I have worked very hard to put the bill together. We are here this afternoon ready and waiting for our colleagues to offer amendments so we can get to final passage. I know the majority leader wishes us to finish this fairly quickly. We have a number of appropriations bills we want to complete before the end of September deadline. So we ask our colleagues to get their amendments up, and we will move through them as quickly as we can.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I echo what the chairman of our subcommittee, the Senator from Washington, has said. We have had it out now. We have had this bill out. It has been on the floor since Thursday. We had Friday and the weekend to look at it. A number of my colleagues, many on this side of the aisle, have talked about offering amendments. I hope they will be ready to bring those amendments down. I think one or two are going to be offered this afternoon so we can have votes scheduled at 5:30, as the majority leader has suggested. It is not only the majority leader, it is the Senator from Washington and I who are urging people to come down. This is a very important bill. Everybody has transportation needs, concerns, and issues. Housing is such a significant challenge right now, given the situation in the financial markets and the situation with housing. We have many people who are dependent upon federally supported housing. We need to make sure we have the funds made available to take care of their needs.

We have special needs projects such as the VASH program for veterans with assisted housing that the Chair and I have entered into. That is very important for bringing our service men and women home and giving them the right kind of accommodation. All of these things are in the context of significant financial problems in the Federal Housing Administration. FHA, if you read the papers, is at a crisis point. I have described it as a ticking timebomb. Regrettably, I think that is still an accurate calculation. We have funds to provide to HUD and to the Secretary of HUD, to the IG and others, to deal with problems before they become more serious. So we need to get this bill passed.

I hope our colleagues would bring their amendments forward. We will only be able to vote until 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. We would appreciate them bringing as many amendments as they can forward before then, this afternoon and tomorrow, so we can go about the business of conferencing with the House, getting a measure that will get to the President so he can sign it and put these critically important funds to work.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. MURRAY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2355

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I ask that amendment No. 2355 be called up.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. JOHANNS] proposes an amendment numbered 2355.

Mr. JOHANNS. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Prohibiting direct or indirect use of funds to fund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN))

After section 414, insert the following:

SEC. 4____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be directly or indirectly distributed to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an amendment pertaining to ACORN, otherwise known as the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

Records will indicate that ACORN has received $53 million in Federal funds—taxpayer money—since 1994. In the current transportation and housing appropriations bill, ACORN is eligible to add to that number, to receive millions more in taxpayer funds from several different accounts and purposes. It could receive money through mortgage counseling, it could receive money through CDBG, community development block grants, and it could receive money from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The people of Nebraska sent me to Washington to protect them from waste and fraud and abuse, and they asked me to change the status quo. I take that responsibility very seriously. That is why my amendment would prohibit one more penny—one more penny—of taxpayer money from going to ACORN in the transportation and housing appropriations bill.

The recent news surrounding ACORN is alarming, at a minimum. In fact, it is outrageous. Last week, Miami-Dade prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 11 ACORN employees. The employees are charged with falsifying voter registration cards. A total of 1,400 voter registration cards were turned in, and 888 of those cards were found to be a fake. This means almost three-quarters of the voting cards were fraudulent. Then, damaging news surfaced regarding hidden videotapes at the Baltimore and Washington, DC, ACORN offices. You will not believe this: They feature ACORN employees offering advice on illegal activities, including tax evasion, prostitution, and fraud. Today we find out that a different ACORN office—this time in Brooklyn—also offered advice on the same topics. I

would suggest, obviously, this is a pattern of very rotten behavior. Well, the alarm bells are rightly going off.

The Census Bureau notified ACORN on Friday that it is severing all ties with the group for all work having to do with the 2010 census. Notwithstanding the fact that is long overdue, I applaud them for that action.

The Census letter pulled no punches, and I am quoting:

. . . it is clear that ACORN's affiliation with the 2010 Census promotion has caused sufficient concern in the general public, has indeed become a distraction from our mission, and may even become a discouragement to public cooperation, negatively impacting 2010 Census efforts. Unfortunately, we no longer have confidence—

''We no longer have confidence''—

that our national partnership agreement is being effectively managed through your many local offices. For the reasons stated, we therefore have decided to terminate the partnership.

Some may even say today, as amazing as this would sound, that the recent events are isolated, that they are not a fair and accurate representation of ACORN. How you could say that I am not sure, but to these defenders, I urge them to read the 88-page incriminating report published in July by the minority staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. It is entitled—and, again, I am quoting, and I have the report here—''Is ACORN Intentionally Structured as a Criminal Enterprise?''

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Executive Summary of that report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Darrell Issa (CA–49), Ranking Member

IS ACORN INTENTIONALLY STRUCTURED AS A CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE?

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

''We should be unfaithful to ourselves if we should ever lose sight of the danger to our liberties if anything partial or extraneous should infect the purity of our free, fair, virtuous, and independent elections''—President John Adams, Inaugural Address, 1797.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) has repeatedly and deliberately engaged in systemic fraud. Both structurally and operationally, ACORN hides behind a paper wall of nonprofit corporate protections to conceal a criminal conspiracy on the part of its directors, to launder federal money in order to pursue a partisan political agenda and to manipulate the American electorate.

Emerging accounts of widespread deceit and corruption raise the need for a criminal investigation of ACORN. By intentionally blurring the legal distinctions between 361 tax-exempt and non-exempt entities, ACORN diverts taxpayer and tax-exempt monies into partisan political activities. Since 1994, more than $53 million in federal funds have been pumped into ACORN, and under the Obama administration, ACORN stands to receive a whopping $8.5 billion in available stimulus funds.

Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax-exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act.

The report that follows presents evidence obtained from former ACORN insiders that completes the picture of a criminal enterprise.

First, ACORN has evaded taxes, obstructed justice, engaged in self dealing, and aided and abetted a cover-up of embezzlement by Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke.

Committee investigators have established that a violation of corporate duties led to gross abuses of tax laws and other federal regulations. According to documents obtained from insiders, ACORN was made aware of its lax management structure but chose to ignore the problems and continue a cover-up of criminal activity. By refusing to report Dale Rathke's embezzlement of $948,607.50 as an excess benefit transaction, ACORN appears to have violated the Internal Revenue Code. ACORN's cover-up of the embezzlement for more than eight years would also constitute obstruction of justice.

Second, ACORN has committed investment fraud, deprived the public of its right to honest services, and engaged in a racketeering enterprise affecting interstate commerce.

Committee investigators have documented ACORN's use of charitable contributions against donor intent, typified by ACORN's secret transfer of donor funds to recover losses due to embezzlement. Moreover, ACORN comingles the accounts of federally-funded affiliates with politically-active affiliates and lacks sufficient oversight to safeguard taxpayer and donor interests, even though it receives millions of federal dollars.

ACORN's purposeful lack of quality control translates into the employment of convicted felons and other suspect persons. Through a strategy of providing financial incentives to employees who meet voter registration quotas, ACORN conducts voter drives that routinely produce fraudulent registrations. In fact, ACORN's employment practices have the intentional effect of encouraging voter registration fraud while linking criminal culpability to the lowest-level employees rather than the directors who contrive the illegal schemes.

To date, nearly 70 ACORN employees have been convicted in 12 states for voter registration fraud, though no federal charges have been filed against ACORN's directors. In fact, Pennsylvania judge Richard Zoller—after holding a low-level ACORN employee liable for election law violations—noted that ''somebody has to go after ACORN.''

Third, ACORN has committed a conspiracy to defraud the United States by using taxpayer funds for partisan political activities.

Committee investigators have unearthed documentation that ACORN and its affiliates conducted meticulous research that fed aggressive campaign initiatives designed to elect Democratic candidates in targeted races. ACORN forged both formal and informal connections with former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown and President Barack Obama, among others. Each of these campaigns received financial and personnel resource contributions from ACORN and its affiliates as part of a scheme to use taxpayer monies to support a partisan political agenda. These actions are a clear violation of numerous tax and election laws.

Documents contained in this report reveal ACORN's political agenda. ACORN's 2005–2007 Strategic Plan states that ''just as important as . . . mobilizing existing progressive voters, ACORN and similar groups actually create new progressive voters.'' In the same document, ACORN acknowledges that its ''issue campaigns play the dual role . . . of attracting new members, and educating or politicizing existing members.'' One particular issue where ACORN claims success is ''fighting key elements of the national Republican program.''

In other documents, ACORN affiliates take credit for the election of former-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. In the 2006 year-end report of ACORN affiliate Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 880, efforts to elect Blagojevich and advance partisan political agendas are called ''flawless.''

Labor organizations, unions, and other tax-exempt entities stretched Chicago-style political manipulation and back room schemes beyond Illinois to other state-wide and national campaign efforts. In the State of Ohio, where ACORN directors drafted a political plan contained in this report, overt partisan goals are enumerated. The ACORN Ohio Political Plan states: ''ACORN will target three competitive Ohio congressional districts as well as a half dozen state rep seats nested within the districts. Our electoral work will mobilize and educate voters [and] our paid professional canvass will execute tightly managed Voter ID and GOTV canvasses moving our core constituency of base and swing voters to the polls to vote for the candidates who most closely align with a progressive Working Families Agenda.''

Moreover, documents provided by former ACORN employees and contained in this report demonstrate the degree to which ACORN and ACORN affiliates organized to elect President Barack Obama in 2008.

Fourth, ACORN has submitted false filings to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Department of Labor, in addition to violating the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Committee investigators have tracked ACORN's numerous failures to comply with federal laws that required the payment of excise taxes on excess benefits to Dale Rathke. SEIU Local 100—under the direction of ACORN founder Wade Rathke—filed bogus reports with the Labor Department in order to conceal embezzlement. ACORN violated the overtime and record-keeping provisions of FLSA. All of these fraudulent acts would constitute a violation of 18 U.S.C. §1001 by presenting false documents to the United States government.

Fifth, ACORN falsified and concealed facts concerning an illegal transaction between related parties in violation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Committee investigators have concluded that ACORN plundered employee benefits and violated fiduciary responsibilities under ERISA by relieving corporate debts through prohibited loans to a related party. Moreover, ACORN affiliates lack independent control of their own assets and maintain shoddy accounting practices that serve to hide ACORN's secret and illegal use of monies.

ACORN conspired to conceal information concerning prohibited transactions from its board in violation of its corporate charter. ACORN's termination of board members who sought to uncover its illegal activities perpetuates a cover-up at the expense of adherence to its own bylaws.

The evidence contained in this report proves that ACORN's stated purpose to promote grassroots civic participation has been perverted through fraudulent and illegal acts. The weight of evidence against ACORN and its affiliates is astounding. This syndicate of tax-exempt organizations has coordinated and implemented a nation-wide

strategy of tax fraud, racketeering, money-laundering and manipulating the American electorate.

Scrutiny is essential to lift a dark cloud of suspicion from nonprofit community organizations; to bring to justice the responsible parties who have heretofore been shielded from prosecution by ACORN's obscure organizational structure; to protect the American system of democratic self-government from manipulation and disruption; and to free our political climate from the choke of corruption that threatens to strangle free and fair elections.

Mr. JOHANNS. According to the report:

Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act.

There is a history here, and it is a sad history. In 1998, an ACORN employee was arrested for falsifying voter registration forms. In 1999, Philadelphia authorities found hundreds of fraudulent registration forms by ACORN. In October of 2008, the pattern continues. ACORN's Nevada offices were raided by Federal agents, and in 2009 their Las Vegas field director was charged with voter registration fraud. In May 2009, seven ACORN employees were charged in Pittsburgh for voter registration fraud.

I cite this sad, tragic history because the events of the last week were not isolated, and I do not believe it was accidental that this video caught ACORN employees delivering the same message in different cities. They magnify a troubling, systemic, and criminal pattern. In fact, they serve as a public window into an organization that is besieged by corruption, by fraud, and by illegal activities, all committed—all committed—on the taxpayers' dime. Mr. President, I would suggest to you, if we had the capability to ask every taxpayer in America: Is this how you want your money spent, we would have a nearly unanimous count saying: Absolutely not.

At a time when we are experiencing record deficits and the economy is struggling every day to get back on its feet, how in the world can anyone come to this floor of the Senate and say: I want to cast my vote to continue to fund this organization with taxpayer dollars, hard-earned dollars by American families, when so many questions of legitimacy reign? I think the answer to that is simple. I do not see how anybody could cast that vote. To do so, in my judgment, would ignore the proof, and it would also ignore our responsibility to protect taxpayers from waste and fraud and abuse. I would go so far as to say that I respect that some of my colleagues believe the work done by ACORN in some communities might be valuable. But I would respectfully suggest that the problems riddling this organization, in office after office, cannot and should not be trivialized. This is an opportunity for the Senate to stand up and say: Enough is enough, just as the Census Bureau did.

As Judge Richard Zoller said, after holding an ACORN employee liable for election law violations:

Somebody has to go after ACORN.

Well, I suggest today, on the floor of the Senate, that ''somebody'' is each and every U.S. Senator. That ''somebody'' is each Senator, who now has the ability to come to the floor and say to the taxpayers back home: We will not tolerate this any longer. Until a full investigation is launched into ACORN, no taxpayer money should be used to fund its activities. A vote in favor of my amendment is a vote in favor of the taxpayer and a vote against the status quo.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VOINOVICH. 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. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FISCAL UPDATE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, building on a series of speeches I have given over the past few years and in the tradition of a former Member of this body, Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina, I hope to provide my colleagues and the American people with regular updates on our catastrophic national debt. Unfortunately, given the lack of action to address this coming tsunami, I believe President Obama and Congress need to be reminded of the fiscal realities in which we find ourselves. Senator Hollings came down to the Senate floor every few weeks with a poster updating the national debt, and today I renew his tradition, and I will continue it until we do something about this unsustainable financial crisis.

One of my grandchildren's favorite stories is ''The Emperor's New Clothes'' by Hans Christian Anderson. In the tale, an emperor goes about the land wearing a nonexistent suit sold to him by a new tailor who convinced the monarch the suit is made of the finest silks. The tailors—two swindlers—tell the emperor that the threads of his robes will be so fine that they will look invisible to those dimwitted or unfit for their position. The emperor and his ministers, themselves unable to see the clothing, lavish the tailor with praise for the suit because they do not want to appear dimwitted or incompetent.

Word spread across the kingdom of the emperor's beautiful new robes. To show off the extraordinary suit, a parade was formed. People lined the streets to see the emperor show off his new clothes. Again, afraid to appear stupid or unfit, everyone pretends to see the suit. It is only when a child cries out ''the emperor wears no clothes'' does the crowd acknowledge that the emperor is, in fact, naked.

Much like the emperor, America's elected leaders know we face a fiscal train wreck, but we are choosing to ignore our current economic reality. I am here to tell my colleagues and President Obama, the emperor has no clothes and we are naked in terms of dealing with our deficits and national debt.

As shown right here on this chart, get the book out. I am sure you have it. Read it. That is where we are right now. The irony is that the American people know we are naked, and they are coming to Washington to let us know we are naked, and so does the rest of the world, and our credibility and our credit today are at risk.

I have this chart, what I refer to as the ''Wheel of Misfortune.'' This lays out quite clearly what our national debt is today.

One of the reasons I ran for the Senate back in 1998 was I wanted to come to Washington and reduce the national debt and balance budgets, which is something I did as the mayor of the city of Cleveland and something I did as Governor of the State of Ohio.

When I came to the Senate in 1999, our gross national debt stood at $5.6 trillion or 61 percent of the GDP. Today, as you can see from the chart behind me, the gross national debt is nearly $11.8 trillion. I understand the President is going to ask us to increase our debt limit to $12 trillion and, quite frankly, I believe he is going to be asking us to raise the debt limit to more than $12 trillion.

This is an increase of more than 100 percent in 10 years. Much of this increase has come recently. In fact, from 2008 to 2009 alone, the Federal debt will increase 22 percent, boosting the country's debt-to-income ratio—our national debt as a percentage of GDP—from 70 percent last year to 86 percent this year. We haven't seen this kind of GDP debt since the Second World War. It was 65 years ago during the Second World War that we saw these kinds of numbers.

By the way, this does not include our unfunded Medicare and Social Security obligations which the Peterson Foundation recently tagged at $56.4 trillion. This is the equivalent of a $483,000 debt per American household or $184,000 for every man, woman, and child in America today. Those are unfunded liabilities.

It doesn't take an economist to realize our course is unsustainable. President Obama and this Congress are fully aware of this reckless fiscal path. Yet they continue to spend and borrow,

spend and borrow. Our Federal Government is the worst credit card abuser in the world. We talk to our kids about not abusing their credit cards. What kind of example do we set? You know what. We are putting the tab on the credit of our children and grandchildren.

Like the boy who cried ''the emperor has no clothes,'' the American people see through this sham. There were a bunch of them here this weekend who saw through the sham. A recent poll conducted by the Peterson Foundation showed that after their personal job, the most pressing concern of Americans is the national debt. Americans are cutting back, folks, in their own family. They are making tough decisions. They know they haven't been living within their means.

Some people are saying: Why are they paying attention to this finally? Well, they are finally realizing in their own families they need to redo the way they are doing things, and they are asking themselves: Why isn't our Federal Government doing the same thing we are doing in our households? It is no wonder they are looking at government's reckless spending with disapproval and wondering why we are not doing the same thing they are doing. They are mad as hell, and they aren't going to take it anymore.

The media is also finally starting to pay attention to this issue. Recently, the Washington Post ran an article by Fred Hiatt, their chief editorial writer, acknowledging that our long-term fiscal path is unsustainable, as well as an editorial taking the administration to task for lacking a plan on how to start digging our economy out of this fiscal crisis.

Additionally, Newsweek published an article by Fareed Zakaria where he outlines what he describes as ''the disease of modern democracy: the system cannot impose any short-term pain for long-term gain.'' We are unwilling to pay for it or do without.

The first one, this Newsweek article, is called,

There is a Silver Lining.

The crisis has forced the United States to confront bad habits developed over the past few decades. If we can kick those habits, today's pain will translate into gains.

The other is a Washington Post article entitled ''No Laughing Matter. Why the U.S. Needs to Get Serious About Long-Term Budget Deficits.''

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the articles to which I previously referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Newsweek Magazine, Oct. 20, 2008]

THERE IS A SILVER LINING

(By Fareed Zakaria)

Some of us—especially those under 60—have always wondered what it would be like to live through the kind of epochal event one reads about in books. Well, this is it. We're now living history, suffering one of the greatest financial panics of all time. It compares with the big ones—1907, 1929—and we cannot yet know its full consequences for the financial system, the economy or society as a whole.

I'm betting that, in the end, the world's governments will win this battle against fear. They have potentially unlimited tools at their disposal, especially if they act in concert. They can nationalize firms, call bank holidays, suspend trading for weeks, buy up debt and equity, and renegotiate home mortgages. Most important, the American government can print money. All of these tools have long-term effects that are extremely troublesome, but they are nothing compared with the potential collapse of the financial system. And Washington seems to have recognized that it must do whatever is required to shore up that system. Big questions remain. What will it take to stop the fall? How costly will it be? How long before the rescue plan starts to have an effect? But at some point, the panic that gripped world markets last week will end. Of course, that will not mean a return to growth or a bull market. We're in for tough times. But it will mean a return to sanity.

Amid all the difficulties and hardship that we are about to undergo, I see one silver lining. This crisis has—dramatically, vengefully—forced the United States to confront the bad habits it has developed over the past few decades. If we can kick those habits, today's pain will translate into gains in the long run.

Since the 1980s, Americans have consumed more than they produced—and they have made up the difference by borrowing.

Two decades of easy money and innovative financial products meant that virtually anyone could borrow any amount of money for any purpose. If we wanted a bigger house, a better TV or a faster car, and we didn't actually have the money to pay for it, no problem. We put it on a credit card, took out a massive mortgage and financed our fantasies. As the fantasies grew, so did household debt, from $680 billion in 1974 to $14 trillion today. The total has doubled in just the past seven years. The average household owns 13 credit cards, and 40 percent of them carry a balance, up from 6 percent in 1970.

But the average American's behavior was virtue itself compared with the government's. Every city, every county and every state has wanted to preserve its many and proliferating operations and yet not raise taxes. How to square this circle? By borrowing, using ever more elaborate financial instruments. Revenue bonds were backed up by the prospect of future income from taxes or lotteries. ''A growing trend is to securitize future federal funding for highways, housing and other items,'' says Chris Edwards of the Cato Institute. The effect on the projects, he points out, is to make them more expensive, since they incur interest payments. Because they ''insulate the taxpayer from the cost''—all that needs to be paid now is the interest—they also tend to produce cost overruns.

Local pols aren't the only problem. Under Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve obstinately refused to inflict any pain. Russian default? Cut interest rates. Worried about Y2K? Cut rates. NASDAQ crash? Cut rates. The economy slows after 9/11? Cut rates. Whatever the problem, the solution was to keep the money flowing and goose the economy. Eventually, by putting the housing market on steroids, the strategy created problems too large to untangle.

The whole country has been complicit in a great fraud. As economist Jeffrey Sachs points out, ''We've wanted lots of government, but we haven't wanted to pay for it.'' So we've borrowed our way out of the problem. In 1990, the national debt stood at $3 trillion. (That sounds high, but keep reading.) By 2000, it had almost doubled, to $5.75 trillion. It is currently $10.2 trillion. The number moved into 11 digits last month, which meant that the National Debt Clock in New York City ran out of space to display the figures. Its owners plan to get a new clock next year.

''Leverage'' is the fancy Wall Street word for debt. It's at the heart of the current crisis. Warren Buffett explained the problem in his inimitable way on ''The Charlie Rose Show.'' ''Leverage,'' he said, ''is the only way a smart guy can go broke . . . You do smart things, you eventually get very rich. If you do smart things and use leverage and you do one wrong thing along the way, it could wipe you out, because anything times zero is zero. But it's reinforcing when the people around you are doing it successfully, you're doing it successfully, and it's a lot like Cinderella at the ball. The guys look better all the time, the music sounds better, it's more and more fun, you think, 'Why the hell should I leave at a quarter to 12? I'll leave at two minutes to 12.' But the trouble is, there are no clocks on the wall. And everybody thinks they're going to leave at two minutes to 12.''

If there is a lesson to be taken from this crisis, it's a simple and old rule of economics: there is no free lunch. If you want something, you have to pay for it. Debt is not a bad thing. Used responsibly, it is at the heart of modern capitalism. But hiding mountains of debt in complex instruments is a way to disguise costs, an invitation to irresponsible behavior.

At some point, the magical accounting had to stop. At some point, consumers had to stop using their homes as banks and spending money that they didn't have. At some point, the government had to confront its indebtedness. The United States—and other overleveraged societies—have now gotten the wake-up call from hell. If we can respond and change our behavior markedly, this might actually be a blessing in disguise. (Though, as Winston Churchill said when he lost the election of 1945, ''at the moment it appears rather effectively disguised.'')

In the short term, all the solutions to the current crisis require that governments take on more debts and larger obligations. This is inevitable and necessary. But that doesn't mean we should, as some noted economists advocate, stimulate the economy with more tax cuts. That would be only one more way to keep the party going artificially—like asking a drunk to go to AA next year, but in the meantime to have even more whisky. A far better stimulus would be to announce and expedite major infrastructure and energy projects, which are investments, not consumption, and therefore have a much different effect on the country's fiscal fortunes. (They are not listed separately in the federal budget, but that's just bad accounting.)

In the medium and long term, we have to get back to basics. Households, for instance, should save more. Governments should put incentives in place that make such savings more likely. The U.S. government offers enormous incentives to consume (the deduction of mortgage interest being the best example), and it works. We have the biggest houses in the world, the thinnest flat-screen TVs and the most cars. If we were to tax consumption and encourage savings, that would also work. Regulations on credit-card debt should be revised to ensure that people understand the risks and costs of these instruments. Moving in this direction would be good for families and for the government as well.

Wall Street will also need to change. Paul Volcker has long argued that the recent

spate of financial innovation was nothing of the kind: it simply shuffled around existing resources while contributing few real benefits to the economy. Such activity will now be reduced significantly. Boykin Curry, managing director of Eagle Capital, says, ''For 20 years, the DNA of nearly every financial institution had morphed dangerously. Each time someone at the table pressed for more leverage and more risk, the next few years proved them 'right.' These people were emboldened, they were promoted and they gained control of ever more capital. Meanwhile, anyone in power who hesitated, who argued for caution, was proved 'wrong.' The cautious types were increasingly intimidated, passed over for promotion. They lost their hold on capital. This happened every day in almost every financial institution over and over, until we ended up with a very specific kind of person running things. This year, the capital that remains is finally being reallocated to more careful, thoughtful executives and investors—the Warren Buffetts . . . of the world.''

Volcker has also argued that the highly complex financial system was not nearly as stable as people believed and that far-reaching efforts were needed to regulate and stabilize it. Now these issues will get attention at the highest level. The fear on Wall Street is that a Democratic administration would overregulate. But look at who is advising Barack Obama—Buffett, Volcker, former Treasury secretaries Robert Rubin and Larry Summers. It is more likely that what will come from their efforts will be a better-regulated financial system that, while producing less-extravagant profits, will be more stable and secure.

The financial industry itself is likely to shrink, and that's not a bad thing, either. It has ballooned dramatically in size. Curry points out that ''30 percent of S&P 500 profits last year were earned by financial firms, and U.S. consumers were spending $800 billion more than they earned every year. As a result, most of our top math Ph.D.s were being pulled into nonproductive financial engineering instead of biotech research and fuel technology. Capital expenditures went into retail construction instead of critical infrastructure.'' The crisis will stop the misallocation of human and financial resources and redirect them in more-productive ways. If some of the smart people now on Wall Street end up building better models of energy usage and efficiency, that would be a net gain for the economy.

The American economy remains extremely dynamic and flexible. Even now, the most surprising data continue to be how resilient the economy has been through all these shocks. That will not last, especially if the panic persists. But even so, it highlights the fact that the U.S. economy has underlying virtues and, after a tough recession, will probably recover faster than many can now imagine. The rise in emerging-market economies, which have been powering global growth, will not vanish overnight, either.

A new discipline would benefit America in a more general sense, too. Ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has operated in the world with no constraints or checks on its power. This has not been good for its foreign policy. It has made Washington arrogant, lazy and careless. Its decision making has resembled General Motors' business strategy in the 1970s and 1980s, a process driven largely by a vast array of internal factors but little sense of urgency or awareness of outside pressures. We didn't have to make strategic choices; we could have it all. We could make blunders, anger the world, rupture alliances, waste resources, wage war incompetently—it didn't matter. We had more than enough room for error—lots of error.

But it's a different world out there. If Iraq cast a shadow on U.S. political and military credibility, this financial crisis has eroded America's economic and financial power. In the short run, there has been a flight to safety—toward dollars and T-bills—but in the long run, countries are likely to seek greater independence from an unstable superpower. The United States will now have to work to attract capital to its shores, and manage its fiscal house better. We will have to persuade countries to join in our foreign endeavors. We will have to make strategic choices. We cannot deploy missile interceptors along Russia's borders, draw Georgia and Ukraine into NATO, and still expect Russian cooperation on Iran's nuclear program. We cannot noisily denounce Chinese and Arab foreign investments in America one day and then hope that they will keep buying $4 billion worth of T-bills another day. We cannot keep preaching to the world about democracy and capitalism while our own house is so wildly out of order.

It's a fundamental American belief that competition is good—in business, athletics and life. Checks and balances are James Madison's crucial mechanisms, exposing and countering abuse and arrogance and forcing discipline on people. This discipline will be painful for a country that has gotten used to having it all. But it will make us much stronger in the long run. If we can learn the right lessons from this crisis, the United States will once more be playing by its own rules. And that cannot be bad for us.

[From the Washington Post, June 5, 2009]

NO LAUGHING MATTER

The Obama administration inherited from its predecessor both a tanking economy and a huge federal budget deficit. Under the circumstances, it cannot be faulted for increasing the deficit in the short run, because a mammoth recession called for fiscal stimulus. Thus, it is neither surprising nor irreversibly dangerous that the total federal debt held by the public looks as if it will reach 57 percent of gross domestic product by the end of fiscal 2009 on Sept. 30—well above the previous four decades' average of about 40 percent. What is more alarming is that, barring major spending cuts or tax increases, President Obama's budget could drive that figure to 82 percent by 2019, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

We are already getting a taste of the problems that could develop if the president and Congress do not address this soon. Since the end of last year, the interest rate on 10-year Treasury notes has gone up from 2 percent to over 3.5 percent. That number is within historical norms; indeed, Treasury rates probably had been artificially depressed during the financial panic of the fall. But the spike, which will cost the government tens of billions of dollars, also reflects mounting investor concern—at home and, especially, abroad—about the U.S. fiscal situation. If government borrowing costs continue to accelerate, they could kill economic growth for years to come.

It was a sign of the times that Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner had to travel to Beijing this week to reassure China, the world's largest holder of Treasury debt, that lending money to the U.S. government is still a wise thing to do. Mr. Geithner insisted that, ''in the United States, we are putting in place the foundations for restoring fiscal sustainability.'' To be sure, China doesn't have many good alternatives to parking its massive trade surpluses in dollars. But it does have some, including commodities and the debt of more fiscally prudent European governments. In a moment that all Americans should consider a wake-up call, Mr. Geithner was met with laughter when he told a group of Chinese students that their country's assets were ''very safe'' in Washington.

The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Ben S. Bernanke, was considerably more decorous than the Chinese students in testimony before Congress on Wednesday but, in essence, only slightly less skeptical. ''Even as we take steps to address the recession and threats to financial stability,'' he said, ''maintaining the confidence of the financial markets requires that we, as a nation, begin planning now for the restoration of fiscal balance.''

Mr. Bernanke did not say explicitly that there is no such plan in Mr. Obama's budget—at least not according to the CBO, whose estimates of the president's budget show annual deficits lingering indefinitely above 4 percent of GDP. Nor did he point out that Congress has yet to come up with credible financing for the president's desirable but expensive health-care proposal. He did not say that Mr. Obama and Congress have done nothing so far to deliver on the president's pledge of entitlement reform. But if the Fed chairman had said those things, he would have been absolutely right.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, now is the time to take the first step toward fiscal responsibility and making good on our promises by enacting meaningful, comprehensive tax and entitlement reform. The recent pay-as-you-go legislation passed by the House isn't going to get the job done. We know that. This Band-Aid relies on smoke and mirrors and exempts the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, patching the alternative minimum tax, updating physician payments in Medicare, and modifying the estate tax. It is intellectually dishonest. Even the Budget Committee chairman in the Senate, Senator CONRAD, calls this pay-go that came out of the House insincere. If Congress is going to reenact statutory pay-go, then it should apply to everything, not just to what is convenient.

We need real comprehensive reform. I am pleased to say it appears as though President Obama is finally starting to get it. In an interview with the Washington Post, President Obama endorsed the idea of creating a commission where—here is what he said:

> Everything is going to be on the table when it comes to examining our tax and entitlement systems and presenting long-term solutions to place the United States on a fiscally sustainable course.

He went on to say:

> What you end up having to do in terms of structural reforms realistically is you probably have to set up some sort of commission or mechanism that reports back with the prospect of maybe locking in a pledge for action, post election.

I know we have talked about this on occasion, about this commission and setting it up and trying to get the administration to commit to it so we can let the American people know we are sincere about doing something about this debt and balancing our budget.

For the past three Congresses, I have been calling for such a commission. This Congress, I am proud to say, Senator LIEBERMAN has joined me as an original cosponsor to create the commission now.

Similar to the BRAC process, the Save America's Future Economy Commission—we call it SAFE—would break the legislative logjam in Washington by creating a bipartisan, bicameral committee to draw up policy prescriptions for the government's long-term budget shortfalls that would then go before Congress on an up-or-down vote. The legislation is similar to legislation introduced by Congressmen JIM COOPER and FRANK WOLF in the House, and today they have 69 cosponsors. It is vital—it is vital—to ensuring the solvency of entitlement programs for future generations.

It is my understanding that Pete Peterson and David Walker of the Peterson Foundation have endorsed this legislation along with the Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institute, the Business Roundtable, and a host of other former CBO Directors who said it is time for us to do something about the problem, and they understand we will not get it done with the regular order of business. We have to have a commission come back with a recommendation, put it on a fast track, send it to the House, send it to the Senate, and let us either vote up or down as we do with the commissions we have set up on closing bases.

I am sure many of my colleagues are familiar with this legislation. I know David Walker has met with both Republican and Democratic legislative leaders or directors regarding this legislation.

Continuing down our current path, folks, is unsustainable. It is unsustainable, and it is immoral. For too long we have clothed ourselves in economic falsehoods, pretending they would protect us from the harsh economic realities. Folks, time is running out. The world sees that the emperor, in fact, has no clothes. I am calling on President Obama to follow through on his comments about the need for a commission and support the SAFE Commission Act.

OMB Director Peter Orszag has understood our fiscal crisis in the past and called for the creation of an entitlement commission, but since joining the administration he has stopped pushing for a commission, instead focusing just on health care reform. The bottom line is health care reform is but one of the major issues that needs to be addressed to respond to our fiscal crisis. We must also reform the Tax Code to encourage personal savings, investment, job creation, and economic growth. A lot of Americans are not aware of this fact, that we spend $240 billion a year paying our taxes; that is, to pay for professional help and keeping track of all of the papers we need to have when we prepare to pay our Federal income tax.

I think the current health care debate in Congress is a perfect example of why a piecemeal approach doesn't work. If we dealt with the fiscal crisis, it would be a lot easier for us to deal with health care.

There is a new poll out just today, AP, that says half of Americans are more concerned about tackling our debt than our health care reform, education, and climate change. Did my colleagues hear that? Over half of them say deal with the fiscal crisis. The reason I believe we are having such a darn difficult time dealing with health care and why we are not going to pass any kind of climate change legislation is that the people of this country know we have a fiscal crisis and they want us to contend with that before we deal with these other issues.

I think the American people know we can't afford the health care system we now have, and we must find a way to be more responsible. Think of this: We spend $2.2 trillion on health care in this country. The Medicare trust fund will be insolvent in 2017, and we have to reform the way we pay physicians under the program, which experts say will cost us $280 billion over 10 years. Furthermore, the States are already overburdened by the cost of their Medicaid programs.

We gave the States $87 billion in the stimulus bill. I can tell you in ordinary circumstances, many States usually come to Washington with a tin cup. I can guarantee you that the Governors of this country are going to be down here with a large bathtub asking us to fill it because of the problems they confront.

In other words, they can't now take care—well, they can now because they got the $87 billion, but once that runs out, they are going to be down here saying: We can't handle the current system as it is. How can we expand Medicaid when we can't take care of the Medicaid Program we now have? With the financial crisis we have in this country, we have to be careful of taking on something we can't afford, particularly when we can't afford to pay for what we already have.

I am surprised that in the President's speech last week he didn't talk about the fact that by 2017—everybody needs to understand this—the money coming in for Medicare would not be adequate to take care of the people who are out there who are eligible for Medicare. It is part of what I call that unfunded liability I talked about earlier.

The Peterson Foundation recently commissioned an in-depth health care study conducted by the Lewin Group, and I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this analysis and see the principles the Peterson Foundation lays out to determine a fiscally responsible health care reform bill.

I am not the only one calling for Congress to be fiscally responsible when considering health care reform. In order for health care reform legislation to be fiscally responsible, it must, one, pay for itself over a 10-year period; two, not add to the deficit beyond a 10-year period; three, bend the cost curve down to reduce health care spending; and four, significantly reduce current unfunded obligations. That is what we should be talking about.

President Obama and Congress must act. We all came to Washington to serve, and we have a moral responsibility to leave this place better than what we found it. How will we look our children and grandchildren in the eye knowing we have mortgaged their future at a time when we know they are going to have to work harder than we have to maintain the standard of living we enjoy.

God has blessed me with three children and seven grandchildren. I am constantly worried about what kind of America they are going to be living in. I know darn well the competition we face today worldwide is a lot more fierce than anything I experienced during my life here. I know because of that competition they are going to have to work harder. They are going to have to work smarter. It would be very cruel for us, on top of that, to lay this terrible burden on their shoulders and say: We weren't willing to pay for it or do without, so you take care of it. It is your problem. You handle it.

I was pleased to hear President Obama echo this last Wednesday during his joint session of Congress, the same sentiment I have just made. He stated—and I quote the President of the United States:

> I understand that the politically safe move would be to kick the can further down the road—to defer reform one more year, one more election, one more term. But that is not what the moment calls for. That is not what we came here to do. We did not come here to fear the future. We came here to shape it. I still believe we can act, even when it is hard.

President Obama's words ring true in light of the fiscal challenges we face as a nation today. And they should get the first priority. Until we start on a commission, Congress, the administration, the American people, and the world will know the Emperor has no clothes. We are naked in terms of realizing and dealing with our fiscal crisis. Now is the time to act.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Missouri.

AMENDMENT NO. 2355, AS MODIFIED

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Johanns amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2355), as modified, is as follows:

(PURPOSE: PROHIBITING USE OF FUNDS TO FUND THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS FOR REFORM NOW (ACORN))

After section 414, insert the following:

SEC. 4____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be distributed to the

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) or its subsidiaries.

Mr. BOND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. 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. BOND. Madam President, I rise today to support the amendment offered by my colleague from Nebraska, Senator JOHANNS. He has proposed an amendment to end taxpayer funding for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now.

We cannot allow taxpayer funds to support groups engaged in repeated voter registration fraud activities, and now their repeated assistance for housing, tax, and mortgage fraud.

I recognize—and let's be clear about it—that ACORN has helped counsel homeowners through the recent mortgage meltdown. Doubtless, they have helped good people find affordable housing solutions. But that cannot outweigh the numerous and repeated abuses of taxpayer dollars allowed to occur in their name.

In my home State of Missouri, several ACORN workers in Kansas City admitted to voter registration fraud. There have been other investigations throughout the State. Unfortunately, ACORN vote fraud in Missouri is not isolated. ACORN workers in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Nevada have all been associated with fraudulent voter registration activities.

This long list shows this is not a problem of a handful of rogue employees but, regrettably, an endemic systemwide culture of fraud and abuse. Now we have disgusting and unacceptable video footage of ACORN housing workers counseling on how prostitutes might circumvent mortgage applications, tax law, and child endangerment laws. Again, this despicable behavior is not isolated to one rogue employee but has occurred repeatedly in Washington, Baltimore, and New York.

For those who say that minority and low-income advocates are being picked upon, I say the causes of expanding housing and voting opportunities and wise counseling and assistance to those who need help are too important to be allowed to be sullied by such a morally fraudulent organization. The tireless volunteers and underpaid staffers toiling to help the impoverished and disenfranchised do not deserve to have their reputation pulled down by the organization they work for which cannot put an end to these abuses. All taxpayers deserve to know their hard-earned tax dollars are not going toward voter, housing, mortgage, or tax fraud assistance.

Congress has the opportunity to end this relationship now. I am hoping we will be able to vote this afternoon, and I urge my colleagues to support the Johanns amendment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of an amendment by my good friend, Senator MIKE JOHANNS, that would prevent our taxpayer dollars from being directed to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, more commonly known as ACORN. I also want to commend the Census Bureau's recent decision to cut all ties with ACORN.

Simply put I am very pleased with this decision, which was announced late last week through a letter from Census Bureau Director Robert Groves to ACORN's National Headquarters. As I met with Dr. Groves in my office just last week, I raised this very issue and expressed my disappointment, along with the disappointment of many of the Utahns I represent, that ACORN would have any association with such an important and historic event such as the 2010 Census.

Anyone who knows me, knows that I am always supportive of reasonable efforts to ensure that taxpayer funds are not used for unlawful activities, particularly when those activities may be construed to be partisan in nature. That is why I have followed this particular issue so closely throughout the year and raised the issue directly with Director Groves.

In fact, as next year's census quickly approaches, I continue to work with Census officials at the Commerce Department on all levels. As all Utahns are keenly aware, the Decennial Census requires precision and uniformity—both of which I am closely monitoring as the Census moves forward.

To that end, I am hopeful that the Census Bureau will ensure that all Americans are counted fairly and accurately, with the privacy of the individual always in mind. I applaud Director Groves and his decision for the Census Bureau to cut all ties with ACORN. I am pleased that he listened not only to my concerns, but also to the concerns of thousands of Utahns and Americans from across country who have expressed severe disappointment with ACORN's involvement in the 2010 Census. Personally, I feel ACORN should not have been involved in the 2010 Census in the first place. However, I recognize Director Groves' decision as an important step toward an accurate and fair count and look forward to assisting in additional efforts toward that same end in the near future.

While I am encouraged by the recent actions by the Census Bureau, I believe it is critical to adopt Senator JOHANNS' amendment so we can know with certainty that partisan political organizations like ACORN will not be underwritten with taxpayer dollars.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Johanns amendment No. 2355, as modified; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to the vote; and that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, with that, there will be a vote at 5:30 this afternoon, and if any other Senators wish to come to the floor to speak to their amendments, we are here ready and waiting for them to do that.

With that, 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. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FINANCIAL ABUSES

Mr. KAUFMAN. Madam President, tomorrow is the first anniversary of the Lehman Brothers collapse, the largest bankruptcy in United States history. Lehman's failure sent shock waves throughout the entire country.

The resulting financial meltdown plunged the American economy into the most severe recession since the 1950s. Credit markets froze, investor confidence collapsed, stock prices crashed, and millions of Americans lost their jobs, their homes, and their savings.

Lehman brought about its own demise. Once the Nation's fourth-largest investment bank, Lehman allowed a culture of recklessness to engulf its firm.

But the blame for this downward spiral and for the consequences to millions of Americans does not end with Lehman. At a time when banks were taking on unprecedented risk, our regulatory agencies were taking their referees off the field.

The SEC, like other regulatory agencies, has made many mistakes in recent years: from failing to monitor the credit rating agencies and permitting the banks to increase their capital-leverage ratios to as much as 30- or 50-to-1 to buy up what turned out to be toxic assets, to removing the uptick rule without putting anything effective in its place and failing to put in place systems to monitor and adjust its regulations as the markets rapidly evolved.

Our Nation has paid dearly for these mistakes.

In response, we have vowed to shine a light on Wall Street, to enact financial regulatory reforms, to push for clearer

and enforceable laws, to strengthen our oversight agencies—all in an effort to prevent history from repeating itself and to rebuild the credibility of and investor confidence in our markets.

But our actions have not yet followed our words.

President Obama has proposed a new financial regulation plan that would enforce stricter capital and liquidity requirements for investment banks, revamp the disjointed regulatory system, and impose higher standards for risky products like credit default swaps.

I applaud President Obama's efforts to address the regulatory problems that devastated our economy and I look forward to working with my colleagues to create a systemic risk regulator, to regulate derivatives effectively, and to ensure consumer financial protections.

But we cannot simply react to problems after they have occurred. We must also adopt a forward-looking approach to regulation that recognizes manipulation and wrongdoing while it is happening and stops it in its tracks.

Because of the damage that was done to our economy by the prior financial scandals, the regulatory agencies and Congress need to catch up and redress prior mistakes—while at the same time focus on current questionable market practices before new problems arise.

Since I became a Senator in January, I have been spending much of my time in Congress asking questions and promoting regulatory solutions to current questionable practices on Wall Street. And I have stressed repeatedly the need for the SEC to step forward as a strong and determined cop on the beat.

I believe that democracy and fair markets are the foundation of our American society.

They are both based on the notions of equality and fairness—the idea that all Americans have an equal opportunity to succeed.

For markets to have credibility and investors to have confidence, Congress and the SEC must act urgently to restore a level playing field for investors.

If investors don't believe the markets are fair, they won't invest in them. It is as simple as that.

Fairness may be an ever-changing and elusive concept when it comes to the financial markets, but it must be defined and then defended by the regulators. Where abuses continue in our financial markets, those abuses must be addressed through clear rules with teeth and through tough enforcement.

Otherwise, we will be left with two financial markets: One market for huge-volume, high-speed players, who can take advantage of every loophole for profit, and another market for retail investors, whose orders are seemingly filled as an afterthought without any special priority.

For example, since March, I have worked with a bipartisan group of Senators to push the SEC to do more about abusive or so-called ''naked'' short selling.

When Lehman Brothers began to go down, many believe naked short sellers drove it into its grave, profiting handsomely by manipulating the price of Lehman's stock down, down, down.

The SEC will be holding a roundtable on September 30th to discuss pre-borrow requirements and centralized ''hard locate'' system solutions that I and other Senators have proposed. I strongly urge the Commission to propose new rules addressing these issues and to begin to elicit serious comments about their effectiveness.

At the very least they should set up pilot programs to test how they might work.

Otherwise, if the SEC does nothing, I am concerned that when the conditions for profitable naked short selling reoccur, there will be no enforceable rules to stop it, and the SEC will be unable to punish those who undertake it, just as the SEC has yet to punish anyone for the naked short selling events of last year.

More recently, several questionable market structure issues have come to light, threatening market fairness in ways we are only beginning to understand.

Wall Street has undergone a radical transformation in only the last few years. Only a few years ago, powerful trading organizations, like the New York Stock Exchange, handled over 80 percent of all transactions. Today, the market is currently heavily fragmented and dominated by high-frequency traders.

According to research by the Tabb Group, there are now over 50 trading venues in the United States. Technologically advanced high-frequency trading firms now represent over 61 percent of the daily trading volume in stocks.

Institutional investors prefer to trade in dark liquidity pools, which arguably violate the spirit of rules that require fair and non-discriminatory access to quotations.

These innovations, from market fragmentation to high-speed electronic trading, have produced benefits, including increased liquidity, narrowed spreads, and lowered commissions for most investors.

But while competition and innovation have flourished, the fundamental fairness of our markets cannot be taken for granted.

Actions by the SEC over recent decades have had the unintended consequence of producing markets that now seem to favor the most technologically sophisticated traders, sometimes at the expense of ordinary retail investors. Moreover, competition for market trading volume among market centers now includes questionable practices such as liquidity rebates, flash order offerings, co-location of servers, and other inducement arrangements with broker-dealers and other market participants.

Congress, the SEC, and the public they serve need to stand back and better understand what has happened. Even for the skilled insiders, it is all very complicated and opaque, and the challenge we face is to understand the benefits, costs, and risks of these developments to long-term investors, in a market environment very different from just 5 years ago.

This is why I recently called on the SEC to undertake a comprehensive review of a broad range of market issues, analyzing the current market structure from the ground up before piecemeal changes built on the current structure add to the potential for execution unfairness.

I am concerned that questionable practices threaten to further erode investor confidence in our financial markets and that our understanding and regulatory capability have not kept pace with those changes.

To her credit, SEC Chairman Schapiro, for whom I have great respect as well as for the urgent tasks she confronts in this challenging era for the Commission, has begun such a review and has agreed to broaden it.

In her letter responding to my concerns, she too recognizes the trade-offs between liquidity and fairness, as well as the importance of standing up for the interests of long-term investors.

She wrote: ''If . . . the interests of long-term investors and professional short-term traders conflict, the Commission previously has emphasized that 'its clear responsibility is to uphold the interests of long-term investors.' I firmly agree that the Commission's focus must be on the protection of long-term investors.''

Alan Greenspan, the former Fed Chairman, in commenting on the fixed income markets, learned this lesson too late: technological developments without effective regulation do not always lead to the best interests of investors.

He wrote: ''All of the sophisticated mathematics and computer wizardry essentially rested on one central premise: that enlightened self interest of owners and managers of financial institutions would lead them to maintain a sufficient buffer against insolvency by actively monitoring and managing their firms' capital and risk positions.'' The premise failed in the summer of 2007, the former Fed Chairman said, leaving him ''deeply dismayed.''

We are all deeply dismayed, and we do not ever want to be so dismayed again.

So while recent developments in the equity and options markets are very different from what happened in the fixed income markets, Congress must exercise its oversight capacity to lay out the issues and ask the tough questions about high-frequency trading and recent market structure issues.

High-frequency traders have many tools at their disposal that give them significant advantages over regular investors.

The first is speed. In order to receive information as quickly as possible,

high-speed firms place their computer servers right next to the exchanges. Co-locating allows them to receive information a few milliseconds before the rest of the world. Because every millisecond is critical in the world of high-frequency trading, firms are willing to pay millions of dollars annually for this advantage.

Information on price movement and market trends is routed directly to electronic algorithms, designed by top engineers to make trades automatically.

These programs rely on the rapid acquisition of information in order to read the markets and execute trades instantaneously, sometimes as many as 1,000 times in a single second.

To prevent abuse, the SEC must ensure ''fair access'' for co-located servers at the exchanges and a method of allocation that does not disadvantage retail orders.

Another advantage for insiders in this new system, arises from what are known as market latency disparities.

Market fragmentation appears to permit high-speed traders to use the disparities in time, place, speed, and price to advantage themselves over unsuspecting investors.

Let me read from a recent article in The Economist magazine entitled ''Rise of the Machines.'' ''High-frequency traders attempt to uncover how much an investor is willing to pay—or sell for—by sending out a stream of probing quotes that are swiftly cancelled until they elicit a response. The traders then buy or short the targeted stock ahead of the investor, offering it to them a fraction of a second later for a tidy profit.''

While the cost to each individual might be slight, the Tabb Group estimates that high-speed stock traders banked about $8 billion in profits last year. Let me repeat: $8 billion with a ''b.'' How much of this profit came from legitimate practices that benefited all investors, and how much of it was a toll paid by the average investor?

We all know the old adage, that it is easier to steal a penny or two from 100 million people than to steal a million dollars from one person.

We need to know if high-speed traders are proving this to be true in our markets every day.

Some market practices have also introduced potential conflicts of interest into the marketplace. For example, trading venues offer rebates to investors who post limit orders, which bring liquidity to their exchange, and charge for market orders, which take liquidity out of the exchange. Some broker-dealer firms direct a sizable majority of their order flow to the exchanges that offer the highest payments and lowest fees.

In theory, best execution is always the first priority, as regulations clearly state that even if the customer's order is routed to a market that does not have the best price, it must be rerouted to the market center that does.

I am concerned that regulators are outmatched by the rapid advances in high-speed trading. In a highly fragmented system where millions of trades take place in a microsecond, the ability to measure and enforce so-called ''best execution'' may be a vain hope.

The so-called Rule 605 forms, which purport to measure execution quality, are woefully outdated. The first column for time for execution reads ''0–9 seconds.'' In a gap of 9 seconds, prices can change significantly. In a world of 50 market venues, with structural latency issues being targeted by an entire industry of high-frequency traders, millions of trades reaping millions of dollars can take place before retail investors and the regulators who protect their interests can comprehend what happened.

We need to ask if regulators are looking through the wrong end of a telescope when they should be using a microscope.

Average investors must now wonder if their orders are being routed to a venue because it offers the best execution quality for them, or because it leads to the most revenue or lowest transaction fees for their brokers.

Liquidity rebates paid by the exchanges have increased trade volume and thereby provided added revenue for exchanges.

Most of the traders who capitalize on rebates are high-frequency traders who execute millions of low-risk trades a day. These market participants are not investors. Rather, they step in between buy and sell orders, trade on both sides of a security, and cash in on double the rebate.

Let me again read from The Economist: ''Another popular HFT [high-frequency trading] strategy is to collect rebates that exchanges offer to liquidity providers. High-frequency traders will quickly outbid investors before immediately selling the shares to the investor at the slightly higher purchase price, collecting a rebate of one-quarter of a cent on both trades.''

Some argue that such innovations add needed liquidity to the market. But high-speed traders mainly target the most frequently-traded stocks.

Liquidity is light and spreads are wide on many lower-volume stocks. We must rigorously examine the degree to which rebates actually bring liquidity to the marketplace where it is needed and help the market function properly.

I have discussed a variety of questionable practices that deserve and I hope will receive a searching examination by the SEC and by Congress.

While some of these innovations have produced benefits, they have also created wide disparities between high-speed traders and average investors. We do not have a clear accounting of all the costs and benefits of these recent market structure changes.

Under the current system, until empirical data shows up to dispel our concerns, we have little reason to believe average investors can compete with the high-speed traders they are up against.

We must question whether certain broker-dealers are acting in the best interests of their customers, under cover of flawed regulation and antiquated enforcement techniques. At the same time, we have dark trading platforms that are insufficiently monitored by regulators and which undermine public price discovery.

Moreover, unlike specialists and traditional market-makers that are regulated, some of these new high-frequency traders are unregulated, though they are acting in a market-maker capacity.

They have no requirements to ''maintain a fair and orderly'' market. They trade when it benefits them.

If we experience another shock to the financial system, will this new, and dominant, type of pseudo market maker act in the interest of the markets when we really need them? Will they step up and maintain a two-sided market, or will they simply shut off the machines and walk away? Even worse, will they seek even further profit and exacerbate the downside?

Because our rules and regulations are so inapt, most of the practices I've mentioned today are still legal, but they are not fair.

It used to be that steroids were not banned by Major League Baseball. In fact, they were great for business. The game's biggest sluggers hit home runs at an unprecedented rate, enthralling fans in the process. But the game was tainted, the competition was unfair, and the power was not genuine. Eventually, the game suffered a crisis of legitimacy.

High-frequency trading, while not illegal, may operate in ways that undermine the legitimacy of our financial markets. In order to restore investor confidence, we must effectively regulate unfair performance-enhancers. We must shine a light on dark pools, conduct a searching examination of high-frequency trading strategies to ensure they are not manipulative, ban flash orders, and give regulators the tools they need to ensure that broker-dealers are acting in the best interests of their clients.

I know as well as anyone the benefits of free markets. I know that technology, innovation, and competition are critical components of economic growth. But we must balance those interests, against the values of fairness and equal opportunity. We must bring back a level playing field, encourage long-term investment, and help our economy grow.

I am not here today, to stand in the way of progress. I do not wish to return to a horse-and-buggy system.

High frequency trading and the ''Rise of the Machines''—as The Economist called it—are here to stay.

I don't want to ban them. I don't want to slow them down.

Simply put, technological developments should not control our regulatory destiny; rather, our regulatory

agencies should ensure that technological progress everywhere bring benefits to long-term investors. And where the interests of the two are in conflict, our regulators must stop the practices of professional short-term traders that harm the interests of long-term investors.

The market structure rules themselves should not enshrine or permit illicit advantages that a careful review, a surgeon's scalpel, electronically constructed solutions, and effective enforcement can end.

Neither should needed solutions that protect investor interests, like reinstatement of some form of the uptick or bid test—or the need for a ''hard locate'' requirement to end naked short selling once and for all—remain unused primarily in deference to the desires and convenience of high-frequency traders.

For our part, we in Congress need to undertake a fundamental review of the oversight responsibilities we give to regulators, examining whether they have adequate tools to carry out these responsibilities.

We have become complacent in thinking that continually updating our body of regulations is enough, when in reality we perhaps have failed to provide regulators with the necessary tools they need to observe these complex financial institutions.

So on this anniversary of the Lehman Brothers collapse, I conclude by saying I look forward to working with my colleagues, not only to address the financial crises of the past, but also to scrutinize and begin to correct the financial abuses of the present, so we can avoid the problems of the future.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHANNS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JOHANNS. Madam President, at 5:30, in a few minutes, we are going to vote on the pending amendment, which is an amendment to bar ACORN from receiving any money from the appropriations bill we are considering. I spoke earlier today, so I will only speak a couple of minutes.

I wanted to come to the floor again to underscore the importance of this vote and to underscore the history that brings us here today to take this action. The history is a sad one.

On September 9, 2009, Miami-Dade prosecutors issued arrest warrants for 11 ACORN employees. The employees are charged with falsifying voter registration cards. A total of 1,400 voter registration cards were turned in, and 888 of those were found to be fake. That means that almost three-quarters of those cards were fraudulent.

Late last week, damaging news surfaced regarding hidden videotapes at the New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, ACORN offices. What is the feature on these videotapes? They feature ACORN employees offering advice on a number of illegal activities, including tax evasion, prostitution, and fraud—all with taxpayer dollars.

Finally, the Census Bureau notified ACORN on Friday in a letter that it was severing all ties. The Census Bureau has had a bellyful. They severed all ties with this group having to do with the 2010 census. Here is what they said in the letter:

> . . . it is clear that ACORN's affiliation with the 2010 Census promotion has caused sufficient concern in the general public, has indeed become a distraction from our mission, and may even become a discouragement to public cooperation, negatively impacting the 2010 Census efforts.

The letter goes on:

> Unfortunately, we no longer have confidence that our national partnership agreement is being effectively managed through your many local offices. For the reasons stated, we therefore have decided to terminate the partnership.

According to a report published in July by the minority staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, again quoting:

> Operationally, ACORN is a shell game played in 120 cities, 43 states and the District of Columbia through a complex structure designed to conceal illegal activities, to use taxpayer and tax exempt dollars for partisan political purposes, and to distract investigators. Structurally, ACORN is a chess game in which senior management is shielded from accountability by multiple layers of volunteers and compensated employees who serve as pawns to take the fall for every bad act.

It doesn't stop there. In 1998, an ACORN employee was arrested for falsifying voter registration forms. In 1999, Philadelphia authorities found hundreds of fraudulent registration forms by ACORN. In October of 2008, ACORN's Nevada offices were raided by Federal agents and in 2009 their Las Vegas field director—their field director: unbelievable—was charged with voter registration fraud.

In May 2009, seven ACORN employees were charged in Pittsburgh for voter registration fraud.

To date, nearly 70 ACORN employees have been convicted in 12 States for voter registration fraud.

The events of the last week are not isolated. We have only caught them. As Judge Richard Zoller said, after holding an ACORN employee liable for election law violations:

> Somebody has to go after ACORN.

Madam President, I suggest this afternoon that ''somebody'' is each and every Member of the Senate. Until a full investigation is launched into ACORN, no taxpayer money should be used to fund their activities. A vote in favor of my amendment is a vote in favor of the taxpayer and against the status quo.

I will just wrap up by saying, if somehow we could bring the taxpayers of America to the Senate floor and ask them: Do you want your taxpayer dollars to continue to fund this organization, with this kind of history, with the videos that have been just released, overwhelmingly, taxpayers would say: Absolutely not.

This is our opportunity to stand up against an organization that does not deserve the trust of the American people.

Madam President, I yield the floor and 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. JOHANNS. 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. JOHANNS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending amendment and I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Maryland (Mrs. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Akaka	Enzi	Merkley
Alexander	Feingold	Murkowski
Barrasso	Feinstein	Murray
Baucus	Franken	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Grassley	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Bennett	Hatch	Reid
Bingaman	Inhofe	Risch
Bond	Inouye	Roberts
Boxer	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown	Johanns	Schumer
Brownback	Johnson	Sessions
Bunning	Kaufman	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kerry	Shelby
Cardin	Klobuchar	Snowe
Carper	Kohl	Specter
Chambliss	Kyl	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Lautenberg	Thune
Conrad	LeMieux	Udall (CO)
Corker	Levin	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Lieberman	Voinovich
Crapo	Lincoln	Warner
DeMint	Lugar	Webb
Dodd	McCaskill	Wicker
Dorgan	McConnell	Wyden
Ensign	Menendez	

NAYS—7

Burris	Gillibrand	Whitehouse
Casey	Leahy	
Durbin	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Graham	McCain
Byrd	Gregg	Mikulski
Coburn	Hutchison	Vitter

The amendment (No. 2355), as modified, was agreed to.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, had I been present, I would have voted in favor of amendment No. 2355 offered by Senator JOHANNS.●

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, my counterpart, Senator BOND, and I have been on the Senate floor Thursday afternoon, Thursday evening, Friday, and this afternoon and into the evening today. We are waiting for Members to bring their amendments to the floor.

For the information of all Senators, there will not be votes after 3 o'clock tomorrow, as everybody knows. We intend to finish this bill by Wednesday. So there is not a lot of floor time tomorrow.

If anyone has an amendment, offer it tonight. We will set up the vote for tomorrow or Wednesday. Again, we intend to finish this bill by Wednesday. So do not expect that your amendments will have time after that.

Again, I ask Members who have amendments to bring them to the floor and offer them so we can get them considered and up for a vote.

Again, it is going to be a short week. We need to get the bill done by Wednesday. We ask everybody to please consider that and come and offer their amendments so we can get this bill moving.

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I rise to offer for the record the Budget Committee's official scoring of H.R. 3288, the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

The bill, as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, provides $67.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2010, which will result in new outlays of $51.8 billion. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, discretionary outlays for the bill will total $134.5 billion.

The Senate-reported bill matches its section 302(b) allocation for budget authority and is $8 million below its allocation for outlays. No budget points of order lie against the committee-reported bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the table displaying the Budget Committee scoring of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

H.R. 3288, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

[Spending comparisons—Senate-Reported Bill (in millions of dollars)]

	Defense	General Purpose	Total
Senate-Reported Bill:			
Budget Authority	174	67,526	67,700
Outlays	174	134,287	134,461
Senate 302(b) Allocation:			
Budget Authority	.....	.....	67,700
Outlays	.....	.....	134,469
House-Passed Bill:			
Budget Authority	174	68,647	68,821
Outlays	174	134,411	4,585
President's Request:[1]			
Budget Authority	174	68,696	68,870
Outlays	174	134,829	135,003
Senate-Reported Bill Compared To:			
Senate 302(b) allocation:			
Budget Authority	.....	.....	0
Outlays	.....	.....	−8
House-Passed Bill:			
Budget Authority	0	−1,121	−1,121
Outlays	0	−124	−124
President's Request:			
Budget Authority	0	−1,170	−1,170
Outlays	0	−542	−542

[1] For comparison purposes, Pesident's requested level is adjusted to remove $39.45 billion in proposed BA that continues to be classified as transportation obligation limitations.

Note: Table does not include 2010 outlays stemming from emergency budget authority provided in the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 111–32).

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut.

DESIGNATING THE KENNEDY CAUCUS ROOM

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 264, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 264) designating the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building as the ''Kennedy Caucus Room.''

S. RES. 264

Whereas, during the last century, few rooms have borne witness to as much history as the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas, during the last century, few families have played as integral a role in the history of the United States as has the Kennedy family;

Whereas the Senate mourns the passing of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, one of the most accomplished, effective, and beloved Senators of all time;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy played a role in every major national debate during the last 50 years, serving as a constant champion of the disadvantaged and overlooked;

Whereas the legacy of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy includes not only his prolific achievements on behalf of the people of the United States, but the enduring friendships he formed with colleagues on both sides of the aisle;

Whereas the wit and passion of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and his perseverance in the face of adversity will be remembered in equal measure to his impressive legislative and rhetorical skills;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a proud family tradition of public service, which included 2 other distinguished Senators;

Whereas never before have 3 brothers served in the Senate, and rarely have any 3 brothers served the United States so well;

Whereas John Fitzgerald Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate, before being elected the 35th President of the United States;

Whereas Robert Francis Kennedy served the people of New York with distinction in the Senate, after serving as the 64th Attorney General;

Whereas Edward Moore Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate for nearly half a century, acting as a tireless advocate for those who might otherwise have been without an advocate;

Whereas the Senate has been greatly enriched by the dedication, compassion, and talent of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators;

Whereas, in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, the people of the United States have commemorated tragedy, celebrated triumph, and held hearings of great importance on the most important issues facing the Nation;

Whereas it was in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building that both Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced their intention to run for the office of the President of the United States;

Whereas a spirit of passionate advocacy and deep respect for the institution of the Senate should govern the deliberations that take place in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the life and work of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, to recognize the contributions of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators, and to celebrate the spirit of public service exemplified by the Kennedy family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building, commonly referred to as the ''Caucus Room'', as the ''Kennedy Caucus Room'', in recognition of the service to the Senate and the people of the United States of Senators Edward Moore Kennedy, Robert Francis Kennedy, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to take a second and thank, first of all, the majority leader, Senator REID, for his support in this effort. I recognize as well our colleague from Massachusetts, Senator KERRY, who is my lead cosponsor in this effort and a very close and dear personal friend of Ted Kennedy for many years. And I thank our colleagues.

We are joined by the presence of our colleague from the other body, Senator Ted Kennedy's son PATRICK, who serves with great distinction in the other body. I am pleased he is here with us at this moment to watch this resolution be adopted.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and

that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 264) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Connecticut. There was no closer or better friend to Ted Kennedy than CHRIS DODD. I admire and respect his many efforts in the Senate to fight the fights in the spirit of Ted Kennedy.

This could not be more appropriate, and I do not think anything more needs to be said. I thank him, and I thank the majority leader. It is wonderful to have PATRICK, Congressman KENNEDY, on the floor of the Senate to share in this moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I join, of course, Senator KERRY, Senator DODD, and Congressman KENNEDY in honoring PATRICK's father and the Kennedy family in what used to be the Russell caucus chamber. There is no more appropriate place, I believe, to honor Senator Kennedy than right there.

MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, last week in Cincinnati, President Obama joined thousands of Ohioans at the Nation's largest Labor Day picnic. Ohioans gathered together to celebrate our history of workers who transitioned our Nation from one industry to the next, sustaining our economy, creating the middle class, and strengthening the middle class.

It is time once again to invest in our workers. It is time to invest in a national manufacturing policy.

As Ohioans understand, manufacturing for so many is a ticket to the middle class, and Ohioans understand that a strong middle class makes a strong nation. That is why American workers deserves a manufacturing strategy that works for them.

First, we must invest in manufacturing innovation. We should make research and development tax credits permanent to incentivize investment in emerging manufacturing industries, such as clean energy, so that the tax system is predictable so investors will bring money forward, especially for capital-intensive industries that create jobs such as wind and solar manufacturing.

Second, a national manufacturing strategy must strengthen our component supply chain. Companies that make the parts for cars and trucks should be able to expand to make component parts for other industries, such as clean energy, aerospace, and biotechnology. If a company can make glass for a truck, they can make glass for solar panels. If a company can make gears for a car, they can make gear boxes for wind turbines.

The Investments for Manufacturing Progress and Clean Technology Act, the IMPACT Act, I introduced 4 months ago, would provide a $30 billion revolving loan fund to help component part manufacturers transition to the clean energy economy.

Third, we must better connect workers with jobs in emerging industries. Earlier this year, I introduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act which will allow local communities to determine their workforce needs from the bottom up. Workforce investment boards working with local businesses, working with local community colleges, working with local organized labor could determine what they want to specialize in region by region, even within a State. That way workers will be retrained for jobs that actually exist, that are productive, and that build the middle class.

Fourth, there must be improved Federal assistance for economically distressed communities. When a major plant closing results in massive job loss and economic decline, there must be a coordinated Federal response such as we are trying to do in Wilmington, OH, in response to the closing of DHL, the same way the Federal Government responds to disastrous base closings—disastrous in terms of what it does to local communities—and the same way the Federal Government responds to help a community to recover from a devastating flood or tornado.

Fifth, a national manufacturing strategy must revamp how our Nation does trade. It must include fair trade policies that promote American manufacturing and level the playing field for workers and products alike.

I applaud the President's decision Friday night to stand up and enforce fair trade rules that will save jobs, that will help our communities, that will strengthen the middle class.

Since China joined the World Trade Organization, American workers have not been assured that the government would defend them against unfair trade. With this section 421 decision—a section of trade law that China agreed to during the permanent normal trade relations debate—President Obama has taken the side of American workers and American manufacturers.

If American workers and manufacturers are going to compete in the global market, they need to have a government that uses the trade enforcement tools that exist, including the section 421 safeguard.

As part of becoming a member of WTO, as I said, about a decade ago, China agreed to this so-called section 421 safeguard. Four times it has been invoked or been suggested by the International Trade Commission, a bipartisan, generally free trade arm of the Federal Government, four times President Bush backed off and let China have its way. This is the first President who stood up on this issue to actually enforce the trade laws that exist on the books to make our trade policy fairer and to help American workers.

The data in this case on tires make clear that American workers are getting crushed by a surge in tire imports from China. Imports of these products more than doubled in volume and tripled in dollar value in only a 4-year period. During this time, domestic production obviously declined. Manufacturers could not sell their high-quality products and orders dropped. In many cases, there was no choice but to slow or even halt production.

Take, for example, workers at the Denman Tire Company located in Leavittsburg, OH. I have been to that plant. That plant that has been in operation for almost 100 years produces a variety of tires. About half of its 2,600 units-per-day capacity is dedicated to the passenger and light truck tires that are the subject of this trade investigation. The facility employs 270 men and women in good-paying, skilled jobs that strengthen the middle class.

Take, for example, workers at the Cooper Tire and Rubber facility in Findlay, OH. There over 1,100 workers produce some 22,000 units per day. The Cooper facility has also been in operation for almost a century.

It is time our trade policies reflect our national interest and that we do not practice trade according to a textbook that was out of print 20 years ago. It is time our trade laws were enforced to promote our goods and services—and our auto communities.

Tomorrow the President travels to Lordstown, OH, a northeast Ohio community not far from Youngstown, where GM workers are building the next generation fuel-efficient vehicles, the most fuel-efficient vehicles in the GM fleet. Increased production of these vehicles invests in Ohio workers and invests in the future of our auto industry.

We have a rare opportunity to reinvigorate manufacturing by helping to build demand for products and technologies in a brand new industry. We have not had an opportunity such as this in 40 years. We can build a new industry that will help end global warming and create good will and will rebuild our Nation's manufacturing backbone. We can build on our auto industry, which in my State has been a leading economic engine for all kinds of next-generation manufacturing.

When you look at a GM factory in Parma, outside of Cleveland, or a Chrysler factory in Toledo, you are also seeing the genesis of next-generation manufacturing jobs up and down the Ohio Turnpike as it crisscrosses from west of Toledo in Williams County to the Pennsylvania border near Youngstown—jobs in the aerospace industry, the component parts industry, the largest industry still in America—auto parts, auto components, auto supply parts—and you can also see jobs in the soap industry all coming out of the auto industry. These jobs were created out of America's manufacturing ingenuity and entrepreneurship.

Plainly and simply, as we work to build more fuel-efficient autos, we will expand opportunities for new manufacturing jobs that become part of the green jobs supply chain.

Again, this manufacturing strategy must include rigorous trade enforcement.

I am struck by the chorus of voices from editorial boards and from the conventional wisdom think-tanks that warn against creeping protectionism. Safe to say, none of these editorial writers and none of these think-tank academicians have ever lost their job because of trade agreements or ever lost their job because of unfair trade practices.

These think-tank academicians and these editorial board members are confusing protectionism with pragmatism. Utilizing trade remedies under limited circumstances, as the President did, as provided for under international trade rules, is not protectionism. It is simply enforcing the law. Enforcement of trade remedy laws consistent with WTO rules, again, is not protectionism.

Most Americans recognize that trade plays an important roll in creating opportunities for economic growth. But when our trade deficit is bumped up against $2 billion a day for much of the last several years—we buy $2 billion more in products than we sell abroad, about a third of that bilaterally with China alone—you know something is not working.

American workers and businesses have an entrepreneurial spirit and can compete with anyone. They also need to look to new markets to sustain economic growth. American workers can compete with anyone, but they must rely on this government to enforce fair trade practices. Done right, a national manufacturing policy can reinvest in our workers' capacity to build next-generation technologies and can rebuild the next generation of middle-class families.

One thing is certain: It is time to invest in the workers and the communities that are the backbone of our middle class.

I yield the floor.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BALL HOMES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I read with great interest a recent article published in the Lexington Herald-Leader, retracing the 50 years of hard work that Don and Mira Ball have put into making their business the largest provider of new homes in central Kentucky. On top of their success in business, Don and Mira should be commended for the good work they have done on behalf of their community. They have supported several community initiatives, including the Hope Center that helps at-risk and homeless individuals get the stability and the help they need to improve their lives. I am proud to have joined them in support of this and other efforts for the good of everyone in their city and surrounding region.

I know all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing Don and Mira for all they have done for the Lexington community, and for 50 years of Ball Homes.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Lexington Herald-Leader, Aug. 9, 2009]

HOMESELLER: BALL HOMES IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

(By Melissa Nipper)

Now Central Kentucky's largest home builder, Ball Homes was incorporated in 1959 by Don and Mira Ball. Today, the company is still family owned and operated by Don and Mira and their three children. Ray Ball is the president, and siblings Mike Ball and Lisa Ball Sharp serve as vice presidents.

Ball Homes has built thousands of affordable houses in Kentucky neighborhoods over the last five decades. Every year since 1998, BUILDER magazine has named Ball Homes one of the top 100 builders of single-family homes in the nation.

While the Ball name is usually associated with home building, the family is also deeply ingrained in the community, supporting organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, the Hope Center, Virginia Place and many others. Many of their efforts promote home ownership, helping people overcome obstacles to the American Dream.

''We are glad that our children see the value of the family business and that what we do is not just to make a living,'' Mira said. ''We are building affordable homes that people can be proud of. We love this community, all of us do, and I don't think there's a better place to be.''

A STRONG FOUNDATION

Don and Mira met while attending the University of Kentucky. Don was a pre-law student and worked part time distributing brochures for a builder. The couple married in 1955 and four years later started their business. They share fond memories of the early days.

''I remember when Don had his real estate license, we moved 13 times in two and a half years,'' Mira said. ''We would find a house that was marketable, fix it up, sell it and buy a new one. That enabled us to get started. Don used to say that our furniture was on wheels.''

Ball Homes started targeting the first-time home buyers and over the years evolved into a company that builds for the ''total market,'' Mira said.

''I guess the biggest change is, back then we were building houses for $10,950,'' Don said. ''Now the lots cost more than that.''

One thing that hasn't changed is that Ball Homes has always been a family affair. Don and Mira never pushed the home-building business on their children. But from his earliest days, Ray remembers coming to the office with his parents. And of course, there were always summer jobs to be had for the Ball siblings.

''I think (the family business) says a lot about the way our parents raised us,'' said Lisa, who focuses on Ball Homes' sales, marketing and customer relations. ''They weren't in any way overpowering, but they gave us moral lessons and giving back to the community was just inherent in the way they live.''

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

So how does a builder remain successful for five decades—throughout a continuously evolving market, constant changes in technology and even during economic downturns and recessions?

Like all businesses, Ball Homes has had its share of challenges. The toughest time for the company was in the 1980's, when mortgage interest rates soared to 22 percent. The family had to develop creative products and financing to weather the hard times. ''And of course, it helped us that that period was a relatively short duration,'' Don said.

The family has never been afraid to try new ideas and adapt to the marketplace. In the early 1990s, Ball Homes expanded its product line, offering more styles of homes in a wider variety of price ranges.

They also stretched their base into surrounding communities of Versailles, Paris, Richmond, and Frankfort. The company also builds in Louisville, and in 2008 was ranked Louisville's No. 1 home builder by BUILDER magazine.

In recent years, the builder has incorporated energy-efficient materials and technology into all of its homes. New Ball Homes meet Energy Star qualifications. (The Energy Star designation signifies that a home meets strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.)

''People may say they don't build (homes) like they used to,'' Mira said. ''Well, today we do so much more with energy efficiency and we build them better than we used to.''

Ball Homes has several ongoing projects, including the Chilesburg community which features a six-home model village where home buyers can see a variety of floor plans and amenities in one location.

They recently opened another model home village at their newest development, Glasford. Located in Lexington on the outer loop of Man O' War Boulevard between Tates Creek and Nicholasville roads, Glasford offers 30 floor plans and many luxury options, including beautiful tilework, built-in book cases and crown molding, chair rail and wainscoting packages in formal living and dining rooms.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

Innovative products, careful planning and great employees helped make Ball Homes what it has become over the past 50 years. However, Ball family members say their success and future depend on the most important component of their business—the customers, many of whom are living in their second and even third-generation Ball Home.

''One of the keys to our success in the environment is that we are recognized as a company that has been here many years, and we will remain here,'' Ray said. ''We just try to take care of the customer and offer a good product in good locations.''

COMMENDING JIM WILLIAMS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jim Williams, the director of communications of one of Kentucky's most storied racetracks, Keeneland in Lexington. After 38 years at the forefront of Kentucky's racing community, Mr. Williams has left a legacy worthy of the champion thoroughbred horses who have won there, and the entire State wishes him well as he retires from the job he loves.

Keeneland racetrack is located in the beautiful Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Since 1936 Keeneland has operated two meets per year, every April and October. For nearly 40 of those years, Mr. Williams has helped transform what was once a small racetrack

that began on a local farm into a premier equestrian facility.

Mr. Williams's passion and dedication for Keeneland and horse racing began when he was just a boy, when he moved to Lexington and attended his first race at Keeneland. Since that first race, Mr. Williams has been in attendance at a majority of Keeneland's races.

Mr. Williams has had the opportunity to serve under three Keeneland presidents: Mr. Ted Bassett, Mr. Bill Greely and the current CEO, Mr. Nick Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson spoke dearly of Jim when asked to reflect on his service. In a recent article in the Lexington Herald-Leader, he said:

To put Jim's tenure in perspective, when he joined Keeneland in 1971, Richard Nixon was president, ''All in the Family'' premiered on television, and gas was 30 cents a gallon. Since that time, Jim has been the public face of Keeneland, and he has conducted himself in a manner that has enhanced Keeneland's stature in the eyes of everyone who has had the pleasure of meeting him. Jim is a man of character, integrity and humility. We at Keeneland thank him for his many years of service and wish him the best in his retirement.

Jim Williams is a legend in Kentucky horse racing and his contributions to the Commonwealth's most hallowed sport are immeasurable. His retirement is going to leave a large hole that will be very hard to fill. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim Williams for his 38 years of service to Keeneland and to Kentucky horse racing.

BOWLING GREEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I read an article of great interest in the Bowling Green Daily News involving the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce. The article commended the chamber on being recognized by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives as the number-one chamber in the nation. Bowling Green and the surrounding community has experienced significant growth in the areas of business and industry, due to the chamber's efforts to keep Bowling Green a flourishing and vibrant city. I know my colleagues join me in commending the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for all it has done to better their community and State. I am pleased to see their hard work being recognized.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, Aug. 4, 2009]

''WE'RE NO. 1'' CHANTS A THRILL FOR BG AREA CHAMBER LOCAL GROUP NAMED BEST IN THE NATION IN ITS CATEGORY

(By Jenna Mink)

''About 100 state and local officials, business leaders and community members gathered at the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce today, many of them chanting, ''We're No. 1.'' The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce recently was named the best chamber of its size in the nation, chamber officials announced today.

''I can't tell you what a great feeling it is to say we're the No. 1 chamber in the nation,'' said Jim Hizer, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, a national group of chamber leaders, chooses the top chambers in the nation. Chambers are separated into three categories based on their revenue; the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce won in the mid-size category, beating about 45 chambers that were invited to apply for the award.

When choosing the top chamber of commerce, ACCE officials look at ''the entire scope of the chamber, from its financial practices all the way to programs and special events,'' said Tonya Matthews, vice president of chamber operations. ''They really don't miss a beat in digging into the chamber.''

This is the second year the local chamber has been a finalist—last year, it was one of the top three chambers, but did not pick up the top award.

''All I was thinking about was to be a finalist two years in a row and not come home with an award would be an empty feeling,'' Hizer said. ''But we don't have to worry about that.'' The chamber of commerce works to boost the business community by attracting new companies to the area and helping existing businesses expand.

''Our principle responsibility is to bring wealth and prosperity to our community for the benefit of our business members, partners and for all citizens,'' Hizer said.

About 7,000 chambers exist in the United States and 1,400 of those are members of the ACCE. This year, two other cities that sit along Interstate 65 won ACCE awards—Nashville's chamber won the large division and Columbus, Ind., won the small division, according to the chamber.

In 2008, about 26 businesses either located or expanded operations in the Barren River area with a total investment of about $105 million and 2,092 additional jobs, according the chamber.

And because of its new businesses and expansion efforts, southcentral Kentucky received several national recognitions last year—the area was named by Forbes Magazine the 12th best small place in the area for businesses and careers. It was also ranked 33rd of 363 metropolitan areas in job growth and employment.

''The fact that the Bowling Green metropolitan area, by virtually every measure, has been . . . the fastest growing metropolitan area in the state of Kentucky, is evidence that we are achieving our objective in spite of a challenging economic environment,'' Hizer said.

As for future economic development, the ACCE award will help attract new businesses and convince existing businesses to consolidate here or expand, Hizer said.

''This sent a message to the rest of the world that there are some special things happening here in southcentral Kentucky,'' Hizer said. ''And that in and of itself will draw additional interest to our community.''

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce for receiving the 2009 Chamber of the Year award.

The Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce is truly an outstanding organization. It provides an invaluable service to South Central Kentucky by working with its more than 1,300 partners to stimulate economic development and create a better business environment in the region. Its hard work and advocacy has also enabled Bowling Green to compete nationally and to earn Site Selection Magazine's ranking of ninth for its number of 2008 industry and expansion projects.

The greater Bowling Green region is home to a resilient economy where small and large businesses are forced to contend with a number of economic challenges. Recognizing these challenges, the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce has remained committed to aiding businesses as they work their way through today's economic landscape.

Strong leadership and solid organization have contributed to the chamber's record of success. Under the guidance of current chamber president, Jim Hizer, the chamber's membership and activities have continued to increase, providing local businesses more opportunities for growth and employment.

I would like to congratulate the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce for receiving the 2009 Chamber of the Year award. Over the years, it has become a strong organization committed to serving the interests of its members and community. I wish it all the best in its future endeavors within Kentucky and around our Nation.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, last Friday was the eighth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and we solemnly remembered the thousands of innocent lives, of many nationalities and religions, that were so cruelly and indiscriminately destroyed on that infamous day. It was a defining moment for our country, and since then we have sought to address the shocking intelligence and security failures that enabled the perpetrators to so brazenly enter this country and carry out those attacks, as well as to track down the masterminds of that atrocity and to destroy al-Qaida and other terrorist networks that have become a global menace.

We all recognize the threat that violent extremists pose to Americans, as well as to citizens of other countries, and the imperative of countering it. This should not be a matter of partisan politics, but of working together in a common purpose for the sake of law abiding people everywhere. I supported many of the initiatives of the Bush administration, as I have the Obama administration, to make our borders more secure, to improve our intelligence gathering, to track down terrorists and bring them to justice.

But there have been strong differences over what tactics to use, and the effectiveness of military force to combat violent extremism in countries where we are widely seen as invaders or occupiers. No issue has generated more

controversy than the Bush Administration's abuse of detainees, whether at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, Bagram prison in Afghanistan, Guantanamo, other secret detention facilities around the world, or through the use of ''extraordinary rendition'' whereby prisoners were secretly delivered to the custody of foreign security forces whose use of torture was well documented.

These policies and practices, conceived and supported at the highest levels of the Bush administration, justified by Department of Justice lawyers who made a mockery of the law, and steadfastly defended as recently as last week by former Vice President Cheney, were abhorrent. They were also dangerous. They violated our international legal obligations, caused grave harm to our reputation as a country devoted to the rule of law, endangered our service men and women who every day face the risk of capture and mistreatment by our enemies, and caused deep embarrassment among the American people who, for generations, have taken pride in the image of our country as a defender of human rights and the highest moral values.

Last Friday, these issues and concerns were eloquently addressed in a timely piece in The Miami Herald by two distinguished retired senior U.S. military officers, Charles C. Krulak, who was commandant of the Marine Corps from 1995 to 1999, and Joseph P. Hoar, who was commander in chief of U.S. Central Command from 1991 to 1994. I urge all Senators to read it, and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Miami Herald, Sept. 11, 2009]

FEAR WAS NO EXCUSE TO CONDONE TORTURE

(By Charles C. Krulak and Joseph P. Hoar)

In the fear that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Americans were told that defeating Al Qaeda would require us to ''take off the gloves.'' As a former commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and a retired commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command, we knew that was a recipe for disaster.

But we never imagined that we would feel duty-bound to publicly denounce a vice president of the United States, a man who has served our country for many years. In light of the irresponsible statements recently made by former Vice President Dick Cheney, however, we feel we must repudiate his dangerous ideas—and his scare tactics.

We have seen how ill-conceived policies that ignored military law on the treatment of enemy prisoners hindered our ability to defeat al Qaeda. We have seen American troops die at the hands of foreign fighters recruited with stories about tortured Muslim detainees at Guantánamo and Abu Ghraib. And yet Cheney and others who orchestrated America's disastrous trip to ''the dark side'' continue to assert—against all evidence—that torture ''worked'' and that our country is better off for having gone there.

In an interview with Fox News Sunday, Cheney applauded the ''enhanced interrogation techniques''—what we used to call ''war crimes'' because they violated the Geneva Conventions, which the United States instigated and has followed for 60 years. Cheney insisted the abusive techniques were ''absolutely essential in saving thousands of American lives and preventing further attacks against the United States.'' He claimed they were ''directly responsible for the fact that for eight years, we had no further mass casualty attacks against the United States. It was good policy . . . It worked very, very well.''

Repeating these assertions doesn't make them true. We now see that the best intelligence, which led to the capture of Saddam Hussein and the elimination of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, was produced by professional interrogations using non-coercive techniques. When the abuse began, prisoners told interrogators whatever they thought would make it stop.

Torture is as likely to produce lies as the truth. And it did.

What leaders say matters. So when it comes to light, as it did recently, that U.S. interrogators staged mock executions and held a whirling electric drill close to the body of a naked, hooded detainee, and the former vice president winks and nods, it matters.

The Bush administration had already degraded the rules of war by authorizing techniques that violated the Geneva Conventions and shocked the conscience of the world. Now Cheney has publicly condoned the abuse that went beyond even those weakened standards, leading us down a slippery slope of lawlessness. Rules about the humane treatment of prisoners exist precisely to deter those in the field from taking matters into their own hands. They protect our nation's honor.

To argue that honorable conduct is only required against an honorable enemy degrades the Americans who must carry out the orders. As military professionals, we know that complex situational ethics cannot be applied during the stress of combat. The rules must be firm and absolute; if torture is broached as a possibility, it will become a reality. Moral equivocation about abuse at the top of the chain of command travels through the ranks at warp speed.

On Aug. 24, the United States took an important step toward moral clarity and the rule of law when a special task force recommended that in the future, the Army interrogation manual should be the single standard for all agencies of the U.S. government.

The unanimous decision represents an unusual consensus among the defense, intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security agencies. Members of the task force had access to every scrap of intelligence, yet they drew the opposite conclusion from Cheney's. They concluded that far from making us safer, cruelty betrays American values and harms U.S. national security.

On this solemn day we pause to remember those who lost their lives on 9/11. As our leaders work to prevent terrorists from again striking on our soil, they should remember the fundamental precept of counterinsurgency we've relearned in Afghanistan and Iraq: Undermine the enemy's legitimacy while building our own. These wars will not be won on the battlefield. They will be won in the hearts of young men who decide not to sign up to be fighters and young women who decline to be suicide bombers. If Americans torture and it comes to light—as it inevitably will—it embitters and alienates the very people we need most.

Our current commander-in-chief understands this. The task force recommendations take us a step closer to restoring the rule of law and the standards of human dignity that made us who we are as a nation. Repudiating torture and other cruelty helps keep us from being sent on fools' errands by bad intelligence. And in the end, that makes us all safer.

POLAND'S 70 YEAR JOURNEY

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, this month we commemorate an important anniversary: 70 years ago the Second World War began in Europe with a ruthless Nazi assault on Poland. Outnumbered and outgunned, Poland's defenders fought bravely, forced to surrender only through the overwhelming force of their enemies. Every American should remember the sacrifice made by the heroes of Poland, whose bravery was tragically often rewarded with a concentration camp or a bullet in the head in a dark forest. They were the first of many innocent victims, almost too many to count.

On an occasion like this it is important to honor the past, remind the present of the sacrifice of those who came before, and warn the future that the world should never allow the initiation of such catastrophic events again.

In September 1939, authoritarian paranoia and violence won out over trust and humanity, and in the end the world burned. Seventy years later, Poland and its democratic neighbors work together in Brussels to build a better Europe. We remember the importance of that hard-won cooperation on this 70th anniversary.

As Americans, let us appreciate this achievement, help extend the cooperation, and continue to assist in the preservation of democratic ideals.

BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I wish to speak about a matter of great prominence to the people of my State. This past Friday, in Springfield, MA, Jerry Sloan and John Stockton were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved honor, and I wanted to take a few moments to congratulate them both.

As any fan of professional basketball can tell you, the Energy Solutions Arena in Salt Lake City is widely considered one of the most difficult places for visiting teams to play. Some have tried to blame this on the city's high elevation, but, if you have ever been to a game there, you know very well that it is because of the Jazz fans.

You see, due to its relatively small population, Utah has only one major sports franchise—the Jazz. And there were times when people thought that this small market would not be able to sustain even a single NBA team. But for more than two decades the Jazz have enjoyed one of the most loyal and supportive fan bases of any team in professional sports. This is due in no small part to the careers of both John Stockton and Jerry Sloan.

John Stockton grew up in Spokane, WA, and played basketball at both

Gonzaga Prep and Gonzaga University in his hometown. He was a relative unknown when he moved into the professional ranks, picked by the Jazz in the middle of the first round of the 1984 draft and initially relegated to a reserve role on the team. But after three seasons he became the full-time starter at the point guard position and went on to have one of the most prolific careers in basketball history.

Over the course of his career, he accumulated numerous honors. He was selected to play in the NBA All Star game 10 times. He played on the 1992 and 1996 Olympic teams—the first two Olympic squads to include professional players winning Gold Medals in both years. He was selected to the All-NBA First Team twice, the All-NBA Second Team six times, the All-NBA Third Team three times, and the NBA All-Defensive Second Team five times. In 1996, the NBA celebrated its 50th anniversary by selecting the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. Of course, John Stockton was honored on this list as well.

Though the accomplishment of winning an NBA championship eluded him, Stockton did lead the Jazz to two consecutive NBA Finals appearances in 1997 and 1998. John Stockton was immortalized in the first of those seasons when, in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals, he scored the last 9 points for the Jazz, including a last-second 3 pointer to send the Jazz to the Finals for the first time. This was probably the most memorable moment of Stockton's career and the history of the Jazz franchise and it is still replayed in montages of great sports moments.

It is impossible to talk about John Stockton without mentioning Karl Malone. Together, these two formed one of the game's legendary one-two punches. Together, they became the league's models of consistency, commitment, and success. The two played 18 seasons and an NBA record 1,412 regular-season games together as teammates. Due to their collaborative efforts, Malone finished his career as the second highest scorer in NBA history and Stockton holds the all time career assist record.

Let's talk about that assist record for a moment. In the 63-year history of the NBA, only 4 players have career assist totals of over 10,000. Stockton finished his career with 15,806 assists. Mark Jackson, No. 2 on the list, collected 10,334 assists—5,483 fewer than Stockton.

But, the raw numbers don't do this record justice. To put it in perspective, only 37 players have dished out 5,483 or more assists in their entire careers. Indeed, just getting that many assists over a whole career would put you in pretty elite company—and that is the difference between John Stockton's total and that of the guy who is next in line.

This record is among the truly unbreakable records in all of sports—and it isn't the only one held by John Stockton. He also holds the career record in steals, also by a considerable margin. He holds the NBA record for the most seasons and consecutive games played with one team and is third in total games played.

John Stockton's success on the floor was matched only by his consistency. He missed only 22 games during his career, 18 of them came in 1 season. In 17 of his 19 seasons in the NBA, he played in every single game. Overall, he played in 1,504 of 1,526 possible games. These are Lou Gehrig or Cal Ripken-type numbers.

Stockton will always be remembered for his no-nonsense approach to the game, his hard-nosed defense, his matchless work ethic, and his quiet, unassuming personality. His unflashy, fundamentally sound style of play earned him the respect of John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach, who once said that John Stockton was the only NBA player he would pay money to see.

Stockton retired in 2003 and returned home to Spokane. While other NBA greats have sought careers in broadcasting and coaching after their careers were over, so far, John has been content to stay at home with his family. This comes as no surprise to those who know him.

Guiding John through most of his NBA career, was coach Jerry Sloan, who, once again, is also being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sloan's careers as both a player and a coach have been characterized by his unyielding toughness and an unmatched drive to compete.

Jerry was born and raised in McLeansboro, IL, and played his college career at the University of Evansville. He played one season in the NBA for the Baltimore Bullets before being selected by the Chicago Bulls in the expansion draft. In fact, he was the team's first player, earning him the nickname ''The Original Bull.'' Sloan quickly became known for his tenacity on defense, and he led the expansion team to the playoffs in its first season.

He had an exceptional career as a player. He played in two All-Star Games, was named to the NBA All-Defensive First Team four times and the All-Defensive Second Team twice. He also led the Bulls to the playoffs on various occasions and helped them to win the franchise's only division title prior to the Michael Jordan era. After his playing career was cut short by knee injuries, the Bulls retired Sloan's No. 4 jersey, the first jersey retirement in the team's history.

Immediately after his retirement, he became part of the Bull's coaching staff, starting out as a scout, eventually working his way up to head coach, a position he held for three seasons. A few years later, he joined the Jazz coaching staff as an assistant to another Utah sports icon, Frank Layden. In 1988, when Layden's health forced him to retire, Jerry was named head coach of the Jazz, a position he has held ever since.

Coach Sloan just finished his 20th season as coach of the Jazz, a milestone that, in today's sports world, is almost unthinkable. Over the course of his Jazz tenure, literally hundreds of coaching changes have taken place throughout the NBA. In a league that has had a number of great coaches in its history, none have coached for the same team as long as Jerry Sloan.

This extends to other sports as well. Currently, Sloan is the longest-tenured coach in any major professional sport.

There are a number of reasons to explain his longevity. The most obvious is that he has been successful. He is currently fourth on the list for alltime coaching wins—though he holds the record for most wins with one team. In 17 out of the 20 seasons he's been in Utah, the Jazz have been in the playoffs, the only absences coming in transitional years after the departures of John Stockton and Karl Malone.

Another reason Sloan has been able to stick around is his consistent, no-nonsense approach to the game. Over time, teams have changed strategies to become flashier in order to cater to younger fans and the new era of players, many of whom have been self-centered prima donnas. Throughout that time, Coach Sloan has been a model of consistency, placing premiums on discipline and hard work among his players. The result has been a franchise that, for over two decades, has competed at a high level.

In many ways, Stockton and Sloan were alike, and their strengths complemented each other. Neither one will claim to have been able to be successful without the other.

Currently, there is a huge statue of John Stockton in front of the Energy Solutions arena alongside a statue of Karl Malone. Chances are, in 20 or 30 years when Jerry Sloan finally decides to hang it up, they will want to build a monument to him as well. Neither of these gentlemen would actively seek such limelight, but few are as deserving.

Once again, I would like to extend my congratulations to both John Stockton and Jerry Sloan for this great honor and to thank them for their contributions to the Utah community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING DICK RUSH

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, on behalf of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, I would like to congratulate Richard P. Rush on his retirement from the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce.

Dick will be leaving the State chamber next spring after serving as its president and chief executive officer for 24 years. Dick has made a positive contribution to the State of Oklahoma and has been characterized as ''the State's leading pro-business advocate.''

Dick's success is evident in both his internal administration of the State chamber and his work leading key probusiness campaigns which have made a positive impact on Oklahoma creating jobs and increasing business development.

Due to Dick's work, the State chamber now operates debt free. During his tenure, Dick has built the State chamber to over 2,000 members. He has been named Executive of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives and is already a member of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

Through leading key campaigns advocating new business opportunities and job creation such as Right-to-Work and tort reform, Dick has been credited with saving the business community in Oklahoma over $2 billion. In fact, the State chamber recently earned the Nation's highest honor from the American Tort Reform Association and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform. Just this year, the State chamber was awarded the ''The State Legislative Achievement Award'' by the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform and the first annual ''Gold Medal for the Best State Civil Justice Legislation'' by the American Tort Reform Association. Dick has also led international outreach serving as Executive in Charge of sister chamber work between the Oklahoma State Chamber and both the Gansu, China Provincial Chamber and the Liaoning, China Provincial Chamber. Dick was a presenter at the VI Hemispheric Sister Cities Forum in Iquique, Chile, and he is the recipient of the ''The George Nigh Global Trade Award.'' Dick's involvement in Oklahoma business development has been extensive.

Dick's success is due in part to his long history in chamber management. Before coming to Oklahoma, Dick worked in chambers throughout the country from California to Texas before coming to Oklahoma in 1986. His experience also extends internationally as Dick worked as a project adviser for the U.S. Chamber's Center for International Private Enterprise serving as a consultant to the National Chamber of Commerce of Zimbabwe, Africa.

Oklahomans can appreciate Dick's service to the Oklahoma State Chamber and the entire State of Oklahoma, and we wish him the very best in his retirement and all future endeavors.●

COMMENDING C. VIVIAN STRINGER

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise to extend my congratulations to C. Vivian Stringer for her induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. It is a proper tribute for such a distinguished and celebrated career. This is certainly an incredible honor which stands tall, even amongst her other considerable accolades.

The success that Vivian Stringer has achieved in her 38-year coaching career, including the last 14 at Rutgers University, speaks for itself: 825 victories; 30 seasons of 20 or more wins; 22 NCAA Tournament appearances; 4 Final Fours with 3 different programs; Olympic Gold as an assistant coach with the 2004 U.S. Women's Basketball team. Her commitment to excellence is unsurpassed and lauded by peers and supporters alike.

Most importantly, Vivian Stringer has served, above all else, as a teacher to each of her players. Her dedication to education beyond the court is clear, as her players traditionally graduate on par with their nonathlete classmates. The students who have walked into her program walk out of it as strong and dignified women, each ready to continue the legacy of achievement that Vivian Stringer has set before them, whatever the arena. Two years ago, Vivian Stringer's leadership was on display as the Lady Scarlet Knights, in the face of adversity and slander, served as shining examples of exceptional poise and grace.

This 2009 Hall of Fame Class is indeed one of the most distinguished in memory, and it is fitting that Vivian Stringer enters alongside other luminaries that share her caliber of achievement. I applaud Vivian Stringer's service to Rutgers University, the entire basketball community, and the great State of New Jersey. I wish her luck as she continues her career and in all of her other future endeavors.●

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.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty (Rept. No. 111–75).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2871. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of the authorization of (4) officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2872. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Employer Comparable Contributions under 4980G, and Requirement of Return for Filing of the Excise Tax under Section 4980B, 4980D, 4980E or 4980G'' ((RIN1545–BG71)(TD9457)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2873. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reasonable Good Faith Interpretation of Required Minimum Distribution Rules by Governmental Plans'' ((RIN1545–BH53)(TD9459)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2874. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification to Consolidated Return Regulation Permitting an Election to Treat a Liquidation of a Target, Followed by a Recontribution to a New Target, as a Cross-Chain Reorganization'' ((RIN1545–BI72)(TD9458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Single Insured—Reinsurance'' (Rev. Rul. 2009–26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2876. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Insurance E&P Project'' (Rev. Rul. 2009–25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2877. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Automatic Contribution Increases under Automatic Contribution Arrangements'' (Revenue Ruling 2009–30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2878. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Paid Time Off Contributions'' (Revenue Ruling 2009–31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2879. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Paid Time Off Contributions at Termination of Employment'' (Revenue Ruling 2009–32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–2880. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the

Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''ICE Futures Canada, Inc. 1256(g)(7)(C) Qualified Board or Exchange'' (Revenue Ruling 2009–24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2881. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Adding Automatic Enrollment to Section 401(k) Plans—Sample Amendments'' (Notice 2009—65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2882. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Automatic Enrollment in SIMPLE IRAs'' (Notice 2009–66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2883. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Adding Automatic Enrollment to SIMPLE IRA Plans—Sample Amendment'' (Notice 2009–67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2884. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safe Harbor Explanation—Eligible Rollover Distributions'' (Notice 2009–68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2885. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rollovers from Employer Plans to Roth IRAs'' (Notice 2009–75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 2886. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–164, ''Modifications to the Permanent System of Highways and Designation of Water Lily Lane, N.E., and Cassell Place, N.E., S.O. 07–3090, and Transfer of Jurisdiction of Portions of Parcel 170/27 and Parcel 170/28, Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2887. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–165, ''KIPP DC Douglass Property Tax Exemption Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2888. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–166, ''Closing of a Portion of the Public Alley in Square 2892, S .O. 08–6440, Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2889. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–167, ''Vending Regulation Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2890. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–168, ''Closing of a Public Alley in Square 5928, S.O. 08–4393, Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2891. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–169, ''University of the District of Columbia Expansion Temporary Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2892. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–170, ''Council Cable Autonomy and Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2893. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–171, ''Stimulus Accountability Temporary Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2894. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–179, ''District Land Disposition Amendment Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2895. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–180, ''District Land Disposition Temporary Amendment Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2896. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–185, ''New Convention Center Hotel Amendment Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2897. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–189, ''Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2009''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC – 2898. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances; Table of Excluded Nonnarcotic Products: Nasal Decongestant Inhalers Manufactured by Classic Pharmaceuticals LLC'' ((Docket Number DEA–3291)(RIN1117–AB23)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC – 2899. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (Amendment 90) and Gulf of Alaska Groundfish (Amendment 78); Limited Access Privilege Programs'' (RIN0648–AX25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2900. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Amendment 28'' (RIN0648–AW97) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2901. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery'' (RIN0648–AV77) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2902. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (Amendment 92) and the Gulf of Alaska'' License (Amendment 82) Limitation Program' (RIN0648–AX14) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2903. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Closure of the Primary Pacific Whiting Season for the Shore-Based Sector' (RIN0648–AQ39) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2904. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakut District of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ51) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2905. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish by Vessels Subject to Amendment 80 Sideboard Limits in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ52) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2906. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Restrictions and Observer Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2009–2011 and Turtle Mitigation Requirements in Purse Seine Fisheries'' (RIN0648–AX60) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC – 2907. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Revision of Single Geographic Location Requirement in the Bering Sea Subarea; Amendments 62/62'' (RIN0648–AR06) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2908. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish; Amendment 1'' (RIN0648–AS25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2909. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Experimental Permitting Process, Exempted Fishing Permits, and Scientific Research Activity'' (RIN0648–AR78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2910. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; Emergency Rule; Extension'' (RIN0648–AX61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2911. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Other Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 8, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2912. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shortraker Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ57) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2913. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish for Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Entry Level Rockfish Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ58) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2914. A communication from the Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Catcher Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XQ59) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2915. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries Off West Coast States; Highly Migratory Species Fisheries'' (RIN0648–AW50) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. JOHNSON:

S. 1664. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the appointment and grade of the Chief of the Army Medical Specialist Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1665. A bill to amend the Andean Trade Preference Act to add Paraguay and Uruguay to the list of countries that are eligible to be designated as beneficiary countries and ATPDEA beneficiary countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1666. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy certain conditions before issuing to producers of mid-level ethanol blends a waiver from certain requirements under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1667. A bill to provide for the development and coordinator of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand past, assess present, and predict future human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1668. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain active duty service in the reserve components as qualifying service for purposes of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 263. A resolution designating October 2009 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 264. A resolution designating the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building as the ''Kennedy Caucus Room''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 265. A resolution honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 229

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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 Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) 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. 518

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 524

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 524, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for the expedited consideration of certain proposed rescissions of budget authority.

S. 535

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) 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. 607

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

S. 795

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 795, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to provide for enhanced treatment, support, services, and research for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

S. 883

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) 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. 994

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase awareness of the risks of breast cancer in young women and provide support for young women diagnosed with breast cancer.

S. 1076

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to improve the accuracy of fur product labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 1244

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1244, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding by new mothers, to provide for a performance standard for breast pumps, and to provide tax incentives to encourage breastfeeding.

S. 1254

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1254, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1318, a bill to prohibit the use of stimulus funds for signage indicating that a project is being carried out using those funds.

S. 1340

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1340, a bill to establish a minimum funding level for programs under the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 for fiscal years 2010 to 2014 that ensures a reasonable growth in victim programs without jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to improve and expand the Peace Corps for the 21st century, and for other purposes.

S. 1402

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1402, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount allowed as a deduction for start-up expenditures.

S. 1490

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information.

S. 1492

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve awareness and access to colorectal cancer screening tests under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States to establish registered agents in the United States who are authorized to accept service of process against such manufacturers, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 16, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to parental rights.

S. RES. 242

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 242, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Aerospace Day''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2355

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr.

WICKER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2355 proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. HATCH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2355 proposed to H.R. 3288, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 2356

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2356 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2361

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2361 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3288, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1666. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy certain conditions before issuing to producers of mid-level ethanol blends a waiver from certain requirements under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today along with Senators CARDIN, WHITEHOUSE, and LANDRIEU I am introducing legislation that requires the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to satisfy three conditions before granting a waiver from the Clean Air Act of 1970 to producers of mid-level blends of ethanol. These are fuels that contain more than ten percent ethanol that are destined for use in engines originally designed to work with just gasoline.

While I believe that expanding our capacity to generate and use renewable energy is an important step toward becoming energy independent, I have serious concerns about the impact of ethanol on engines and fuel efficiency. Ethanol blends are more corrosive than gasoline and can cause failure in small and older engines, such as boat engines.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act required that renewable fuels be introduced into our fuel supply to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In 2007, that Renewable Fuel Standard was updated to require that by the year 2022 we introduce annually a minimum of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel into our fuel supply.

The first, easiest route to satisfying the renewable fuel mandate was through blending ethanol, chiefly derived from corn, into gasoline at a level of 10 percent by volume, resulting in a gasoline known as ''E10.'' Due to its high oxygen content, this fuel requires a Clean Air Act waiver, which EPA first granted in 1978. Today, in many areas of the country, people only have E10 as a choice at the pump. This includes my constituents in Maine. While the most modern engines have been designed to work with E10, older engines have well-documented difficulties using this fuel. I am very concerned that they will have even greater problems using ethanol fuel blends with even higher levels of ethanol.

E10 was introduced into Maine in 2008 and now it is the only fuel choice in the State. E10 has caused problems for some of my constituents. One topped off his gas tanks before heading to sea but, two miles out, the boat stopped. He later discovered that his tanks were topped off with E10 that destroyed his boat's fuel lines and caused fuel filters and carburetors to clog. He eventually had to tear up the boat deck and replace the fuel tanks at a cost of thousands of dollars.

In March 2009, manufacturers of mid-level ethanol blends containing as much as 15 percent of ethanol by volume, termed E15, petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to also grant this new fuel a waiver from the Clean Air Act. Many organizations share my concern about this development and are demanding that the performance of E15 in the current fleet of engines be thoroughly investigated before the new fuel can be introduced into commerce.

In June, 21 Senators wrote to the administrator of the EPA urging her to ensure that independent and comprehensive testing of any ethanol blend fuel with greater than 10 percent ethanol was completed prior to any waiver from current EPA guidance as required under the Clean Air Act. The response on July 20 was that a decision to grant a waiver for the new fuel rests entirely on the demonstration that the new fuel will not cause or contribute to the failure of vehicles or engines to meet emission standards. This is not adequate to alleviate my concerns about older and non-road engines.

Thus, today I am introducing the Mid-Level Ethanol Blends bill. This bill requires that the EPA Science Advisory Board carefully evaluate the body of evidence presented about E15's performance in the current inventory of engines and report back to the Administrator before any waiver is granted. The report would indicate whether or not a sufficient body of evidence exists to support a decision to grant a waiver, which is hotly contested between supporters of E15 and those who caution against introducing the fuel into the market now. Automobile manufacturers who warranty their products to perform with E10 are justifiably concerned about whether they will be able to extend the warranty to users of E15 without putting themselves at significant economic risk. They will require significant testing of all engine and emission systems before accepting such risks.

The Science Advisory Board also would report on the ability of the wholesale and retail gasoline fuel infrastructure to introduce an E15 fuel into commerce without consumer confusion or misfueling. The Science Advisory Board also would estimate whether consumers throughout the country will be able to purchase gasoline other than E15 immediately and for five years after the introduction of the new blend. This will provide the Administrator with information about potential difficulties faced by many millions of vehicle, boat, and small-engine devices, for example, lawnmowers, chainsaws, weed trimmers, snowmobiles, that have engines whose performance could be compromised were they unable to use any fuel other than E15.

Once the Science Advisory Board report is released and the public has an opportunity to comment on the Board's findings, should the administrator decide to grant a waiver, this bill requires that the administrator formally respond to the recommendations of the Science Advisory Board in the waiver announcement. The administrator can only issue a waiver if the findings are that it will not adversely conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and nonroad engines in widespread use as of the date the new fuel is introduced.

There are over 200 million engines in the U.S. today that could conceivably be damaged by the introduction of new fuel blends containing higher amounts of ethanol. Should this occur, it would result in significant hardship to millions of Americans. We simply cannot place so many people in jeopardy through precipitous actions. Any introduction of a new fuel must be done carefully with ample time for testing.

As we pursue strategies to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, we must also take action to insure that ethanol fuel blends are safe and efficient for current engines. I urge my colleagues to join me, Senator CARDIN, and the coalition of organizations endorsing this legislation, and ensure that the ramifications of introducing mid-level ethanol blends into commerce are thoroughly understood before they are granted a waiver from the Clear Air Act.

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. 1666

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

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER ETHANOL BLENDS INTO COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) MID-LEVEL ETHANOL BLEND.—The term ''mid-level ethanol blend'' means an ethanol-gasoline blend containing greater than 10 percent ethanol by volume that is intended to be used in any conventional gasoline-powered onroad or nonroad vehicle or engine.

(3) WIDESPREAD USE.—The term ''widespread use'', with respect to the use of a particular fuel, system, or component in an onroad or nonroad vehicle or nonroad engine, has such meaning as is given the term by the Administrator in accordance with the determination of the Administrator under section 202(a)(6) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521(a)(6)).

(b) INTRODUCTION OF HIGHER ETHANOL BLENDS INTO COMMERCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may permit or authorize the introduction into commerce of a mid-level ethanol blend for use in conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and nonroad engines only if—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Science Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency, after opportunity for public comment and an analysis of available independent scientific evidence, submits to the Administrator, and the Administrator provides for notice and a public comment for a period of not less than 30 days on, a report that describes (and, with respect to the matters described in subparagraph (A), provides recommendations on mitigating)—

(A)(i) the impact of the mid-level ethanol blend on engine performance of conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and nonroad engines;

(ii) emissions from the use of the blend; and

(iii) materials compatibility and consumer safety issues associated with the use of those blends (including the identification of insufficient data or information for some or all of those vehicles and engines with respect to each of issues described in this clause and clauses (i) and (ii));

(B) the ability of wholesale and retail gasoline distribution infrastructure, including bulk storage, retail storage configurations, and retail equipment (including certification of equipment compatibility by independent organizations), to introduce the mid-level ethanol blend into commerce without widespread intentional or unintentional misfueling by consumers; and

(C) the estimated ability of consumers, determined through separate reviews of populations in rural areas and of areas with populations greater than 50,000 individuals, to purchase gasoline other than that mid-level ethanol blend—

(i) in metropolitan areas having populations greater than 50,000 individuals throughout the United States; and

(ii) in all areas of the United States, by the date that is 5 years after the mid-level ethanol blend is introduced into commerce;

(2)(A) the permit or authorization is granted through the fuels and fuel additives waiver process under section 211(f)(4) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545(f)(4)) after the close of the public comment period on the report required under paragraph (1); and

(B) the Administrator formally responds to the recommendations of the Science Advisory Board in the waiver announcement; and

(3) the mid-level ethanol blend is introduced into commerce for general use in all conventional gasoline-powered onroad and nonroad vehicles and nonroad engines in widespread use as of the date on which the Administrator authorizes that introduction.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1667. A bill to provide for the development and coordinator of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand past, assess present, and predict future human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a bill to authorize funding for abrupt climate change research. I am pleased to be joined on this bill by Senator CANTWELL as lead cosponsor and by our colleagues, Senators SNOWE, KERRY, and GILLIBRAND.

Abrupt climate change is defined as a large-scale change in the climate system that takes place over a few decades or less, persists, or is anticipated to persist, for at least a few decades, and causes substantial disruptions in human and natural systems.

Our bill authorizes $10 million per year for the next 6 years for a comprehensive and integrated competitive, peer-reviewed, research program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to understand, assess, and predict abrupt climate change.

Abrupt climate change is not necessarily a result of increased amounts of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. It can be caused by natural phenomena, such massive volcanic eruptions, or natural climate variability.

However it comes about, abrupt climate change can pose significant risks and challenges to our society. For us to uphold our responsibility as stewards of the Nation's environmental and economic security, it is crucial that we better understand abrupt climate change so that we can recognize it early and respond to it effectively.

Understanding and predicting climate change are enormous scientific challenges. The challenges are made even more difficult with the recognition that the climate system is capable of dramatic and abrupt changes. Past global temperatures have swung as much as 20 degrees fahrenheit within a decade, accompanied by drought in some places and catastrophic floods in others. An abrupt climate change triggered by the ongoing buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would also likely result in the redistribution of atmospheric moisture and rainfall, with substantial impact on the world's food supplies. Unfortunately, we have no satisfactory understanding of what triggers abrupt climate changes.

The National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Climate Change Science Program have identified abrupt climate change as a key priority for additional research. The National Academy of Sciences stated that ''Large, abrupt climate changes have repeatedly affected much or all of the Earth.'' Furthermore, the Academy went on to state that ''abrupt climate changes are not only possible but likely in the future, potentially with large impacts on ecosystems and societies,'' and noted that we're not doing nearly enough to identify the threat of abrupt climate change. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program last reported to the President and Congress on abrupt climate change in December 2008. The overarching recommendation of this report is the urgent need for committed and sustained monitoring of components of the climate system particularly vulnerable to abrupt climate change. Our bill provides a framework and funds for the U.S. to better understand and address abrupt climate change.

One reason this funding is so urgent is that we are rapidly losing one of the greatest sources of information: ice cores from glaciers. The University of Maine's Climate Change Institute has one of the best abrupt climate change research programs in the world. The Climate Change Institute uses ice cores from glaciers and ice sheets around the world to make discoveries that change the way we think about climate change. Unfortunately, numerous glaciers around the world are melting, and when they go, we lose the very record that has given us so much of this critical climatic history.

I have had several opportunities to see how scientists are able to use glaciers and ice sheets to understand climate change. In 2006, I joined Senators MCCAIN and SUNUNU in traveling to the South Pole to see groundbreaking research taking place on ice more than 2 miles deep. Along the way we toured some of the University of Maine research sites in New Zealand with distinguished Professor George Denton, who was the first scientist from the University of Maine to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences. According to Professor Denton, 50 percent of the glaciers in New Zealand have melted since 1860, and this melting is unprecedented in the last 5,000 years. We stood with the professor on sites that had been buried by massive glaciers at the beginning of the 20th century, but are now ice free.

I also traveled with Senators MCCAIN, SUNUNU, and others to Ny-Alesund, the northernmost community in the world. The scientists we met with told us that the global climate is changing more rapidly now than at any time since the beginning of civilization. They further stated that the region of the globe changing most rapidly is the Arctic. The changes are remarkable and disturbing.

In the last 30 years, the Arctic has lost sea-ice cover over an area 10 times as large as the State of Maine. In the summer, the change is even more dramatic, with twice as much ice loss. The ice that remains is as much as 40 percent thinner than it was just a few decades ago. In Ny-Alesund, Senator MCCAIN and I witnessed massive blocks of ice falling off glaciers that had already retreated well back from the shores where they once rested.

The melting of glaciers and sea ice, the thawing of permafrost, and the increases in sea levels resulting from warming are already beginning to cause environmental, social, and economic changes. If these changes were to be compounded with an abrupt climate change on the scale seen in our climatic history, the result could be devastating.

Mr. President, this measure has passed the Senate many times, as part of the 2001, 2003, and 2007 energy bills. I hope this is the year that we finally pass this important provision into law. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1667

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 ''Abrupt Climate Change Research Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''abrupt climate change'' means a change in the climate that occurs so rapidly or unexpectedly that human or natural systems have difficulty adapting to the climate as changed.

SEC. 3. ABRUPT CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and carry out, a program of extramural awards, made on a peer-reviewed and competitive basis, to conduct scientific research on abrupt climate change.

(b) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the program established under subsection (a) shall be as follows:

(1) To develop a global array of terrestrial and oceanographic indicators of paleoclimate in order to sufficiently identify and describe past instances of abrupt climate change.

(2) To improve understanding of thresholds and nonlinearities in geophysical systems related to the mechanisms of abrupt climate change.

(3) To incorporate such mechanisms into advanced geophysical models of climate change.

(4) To test the simulation of climate change by such models against an improved global array of records of past abrupt climate changes.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2016, $10,000,000 to carry out the research program established under section 3(a).

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 263—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2009 AS ''NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 263

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines are extremely safe, effective, and potentially lifesaving when used properly;

Whereas the abuse and recreational use of over-the-counter and prescription medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas during a recently sampled month, approximately 7,000,000 individuals 12 years of age and older reported using prescription psychotherapeutic medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives are second only to marijuana as the most abused drug in the United States;

Whereas recent studies indicate that 2,500,000 children between 12 and 17 years of age, or 1 out of every 10 children, have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high from the ingredient dextromethorphan;

Whereas 4,700,000 young adults, or 1 out of every 5 young men and women, have used prescription medicines for non-medical purposes;

Whereas in 2008, the National Institute on Drug Abuse estimated that the rates for intentional abuse of cough medicine among eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders stood at 3.6 percent, 5.3 percent, and 5.5 percent, respectively;

Whereas according to research from the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, more than ⅓rd of teenagers mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teenagers and parents of the potential harms of these powerful medicines makes it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of their abuse;

Whereas when prescription drugs are abused, they are most often obtained through friends and relatives, but can also be obtained through rogue internet pharmacies;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teenagers access to websites that promote abuse of medicines;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that taking over-the-counter and prescription medicines for recreational use or in large doses can have serious and life-threatening consequences;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month will encourage parents to educate themselves about this problem and talk to their children about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the rising abuse of medicines;

Whereas educational toolkits and training methods have been developed on how to best engage and educate parents and grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors and health care professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention is a critical component of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb the disturbing rise in medicine abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2009 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month''; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit a resolution designating the month of October, 2009 as the National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month. The abuse of prescription drugs and cold medicine is currently the fastest growing drug abuse trend in the country. According to the most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health, NSDUH, nearly 7 million people have admitted to using controlled substances without a doctor's prescription. People between the ages of 12 and 25 are the most common group to abuse these drugs. However, more and more people are dying because of this abuse. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the unintentional deaths involving prescription narcotics increased 117 percent from the years 2001 to 2005.

Abuse of over-the-counter, OTC, cough and cold medicines is also alarming. While these common cold medicines are safe and effective if used properly, the abuse of these medicines can also be destructive. According to a study conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, nearly one in ten young people between the ages of 12 and 17 have intentionally abused cough medicine to get high off its main ingredient Dextromethorphan. These are statistics that can no longer be ignored.

Millions of Americans use these medicines every year to treat a variety of symptoms due to injury, depression, insomnia, and the effects of the common cold. Many legitimate users of these drugs often do not use as much medication as the prescription contains. As a result, these drugs remain in the family medicine cabinet for months or years because people forget about them or do not know how to properly dispose of them. However, many of these drugs, when not properly used or administered, are just as addictive and deadly as street drugs like methamphetamine or cocaine.

According to the NSDUH, more than half of the people who abuse these drugs reported that they obtained OTC and prescription drugs from a friend or relative or from the family medicine cabinet. As a result, groups like the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, and the Partnership for a Drug-Free America have been reaching out to communities

throughout the nation to raise awareness of this growing drug abuse trend and encourage communities to tackle the problem head on. Many community anti-drug coalitions, public health officials, and law enforcement officials have been holding town halls, organizing community ''clean out your medicine cabinet'' events, and holding many other events to raise awareness of this growing abuse in an effort to reverse this trend.

We can stop the growing trend of medicine abuse in its tracks, but it will require all sectors of the community to join together to make it happen. The National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month Resolution promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines must be taken as directed, and when used recreationally or in large doses they can have serious and deadly consequences. This resolution will help remind parents that access to drugs that are abused doesn't just happen in alleys and on the streets, but can often occur right in the home. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 264—DESIGNATING THE CAUCUS ROOM OF THE RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING AS THE ''KENNEDY CAUCUS ROOM''

Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 264

Whereas, during the last century, few rooms have borne witness to as much history as the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building;

Whereas, during the last century, few families have played as integral a role in the history of the United States as has the Kennedy family;

Whereas the Senate mourns the passing of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, one of the most accomplished, effective, and beloved Senators of all time;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy played a role in every major national debate during the last 50 years, serving as a constant champion of the disadvantaged and overlooked;

Whereas the legacy of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy includes not only his prolific achievements on behalf of the people of the United States, but the enduring friendships he formed with colleagues on both sides of the aisle;

Whereas the wit and passion of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy and his perseverance in the face of adversity will be remembered in equal measure to his impressive legislative and rhetorical skills;

Whereas Senator Edward Moore Kennedy was part of a proud family tradition of public service, which included 2 other distinguished Senators;

Whereas never before have 3 brothers served in the Senate, and rarely have any 3 brothers served the United States so well;

Whereas John Fitzgerald Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate, before being elected the 35th President of the United States;

Whereas Robert Francis Kennedy served the people of New York with distinction in the Senate, after serving as the 64th Attorney General;

Whereas Edward Moore Kennedy served the people of Massachusetts with distinction in the Senate for nearly half a century, acting as a tireless advocate for those who might otherwise have been without an advocate;

Whereas the Senate has been greatly enriched by the dedication, compassion, and talent of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators;

Whereas, in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building, the people of the United States have commemorated tragedy, celebrated triumph, and held hearings of great importance on the most important issues facing the Nation;

Whereas it was in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building that both Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Senator Robert Francis Kennedy announced their intention to run for the office of the President of the United States;

Whereas a spirit of passionate advocacy and deep respect for the institution of the Senate should govern the deliberations that take place in the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building; and

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the life and work of Senator Edward Moore Kennedy, to recognize the contributions of the 3 Kennedy brothers who served as Senators, and to celebrate the spirit of public service exemplified by the Kennedy family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building, commonly referred to as the ''Caucus Room'', as the ''Kennedy Caucus Room'', in recognition of the service to the Senate and the people of the United States of Senators Edward Moore Kennedy, Robert Francis Kennedy, and John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 265—HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES WHILE BATTLING THE STATION FIRE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IN AUGUST 2009

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN), submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 265

Whereas in late August 2009, the Angeles National Forest and neighboring communities north of Los Angeles, California were engulfed by an intense wildfire, which came to be known as the ''Station Fire'';

Whereas the Station Fire, ignited by arson on August 26, 2009, burned more than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including more than 160 structures and homes;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire was the 10th largest wildfire in modern California history, and the largest wildfire in the modern history of Los Angeles County;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continued to threaten 12,000 structures in the National Forest and nearby communities such as Acton, Altadena, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littlerock, Sunland, and Tujunga;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel and 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders were deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund D. ''Ted'' Hall, aged 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo ''Arnie'' Quinones, aged 34, lost their lives in the line of duty fighting the Station Fire;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1981;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall served the city of Lakewood, the city of Whittier, the city of La Puente, and the Department's command and control team;

Whereas in January 2001, Tedmund D. Hall was promoted to fire captain;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall is survived by his wife, Katherine, sons Randall and Steven, and parents, Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall;

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on August 6, 1998;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Arnaldo Quinones served the city of Palmdale, the city of Covina, and the city of La Cañada Flintridge;

Whereas in December 2005, Arnaldo Quinones was promoted to firefighter specialist; and

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones is survived by his wife, Loressa, who is expecting their first child, and his mother Sonia Quinones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families, fellow firefighters, and friends of Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones;

(2) recognizes the noble and brave service that firefighters provide to every community in the United States; and

(3) honors Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones for the sacrifices they made in giving their lives to protect Californians from the Station Fire.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2362. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2363. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2364. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2365. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2366. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2367. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2368. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2369. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2362. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 318, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 234. Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) identifies programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that directly support the activities of community-based organizations that carry out housing and community development activities in areas for which the President has declared a major disaster, as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), as a result of Hurricane Katrina of 2005, Hurricane Rita of 2005, Hurricane Gustav of 2008, or Hurricane Ike of 2008 (referred to in this section as ''hurricane disaster areas''), including—

(A) programs under section 4 of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note);

(B) the program under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note);

(C) programs of the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development of the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(D) programs of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (commonly referred to as ''NeighborWorks America'');

(E) the community services block grant program under the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.);

(F) the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); and

(G) the HOME investment partnership program under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.);

(2) contains, for each of the programs identified under paragraph (1), the total amount of funds expended by each program in hurricane disaster areas—

(A) during each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009;

(B) in each State; and

(C) in each county or parish;

(3) contains the total number of nonprofit organizations that—

(A) primarily serve hurricane disaster areas; and

(B) received a direct benefit from a program identified under paragraph (1) on or after August 28, 2005;

(4) to the extent practicable, contains—

(A) the total number of jobs created by the nonprofit organizations described in paragraph (3) using funds provided by programs described in paragraph (1); and

(B) the total number of units of housing constructed or redeveloped by the nonprofit organizations described in paragraph (3) using funds provided by programs described in paragraph (1);

(5) identifies any hurricane disaster area that is underserved by the programs identified under paragraph (1); and

(6) contains recommendations for improvements to the programs identified under paragraph (1) that would benefit areas affected by natural or man-made disaster.

SA 2363. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 268, line 17, strike ''$85,000,000'' and insert ''$88,000,000''.

On page 268, line 23, strike ''$50,000,000'' and insert ''$53,000,000''.

SA 2364. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 318, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 234. The matter under the heading ''COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', under the heading ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT'', under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'' in chapter 10 of title I of division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110–329; 122 Stat. 3601) is amended by striking '': *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used by a State or locality as a matching requirement, share, or contribution for any other Federal program''.

SA 2365. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 318, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. 234. The matter under the heading ''COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND'', under the heading ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT'', under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'' in chapter 10 of title I of division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110–329; 122 Stat. 3601) is amended by striking '': *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used by a State or locality as a matching requirement, share, or contribution for any other Federal program''.

SA 2366. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. (a) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, amounts made available in this Act for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) shall immediately cease to be available if Amtrak prohibits the secure transportation of firearms on passenger trains.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''secure transportation of firearms'' means—

(1) if an Amtrak station accepts checked baggage for a specific Amtrak route, Amtrak passengers holding a ticket for such route are allowed to place an unloaded firearm or starter pistol in a checked bag on such route if—

(A) before checking the bag or boarding the train, the passenger declares to Amtrak, either orally or in writing, that the firearm is in his or her bag and is unloaded;

(B) the firearm is carried in a hard-sided container;

(C) such container is locked; and

(D) only the passenger has the key or combination for such container; and

(2) Amtrak passengers are allowed to place small arms ammunition for personal use in a checked bag on an Amtrak route if the ammunition is securely packed—

(A) in fiber, wood, or metal boxes; or

(B) in other packaging specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition.

SA 2367. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of

Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 194, after line 23, add the following:

SEC. 132. (a) The project description in item 3730 under section 1702 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109–59) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''(to include the Montgomery Outer Loop)''.

(b) The project description in item 16 under section 1934(c) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (Public Law 109–59) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''(to include the Montgomery Outer Loop)''.

SA 2368. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 215, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 156. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Program under title I of division I of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 935) and directed to ''Phase 3 Rail Rehabilitation in Redwood Falls, MN'' in the explanatory statement appearing on page H2472 of the Congressional Record shall be available for obligation and expenditure for ''Minnesota Valley Regional Rail Authority, MN.''.

SA 2369. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 223, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

SEC. 172. (a) Title I of Public Law 106–346 is amended, under the heading ''Capital Investment Grants'', by inserting ''and Manchester'' after ''Nashua''.

(b) Title I of Public Law 107–87 is amended, under the heading ''Capital Investment Grants'', by inserting ''and Manchester'' after ''Nashua''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 September 14, 2009, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Cyber Attacks: Protecting Industry Against Growing Threats.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 258 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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. 258) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 258

Whereas La Crosse is located on the western border of middle-Wisconsin, on the east side of the Mississippi River;

Whereas the first Europeans to see the site of La Crosse were French fur traders who traveled the Mississippi River in the late 17th century;

Whereas La Crosse was incorporated as a city in 1856;

Whereas Thomas Morris sponsored a bill in the Wisconsin State Senate that led to the creation of the current-day University of Wisconsin-La Crosse;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse was founded in 1909 as the La Crosse State Normal School for the purpose of teacher preparation;

Whereas the philosophy of Fassett A. Cotton, the university's first president, was to train the whole person;

Whereas ''mens corpusque'', Latin for ''mind and body'', is the motto on the university seal;

Whereas the college changed its name to Wisconsin State College-La Crosse in 1951 when the Wisconsin State teachers colleges began awarding baccalaureate degrees in liberal arts;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse offers 88 undergraduate programs in 44 disciplines and 26 graduate programs;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1959, the same year that presidential candidate John F. Kennedy visited the campus and spoke to the student body in Graff Main Hall auditorium;

Whereas U.S. News & World Report ranked the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse second among midwestern public universities offering bachelor's and master's degrees;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse men's athletic teams adopted the nickname ''Eagles'' in the fall of 1989, and the women's teams adopted that nickname a year later;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse athletic teams have won 59 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III titles in 9 different sports; and

Whereas 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; and

(2) commends the university for its status as a leading public university that excels in academics, athletics, and quality of life for students.

HONORING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 265, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 265

Whereas in late August 2009, the Angeles National Forest and neighboring communities north of Los Angeles, California were engulfed by an intense wildfire, which came to be known as the ''Station Fire'';

Whereas the Station Fire, ignited by arson on August 26, 2009, burned more than 160,000 acres of public lands and private property in Los Angeles County and the Angeles National Forest, including more than 160 structures and homes;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire was the 10th largest wildfire in modern California history, and the largest wildfire in the modern history of Los Angeles County;

Whereas as of September 9, 2009, the Station Fire continued to threaten 12,000 structures in the National Forest and nearby communities such as Acton, Altadena, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Pasadena, Littlerock, Sunland, and Tujunga;

Whereas more than 8,000 fire personnel and 800 fire engines and approximately 40 helicopters, 13 fixed winged aircraft, and 88 water tenders were deployed statewide to assist with firefighting efforts;

Whereas the extraordinary effort made by firefighters throughout the region contributed to the preservation of the historic Mount Wilson Observatory, a national landmark for astronomical research;

Whereas Fire Captain Tedmund D. ''Ted'' Hall, aged 47, and Firefighter Specialist Arnaldo ''Arnie'' Quinones, aged 34, lost their lives in the line of duty fighting the Station Fire;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on April 22, 1981;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Tedmund D. Hall served the city of Lakewood, the city of Whittier, the city of La Puente, and the Department's command and control team;

Whereas in January 2001, Tedmund D. Hall was promoted to fire captain;

Whereas Tedmund D. Hall is survived by his wife, Katherine, sons Randall and Steven, and parents, Roland Ray and Donna Marie Hall;

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department on August 6, 1998;

Whereas during his time in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Arnaldo Quinones served the city of Palmdale, the city of Covina, and the city of La Cañada Flintridge;

Whereas in December 2005, Arnaldo Quinones was promoted to firefighter specialist; and

Whereas Arnaldo Quinones is survived by his wife, Loressa, who is expecting their first child, and his mother Sonia Quinones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families, fellow firefighters, and friends of Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones;

(2) recognizes the noble and brave service that firefighters provide to every community in the United States; and

(3) honors Tedmund D. Hall and Arnaldo Quinones for the sacrifices they made in giving their lives to protect Californians from the Station Fire.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, September 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 153, H.R. 3288, Transportation HUD appropriations; and finally, I ask the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

ERIC L. HIRSCHHORN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR EXPORT ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARIO MANCUSO, RESIGNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BARBARA J. BENNETT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE LYONS GRAY, RESIGNED.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

BARBARA SHORT HASKEW, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2014, VICE DONALD R. DEPRIEST, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY L. BLEICH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO AUSTRALIA.

LESLIE V. ROWE, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER—COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE.

MICHAEL W. PUNKE, OF MONTANA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE PETER F. ALLGEIER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LAURIE O. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JEFFREY LEIGH SEDGWICK, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

BARBARA MILANO KEENAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. EMORY WIDENER, JR., RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID J. CONBOY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. JAMES V. YOUNG, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. IVAN N. BLACK

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, MARINE FORCES RESERVE, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5144:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN F. KELLY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) GREGORY J. SMITH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

THOMAS M. ANDERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RICKY B. REAVES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

JOSE R. PEREZTORRES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

LOYD A. GRAHAM
JOHN T. LINNETT
NINO A. VIDIC

To be major

VIRGINIA L. HAYS
KRISTINE R. SAUNDERS
BRETT A. SESHUL
CHRISTINE E. STAHL

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SONNIE D. DEYAMPERT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

DOUGLAS LOUGEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, CHAPLAINS, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

JAMES PEAK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR ARMY APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOYVETTA LEWIS
DARRIN W. OLINGER

To be major

JOSEPH C. GUIDO
JEFFREY M. HUSTON
STUART A. LUTTRELL
JAE H. OH
LEONARDO D. REEDER
JAMES D. RYE
STEVEN A. SABO
AARON J. WIGGINS
CHRIS A. WOODY
WILLIAM A. WYMAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 5582:

To be lieutenant commander

BRIAN J. ELLIS
MARY B. POHANKA
GREGORY W. SAYBOLT
MATTHEW L. TUCKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

ANTHONY T. COWDEN
JAMES P. MURRAY
PHILIP E. OLD

To be commander

MAURICE A. FISCHER
CYNTHIA S. SIKORSKI

To be lieutenant commander

JAMES L. BARR
STEVEN A. DILIBERTO
MILL ETIENNE
KHOA H. NGUYEN
STEPHEN T. PADHI
SEAN T. RICKS
JARED E. SCOTT

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SGT RICHARD F. CANNON

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor a WWII Veteran, SGT Richard F. Cannon. Sergeant Cannon recently passed away at the age of 84. A true patriot, Sergeant Cannon played an instrumental role in ending WWII. Sergeant Cannon was a member of U.S. Army Air Forces and was part of the mission that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Sergeant Cannon graduated from Bennett High School and earned a degree in accounting from Canisius College in 1950. During World War II, he served in the Army Air Forces as a radar operator, attaining the rank of Sergeant. As part of the 509th Composite Group, Sergeant Cannon normally flew aboard a B–29 named Necessary Evil. His crew was reassigned to the Big Stink, a B–29 Superfortress, to provide camera support to the Bockscar, a B–29 bomber, as it dropped the A-bomb on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945.

After the war, Sergeant Cannon returned to Buffalo and started a food broker company, the R.F. Cannon Company, which he ran until his retirement in 2000. He was president of Buffalo Food Brokers Association and served as commissioner of Williamsville Junior Football for 8 years. He was also the president of the North Forest Civic Association.

Mr. Cannon is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, the former Marion Dauphinee; two daughters, Kathleen Lane and Maureen Chiofalo; four sons, Richard Jr., Timothy, Kevin and Gregory; one sister, Annette Marmion; and 17 grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in recognition this brave patriot, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of SGT Richard F. Cannon.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHEAST TIMES

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Northeast Times for 75 years of community journalism. From its modest beginnings, The Northeast Times has served as an important chronicle for the people of Philadelphia's Northeast neighborhoods, providing them with a forum for information and dialogue on critical issues and fostering a sense of local history, community pride, and citizen empowerment.

In 1934, Temple University journalism student, Richard Thorpe Lawson, launched the Mayfair Times. With just a handful of pages in each issue, the paper covered local news and was supported by advertising from mom and pop stores in the area. Lawson eventually expanded his staff, purchased better printing equipment, and moved into a building on Frankford Avenue. The newspaper expanded to cover additional neighborhoods in the Northeast, including Frankford, Tacony, and Holmesburg.

After Richard Lawson's death in 1961, his wife Eleanor Smylie succeeded him in the business, expanding to almost 100 employees. She computerized operations, changed the publication's name to The Northeast Times, and updated the format to a smaller tabloid size. In time, Eleanor's children, Robert and Tim, became responsible for publishing and advertising sales. The Northeast Times continued to grow in the 1980's and 1990's, expanding throughout the Northeast and extending into some suburban neighborhoods in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

The Northeast Times continues to inform and give voice to the people, businesses, and community organizations of the Philadelphia's great Northeast on significant issues, as it has since 1934. Both the local coverage and opportunity for civic participation provided by The Northeast Times builds and maintains communities. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this milestone 75th year and recognizing the critical role played by The Northeast Times in our city.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources
Requesting Entity: North Central Montana Regional Water Authority, 48 Second Avenue, Suite 202, Havre, MT 59501
Description: Ultimately, the project will deliver water to roughly 30,000 Montanans living in a large, roughly rectangular region of Montana that is about 150 miles east to west and 70 miles north to south. Part of the Project includes providing infrastructure to pipe water to the Rocky Boy's Reservation. The Authority conducted public hearings for each of its member entities. In total over forty-five public hearing were held. Based on this outreach, all the member entities reaffirmed their participation in the Authority. They include: Town of Big Sandy, Brady County Water & Sewer District, Town of Chester, City of Conrad, City of Cut Bank, Devon Water Inc., Town of Dutton, Galata County Water District, Hill County Water District (includes the communities of Kremlin, Gildford, Hingham, Rudyard, Inverness, Joplin), City of Havre, Town of Kevin, Loma County Water District, North Havre County Water District, Oilmont County Water District, Sage Creek County Water District, City of Shelby, South Chester County Water District, Town of Sunburst, Sweetgrass Community Water District, Tiber County Water District.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources
Requesting Entity: Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and Dry Prairie Rural Water, P.O. Box 1027, Poplar, MT 59255
Description: FY 2010 funds will be used by the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes to complete the regional water treatment plant, intake and extend the main transmission pipelines to Poplar and Wolf Point. When water reaches Poplar, it will serve the third largest community in the project and replace existing water supplies, threatened by Brine Plume contamination, with Missouri River water treated to national drinking water standards. Dry Prairie will build distribution system in Valley County pursuant to a recently completed agreement with Boeing to use its water system at St. Marie until the regional water treatment plant and main transmission line reaches Valley County. This will improve water supplies for about 200 rural users and the Town of Nashua.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources
Requesting Entity: Saint Mary Rehabilitation Working Group, 74 Fourth Street N, Glasgow, MT 59230
Description: This project initiates the rehabilitation and construction of the St. Mary Diversion & Conveyance Works in Glacier County MT, identified in Section 5103 of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act (P.L. 110–114). This funding would be used to rehabilitate the aging St. Mary Diversion and Conveyance Works before the system suffers a catastrophic failure.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG
Bill Number: H.R. 3183
Account: Department of Energy—Fossil Energy R&D
Requesting Entity: Center for Zero Emissions Research and Technology, Montana State University–Bozeman, 207 Montana Hall, Bozeman, MT 59717
Description: The U.S.'s heavy reliance on foreign energy sources is an obvious national security issue that could be ameliorated if our ample national coal reserves could be used with a less damaging effect on the environment. U.S. coal reserves are projected to be capable of providing more than 200 years of the nation's energy needs, but current technologies do not sufficiently reduce or eliminate

greenhouse gases and their impact on the environments. The Center for Zero Emissions Research and Technology focuses on developing and validating zero emission technologies for clean energy production from fossil fuels. This would provide an economic benefit in coal and power producing states, reduce reliance on foreign energy sources, and contribute to a better environment.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Requesting Entity: Flathead Electric Cooperative, 2510 U.S. Highway 2 East, Kalispell, MT 59901

Description: Funding would be used to extend the geothermal test well to power-generation depths to determine viability of the resource for a future renewable energy source. The Hot Springs area in Lake County, Montana is a proven source for geothermal. The hot water is used as a spa. Shallow wells indicate that the source goes deeper. Preliminary work in the 1980s drilled to 250 feet. The cognizant hydrologist believes that a hot water source which is hot enough for geothermal power production lies deeper in the earth at this spot. Flathead Electric would like to continue drilling this well to verify the potential source for development. Geothermal power is a valuable source of distributed, renewable power for this area.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction

Requesting Entity: Rural Montana Water Projects. Allocation of projects and activities within the Corps of Engineers Construction account.

Description: The entities to receive funding for this project are various towns, cities and counties across the state of Montana.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Department of Energy—EERE

Requesting Entity: The Montana Physical Sciences Foundation, 130 North Main, Butte, MT 59701

Description: Funding would be used for research that will provide an alternative means to make carbon-neutral fuel from abundant biomass waste products such as straw, wood mill waste, as well as non-food crops such as switch grass, for the production of renewable fuels.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations

Requesting Entity: Yellowstone River Conservation District Council, 1371 Rimtop Drive, Billings, MT 59105

Description: The purpose of the project is to better the management of the Yellowstone River, its waters and adjacent lands. The project study products have already been used to: (1) develop best management practices to control riparian spread of Russian olive, including bringing in demonstrations of equipment and practices best suited for removing this negatively impacting invasive plant; (2) be a catalyst for fish passage projects on the Yellowstone main stem and the Tongue River. These projects have both increased habitat for warm water fish in the lower Yellowstone and improved/promised improvement of irrigation infrastructure by stabilizing diversion structures and/or helping purchase pumps and pump equipment; (3) develop a method to understand how far the Yellowstone river channel is likely to migrate through the next 50 years, allowing better planning for safe riverside development; and (4) improve conditions for the endangered pallid sturgeon while preserving and improving irrigation facilities.

Requesting Member: Hon. DENNY REHBERG

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Account: Corps of Engineers—Construction

Requesting Entity: Yellowstone River Intake Irrigation Diversion Fish Passage (Missouri River Fish Mitigation), The Nature Conservancy, 2721 2nd Ave N, Suite 310, Billings, MT 59101

Description: The Lower Yellowstone Project at Intake is a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project located on the Yellowstone River. The Corps of Engineers received authority to utilize Missouri River Recovery Program funds to proceed with the Lower Yellowstone Project through WRDA 2007. The Yellowstone River is the largest tributary to the Missouri River and historically served as native habitat to pallid sturgeon. Providing fish passage at Intake Diversion Dam will open up a minimum of 165 river miles of additional pallid sturgeon habitat.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I have received in the Defense Appropriations Act, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriaiotns Act and the Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: OP,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida National Guard

Address of Requesting Entity: 82 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Description of Request: I have secured $5,000,000 by the Florida National Guard at Camp Blanding to install a Regional Emergency Response Network that would provide cellular service during the crucial hours after a disaster occurs. This would allow first responders to communicate with already existing hand held equipment thus providing a much quicker and focused coordinated recovery effort. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nanotherapeutics

Address of Requesting Entity: 13859 Progress Boulevard, Suite 300, Alachua, FL 32615

Description of Request: I have secured $2,000,000 for Nanotherapeutics to evaluate NanoFUSE for its ability to expedite the healing of open bone fractures among injured U.S. soldiers. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE,A

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 229 Tigert Hall, Post Office Box 113157, Gainesville, FL 32611

Description of Request: I have secured $2,750,000 for the University of Florida. Working in cooperation with the Army Natick Soldier Center, UF/IFAS CFDR will use the funds to manage a multidisciplinary program to identify and demonstrate wireless technologies such as radio frequency identification (RFID) in a simulated perishables supply chain. This project will address a critical area to the delivery of optimum quality combat rations and other perishable products: Wireless technologies will be coupled with various environmental and bio-sensors in order to accurately capture and transmit environmental storage and product quality data, and programs developed to automatically calculate in real time the remaining shelf life of combat rations and other perishable products. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: RDTE,AF

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition

Address of Requesting Entity: 15 Southeast Osceola Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

Description of Request: I have secured $1,000,000 for the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. Many military scenarios ranging from combat operations to search and rescue can benefit significantly from teams of humans, robots, and computers that collaborate and coordinate together to solve a problem. This project will provide an innovative solution to the collaboration and coordination problem by tying together computers and humans into a single, collaborating system by virtue of a single program that rapidly moves between all the computers in the system. By making the program move fast enough, the approach creates the illusion of each computer running the same program all the time. Having a single program greatly simplifies the complexity of developing a solution for coordination and collaboration while at the same time improving the ability to debug, verify, and validate the solution. Furthermore, this approach will allow the system to be more robust, resilient, predictable, and efficient when compared to other approaches. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: Federal Transit Administration, Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Gainesville, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32501

Description of Request: I have secured $750,000 for the City of Gainesville. The funding will be used by the City of Gainesville for bus replacement. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3293

Account: HHS, HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: 229 Tigert Hall, Post Office Box 113157, Gainesville, FL 32611

Description of Request: I have secured $350,000 for the University of Florida for facililties and equipment. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3293

Account: DOE, Higher Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Santa Fe College

Address of Requesting Entity: 3000 NW 83rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32606

Description of Request: I have secured $450,000 for Santa Fe College. The funding will used to establish a Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program at Santa Fe College. Alachua County is home to the largest cluster of bioscience companies in the state of Florida. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3293

Account: HHS, HRSA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Santa Fe College

Address of Requesting Entity: 3000 NW 83rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32606

Description of Request: I have secured $150,000 for Santa Fe College. The funding will used to construct an additional 40,000 square feet of classroom space at the new Alachua Emerging Technologies Center. This Center will house the new Clinical Laboratory Sciences program and a Biotechnology program. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman CLIFF STEARNS

Bill Number: H.R. 3293

Account: DOE, Elementary & Secondary Education

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alachua County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 12 South East 1st Street, Gainesville, FL 32601

Description of Request: I have secured $250,000 for Alachua County, FL. The funding will used for the expansion of a multi-agency initiative designed to provide programs and services to at-risk children through a comprehensive after school program. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL S. HOFFMAN

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and remarkable achievements of Daniel S. Hoffman. Dan Hoffman was an icon in the legal community, an educator, and a public servant who spent his life working for justice.

Dan Hoffman was a leader of Colorado's legal community. He served as president of both the Colorado Bar Association and the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association (the only person who has held both those posts) and state chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In recognition of his outstanding work, Dan was honored with the Colorado State Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Jewish Committee Judge Learned Hand Award, and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law Outstanding Alumni Award.

Dan was an inspiring teacher at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where he also served as Dean from 1978 to 1984. The Hoffman Cup, Sturm's most prestigious trial advocacy award, is named for Dan. Students remember Dan as a legal giant who was nonetheless accessible to everyone, including first-year law students, and made them feel that he cared. He mentored many law students and lawyers early in their careers, including my husband, Lino Lipinsky.

Dan was a stellar litigator and advocate. In the 1970s, Dan became part owner of the Denver Nuggets of the American Basketball Association and negotiated the merger of the ABA with the NBA. In one notable case, he represented Michael Jackson against a Denver woman who claimed she had written one of Jackson's hits. Dan's masterful direct examination of Jackson, which included having Jackson sing two songs a cappella, giving the jury a new view of Michael Jackson, is taught in law schools and at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy as a model of direct examination. Whether representing his corporate clients or the ''little guy,'' he was, in the words of Colorado Supreme Court Justice Michael Bender, ''the ultimate model of a wonderful lawyer.''

Dan Hoffman was born May 4, 1931, in New York City. He graduated from high school at 15 and enrolled in college at the University of Colorado at 16. He received his law degree magna cum laude from the University of Denver. At age 32, he became the City of Denver's youngest-ever public safety manager and led a successful campaign to clean up corruption in the Denver Police Department. Public service was always part of this life.

Dan's commitment to justice and fairness was lifelong. In 1965, he joined Martin Luther King on his civil-rights protest march in Alabama from Selma to Montgomery. He was state director for Sen. Robert Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign. He joined the protests later that year at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. As an activist and an advocate, he stood up for the injured and those without a voice.

The Colorado legal community has seen many notable lawyers pass through its diverse community, but none like Dan Hoffman. A champion of justice, a crusader for civil rights, a community leader and a teacher and mentor to many, Dan Hoffman has left an indelible mark on all those privileged to have known him. Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Daniel Hoffman.

TRIBUTE TO FIRST AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding religious institution, the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 175th Anniversary of dedicated service to its members, and by extension, the greater community.

It is only fitting that the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, for the spiritual home it has provided to its members, and to the greater Paterson community that helps keep this deeply rooted Church family growing towards the future.

The documented history of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church begins in 1834, making it the oldest Black Church in Passaic County. The first Pastor in Charge of what was then the Paterson A.M.E. Zion Church was Rev. William Serrington, and he reported 22 members. They built a church on Godwin Street and adopted the name of Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, affiliating with the Zion Methodist Episcopal Connection. By 1836, the membership had grown to 26. The next documents report in 1845, that Rev. George Gernet was Pastor in Charge. In 1846, the Trustees of the Church deeded property on Godwin Street, and contracted to have a church built. They leased a nearby home for the minister.

In 1847, the Pastor in Charge, Rev. Vanhass, serving as the first minister of the Godwin Street A.M.E. Zion Church, reported a membership of 13 people. Nine more ministers would succeed Rev. Vanhass over the next five decades. In 1889, during the pastorate of Rev. White, a great revival coupled with the failure of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Paterson added 105 more people to the congregation. The next Pastor was Rev. Anderson, whose plans to build a new edifice led to the demolition of the Godwin Street Church. He was soon transferred, and the task of raising funds for a new building fell to Rev. Blalock, which was completed in 1897. Five other pastors followed before Rev. Williams was appointed in May of 1911. He led the congregation in the purchase of the current site in 1915, but the building was destroyed by fire in 1921. Rev. Donawa led the construction of a parsonage, and then in 1924, Rev. Cole erected the church which the congregation still worships in today.

Keeping the name of the Godwin Street A.M.E. Zion the church now stood on the corner of Summer and Ellison Streets. It was led through this period by Rev. Robeson, then Rev. Cowan, and then Rev. Taylor who later became the Bishop. In 1945, the mortgage was paid off and the name of the church changed to First A.M.E. Zion.

During the pastorate of Rev. Roberts, a conflict resulted in a separation. and sonic congregants left him to establish the New A.M.E. Zion Church, also located in Paterson. A building fund started by Rev. Mapp left the Church with over $11,000 in the Treasury, and

then Rev. Richardson led a renovation of the sanctuary and auditorium and property was purchased for a parking lot. Two choirs, the Young Voices of Zion and the Zionaires Gospel Chorus, were organized. Rev. Flowers led the renovation and refurnishing of the Parsonage. Rev. Tate was credited with inspiring many to restore their membership and with enhancing the administration of the Church, and Rev. Collins built on that by establishing a centralized treasury for more efficient management.

In 1991, Rev. Dr. Maven was appointed as Pastor. In the fall of that year, a new parsonage was purchased and the old one was converted into church offices and meeting space. Soon, a 15 passenger van was purchased, and the sanctuary renovated with the installation of new carpet, padding of pews and a new sound system. Slate roofs were replaced and the parking lot resurfaced.

Dr. Maven has led the establishment of many ministries, like the food pantry and clothing bank, a substance abuse support program, Holiday Baskets for the needy and meals for seniors. In 1995, the Alfreida Van Rensalier Memorial Scholarship was established, and has awarded more than $75,000 in scholarships to college-bound Paterson students. The First Church CDC, now known as Zion CDC, also began in 1995. It cosponsored the development of housing for persons with disabilities and acquired property for future growth. It was awarded a grant in 1996 to provide First-Time Homebuyer Counseling services and continues to provide this service along with foreclosure counseling. Dr. Maven also founded the Paterson Family Success Center in 2006. Housed in the Paterson YMCA, it offers programs, information and referral services to strengthen families. To enhance the spiritual growth and development of the membership, the First Church Christian Training Academy was founded in 1996. Wednesday Worship, a non-traditional contemporary worship service, was started in 2007. Children's Church was also organized.

Dr. Maven's ministry and involvement have not gone unnoticed by the community nor by the A.M.E. Zion Church Denomination, and he is deeply involved in both. He is presently the longest serving tenured Pastor in the 175-year history of the First Church.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the efforts of a wonderful, thriving community like the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join all of the members and clergy of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson, all those whose faith has been enriched throughout the years, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Paterson to the church community and beyond.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 722, which marks the eighth anniversary of September 11, 2001 and solemnly recognizes the lives lost and the sacrifices made on that day.

I want to commend Mr. HOYER and Mr. BOEHNER for bringing this bipartisan resolution to the floor.

None of us will ever forget where we were and what we were doing on the morning of September 11, 2001. The images of the planes hitting the World Trade Center towers, the smoke rising above the Pentagon, and the scattered remnants of flight 93 in that Shanksville, Pennsylvania field will forever be seared in our Nation's consciousness.

This resolution affirms that we continue to mourn the innocent loss of life that occurred that horrific morning and extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to family and friends of the victims. It also pays tribute to the heroism of the first responders, law enforcement personnel, and ordinary citizens who rushed to the aid of their fellow Americans on that darkest of days.

With this resolution, the House not only recognizes the extraordinary heroism of that day but acknowledges the significant strides we have made as a Nation to improve information sharing, strengthen our borders, and enhance our resilience. As a result, the United States is more secure today than it was on September 11, 2001. However, we must not lose sight of what still needs to be done or grow complacent about security. The nature of the terrorist threat demands vigilance at all levels of government and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, this anniversary represents an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to these efforts and H. Res. 722 is a fitting remembrance of how September 11 changed the course of our Nation's history.

Let us never forget the lives that were lost and the lessons that were learned that day.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE WILLIAM KIMBERLIN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I inform the House of the death of the Honorable Judge William Morian ''Bill'' Kimberlin, former Circuit Judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit of Missouri.

Judge Kimberlin was born in Garden City, Missouri, in 1915. After graduating from Garden City High School, he attended Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri where he received a music scholarship, majoring in Piano. An accomplished musician, he played a variety of instruments and was gifted with a rich baritone voice. After two years, Bill transferred to the University of Missouri School of Law. He was a loyal alumni and lifetime supporter of MU where his father, children, and grandchildren are also alumni. Judge Kimberlin was pleased to account that he was the first graduate to be awarded a diploma at the 100th anniversary commencement of the University of Missouri.

Upon graduation in 1939, he moved to Harrisonville, Missouri, where he practiced law with the firm Crouch & Crouch. His young legal career was interrupted by the onslaught of WWII where he served four years in the Army Air Corps. For his service in the Mediterranean and European Theatres, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service and six campaign stars. Before going overseas, Judge Kimberlin met his future wife, Martha Bumby, on the dance floor of the Officers' Club while stationed in Orlando, Florida. The couple was married in 1946 and settled in Harrisonville.

A lifelong Democrat, Judge Kimberlin was elected Mayor of Harrisonville, served two terms as Prosecuting Attorney of Cass County, and served as the City Attorney of Harrisonville. He was elected five times to serve as Circuit Judge of the 17th Judicial Court of Missouri, and served for 29 years. In honor of his great service, a courtroom was named in his honor upon completion of the new Cass County Justice Center in 2004. He was also one of the twelve original committee members appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court to draft the Missouri Civil Approved Jury Instructions for use in all courts of the state and was appointed a Special Judge to sit for a term on the Missouri Supreme Court.

Judge Kimberlin was revered for always treating everyone with dignity and respect, both inside and outside of the courtroom. He dedicated his life to public service, donating much of his time to community organizations and serving on numerous boards and committees. Included were the First Christian Church, Ararat Shrines, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of the American Revolution, Cass Lodge #147 A.F. & A.M., Board of Directors of the Missouri Municipal League, district Chairmen of the Thunderbird District of the Kansas City Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity, was past President of the Harrisonville Kiwanis and lieutenant-governor of the Division II Kiwanis. At the same time, he was an avid hunter and golfer. Most importantly, Judge Kimberlin was a devoted family man who enjoyed spending time with his wife Martha, his children, Marsha Peters and William Bruce Kimberlin, and two granddaughters, Lauren Kimberlin Peters and Lindsey Morlan Peters.

Madam Speaker, Judge William Kimberlin was an honorable Judge and respected leader in the community. I am certain that the members of the House will join me in extending their heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards

on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks one of my district institutions received as part of Bill 3326, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: O&M, Army Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College and State University

Address of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College & State University, The Military College of Georgia 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597.

Description of Request: The DoD Language Transformation Roadmap requires language education for officers. This pilot establishes a cost efficient model for meeting this requirement. The hub concept provides for pre-commissioning language education rather than while on active duty, saving annual pay and allowances in excess of $40K per year per officer. Following the three year pilot, state funding based on credit hour production begins, resulting in a sustainable language hub program. Initial investment is repaid in savings within three years of pilot completion and subsequently represents an annual cost savings in excess of $2M.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S MERCY LIVONIA ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the doctors, nurses, and the entire staff of St. Mary Mercy Livonia, as they celebrate 50 years of providing compassionate care to the citizens of my district.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia was built in the tradition of the Felician Sisters, who were founded by the Blessed Mary Angela in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 as a ministry of healing and service. Her selfless dedication to her fellow citizens played an influential role in the creation of the hospital.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia opened its doors in 1959 with 170 beds, 99 physicians and 300 employees and the hospital has developed extensively since its origin. Today, the hospital includes an innovative Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, as well as a Heart & Vascular Center and an Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. The hospital is an essential part of our community and continues to provide caring and comprehensive health care.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say the hospital has received various honors over the years. In 2007, St. Mary Mercy Livonia received the HealthGrades 2007 Clinical Excellence Award for the third straight year. Last year, St. Mary Mercy Livonia was named a 100 Top Hospital for 2007 by Thomson Healthcare. Congratulations to the talented and erudite doctors, nurses and staff who work tirelessly to improve the lives of countless numbers of human beings every day.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia has had a long and distinguished history as a sanctuary for those who need quality care. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating St. Mary Mercy Livonia on its 50th anniversary and venerating the institution's dedicated commitment to the community and our country.

HONORING MEXICO ON HER INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 199th anniversary of Mexican Independence Day, which celebrates the historic independence of Mexico from Spanish rule. This momentous day is significant because it represents a sign of justice and equality—rights valued and protected in our great country of the United States. It represents the day when Mexico was able to begin its quest for freedom for the people of that beautiful and spirited country. Our two countries will continue to make sure that the rights of the people come first.

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on the date that Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo, a priest in Dolores, Guanajuato, frustrated with Spanish rule, rang the church bell to gather the people of the town. Hidalgo ignited a fire in the listeners, thus starting Mexico's War of Independence, requesting that the people of Mexico join him in rising against Spanish rule. Just as the soldiers in the American Revolutionary War fought on behalf of our country, these courageous, patriotic men fought to gain the independence of their beloved Mexico. The war lasted 10 years, finally giving Mexico its independence in 1921. Now, this event known as Grito de Delores or "Cry of Delores" is joyfully celebrated every year on September 16 by Mexicans all over the world. The red, white, and green flag is proudly displayed on this day during festivities. The green represents independence, the white represents religion, and the red represents union. This occasion is celebrated with food, parties, and the Mexican president delivering the speech that rallied the people to fight for Mexican freedom.

El Centro Comunitario Mexicano, or as it is popularly known, CECOMEX, is one of the oldest active, not-for-profit organizations for Mexican Americans in New York City. It has worked independently as a community organization in East Harlem, catering to the needs of the Mexican American population established in the tri-state area, specifically the area of El Barrio. It is estimated that there are around 35,000 Mexican immigrants or Mexican descendents there. CECOMEX has been organizing Mexican Independence Day festivities since 1996, with attendance growing every year. I would like to commend Consul Ruben Beltran and Ambassador Arturo Sarukhán for their hard work on behalf of the country of Mexico.

Let's pay our respects to those courageous men who fought on behalf of Mexico to help position the country where it is today. I call upon my fellow Members Of Congress to join me in celebrating Mexican Independence Day in honor of all the Mexican immigrants and descendents, not only in my district, but throughout this great nation and world.

TRIBUTE TO FAMILY FARMS LIKE J & J FARM IN AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continuing importance of family farming in America, well exemplified in my district by J & J Farm of Amherst, which marks its 100th anniversary this year, the same year of the 250th anniversary of the Town of Amherst. Family farming is a long and proud tradition in Massachusetts, and the positive community impact of these farms is as vital as ever. Family farms help maintain economically and socially vibrant rural communities. They serve to conserve and enhance our invaluable soil, water and wildlife habitat for future generations. Most important of all, they provide healthy, high-quality food for American families.

Because of the tremendous importance of family farms and rural communities to our nation and to western Massachusetts in particular, it is fitting that we should recognize the many years of hard work of farm proprietors, like the Waskiewicz family of J & J Farm.

Dimetro and Victoria Waskiewicz immigrated from southern Poland in 1895. Dimetro worked as a farm laborer in the North Amherst area for several years. By 1909 he had saved enough money to purchase a farm on Meadow Street in North Amherst from the Spear family. The original farm consisted of 40 acres with the Mill River running through the east side of the farm. Ten years later another 40 acres were added. Milk, tobacco and onions were the farm's main products.

Dimetro died at the early age of 43. His two eldest sons bought the farm from Victoria in 1930. Joseph and John Waskiewicz began the farm as it is now known, J & J Farm. Joe's son Joseph took over operations following John's retirement in 1970. Cucumbers, potatoes and milk became their main crops. Joseph Sr. retired in 1995 at the age of 86. The farm is now in its fourth generation: Joseph III and Michael now operate the farm with their father.

The past century has brought floods, hurricanes and droughts, but despite hardships and market changes the farm has continued to provide area residents with fresh produce and dairy products. J & J Farm is the last remaining dairy farm in Amherst. The farm operates a seasonal roadside stand that supplements the dairy products with sweet corn, another specialty.

We must sustain our rural communities so that future generations of family farmers, like the Waskiewicz family, will enjoy the dignity of a good day's work and the reward of seeing the tangible yield of their labors with the land and with livestock. It is my hope that future generations will maintain the tradition of family farming that the Waskiewicz family built at J & J Farm, and that America will sustain its family farms through the 21st century and beyond.

HONORING JONATHAN BYRD

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep sorrow to mark the passing of a true friend of the state of Indiana.

Jonathan Byrd will forever be regarded as a savvy businessman who grew a family-owned cafeteria into the world's largest banquet facility and owned a successful racecar team. But it was his generosity and deep faith that will cast Jonathan Byrd's most lasting legacy.

Jonathan Byrd often told people as a teenager that he would be a millionaire by the age of 25. Operating Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in central Indiana in the 1970's and 80's, Jonathan did in fact become a millionaire in his first quarter century on Earth.

However, those closest to Jonathan understood that those millions were not for himself, but instead a means in which to carry out the will of the Lord. He funded many Christian schools, financed mission trips, and helped put more than 500 million copies of Scripture in the hands of people around the world.

Millions of people have dined at Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria since it opened in 1988, but this enterprise wasn't the only business venture Jonathan Byrd found success in.

He Founded Byrd Enterprises of Arizona—their products include Intercontinental, Hilton and Marriott Hotels. Jonathan Byrd's Rare Books and Bibles quickly became the nation's largest dealer, importer, and restorer of ancient Bibles and theology books under his stewardship.

Like many Hoosiers, Jonathan had a passion for auto racing that led him to form his own race team. True to form, Jonathan applied his business sense to his race team and of the 16 cars that he entered in the Indianapolis 500, he is credited with 7 top-ten finishes.

He was also blessed with a wonderful family: wife Virginia of 35 years; two sons, Jonathan and David; and many grandchildren. My prayers will be with them in the days and weeks ahead. Though Jonathan Byrd is no longer with us, we can all take comfort knowing that the Byrd legacy will live on because of the example he leaves behind.

Jonathan Byrd personified the American Dream. Though he was a well known businessman, Jonathan was guided by strong principles, anchored by his faith and had a servant's heart.

Let that be the standard to which we all aspire.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 556, which recognizes the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act.

Credit unions, not-for-profit financial cooperatives, are a form of economic democracy. Credit unions exist to serve their members, not turn a profit. Earnings beyond operating expenses are returned to members in the form of lower loan rates, higher interest on deposits, and lower fees.

While we are recognizing the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act today, it is important to note that credit unions have been present in the United States since 1909, starting with the chartering of the first credit union in the State of New Hampshire.

As a Representative from Michigan, a State with 341 credit unions serving over 4.3 million members, I can speak to the positive impact of these vital financial institutions.

In Michigan, members of a credit union can expect to see a membership benefit of, on average, $92 a year by working with a credit union. For the average household, the annual benefit rises to $175. I know that in my district, $175 goes a long way toward covering necessary household expenses.

For a member in Michigan, financing a new automobile through their credit union produces an average savings of $156 per year in interest expense. The Invest in America program, a partnership between GM and Chrysler with credit unions, has helped to spur over 189,000 new vehicle sales. Sales from this program have reinvested over $3.05 billion in the national economy, crucial support during the current economic downtown.

In addition to the direct financial benefits that credit unions provide to their members, credit unions positively impact their communities in other ways. Credit unions put on financial literacy seminars throughout Michigan in order to educate people about their financial options.

Because of these contributions to our Nation's communities, I am proud to support House Resolution 556.

Congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the Federal Credit Union Act and the first 100 years of credit unions in America.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF RUTH HYMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ruth Hyman on the occasion of her 90th birthday celebration. On September 13, we celebrate Ruth Hyman's birthday as well as her many years of service to her local community. Ms. Hyman is certainly deserving of the recognition that she has received over the years for her passionate work.

Ms. Hyman has been a longtime leader in the Jewish community. Her leadership as the president of the Long Branch Hadassah brought fresh ideas and a successful path towards empowering and motivating women in the Jewish community. Also, as a benefactor and board member of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Monmouth County, Ms. Hyman has provided a place where people of all ages have access to programs that improve their health and enrich their lives.

Ms. Hyman has been recognized for her superior support of Jewish causes both in my district and in Israel. Perhaps the greatest reflection of her commitment is the dedication of the Ruth Hyman Jewish Community Center by the Community Center of Greater Monmouth County. It is appropriate that the center be named after Ms. Hyman considering her years of hard work, generosity and devotion to her fellow members of the community.

As Ms. Hyman celebrates her 90th birthday I am sure she will reflect on her many unique experiences. The world has changed in many ways over these past ninety years. However, our country would not be the great power it is today without the dedication and hard work that citizens like Ms. Hyman put forth over the last 90 years.

Surely these many years have departed on her wisdom and knowledge that few can share. I appreciate the contributions that my constituents make to their communities and Ms. Hyman's have certainly been numerous and valuable.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Ruth Hyman on the occasion of her birthday. Her leadership and dedication will long serve as a shining example of what can be accomplished by the determined human spirit.

CONGRATULATING JACOB COSTELLO FOR HIS CONGRESSIONAL AWARD SILVER MEDAL

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jacob Costello from Wesley, Arkansas for achieving the Congressional Award Silver Medal.

The Congressional Award Silver Medal is achieved after participating in 200 hours of Public Service in the community as well as setting and achieving challenging goals in physical fitness and personal development and expedition/exploration.

Jacob's volunteer service was completed through involvement in the Washington County Historical Society, the Washington County Master Gardeners, and the Boy Scouts of America. He also worked with a local summer camp for children with parents in prison, helping prepare the facilities by painting, hauling gravel and removing fallen leaves. In addition to completing the requirements for the Silver Medal, he's already added 40 hours of volunteer work through his Boy Scout Eagle project which will go towards his Gold Medal aspirations.

To complete the physical fitness portion of the award, Jacob biked, swam, hiked, and backpacked for more than 100 hours. He actually completed more than half of the necessary hours to achieve the Congressional Gold Medal.

For the personal development requirement, Jacob joined the performance for Peter Pan at the Northwest Academy of Fine Arts. Playing his violin, he attended rehearsals and practiced on his own time, learning how to play in a group setting. He attended a Fiddle Workshop at the Ozark Folk Center and traveled to New York City to play with the North Arkansas Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall. Once there,

he practiced under Conductor Myron Flippin to prepare for the orchestra.

Jacob had the unique opportunity to attend Philmont Boy Scout camp for his Expedition. To prepare for this, he worked toward his Physical Fitness goal of carrying 55 pounds in his backpack for a distance of 12 miles over two days by planning mini-hikes with his pack and cross-training in the pool and on the track.

Among all of these achievements, Jacob is also involved in the White River Fellowship Church as a youth leader and a worship team member. I congratulate Jacob in his achievements and commend him for his aspirations to continue on his path to accomplish the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING THOSE WHO COACH US TO GREATNESS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, as football season kicks off, I am reminded of the exceptional coaches I've worked with over the years. I have been lucky to learn from great men like Mike Ditka, Johnny Majors, Phillip Fulmer, Now Turner, and my high school football coach Boyce Deitz. During high school, Coach Deitz influenced me more than anyone outside of my immediate family. Of all the coaches I've had before or after, he has had the strongest and most-lasting impact on my life. Most adults still can remember the name or face of one childhood coach who taught them a better way to throw a ball, improve their time, or overcome an obstacle that seemed insurmountable.

Today, we live in a time when young people face serious challenges to their well-being. Childhood obesity has reached record proportions. School drop-out rates approach fifty percent in many urban school districts. Nearly one million minors report association with gang activity. Where these trends are at their worst, coaches often play a critical role in equipping young athletes with the tools to make better choices. Coaches dedicate countless hours of their time helping young people build strong work ethics, communicate effectively, and work as part of a team. The coaches, who have the vital role of parlaying those values to our youth, make up the backbone of youth sports programs.

To recognize the service of youth sports coaches for their tremendous contributions, I have been working with Rep. MIKE MCINTYRE and other Members of the U.S. House to enact the first ever National Coach Appreciation Week. This week can be a time to recruit hundreds of thousands of new coaches, and to honor every youth, JV, and Varsity coach who gives so much to our Nation's next generation of leaders.

My high school football coach taught me to be both mentally and physically tough. He constantly challenged me to improve myself, including encouraging me to run track to improve my speed on the football field. Coach Deitz warned me early on about excessive media attention and said 'you will never be as good as they make you out to be and you will never be as bad as they make you out to be.' His advice has guided me through the highlights and rough patches of my college and NFL career, and in my current role as a Member of Congress. When I was elected to Congress, I knew I had to surround myself with the best staff I could, so Coach Deitz was one of my first hires.

We stand at a crossroads in which all of us must reflect on the qualities that have helped American society thrive and endure. Through National Coach Appreciation Week, our Nation will recognize those such as Coach Deitz who teach values such as teamwork, discipline, and leadership to our Nation's youth. These fundamental life skills are instrumental to ensuring success throughout an individual's educational, family and professional life. I thank the great coaches I've had, and I look forward to National Coach Appreciation Week, a time to honor the coaches who have taught us the life lessons that have made us who we are today, as individuals, as communities, and as a country.

Madam Speaker, for myself and for everyone whose life has been touched by a coach, I rise to thank these most influential and indispensible individuals. I encourage my fellow Members to vote in support of establishing the first ever National Coach Appreciation Week.

RECOGNIZING CHEF JOEL ROZELLE AND SMOKING JOE'S BAR-BE-QUE OF ST. LOUIS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you and recognize a new addition to St. Louis' Locust Business District, Smoking Joe's Bar-Be-Que. The Locust Business District, located in the heart of the city, is tasked with spawning a renewed sense of community morale and revitalization. As it sits in the historic Tudor Building on Washington Avenue, Smoking Joe's Bar-Be-Que fits in perfectly with this aim.

Owned and operated by Executive Chef Joel Rozelle, Smoking Joe's has helped bring new business and consumer interests to the Locust Business District. Smoking Joe's truly utilizes the culinary and performing arts to bring St. Louis culture and history alive. Each meal is a taste of St. Louis; from the succulent ribs and chicken dishes, to old-fashioned green beans and potato salad, the diners' already superb experience is enhanced by the soulful sounds of live jazz entertainers who hold steadfast to St. Louis' rich musical customs. This unique atmosphere has earned Smoking Joe's the UrbanSpoons' ''Talk of the Town'' distinction. Using self-developed dry rubs and staying true to St. Louis-style cooking, Chef Rozelle and his talented staff are to be applauded for their contribution to the neighborhood renewal and their respect of St. Louis culinary traditions.

HONORING IRVING PARK BAPTIST CHURCH AND 120 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished history of the Irving Park Baptist Church community on the occasion of its 120th Anniversary. Over the past 120 years, Irving Park Baptist Church has provided spiritual guidance to generations of families throughout the Irving Park Community on the northwest side of the City of Chicago.

The Irving Park Baptist Church was originally established in 1889. The church's multiethnic and multigenerational character has brought together a community of people to unite in one faith. Irving Park Baptist Church is actively involved with other churches and non-profits in the community. As an active and caring institution, the church is also a founding member of Hands to Help Ministries, which helps to provide housing and services for persons in distress.

Irving Park Baptist Church is a community of people from different cultures and backgrounds who are united in their belief. The community's mission is to faithfully serve God by ministering to each other, to their neighbors, and to the world.

On September 13, 2009 parishioners and friends of the community came together to celebrate this momentous anniversary. The Anniversary Luncheon took place at La Villa Banquets.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I wish to recognize Irving Park Baptist Church and its 120 Years of Community Service. I wish all the best for its clergy, for its families, and for its success in the future.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL—HELEN SNAPP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise before you today in recognition of Helen Snapp and her distinguished service with the U.S. Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) of WWII. In honor of Mrs. Snapp's sacrifice to our nation, this Congress bestows upon her our highest gesture of appreciation, the Congressional Gold Medal. I am especially proud to serve Helen Snapp in Florida's 23rd district.

Helen grew up in Washington, D.C., where she quickly realized a passion for flight. Helen is one of the spectators who sat on Pennsylvania Avenue, eagerly anticipating the parade in honor of aviation legend Charles Lindbergh. Like many young women, Helen admired female aviation pioneers, Amelia Earhart and Jacqueline Cochran. Helen would follow in their footsteps and go on to earn her license to fly. Jacqueline Cochran would eventually offer a personal invite for Helen to join the ranks of distinguished women pilots. Helen would go on to join the WASP and honor the inroads her heroines had paved.

At the outset of the Second World War, women were perceived as intellectually and physically inferior to their male counterparts. This stigma was well established throughout Air Force culture. Consequently, women were strictly prohibited from flying combat missions. Instead, women were limited to serving in noncombat roles. With this background, WASP was created to allow women to fly as service pilots. Unlike their uniformed sisters, WASP was created as a civilian division. In fact, WASP was the only women's military branch in WWII not to receive congressional approval.

Women service pilots were mainly used as auxiliary pilots. By serving in this capacity, the women pilots released qualified men to fly in combat. WASPs were limited to the North American front. Their duties also included ferrying airplanes, towing targets, and training men to be pilots, navigators, gunners and bombardiers. In a two-year period, the women of the Air Force service pilot's organization flew over sixty million miles and delivered 12,652 airplanes domestically. Thirty-eight of these brave women, who received no military benefits, sacrificed their lives serving our country.

Helen and the women of WASP defied the accepted belief that females should be relegated to remedial tasks. These civilian soldiers boasted higher admittance standards and a graduation percentage that surpassed their male counterparts. As the war continued, WASP played a pivotal role in our efforts to defeat the axis powers. More importantly, these brave women proved to their skeptics that women were fully capable of operating aircraft during wartime. They matched, if not exceeded, male performance. In his closing address to the last WASP graduating class General Henry ''Hap'' Arnold, a one-time cynic, offered his praise, ''You and nine hundred of your sisters have shown that you can fly wingtip to wingtip with your brothers. If there ever was a doubt in anyone's mind that women can become skillful pilots, the WASP have dispelled that doubt.''

Helen's service facilitated the transition of women into the Air Force and, ultimately, redefined the female role in the military. Her efforts allowed the military to fully appreciate a woman's capability and iron will. Like her champions Earhart and Cochran, Helen refused to allow the perpetuation of female mediocrity. Her service defied expectations and generated opportunities for generations of young women to follow. Her perseverance symbolizes the female spirit and the grit that is embodied in the Congressional Gold Medal.

Madam Speaker, Helen Snapp continues her lifetime of exceptional accomplishment. Helen continues to advocate on behalf of local women pilots and possesses a fond admiration for female astronauts. Helen continues to see her old flying companions when she can. It is only fitting that Helen Snapp now share this distinguished honor with the same pioneer that inspired her ambition, Charles Lindbergh.

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH SCHUMACHER-TILTON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention an outstanding community member, Judith Schumacher-Tilton. She will be honored on September 11, 2009 as the John I. Crecco Foundation's Woman of the Year for her many achievements not only in business but also in the greater community.

It is only fitting that she be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for she has a long history of dedication and commitment to the New Jersey community and to the American dream.

Judith Schumacher-Tilton is a Dealer Principal of Tilton Automotive Group, Gearhart Chevrolet and Schumacher Chevrolet. She has been a part of the General Motors Women's Retail Network since its inception and was recently elected to represent the Northeast for the General Motors Women's Retail Network.

Judith attended the University of Vermont with her husband Stephen, majoring in education. While raising her children, she was actively involved in educational fundraising activities as well as many community organizations. Her path soon changed though. When faced with the responsibility of running the family business after the deaths of her father and brother, it was her greatest wish to create a wonderful legacy in their memory. She has accomplished that dream by keeping the business strong and growing over the last 10 years. In 2005, Judith was chosen Business Person of the Year by the local PBA and community. The following year, she was chosen to serve on the Chevrolet New York L.M.A. Board.

While accomplishing all of these professional goals, she has still made time to help her community in many other ways. She is a past board member of the Sussex County Red Cross. She currently serves as a board member for the Montclair State University Foundation, the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, the Passionist Ministry, the Passaic County 200 Club Trustees, the Chilton Hospital Foundation and is an advisory board member for Lakeland Bank. Long before the issue of domestic violence was brought to the forefront, Judith had a deep concern for women who she felt suffered in silence. She was approached by the Little Falls Chief of Police to become a part of the Domestic Violence Response Team for the Passaic County Women's Shelter, and was accepted into an extensive training program where she became certified and soon spent any extra hours she had working to help with this important cause.

Recently, Judith has devoted her support and positive input to the automotive industry, especially General Motors, as our Nation passes through difficult economic times. She has offered her expertise in numerous television and radio interviews, and her comments have been quoted in both local and national newspapers.

Judith is a member of the Metropolitan Golf Association, playing golf for the Upper Montclair Country Club. She and her husband Stephen have three grown children, two sons, Stephen Jr., who is married to Lisa, and Kenneth, who is married to Laura. Their daughter Margaret is married to Michael Magaldi. Judith and Stephen, Sr. are also the proud grandparents of Steven Tilton, III, Jake, Julia, William and Sienna.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the dedication and service of people like Judith Schumacher-Tilton.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, everyone at the John I. Crecco Foundation, Judith's family and friends, and me in recognizing Judith Schumacher-Tilton's exceptional life and career.

HONORING ROBERT AND IRWIN GOODMAN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong philanthropy of Robert and Irwin Goodman of Madison, Wisconsin. Irwin's death in August was mourned by his brother, Bob, their extended family, and an entire community touched in ways big and small by the Goodman brothers' generosity.

Astute businessmen, Bob and Irv saw their business not as an end in itself, but as a means to nurture the minds, bodies, and spirits of their neighbors. They lived frugally, spoke softly, and gave continually and in great measure, guided by the lessons and love of their parents, Harry and Belle.

Gifted athletes, Bob and Irv were health conscious long before fitness became fashionable. Their philanthropy helps kids learn to swim, seniors to exercise, families to eat healthfully, and women to compete on a level and luminous playing field.

From the University of Wisconsin to Edgewood College, the Red Cross to Rotary, HospiceCare to Meriter Hospital, the first community swimming pool to a new community center, the imprint of Bob and Irv's generosity is felt by in every corner of the greater Madison community. And while some bricks and mortar bear their name, vast numbers of beneficiaries will never know of their largesse. The Goodman brothers would rather bring light to the dark corners of society than stand in the spotlight themselves.

Steadfast members and supporters of Madison's Jewish Community, Bob and Irv's lifelong devotion to helping others of all backgrounds is grounded in the Jewish tradition of ''tikkun olam,'' (repairing the world) inherited, they say, from their beloved mother.

Bob and Irv Goodman shared far more than a bloodline. They shared an abiding commitment to each other and to their adopted hometown. I join the greater Madison community in honoring their life's work and loving spirit.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SCREEN ACT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act. This legislation will remove barriers to one of the most effective preventive health screenings available, saving lives and reducing health care costs in the process. I

urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

BACKGROUND

The statistics surrounding colon cancer are startling. Colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the United States. Nearly 50,000 people will die this year from this disease. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Fact & Figures), of the nearly 50,000 people expected to die from colorectal cancer in 2009, early detection could save more than half. These statistics alone are a tragedy.

But the statistics become even more tragic when one considers that colorectal cancer is highly preventable with appropriate screening. And the disease is detectable, treatable, and curable if found early. According to the American Cancer Society (2009 Facts & Figures), the 5 year survival rate is 90 percent for those diagnosed at an early stage; however, only 40 percent of the cases are diagnosed at the stage.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recognizes the preventable nature of this disease and provides its only grade 'A' recommendation of cancer screenings for colorectal cancer screens.

Unfortunately, almost half of the Medicare population is not being screened, despite the availability of a Medicare colon cancer screening benefit. According to CMS, Medicare claims indicate that only 52 percent of beneficiaries have had a colorectal cancer test and there is "clearly an opportunity to improve colorectal cancer screening rates in the Medicare population." (CMS website "overview of colorectal cancer screening")

Numerous barriers account for this fact, including structural issues in the Medicare program, significant Medicare cuts to providers, and lack of knowledge and preparation among patients.

THE SCREEN ACT

The SCREEN Act is designed to address these barriers and increase the participation of patients in this preventive service. The bill accomplishes this is several main ways.

REDUCING PATIENT BARRIERS

First, the bill would reduce patient barriers to being screened. The legislation would waive Medicare co-insurance for diagnostic and screening colorectal cancer tests in order to increase utilization.

In addition, the bill would provide coverage for a pre-operative visit with a physician prior to a screening colonoscopy. This is the standard of care, but is not currently covered by Medicare.

Finally, under the legislation all Medicare beneficiaries will be notified about the Medicare colorectal cancer screening benefit and reminded of the benefits periodically.

These common sense steps will ensure that more patients are screened and more lives are saved.

PROVIDER QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

We must also ensure that there are adequate numbers of high-quality physicians performing colonoscopies. The legislation reverses years of provider reimbursement cuts by creating a preventive services payment modifier for colorectal cancer screens that is adequate to incentivize physicians to perform colorectal cancer screens. It would base this incentive on a national colorectal cancer screening goal established by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The bill would also require the Secretary to establish a national minimum standard for basic knowledge, training, continuing education and documentation for physicians and facilities. A physician would not be permitted to receive the preventive services modifier if he or she did not meet this standard.

STATE INTERVENTIONS TO INCREASE SCREENING

The legislation would also support state-level interventions to increase colorectal cancer screening. The legislation authorizes grants to states for colorectal cancer programs that include: screening to high risk individuals; case management and referrals for treatment; follow up and care for individuals screened; health professional education, training, and skills; and public information and education programs.

INFORMATION ON WHAT WORKS

Finally, the legislation gathers information on best practices in incentivizing colorectal cancer screening. The bill requires reporting on screening rates and interventions in Medicare Advantage and commissions a study by the Secretary of HHS on levels of coinsurance for screening tests under private plans.

CONCLUSION

More than 50,000 Americans will die from colon cancer this year alone. Ninety percent of these cases might have been prevented. We cannot afford to wait another moment before doing something to eliminate these and other barriers that are standing in the way of preventing colon cancer.

Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Supporting Colorectal Examination and Education Now (SCREEN) Act and support its passage this year.

TRIBUTE TO MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) for its extraordinary record of athletic achievement.

Under the direction of head coach Gary Parker, the Women's Outdoor Track and Field team finished the 2008–09 season with a 25–0 record against two-year college competition and earned first place at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship, marking the program's fourth national title.

The Women's Cross Country team, also under head coach Gary Parker, finished its season with an undefeated 25–0 record against two-year college competition, and rounded out the year by winning the NJCAA Division III National Championship, the program's ninth national title. Coupled with the Men's team's second place finish, MVCC's cross country program earned the coveted Pepsi Cup, an award given to the college with the best combined finish at the National Championships.

Looking more broadly at college's 20 competitive intercollegiate athletics programs, MVCC won last year's second place trophy at the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators Cup competitions for its overall performance in the non-scholarship division's national championships. In the last six years this competition has been held, MVCC has never taken anything less than fourth place.

The aforementioned achievements represent the continuation of decades of success for MVCC's athletic programs. With one of the largest and most diverse two-year college intercollegiate athletic programs in the country, MVCC is home to 17 national championships, 107 individual national champions and 330 NJCAA All-Americans. Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent such talented and dedicated athletes in my district. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the MVCC Hawks and wishing them the best of luck in their future athletic and scholarly endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GRETCHEN WILSON

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Grammy Award winner and country music recording artist, Ms. Gretchen Wilson, as she receives the 2009 National Coalition for Literacy Leadership Award at The Library of Congress. Gretchen is being recognized by the National Coalition for Literacy and the Center for the Book for her contributions to the advancement of adult education and literacy.

Until recently, the multi-platinum acclaimed singer/songwriter was one of millions of Americans who had not finished their high school education. Ms. Wilson left high school to pursue her music career; she has since had three #1 albums. Last year at the age of 34, Gretchen earned her G.E.D. Her friend and mentor, Charlie Daniels, was guest speaker at her graduation ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Lebanon, TN.

As a mother, it was important for Gretchen to lead by example and demonstrate to her eight-year-old daughter, Grace, just how important it is to have an education. Gretchen is currently teaming up with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation to honor GED students and organizations dedicated to the advancement of literacy.

Ms. Wilson has won Female Vocalist of the Year from both the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music and a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. She also had her first book and autobiography, "Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life," appear on the New York Times Best Seller List.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Gretchen on her hard work, resilience, and many notable achievements and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her dedication and contributions to adult education and literacy awareness.

CONGRATULATING DELANO AND THE MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY IN WOODBURY, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two schools from my state of Minnesota. Both Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury have been recently recognized as "Blue Ribbon Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon Program honors public and private middle, junior and senior high schools that demonstrate academic superiority, especially with minority populations.

This is a great honor to the teachers, faculty and administration of these schools. And, in particular, Delano's Principal Matthew Schoen and Woodbury's Director Paul Simone, should be exceedingly proud of their efforts. Their dedication to foster a positive learning environment encourages families and students across the nation. Through the Blue Ribbon School program, other educators have a set of "Best Practices" in classroom tactics, school programming choices and administrative strategies like none other.

These schools are shining stars in America's education system. It is my honor to recognize two of these schools, Delano High School and the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, before this Congress today. I encourage every school in America to look at these Blue Ribbon winners not only as a resource but also a reminder of what our schools can be.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 111TH CONGRESS ON BEHALF OF VETERANS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant bipartisan accomplishments made by the 111th Congress for our veterans and their families. Our Armed Forces sacrifice a tremendous amount for this country. In light of such commitment and dedication to our nation, the House has worked feverishly to provide the resources and support America's warriors need before, during, and after their service.

In this Congress, one of the House Armed Services Committee's finest achievements was unanimously passing H.R. 2647, the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. Designed to restore our military's readiness and improve the quality of life of our service members and their families, the bill would provide a 3.4 percent pay raise for service members, strengthen efforts to expand mental health care for troops, and improve military housing. On June 25, 2009, H.R. 2647 passed the full House by an overwhelming margin.

Additionally, the House has worked to ensure the health of our veterans and their families. Among other initiatives, we have approved legislation to expand and improve VA health care services for the 1.8 million women who have bravely served our country, voted to increase veterans' disability payments to reflect cost-of-living increases, and approved a bill I introduced that would expand military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees with less than 20 years of service. In June, the House approved the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, authorizing Congress to approve veterans' medical care funding one year in advance to better anticipate and meet the demand for veterans' health care services. And, in February, the House approved my resolution designating 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family" to recognize the sacrifices and contributions of over two million military families.

The dedication of our men and women in uniform makes our nation strong and keeps us free; we cannot forget the debt we owe to those who serve so nobly. While there certainly remains work to be done, I am proud of the achievements this Congress has made on behalf of our nation's warriors and their families.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks one of my municipalities received as part of Bill 3288, the "Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3288

Account: TCSP—Transportation & Community & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The State of Georgia, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue P.O. Box 889 Savannah, GA 31402

Description of Request: CG funding of $33,725,000 is necessary to begin construction of the SHEP. While the Record of Decision will not be signed until mid-2010, these funds can be used for final pre-construction monitoring and engineering design of the channel and mitigation components for the project.

Additionally, these funds will be needed immediately after project approval for negotiation of the Project Partnership Agreement. Construction contracts cannot be awarded prior to the completion of this agreement.

ACKNOWLEDGING EDGAR HAGOPIAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. Edgar Hagopian, a compassionate humanitarian and public advocate who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens.

Edgar grew up in metro Detroit. As a teen in the 1950s, he began working for his father, Haroutun Hagopian, who ran a cleaning business. Edgar worked hard under the leadership example set by his father. Buoyed by the devotion and support of his wife Sarah, the Hagopian Family of Companies grew and earned a reputation for excellence in business. Presently, Edgar serves as Chairman of the Hagopian Family of Companies, which encompasses Hagopian & Sons, Incorporated, Hagopian World of Rugs, Hagopian Cleaning Services, Incorporated, Hagopian Fire & Flood Services and The Ghiordes Knot. The Hagopian name has long been associated with carpet cleaning and fine Oriental Rugs and their cleaning slogan, "expect the best, expect the purple truck", can be heard over local airwaves daily.

As 2009 marks the distinct recognition of 70 years in business, it is with great gratitude and appreciation that I recognize Edgar Hagopian. His leadership stands as a fine illustration of Southeast Michigan ingenuity and innovation. He has assertively fostered economic growth, created jobs and inspired hope in a state ravaged by mass unemployment. Additionally, Edgar has been involved in numerous charitable organizations and his generosity is well known throughout the community.

Edgar and his wife Sarah have worked to promote Armenian culture and unite the metro Detroit Armenian community. They have worked to help build a stronger Armenia by bridging the cultural gap and bringing people of all ethnicities and traditions together. Mr. Hagopian has spearheaded both large and small projects, each with qualitative impacts felt across all spectrums of life. Moreover, he has long worked tirelessly to better inform people of the Armenian Genocide on both a local and national level. These efforts resulted in the passing of Michigan Public Act 558 (2002) "Armenian Genocide Remembrance Days" signed into law by Governor John Engler.

Madam Speaker, Edgar Hagopian is a spirited political activist, caring benefactor, compassionate citizen and cultural icon whose generosity has shaped the lives of countless people in our community. We are all indebted to the countless sacrifices and contributions he has made to strengthen the social fabric of our society. He personifies a legacy of distinction. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Hagopian and recognizing his years of loyal service to our community and country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF KINGSPORT ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Higher Education Initiative by the City of Kingsport. The Higher Education Initiative worked to revitalize the economy in Kingsport by improving the overall education level of its labor force.

Madam Speaker, I am not the only one praising Kingsport for their initiative. Kingsport has been awarded the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards by The Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University for its higher education initiatives.

To win this prestigious award, Kingsport had to compete against 600 other federal, state and local governments.

The Kingsport Center for Higher Education consists of five institutions: Carson-Newman College, King College, Lincoln Memorial University, Northeast State Community College, and the University of Tennessee. This unique partnership allows the Center to offer courses and programs ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

Just recently, I moved my district congressional office to this impressive facility. As a member of the Education and Labor Committee, I support this great initiative and I thank Kingsport for their dedication to their local economy and their commitment to education.

Since Kingsport has taken the initiative towards promoting higher education nearly a decade ago, there has been a 23 percent increase in high school graduates, a 27.5 percent increase in those with Associate Degrees and a 19.2 increase in those with Bachelor's Degrees.

Education adds value and improves quality of life. I commend the City of Kingsport for their hard work and dedication that has truly made the city a better place.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS PELAIA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Thomas Pelaia, who will be recognized by the John I. Crecco Foundation with its Public Safety Award on September 11, 2009 for his many years of dedicated service to keeping our communities safe.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community service that make our nation great.

Thomas Pelaia joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on May 13, 1980. After serving as a line fireman, he was transferred to the Fire Prevention Bureau where he served as an Inspector, Senior Inspector, and now as the Fire Official who is the Chief Inspector of Fire Prevention. During his tenure there, he has worked to make Bloomfield one of the safest communities in the nation. In 1999, he partnered with the Bloomfield Board of Education in having fire sprinklers installed in major school construction projects. To date, three of the eight elementary schools and the high school are fully equipped with sprinkler systems; many of the other schools are partially equipped.

Tom has been the Deputy Essex County Fire Mutual Aid Coordinator since 1994. On January 19, 2000 he organized the mutual aid response to the devastating fire at Seton Hall University. Shortly after the fire, Tom worked closely with Bloomfield College to have sprinklers installed throughout all of the dormitories, even before legislation was passed to mandate them. Due to his efforts in protecting these schools, he was honored as Fire Protection Inspector of the Year in May 2001 by the New Jersey State Fire Prevention and Protection Association and the New Jersey State Department of Community Affairs. Also as Fire Coordinator, he organized Essex County's response to New York City after the tragic events of eight years ago when the September 11, 2001 attacks took place. He organized the response of 25 Essex County fire companies to protect the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn on September 12 and 13, 2001.

Tom was an integral part of the accreditation team that worked to have the Bloomfield Fire Department receive International Accreditation. It is the first in New Jersey and the first career Fire Department in the northeast to receive this prestigious recognition which was awarded in March of this year. Tom has been an active member of many organizations throughout the years. He has served as Bloomfield FMBA Local 19 Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Executive Delegate for over 15 years. He also served the New Jersey State FMBA as a District Vice President and Legislative Committeeman.

Tom currently serves as a Fire Advisor to the Bloomfield Volunteer Emergency Squad. He is the Secretary of the Bloomfield Firemen's Relief Association and is the Essex County Legislative Committeeman for the New Jersey State Fireman's Association. As a 35 year member of the Bell and Siren Club, Inc., he is the Chairman of its Essex Committee and the Vice President of the International Convention which will be hosted in New Jersey in 2011. He is also an active member of the Essex County Fire Prevention Association and the Essex County Fire Chief's Association. Tom is also a member of Bloomfield UNICO. He resides in Livingston, New Jersey, with his wife Maria and his niece Danielle.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to highlight the achievements of great Americans like Thomas Pelaia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Thomas's family and friends, everyone at the John I. Crecco Foundation, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Thomas Pelaia to his community.

CONGRATULATING DOLPHIN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP OF THE YEAR

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the outstanding members and citizen leaders who make up the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch.

It is a great honor to recognize the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch and I wish this group continued success.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch took a firm stand in letting the criminals know that the activities that they were involved in were not going to continue in their community. Due to the efforts, participation and teamwork provided by the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch Group, the Dallas Police Department and the City Prosecutor, a 12 percent decrease in crime within the past year was noticed among the following criminal offenses: 5 percent decrease in Business Burglaries, 7 percent decrease in Burglary of Motor Vehicles, 6 percent decrease in Thefts and a 2 percent decrease in Auto Thefts. Officers of the Southeast Patrol Division made a total of forty-seven (47) Arrests and issued seven hundred and eighty-six (786) Citations involving Drugs, Prostitution, Urban Habitation, Alcohol Violations, Code Violations, Auto Thefts, Assaults, Traffic Violations and Outstanding Warrants.

They also have other successful community programs, including City of Hope, Eye on the Community, Treasure of Hope, National Night Out, Community Clean-up, Community Emergency Response Team, and the After School Program.

The Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch is a hard working group that believes in teamwork and accomplishing their goals.

I am pleased to congratulate the Dolphin Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch on their outstanding efforts and share their good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people. They're making Texas a better place to live, work and raise a family.

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICE OF LILLIAN V. GERMAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of the most dedicated and indispensable members of the Judiciary Committee staff, Lillian German. For the past 6 years, Lillian has served as a counsel to the Committee, working principally as the Deputy Chief Oversight Counsel during the 110th and 111th Congresses.

A proud native of Houston, Texas, Lillian graduated from the University of North Texas where she was a leader in student government and a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She earned her law degree from Southern Methodist University, and, following

her graduation, served as a briefing attorney for the Texas Attorney General and in private practice in Dallas.

Lillian came to Washington 15 years ago to work on the Hill, and has served in the offices of many of our dear friends and colleagues. Lillian first worked as press secretary and then Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson. With Congresswoman Johnson, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense Fund, Lillian helped organize a historic bus tour throughout the south to highlight the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in Shaw v. Reno (1993) on voting rights and minority districts. Lillian went on to serve as the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Barbara Rose Collins, with whom she worked to draft several amendments to the 1996 Telecommunications Act to increase minority ownership of commercial broadcasting companies. Lillian continued on as Press Secretary and Chief of Staff for Congressman Alcee Hastings. She organized Vice President Al Gore's first environmental justice site tours of southern Florida's minority communities and brownfield lands, and during the 2000 Presidential election, Lillian served as an area political director for the Gore recount committee. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Lillian helped usher through a $125 million grant to assist the Nation's tourism industry, and she successfully managed the effort to secure the Health Care Financing Administration's approval of the Dean Ornish Program for reversing coronary heart disease. Lillian then served as the Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, where she worked with the Houston community in the wake of Enron's collapse. During the 2002 Florida Governor's race, Lillian worked as the Get-Out-the-Vote director for Miami-Dade County Democrats.

Lillian joined the Judiciary Committee in 2003 and has made numerous contributions to the committee's civil rights, criminal justice, and government oversight work. She helped secure funding for the expansion of the U.S. Marshal Service's Safe Surrender Initiative to seven additional States, including the District of Columbia and my home State of Michigan. She visited the Texas-Mexico border several times to investigate government's response to the high-death tolls and helped with the committee's immigration field hearings in Texas, Michigan, California, and Iowa. She led the House's investigation into the wrongful firing of rail workers under the Transportation Security Administration's Transportation Worker Identification Card program, which ultimately resulted in the reinstatement of 36 workers. She successfully led the Committee's effort to release three inmates wrongfully incarcerated in solitary confinement for 36 years in the Angola Penitentiary in Louisiana, and she and I recently met with Governor Bobby Jindal to discuss the prisoners' final release. She organized committee hearings on FBI whistleblower protections; the Justice Department's role in the Jena Six cases; and voter intimidation during the 2006 elections, which featured then-Senator Barack Obama as a witness.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank Lillian for her service. Throughout her time on the Hill, she has been a stalwart voice for social justice and the under-represented. Lillian is a tour-de-force that will be sorely missed. Her spirit, loyalty, wit, generosity, and professionalism have made all of the offices in which she has worked places to belong and places to thrive. We are losing a dear advisor, mentor, and friend.

We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRED BABER FAMILY AS THE 2009 OKALOOSA FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend congratulations to the Fred Baber family for being selected the 2009 Okaloosa County Farm Family of the Year.

Mr. Fred Baber, the family's patriarch, celebrated his 90th birthday this year, but he still loves to rise before dawn and head out to farm in Laurel Hill, Florida. He is the herd manager for Roger's Ranch and manages 60 head of cattle. In their early days as Ohio farmers, Fred and his brother were pioneers in the fields of artificial insemination (AI) and dairy herd improvement association milk testing (DHIA). Fred brought his advanced knowledge of these techniques to Florida. He also built one of the first Harvester silos in the local area, and was instrumental in bringing the Tampa Independent Dairy Farmers Milk Co-op to the Florida panhandle.

Fred's family is a huge part of his successful farming career. His son Andy helps him run the family farm, producing peanuts, soybeans, and hay. Andy, the oldest of eight Baber children, and his wife Barbara both work at Ruckel Properties. Andy also serves on the Okaloosa County Farm Services Agency Board.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to Baber family's tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. They are a role model for all of us. My wife Vicki and I wish their entire family best wishes for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO SAN DIEGO POWER SURGE 96

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of San Diego Power Surge 96 for its championship victory in the Amateur Softball Association's 2009 Girls National Fastpitch Tournament. The girls of Power Surge 96 competed against some of the most talented and formidable teams in the country—and they did not disappoint their fans. Their national championship victory represents a great accomplishment for not only each team member, but also for the San Diego community.

Over the course of the tournament, Power Surge 96 won a total of nine games to compliment the team's overall and quite impressive record of 92 wins, 7 losses and 1 tie. The team's final matchup turned into a heroic test of endurance and skill after falling behind to their opponent, the SoCal Jynx, early in the game. In the seventh inning, Power Surge 96 tied the score at three, forcing the game into extra innings where they eventually took the lead and never looked back.

On their way to the top, the girls of Power Surge 96 prevailed through a qualifying tournament that included several tough opponents. That tournament, the ASA Southern California State Championship, was the first qualifying victory for any Power Surge team since forming in 1992 and competing at the national level.

In 2009, Power Surge 96 competed in a total of nine tournaments. The team won six of those tournaments outright, sharing a seventh as co-champion. Altogether, 2009 was a great year for the girls of Power Surge 96, highlighted by their national championship victory. Surely, their victory will help motivate them to reach the same level of achievement next year, when they resume competitive play and prepare to defend their national championship.

The girls of Power Surge 96 deserve great credit and recognition for their success and remarkable accomplishment. Their national championship victory, as well as the time they have shared together and hours invested in practice and preparation, is an experience they will always remember. It is an experience that will stay with them well into their adult lives and, hopefully one day, be shared with their children to encourage and inspire them to reach new heights.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to rise in recognition of Power Surge 96 and I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this team of talented girls. Next year's national championship tournament will not be easy but if there is any group up to the challenge, it is the girls of Power Surge 96.

WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT AND HEAVY DUTY HYBRID VEHICLE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Wind Energy Research and Development Act (H.R. 3165) and the Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act (H.R. 445). I thank my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee for their work on these important bills, which will help secure America's role as a global leader in innovation.

An aggressive transition to a clean renewable energy economy is necessary to modernize America's economy for the 21st century. In this historic moment, we have the responsibility and the opportunity to secure America's place as a global hub of technological innovation, an economic leader, and a steward of our planet. Passage of H.R. 3165 and H.R. 445 will focus American ingenuity to achieve these important goals.

Wind energy is a critical component of America's clean energy future. The growth potential for the industry is enormous: in 2008 alone the industry installed enough new wind energy production capacity to power over 2 million homes. My state of Minnesota is currently fourth in the nation for installed wind energy production capacity and is in the top ten states for wind energy production potential. However, like many new industries, the wind energy industry requires federal incentives to fuel its growth. The Wind Energy Research and Development Act authorizes an important new demonstration program at the Department of Energy to reduce the costs of construction, generation, and maintenance of wind energy systems. Developing these technologies will help reduce existing barriers to expansion of wind power around the country.

America's shift to a clean energy economy requires the development of advanced vehicle technologies to save consumers money and reduce harmful emissions. In addition to clean passenger vehicles, we must modernize our commercial transport fleet. The Heavy Duty Hybrid Vehicle Research, Development and Demonstration Act will create a competitive grant program to support research, development and demonstration of advanced heavy duty hybrid vehicle technologies. This program will help make America's commercial transport fleet the cleanest and most efficient in the world.

Transitioning to a clean energy economy and curtailing global climate change are two of the great challenges of our time—American innovation is the key to addressing them both. I urge my colleagues to support these two important pieces of legislation.

RECOGNIZING DAVID DAVIS FOR WINNING THE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate David Davis for winning the Volunteer of the Year Award. According to his peers, since 2003, David Davis has volunteered for the City of Dallas and has logged approximately 1,947 hours. This year David has logged 394 hours and in the month of June alone has logged 62 hours.

David Davis had made a significant contribution by taking charge of several Volunteer Programs which include being a Crime Watch Captain for the Oaklawn Crime Watch, a VIP Captain for Oaklawn Neighborhood and participates in every Central Patrol VIP training class. David Davis also sits on the CWEB Board as a NE and NW alternate. David is CERT trained and heads up CERT Teams for Northeast and Northwest.

David Davis also volunteers for COPS, White Rock Lake VIP, VIP Traffic Safety Fairs, assists in traffic and crowd management for various parades throughout the city, CHIPS training assistance, CHIPS on the job training, VIP training and participated in the Citizens Police Academy.

In May 2009 Dallas Police Crisis Intervention Training Program (CIT) held the National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk at Fair Park and David Davis assisted by organizing a group of volunteers for additional crowd management in order to facilitate this successful fundraiser.

On numerous occasions David Davis has contacted the local police personally to offer his assistance with crime watch events, parades and volunteer training and has always shown a great dedication and reliability in his support of these Dallas Police events.

David Davis has also proven himself to be an accomplished crime fighter and has made a tremendous impact during his Volunteering in Patrol. David Davis leads by example in this area by explaining to new volunteers that crime may be brought down by the volunteers who patrol certain areas.

David Davis has also taken on patrol of the Katy Trail and Reverchon Park areas. He has organized newly trained volunteers for these areas and keeps track of current crime trends and passes along information to police officers who also work these parks.

Congratulations David Davis. I salute you.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD HOLST

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Richard Holst, who died in the line of duty on September 9, 2009, while defending the community from a fire.

Mr. Holst served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War in the Atlantic Fleet on the U.S.S. Saratoga. In addition to his military service, after retirement, he joined the Huntington Manor Fire Department as a firefighter, eventually becoming the head of New York State Association of Fire Chaplains.

Mr. Holst was a true leader, who carried the torch of service throughout his life. He will be remembered by his family, friends, and community for his generosity and sincere commitment to helping those in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF RONNIE E. BELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ronnie E. Bell, a community leader who is retiring after over thirty years of public service with Walton County, Florida. Mr. Bell spent his career serving Northwest Florida, and I am proud to honor his dedication and service.

Ronnie is life-long resident of Walton County. He graduated from Walton Senior High School in 1977 and from Okaloosa-Walton Junior College in 1980. He began his career with Walton County in 1977 as an Emergency Medical Services Secretary. From 1978 through 1986, Ronnie served as an EMT and Paramedic for Walton County EMS, and was the Walton EMS Supervisor between 1986 and 1987. In 1988, Ronnie became the Walton County Administrative Supervisor, and served in that capacity for eleven years. In 1999, he became Public Works Director, and was selected as Walton County Administrator in 2004.

In over thirty years of service to the public as a Walton County employee, Ronnie has shown a true dedication to helping his fellow citizens. He has always strove to make Walton a better place to live.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize Ronnie Bell for his lifetime of service to Northwest Florida. Walton County will miss his leadership. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for him and his family as they embark on this next journey in their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF FORMER SENATOR JOSE ''PING'' ANDRES RAMIREZ DUEÑAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of former Guam Senator Jose ''Ping'' Andres Ramirez Dueñas, a lifetime resident of the village of Dededo, Guam. Senator Dueñas passed away on August 31, 2009 after a long illness. He was 78.

Born on October 17, 1930, in Hagåtña, Guam, Ping was the oldest of four sons of Juliana Ramirez Dueñas and Jesus Camacho Dueñas. Ping and I were classmates at George Washington High School, where we both graduated from in June of 1951. On April 19, 1954, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he married his high school sweetheart, Rosario Cruz Perez, fondly known as ''Ling''. Ping enrolled in Marquette University and later received his bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

After graduation from college, Ping returned home and began his twenty-eight year career of public service with the Government of Guam. Ping started as an auditor with the Department of Administration before being promoted to chief accountant. In 1962, Ping and nineteen others joined together to form the Government of Guam Employees Federal Credit Union (GGEFCU). From an initial membership of twenty founding members, the GGEFCU has grown to over 40,000 members, three branches, and is an important resource for financial services to the Government of Guam employees.

Ping sought political office in 1970 and was elected to four consecutive terms as a Senator in the 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th Guam Legislature from 1970 to 1978. He served on the Rules Committee; the Committees on Finance and Taxation; Federal and Foreign Affairs; and Natural Resources, Land and Community Development. He also served on the 1975 Legislative Task Force for the review of the federal-territorial political relationship with its findings to be reported to the White House. After serving as Chairman of the Democratic Party of Guam, Ping and I joined together as running mates in the 1990 gubernatorial election. While unsuccessful in our bid for Governor

and Lieutenant Governor of Guam, Ping would go on to continue his service to our community as Vice President of Financial Affairs for the University of Guam. While there, he helped in the growth of the university and was instrumental in the establishment of the Marine Laboratory.

I join our community in mourning the loss of former Senator Jose Ramirez ''Ping'' Dueñas. Ping was a good friend of Guam, and he devoted his life to serving our people. We extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Rosario ''Ling'' Perez Dueñas; his children, Joseph, Daniel, Anthony, Gerardlyn, Carina, Thomas, Marcella, and Julienne; his 25 grandchildren; his 16 great grandchildren; and his many family and friends.

God bless the family and friends of Senator Dueñas. He will be missed dearly.

HONORING ADAM DIAZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to praise and reflect upon the career of an outstanding public servant and community leader, Adam Diaz. I would also like to take a moment to congratulate Mr. Diaz on his upcoming 100th birthday.

For more than seventy years, Mr. Diaz has been a champion for the Mexican American community in Phoenix. A lifelong Arizonan, Mr. Diaz was born in Flagstaff on September 29, 1909, before moving to Phoenix, where he has lived for the past 94 years. He began his career working at the Luhrs Hotel as a messenger boy with Western Union. From this humble beginning, he eventually became the Superintendent of Properties for Luhrs Properties, a position he held until his retirement. During the 1970's, I had the occasion to see him and his brother at Luhrs and seek his counsel.

Mr. Diaz is noted for having been elected as Phoenix's first Mexican American City Councilman in 1948. He served four years on the council and one year as vice-mayor of the city of Phoenix. Later, Diaz served for five years on the Phoenix Elementary School District Number One Governing Board.

Mr. Diaz has served on the board of directors of several community-based organizations including The Friendly House and Chicanos Por La Causa. He has also been actively involved in many other organizations, commissions, and committees such as the League for United Latino American Citizens, the Arizona Centennial Commission, the Governor's Conference on Youth, the Boy Scouts, and the Vesta Club.

While Chairman of the Board of Chicanos Por La Causa, his efforts to fund senior housing for low-income Hispanics resulted in establishing Casa de Primavera, a low-income senior housing complex near 43rd Avenue and McDowell Road. Later, President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Task Force on Aging. In this role, Mr. Diaz visited the White House to discuss Social Security, Medicare and other important senior issues with Second Lady Tipper Gore.

Mr. Diaz continued his work for senior citizens at the American Legion Post 41, where he organized numerous fundraising events to help indigent elderly buy dentures and hearing aids, items not covered by Medicare. When Mr. Diaz was in his 70's, he still went daily to the YMCA gym and assisted seniors as a trainer in the swimming pool and weight room.

Adam has been a mentor and a friend to many community leaders. I have been fortunate to have him as a supporter, advisor and a friend. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Adam Diaz for his extraordinary leadership and lifelong dedication to public service, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATING OFFICER BERVIN SMITH

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Officer Bervin Smith of the NE Dallas Police Division for winning the prestigious Officer of the Year award.

According to his peers, by his own desires Officer Smith organized the current DPD–NE Volunteer Committee. This committee which is now a viable organization with over 14 members is already meeting with Deputy Chief Lawrence at the NE Police Division on a monthly basis at the NE station to discuss and reactivate volunteers on a list that is over 1,000 names in the NE Division area. Deputy Chief Lawrence is very supportive of this group and is working with them to reduce crime in the NE area.

Officer Smith is a dedicated officer who wants to do his job the best that he can.

It is a privilege to recognize him for a job well done. I am certain that he will continue to touch the lives of many in his community. It is a great honor to commend Officer Smith in the United States Congress, and I wish him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORMAN BORLAUG

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dr. Norman Borlaug, who passed away on September 12, 2009 at the age of 95. Dr. Borlaug combated world hunger on a global scale by revolutionizing the science of agriculture. He developed and introduced high-yield, disease resistant crops and innovative agricultural techniques, which he then spread throughout the globe. These innovations started the ''Green Revolution,'' which allowed the world's food supply to keep up with the growth in population. Through his work, he saved hundreds of millions of lives from hunger and starvation. His life is testament to the extraordinary change one person can make. He was a Great American and our world shall forever benefit from his life's work.

Dr. Borlaug was born on a farm near Cresco, Iowa in 1914. He studied forestry and plant pathology at the University of Minnesota and completed his doctorate in 1942. Dr. Borlaug led a distinguished career that spanned more than 60 years. Much of his work was done in Mexico at Centro Internacional de Mejormientao de Maiz y Trigo, or the International Maize and Wheat Center. In 1984 he began teaching as a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture at Texas A&M—College Station. Throughout his life he continued to teach and inspire new generations of scientists and farmers. Agriculture in the 15th Congressional District of Texas and throughout the state has benefitted greatly from Dr. Borlaug's contributions.

Dr. Borlaug transformed the way the world feeds its population. The exponential growth in crop yields created stability and prosperity in nations that were struggling to feed its citizenry. Dr. Borlaug's ultimate legacy is one of world peace, which he achieved through ensuring that a basic human need was provided for throughout the world.

We offer our deepest condolences to Dr. Borlaug's friends and family: his daughter Jennie Borlaug Laube, his son, William Gibson Borlaug, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JOHNNY GRANT HOLLYWOOD POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, there could be no more appropriate moniker for a Hollywood post office than Johnny Grant's. The unofficial mayor of Hollywood for more than half a century, Johnny's name is synonymous with the community he loved and promoted so well.

It is especially appropriate that the post office at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue, just off of Hollywood Boulevard, would bear his name, as he managed to secure a Hollywood postmark, despite the fact that it's not its own city. Only Johnny Grant could have pulled that off. While celebrating his 84th birthday, Johnny said that the Hollywood postmark was one of three accomplishments of which he was most proud, along with the Hollywood sign and the Walk of Fame.

I had the privilege of knowing Johnny and calling him a friend for many years. I always admired his incredible zeal for life. He brought a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm to everything he did—which was never on greater display than when he tirelessly supported our Nation's veterans. While serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, his ''Strictly GI'' radio show was broadcast in New York City and North Carolina, featuring stories of interest to servicemen and women. He went on to do 60 USO tours and personally sponsored trips in Korea and Vietnam to show his deep support and commitment to our men and women in uniform, to encourage them and boost morale during very difficult times.

Johnny produced and hosted the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots telethon for ten years, and organized countless other events raising millions for the USO, the Boy Scouts of America, police and fire services and veterans organizations.

Hollywood, the City of Los Angeles and the entire Nation mourned his death in January of last year. H.R. 2760 is a modest but fitting tribute to Hollywood's favorite son, and I think he would appreciate seeing his name live on in the community he loved and called home for over fifty years.

HONORING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA POLICE OFFICER RICHARD CRITTENDEN

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of North Saint Paul Police Officer Richard Crittenden who will be laid to rest tomorrow.

On Monday morning, Officer Crittenden was sent to respond to a domestic dispute call. He was killed protecting a woman from a man who had repeatedly abused her.

North Saint Paul is a wonderful community of 11,000 people where I raised my children and served on the city council. To lose an officer in the line of duty is a tragedy for every resident.

On behalf of my constituents and all Minnesotans, I extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to Officer Crittenden's wife, Christine, his children, and grand-children. Their loss is tremendous.

To North Saint Paul officials and residents, especially the members of the police department, I extend my condulutices at this time of great pain and loss.

Officer Crittenden gave the ultimate sacrifice—his life—in the line of duty. His service as a peace officer was always respected, but his courage and sacrifice makes him a hero who shall always be remembered and honored.

Madam Speaker, at this time I also want to recognize Maplewood Officer Julie Olson who was injured in the line of duty in the incident that claimed Officer Crittenden's life. I commend Officer Olson for her courageous service and wish her a full recovery.

SALUTING ED FOX FOR WINNING THE DORIS BERRY CRIME WATCH CHAIRPERSON OF THE YEAR 2009 AWARD

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ed Fox for winning the Doris Berry Crime Watch Chairperson of the Year Award for 2009. According to his peers, Ed has served as the chairperson for the Prestonwood Estates Neighborhood Association West (PENA West) Crime Watch since its inception in October 1999. He has also served as chairperson for their Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) program for seven years. Ed is also currently serving a third term as the North Central Patrol Division's Crime Watch Executive Board (CWEB) representative and was recently elected president of CWEB.

In addition to the time required to fulfill his duties as CWEB president and PENA West CW chairperson, Ed spends countless hours attending crime watch and VIP start up meetings to assist new groups in getting started. Based on his reputation in the North Central Division, many citizens request to have Ed speak at their crime watch meetings. Being a retired salesman, Ed uses his skills to sell the VIP concept to various homeowner groups. Not only does he help them organize a neighborhood meeting, but he also speaks at the meeting himself to promote the CW and VIP programs. In the past year alone, Ed has attended over 120 CW and VIP meetings and also spoken at the majority of them.

Ed is always trying to think of ways to expand the CW/VIP programs in North Dallas. Last year he contacted the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce to inquire about using their organization to spread the word about neighborhood crime prevention programs. Ed has proposed the idea to them to consider establishing a permanent crime prevention committee to provide advice and information for their members.

For his tireless work ethic, enthusiasm and dedication to the Crime Watch and VIP programs in the North Central Division, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Ed Fox for winning the 2009 Doris Berry Crime Watch Chairperson of the Year Award.

God bless you and I salute you.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 16

Time to be announced
Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Winslow Lorenzo Sargeant, of Wisconsin, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, and Peggy E. Gustafson, of Illinois, to be Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration.
Room to be announced

10 a.m.
Appropriations
Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the use, impact, and accomplishments of Federal appropriations provided to improve the education of children in the District of Columbia.
SD–192

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Daniel I. Werfel, of Virginia, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.
SD–342

Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
SD–226

2 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard Serino, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine exploring three strategies for Afghanistan.
SD–419

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science and Space Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine options from the review of the United States Human Space Flight Plans Committee.
SR–253

SEPTEMBER 17

Time to be announced
Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael H. Posner, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.
SD–419

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine veterans' disability compensations, focusing on benefits in the 21st century.
SR–418

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine countering the threat of failure in Afghanistan.
SD–419

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 369, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and the nominations of Paul Joseph Fishman, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, and Jenny A. Durkan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, both of the Department of Justice.
SD–226

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine S. 1551, to amend section 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for a private civil action against a person that provides substantial assistance in violation of such Act.
SD–226

2:15 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine energy and related economic effects of global climate change legislation.
SD–366

Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine federal tax treatment of health care benefits provided by tribal governments to their citizens.
SD–628

2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters.
S–407, Capitol

SEPTEMBER 22

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform, focusing on how the current immigration law impacts America's agricultural industry and food security.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine strengthening security and oversight at biological research laboratories.
SD–226

SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Veterans Affairs contracts for health services.
SR–418

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 16

2 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine southern border violence.
SD–342

SEPTEMBER 17

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Contracting Oversight Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine improving transparency and accessibility of federal contracting databases.
SD–342

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9301–S9334

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1664–1668, and S. Res. 263–265. **Page S9326**

Measures Reported:

S. 599, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 111–75) **Page S9324**

Measures Passed:

Kennedy Caucus Room: Senate agreed to S. Res. 264, designating the Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building as the ''Kennedy Caucus Room''. **Pages S9318–19**

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse 100th Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 258, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S9333**

Honoring Fallen Firefighters in Southern California: Senate agreed to S. Res. 265, honoring the firefighters who sacrificed their lives while battling the Station Fire in southern California in August 2009. **Page S9333**

Measures Considered:

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3288, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S9308–18**

Adopted:

By 83 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 275), Johanns Modified Amendment No. 2355, prohibiting use of funds to fund the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). **Pages S9308–18**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. **Page S9334**

Appointments:

Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101–595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appointed the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Senator Rockefeller, ex officio, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Senator Cantwell, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. **Page S9334**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Eric L. Hirschhorn, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

Barbara J. Bennett, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

Barbara Short Haskew, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

Jeffrey L. Bleich, of California, to be Ambassador to Australia.

Leslie V. Rowe, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique.

Michael W. Punke, of Montana, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

Laurie O. Robinson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Barbara Milano Keenan, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.
1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.
1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Page S9334**

Executive Communications: **Pages S9324–26**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9326–28**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9328–32**

Additional Statements: **Pages S9323–24**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S9332–33**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S9333**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—275) **Pages S9317–18**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9334.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HEALTH EFFECTS OF CELL PHONE USE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the health effects of cell phone use, after receiving testimony from John R. Bucher, Associate Director, National Toxicology Program, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; Dariusz Leszczynski, Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority, Helsinki, Finland; Siegal Sadetzki, Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel; Linda S. Erdreich, Exponent, New York, New York; Devra Lee Davis, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Olga V. Naidenko, Environmental Working Group, Washington, D.C.

CYBER ATTACKS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine cyber attacks, focusing on protecting industry against growing threats, after receiving testimony from Michael P. Merritt, Assistant Director, Office of Investigations, United States Secret Service, and Philip Reitinger, Deputy Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs Directorate, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Robert Carr, Heartland Payment Systems, Princeton, New Jersey; and William B. Nelson, The Financial Services Information Sharing & Analysis Center, Leesburg, Virginia.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 3556–3562; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 183–184; and H. Res. 737–743 were introduced. **Pages H9490–91**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9491–92**

Report Filed: A report was filed on September 11, 2009 as follows:

H.R. 3246, to provide for a program of research, development, demonstration and commercial application in vehicle technologies at the Department of Energy, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–254). **Page H9490**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9445**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H9446**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and agree to the following measures:

Recommending that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year: H. Res. 686, amended, to recommend that the United States Constitution be taught to high school students throughout the Nation in September of their senior year; **Pages H9447–49**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established: H. Res. 737, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week should be established; **Pages H9449–50**

Recognizing the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and supporting the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week: H. Res. 6, to recognize the significant contribution coaches make in the life of children who participate in organized sports and to support the goals and ideals of National Coaches Appreciation Week, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 696; **Pages H9450–52, H9462–63**

Expressing support for designation of ''National Safety Month'': H. Res. 459, to express support for designation of ''National Safety Month'', by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 386 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 697; **Pages H9452–53, H9463–64**

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability: H. Con. Res. 59, amended, to support the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 698; **Pages H9453–55, H9464**

Expressing the importance of swimming lessons and recognizing the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children: H. Res. 57, amended, to express the importance of swimming lessons and to recognize the danger of drowning in the United States, especially among minority children; and **Pages H9457–59**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''Recognizing the persistently high rates of drowning fatalities among children.''. **Page H9459**

Recognizing the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994: H. Res. 738, to recognize the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. **Pages H9459–62**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:23 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H9462**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Supporting efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States: H. Res. 260, amended, to support efforts to reduce infant mortality in the United States. **Pages H9455–57**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9462–63, H9463–64, H9464. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael G. Mullen, for reappointment as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and reappointment to the grade of admiral, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine aviation safety, focusing on the Hudson River midair collision and the safety of air operations in congested space, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine potential costs and price volatility in the energy sector, focusing on the greenhouse gas trading program, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine unemployment insurance benefits, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alan D. Solomont, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Andorra, Lee Andrew Feinstein, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, Barry B. White, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Norway, and Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs, all of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine security clearance reform, focusing on modernization, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine human rights, focusing on mental illness in United States prisons and jails, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing to review the nation's readiness for the probable surge of cases of seasonal and pandemic H1N1 influenza, 1 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Mandatory Binding Arbitration: Is It Fair and Voluntary? 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization

and Procurement, hearing entitled ''Investment Management and Acquisition Challenges at the Department of Homeland Security,'' 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following bills: H.R. 3221, Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009; and H.R. 3246, Advanced Vehicle Technology Act of 2009, 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on Options and Issues for NASA's Human Space Flight Program: Report of the ''Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans'' Committee 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing to review implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P. L. 110–351), 1 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on FBI Counterterrorism Issues, 3:30 p.m., 304 HVC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, September 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3288, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 15

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 3146—21 Century FHA Housing Act of 2009; (2) H.R. 2947—Securities Law Technical Corrections Act; (3) H.R. 3527—FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act; (4) H. Res. 215—Congratulating the Minority Business Development Agency on its 40th anniversary; (5) H.R. 3179—SIG TARP Small Business Awareness Act; (6) H. Res. 317—Recognizing the region from Manhattan, Kansas, to Columbia, Missouri, as the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor; (7) H. Con. Res. 95—Recognizing the importance of the Department of Agriculture Forest Service Experimental Forests and Ranges; (8) H.R. 511—To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to terminate certain easements held by the Secretary on land owned by the Village of Caseyville, Illinois, and to terminate associated contractual arrangements with the Village; (9) H.R. 3175—To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Miami-Dade County certain federally owned land in Florida; (10) H.R. 940—To provide for the conveyance of National Forest System land in the State of Louisiana; (11) H. Res. 81—Recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry; (12) H.R. 1002—Pisgah National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act; (13) H.R. 3386—The "Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Memorial Post Office" Designation Act; (14) H .Res. 679—Supporting the goals and ideals of American Legion Day; (15) H.R. 3137—To provide clarification relating to the authority of the United States Postal Service to accept donations as an additional source of funding for commemorative plaques; and (16) H.R. 22—To allow the United States Postal Service to pay its share of contributions for annuitants' health benefits out of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Arcuri, Michael A., N.Y., E2257
Bachmann, Michele, Minn., E2258
Baldwin, Tammy, Wisc., E2256
Blackburn, Marsha, Tenn., E2257
Boozman, John, Ark., E2254
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E2261
Clay, Wm. Lacy, Mo., E2255
Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E2259
Deal, Nathan, Ga., E2252, E2258
DeGette, Diana, Colo., E2251
Dreier, David, Calif., E2262
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E2255
Hinojosa, Rubén, Tex., E2262
Hunter, Duncan, Calif., E2260
Israel, Steve, N.Y., E2261
Johnson, Sam, Tex., E2259, E2261, E2262, E2263
Lee, Christopher John, N.Y., E2249
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E2260, E2263
McCotter, Thaddeus G., Mich., E2253, E2258
Miller, Candice S., Mich., E2254
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E2260, E2261
Neal, Richard E., Mass., E2256
Olver, John W., Mass., E2253
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E2254
Pascrell, Bill, Jr., N.J., E2251, E2256, E2259
Pastor, Ed, Ariz., E2262
Pence, Mike, Ind., E2254
Quigley, Mike, Ill., E2255
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E2253
Rehberg, Denny, Mont., E2249
Roe, David P., Tenn., E2259
Schwartz, Allyson Y., Pa., E2249
Shuler, Heath, N.C., E2255
Skelton, Ike, Mo., E2252, E2258
Stearns, Cliff, Fla., E2250
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E2252

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