

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT
ROBERT HORNER UPON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to stand before you today in recognition of Technical Sergeant Robert E. Horner. Robert will retire this December after more than 34 years of service to our country.

Robert enlisted with the U.S. Navy in September 1975. He served aboard the USS *John F. Kennedy* as an Aircraft Bosun Mate in the Atlantic Theater. In October 1979 he transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve. He continued with the Navy Reserve until he transferred to the Air Force Reserve as a Propulsion Mechanic in 1983, at the 911th Air Force Reserve, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His service to our country continued through the gulf war and the war on terrorism; from 1995 through the present he served as Propulsion Mechanic before moving to the Aerial Spray Maintenance with the 910th Airlift Wing, Youngstown, Ohio. Robert continued his military service even through heart surgery in 1992. His distinguished career is punctuated by over a dozen awards and decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon.

Robert demonstrates an exemplary commitment to his community even aside from his military service. In 1993 he accepted a commission for the West Farmington Police Department, and served the village of West Farmington for 8 years. In 2002 he was made Police Chief, and he continues at this post today.

Robert's current responsibilities as Technical Sergeant with the 910th Airlift Wing includes supervision of 12 reservists in the maintenance and operation of the Modular Aerial Spray System, the only full-time, fixed-wing aerial spray unit within the Defense Department.

Madam Speaker, Technical Sergeant Robert Horner has dedicated his life to serving his country and his community. In recognition of his many efforts on behalf of the American people, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

INTRODUCING THE ENERGY
EFFICIENT MODERNIZATION ACT

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I am introducing the "Energy Efficiency Modernization

Act of 2009," to establish market incentives so that federally assisted housing can become more energy efficient.

Federally assisted housing programs provide real opportunities for green improvements. However, existing rules and regulations make it difficult for owners of federally assisted housing to maximize efforts and decrease our Nation's energy bill.

A 2008 study by the Government Accountability Office found that the Department of Housing and Urban Development spends an estimated \$5 billion annually on energy costs to pay for roughly 6 million units of housing, representing almost 17 percent of the Nation's rental housing stock.

Improving the energy efficiency of federally assisted housing by 25 to 40 percent would result in savings for HUD at roughly \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion annually, making the long-term cost savings for the Federal Government—and, most importantly, taxpayers—substantial.

Furthermore, energy efficiency improvements will provide stimulus to the economy in terms of capital projects and "green collar" jobs, create best practices for the industry on the whole and fulfill the mandate of HUD.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF ST. JOSEPH'S
VILLA IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of St. Joseph's Villa in Richmond, Virginia.

St. Joseph's Villa has been serving the Richmond community since 1834 when it was established by the Daughters of Charity as an orphanage. It is now a nonsectarian organization and is the oldest and largest operating children's nonprofit in metropolitan Richmond.

Currently, the Villa works with more than 600 children and families on a daily basis. The mission of St. Joseph's Villa is to provide children with special needs, as well as their families, the opportunity to succeed through innovative and effective programs. To accomplish this mission, St. Joseph's Villa works with local school systems and parents to provide a variety of educational, residential and day programs to children and families dealing with autism, homelessness or physical and mental disabilities or other behaviors that classify the child as being "at risk." These programs include, to name just a few, the Dooley School at St. Joseph's Villa, for middle- and high-school students with learning disabilities and behavioral issues, the Dooley Center for Alternative Education, for students who have been suspended or expelled from their local high school, and the Dooley School at Cherokee Road, an elementary-school program for students with a variety of learning disabilities. Each program contains both academic and

behavioral components and their goal is to prepare the child for returning to his or her local school.

St. Joseph's Villa employs more than 300 full and part-time employees who are integral in making this organization a success. The Villa is committed to staff-development, involvement, and effective teamwork that respect the individuals they serve. I commend them on the services they have rendered to the Richmond community over the years.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing St. Joseph's Villa as it celebrates its anniversary and wishing the students and staff the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING CALEB MATHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Caleb Mather, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Caleb has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Caleb has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Caleb Mather for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As the month draws to a close, it is important that we acknowledge the impact that breast cancer has had on both women and men in our country. This October marks the 25th anniversary of the inaugural National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, celebrating a quarter century of awareness, education, and empowerment.

Each year, approximately 200,000 women and 1,700 men are diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 women and 450 men die from it. Breast cancer is sadly the most common cancer in women in the United States, but fortunately, there are about 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States today. This disease affects the lives of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

so many women and their loved ones, and it is of the utmost importance that the public is aware of current information and treatment options.

I commend organizations like Susan G. Komen for the Cure, and others, for its dedication to educating the citizens of our community and keeping them updated on the status of relevant research. I appreciate its commitment to providing more opportunities for individuals to learn about the disease, by spreading the message of prevention and awareness to wider audiences. In order to prevent breast cancer, we must increase our awareness, which makes research, early detection, and treatment all the more important as a woman's best defenses in the fight against this deadly disease.

In acknowledging and honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month, doing so, we will educate our loved ones across the Nation—many mothers, sisters, and friends—on the importance of early detection, so that we may prevent as many women from dying as possible.

HONORING LEE MYERS, MAYOR OF MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the great work of one of my constituents, R. Lee Myers, mayor of Matthews, North Carolina. Mayor Myers has recently completed his ninth term in office. Lee is a wonderful public servant—he's given over 20 years of his life to serve the citizens of Matthew—as mayor and as a town commissioner. During this time, he's overseen the rapid development of Matthews into one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the Nation.

Born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in 1951, Mayor Myers graduated from East Mecklenburg High School, received a B.A. from East Carolina University in 1973, and received a law degree from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 1976. Mayor Myers and his wife Lucinda have two children, Matthew and Amanda. He currently practices law alongside his son, Matthew, at the Myers Law Firm, PLLC.

Mayor Myers' civic activities also include serving on the Mecklenburg-Union Metropolitan Planning Organization from 1989 until the present, having served as chairman from 1997 to 2005. He has also been the Matthews representative to the Metropolitan Transit Commission since its formation.

Today, I join the nearly 30,000 residents of Matthews in thanking Mayor Myers for his two decades of outstanding service to them and to Mecklenburg County. His dedication is to be commended, and I wish him and his family all the best.

RECOGNIZING HARRY STATHAM FOR HIS 1,000TH VICTORY AS THE MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY IN LEBANON, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Harry Statham who, on November 13, 2009, posted his 1,000th victory as coach of the McKendree Bearcats, the first coach of a men's 4-year college basketball program to reach that mark.

Harry Statham began his career at McKendree College in 1966 after 5 years as a high school coach. Forty-four years later, coaching in the basketball court that bears his name, Coach Statham is still at McKendree, now McKendree University, and has built an impressive program on the guiding principle of, "You win games by getting the right kids." And Harry Statham's criteria for "the right kids" should be a model for other coaches in all sports. "We want good people, good students and good basketball players—in that order," he says.

Harry Statham has been the career wins leader for a 4-year men's basketball program since passing Dean Smith with his 880th victory in 2004. His record, after the 79–49 win over East-West University on November 13, was 1000–318.

Harry Statham's career is not marked solely by an impressive number of victories. He was named the 2001–02 NAIA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year and has received the AMC Coach of the Year award eight different times. He was a six-time recipient of the NAIA District 20 Coach of the Year, has been named the NAIA-Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Men's Basketball Coach of the Year 12 times, was the recipient of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, NABC, Guardians of the Game Leadership Award and received the Distinguished Service Award from the United States Sports Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harry Statham on his milestone 1,000th victory as the men's basketball coach at McKendree University and to thank him for his many contributions to his sport, his university and his community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR TOBY D. PATTERSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize and honor MAJ Toby D. Patterson, United States Marine Corps, for his service to the U.S. House of Representatives as he prepares to depart Capitol Hill. After serving over 2½ years as a liaison officer and the Deputy Director of the United States Marine Corps Liaison Office in the U.S. House of Representatives, he will be attending the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra, Australia.

While serving in the Liaison office, Major Patterson developed and executed a legislative strategy for the United States Marine Corps that was instrumental in training and equipping the Marine Corps and ensuring their success on the battlefield. By engaging members of Congress and their staffs, Major Patterson directly facilitated an increased emphasis on improving Congressional relationships, which is a cornerstone of the Corps' strategic vision.

During his time on Capitol Hill, Major Patterson successfully planned, coordinated and escorted over 50 international and domestic Congressional and Staff Delegations. His attention to detail and anticipation of requirements allowed my fellow members of the House to focus on fact-finding and gleaning new insights that informed critical decisions to support the people of the United States. Due to his professionalism, dedication and knowledge, Major Patterson became a highly sought after military escort for delegations traveling into Combat and Post Conflict Zones. The time he has spent supporting members of the House has been truly noteworthy.

Major Patterson has distinguished himself as a man of many talents. While working in a challenging environment, he earned a Master's degree from the University of Oklahoma, completed the Marine Corps Non-Resident Command and Staff College, and succeeded as an accomplished athlete having run two Marine Corps Marathons and completing a full Ironman Triathlon.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have benefitted personally from Major Patterson's invaluable insights and hold great appreciation for the caliber of his work. He sets a high standard for others to emulate, and our Nation benefits from his outstanding dedication and leadership. I am certain that the members of the House will join me in wishing Major Patterson and his wife, Lindsey, continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, November 16, 2009, I was unable to cast votes on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 889 and 890, and "aye" on rollcall vote 891.

BANK OVERDRAFT POLICIES

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise on behalf of American consumers who have contacted me about their discontent regarding bank overdraft fee policies. Most, if not all, of these individuals are everyday Americans who regularly monitor their spending and account usage. Unfortunately, many of these individuals are victims of unfair and excessive overdraft fees charged by banks.

In light of these many concerns, I believed that it was imperative to speak to citizens directly in an open forum about their worries and how Congress should act on their behalf. I hosted an online chat session this past week where American consumers had the opportunity to share their stories with me. This issue was first raised on a local level by Mike Holfeld, an investigative reporter at WKMG in Orlando.

If the Speaker would allow, I would like to relay a few of their stories:

Kathryn McCarrey is a 32-year-old mother of two from Groveland, Florida who has been a customer with Bank of America since 2005. She complained that she has been unfairly charged hundreds of dollars in overdraft fees over the past 2 years. She stated, "Just last week I printed my screen with [my] bank balance 3 days in a row to prove that the bank was charging erroneous fees . . . I cannot afford to continue giving money to the bank!"

Lauren Fant is a University of Central Florida student and customer at SunTrust Bank. She was fined three consecutive overdraft charges of \$39 in August for three transactions that only went through a week after she made them. Although her overdraft amount was only \$12, her fees totaled \$117.

David Spatzer, also from Orlando, was hit with over \$700 worth of charges in the past 2 months. When he went to his bank for help, he was told to take out a loan at 12 percent interest. He collects monthly Social Security checks while also working at Disney World. His checking account, however, approves transactions even when he does not have enough of a balance in his account.

Floridians and individuals throughout our Nation are currently going through similar circumstances as Kathryn, Lauren and David. Congress needs to institute proper notification features at the point of transaction in cases of possible overdraft.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the consumers mentioned above and the numerous others who reached out to me about their concerns on bank overdraft fee policies, I implore all members of this esteemed legislative body to work toward providing consumers with the safeguards necessary to make educated financial decisions without being charged exorbitant and unfair bank overdraft fees by their banks.

HONORING ERIC SIGMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eric Sigman, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eric has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Eric has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eric Sigman for his ac-

complishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS "NEW YORK," LPD 21

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the commissioning of the USS *New York*, LPD 21. On October 22, 2009, the House passed H.R. 856 to congratulate the captain and commissioning crew for the vessel entering the service of the U.S. Navy. The USS *New York* honors those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on September 11, 2001, and adds to our Navy's capabilities to protect our Nation.

With its hull constructed using steel from the World Trade Center, the ship will serve as a memorial to September 11. The ship's main passageway was dubbed "Broadway" and features an insignia with references to the Statue of Liberty, the Twin Towers, the New York City Police Department, and the New York City Fire Department. Its galley hosts a pre-September 11 neon outline of New York City. It is the newest entry to the U.S. Navy's fleet of *San Antonio*-class amphibious transport dock ships and will be deployed to provide amphibious assault capability anywhere in the world. CDR F. Curtis Jones, USN, a New York native, captains the ship.

I also want to take a moment to recognize an important connection between the USS *New York* and my State. RSL Fiber Systems, LLC of East Hartford, Connecticut was proud to be a part of this project, manufacturing the signal and navigation lights used on board the vessel. The ship contains five RSL lighting systems, which boast the breakthrough technology of fiber optic illumination systems. The Connecticut based company was selected to provide remote source lighting and the lighting control systems to the U.S. Navy for shipboard use on the LPD 17 class, the Navy Experimental Craft *Seafighter*, and the DDG 1000 class ships.

The ship's motto is, "Strength Forged Through Sacrifice. Never Forget," serving as a powerful symbol of September 11. The vessel pays tribute to those who lost their lives and reaffirms Congress's commitment to fighting terrorism and recognizing those men and women who risk their lives and fight for our freedom every day. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in congratulating those who helped build the ship, and honoring those who defend our Nation every day.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. GRAFF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the great icons of modern environmentalism, Thomas J. Graff, who passed away last week at the age of 65.

Tom Graff founded Environmental Defense Fund's California office in 1971, and over the ensuing decades, he built a record of accomplishment that includes landmark reforms to the way we use water and energy.

It was my great honor and pleasure to have worked with Tom for many years, and my staff and I often relied on his counsel and insights. His ability to think strategically about policy and politics was unmatched, and there are very few facets of California environmental policy over the last four decades that did not feel Tom's influence.

Tom Graff's negotiating prowess and his wisdom were critical to the passage of legislation that I authored in 1992 to protect the Bay-Delta of California: the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. And his work on California energy policy since the 1970's helped lead to the state's pioneering global warming bill, AB 32, signed into law in 2006.

Over his remarkable career, Tom Graff did an enormous amount of good for his fellow Californians—and for the planet and all its inhabitants. But Tom's unique legacy may be the partnerships and friendships that he formed on the way to his many accomplishments. Tom was always able to find a way to work together with those on the other side of the table, and even though his communications skills were incomparable, he knew that long-term solutions were always more important than soundbites.

In closing, I want to express my deep condolences to Tom's loving family, to his colleagues at EDF, and all of those who knew and worked with him—his passing leaves an incredible void. We will miss his insights, his creativity, his unmatched ability to find solutions, and most of all, his warmth and good humor.

I am submitting for the record several articles remembering Tom's life, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of a great friend and environmental champion, Thomas J. Graff.

[From the Sacramento Bee, Nov. 15, 2009]

A WATER WARRIOR WHO WON RESPECT FROM
ALL SIDES

(By Stuart Leavenworth)

A lion of California's environmental movement died Thursday. Tom Graff, who helped lead the 1980s fight against the peripheral canal and blocked the East Bay from diverting water from the American River, finally succumbed to the cancer that snuck up on him two years ago.

I feel fortunate to have known Graff for as long as I did. When I returned to California a decade ago, Graff was one of many people who helped school me on my home state and its Byzantine water politics.

Graff, a Harvard-educated lawyer with a degree from the London School of Economics, was not a native Californian. (He was born in Honduras, the son of Jewish parents who had fled Nazi Germany). But he knew more about my home state than almost anyone you could imagine.

I soon learned that Graff was a hero for Sacramento residents who care about the American River. In 1971, he founded the California office of the Environmental Defense Fund in an attic in Berkeley. When the East Bay Municipal Utility District attempted to tap water from the American River, Graff was asked by local residents to file a lawsuit. After 17 years, they eventually triumphed, prompting EBMUD to reach a 2001 settlement with Sacramento County on a joint water-withdrawal project further downstream, on the Sacramento River. He also

helped pass California's climate legislation, AB 32, and spark a campaign to restore Hetch Hetchy, the valley in Yosemite National Park that is submerged by San Francisco's water supply.

Graff will be known for battles he won and lost, but he never was just a "stopper." Throughout his career, he advised his peers to go beyond mere obstruction. He wanted the environmental movement to understand the circumstances that led to projects they might oppose, and offer reasonable solutions.

His lifelong crusade was for rational (i.e. market-based) uses of water. By trading water, he argued, water districts could collectively cope with shortages without building new dams. While this idea was anathema to many environmentalists (those who see markets as evil), it sparked a needed debate in California on the essential value of water and the waste that can occur when it is priced cheaply.

I spent a day with Graff last April at his home in the East Bay, after it was clear his cancer couldn't be cured. His voice was barely audible, yet he still exuded the good spirit and humor that drew people to him throughout his career.

Graff and I spent most of the afternoon talking about California politics, the general dysfunction at the Capitol and new plans for a canal to divert water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

We had lunch at Zackary's Pizza in Oakland, where he impressed me with his appetite. Graff helped kill the peripheral canal project at the ballot box in 1982, going head-to-head with some of his fellow environmentalists and then-Gov. Jerry Brown. At the time, Graff wasn't convinced that the canal would be operated properly, with adequate safeguards for the Delta and its upstream tributaries.

When I talked to him in April, Graff seemed to have turned a page on that old fight. "We'd be willing to go there, to a canal outcome," he told me. "But we would want to know as much of the terms as possible."

In particular, Graff said, he'd want to know key details of how water would be conveyed in such a facility, in wet periods and dry ones. There would have to be long-term assurances built into the project's operations so that a change in the governor's office didn't spell doom for the Delta and upstream water users.

We exchanged e-mails and phone calls, but I didn't get a chance to spend time with Graff after that long afternoon. So I have no idea where he stood on the legislative water package the governor finished signing the day that he died.

My guess is that Graff, with his expertise in economics, would be distraught the state is seeking to borrow \$11.1 billion from taxpayers for various water projects, including new dams. As he told me in April, such projects should be largely paid "by water users, instead of taxpayers."

On the other hand, I know that Graff would be proud of a little-noticed part of policy package—one that requires the state to assess the needs of the Delta as a public trust resource.

Graff had sought this assessment for years, especially as various fish species of the Delta went into deep decline. The new law means that, before any new studies are launched on a canal or other alternatives, the state must evaluate how much water the Delta ecosystem needs in various years and in various climate scenarios.

Those needs, for the first time, will then become part of an overall management system for the Delta, its ecosystem and its various communities.

As for the canal itself, Graff would likely want to reserve judgment on the project

until he could closely examine its details. How would it be designed, operated and financed?

He'd pay close attention to the new Delta Stewardship Council that the new law creates. Appointees to this council could determine if the public trust needs of the Delta are married with the operational details of a canal, or some other form of conveyance to move Delta water to the south.

While Graff's views on the water package are intriguing to speculate about, his views on life are more important.

In his final years and months, at age 65, Graff displayed more courage than anyone I've known with a terminal disease. He was never bitter, and always encouraging. He stayed in touch with friends, devoted himself to his family and managed to keep track of his life's work.

You'll probably hear more in the weeks ahead about Graff's legacy—both from old friends and adversaries. He died having the respect of both.

In the world of California water, that's an achievement in itself.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 16, 2009]

GROUNDBREAKER IN U.S. WATER POLICY
(By Juliet Eilperin)

Thomas J. Graff, 65, who helped transform the nation's water policy as the longtime regional office director in California for the Environmental Defense Fund, died Nov. 12 at a hospital in Oakland after battling thyroid cancer for more than two years.

Mr. Graff founded the advocacy group's California office in 1971 in the attic of a University of California at Berkeley fraternity house. He changed the way federal and state governments managed water in the West by providing market incentives for farmers and other water rights holders to conserve resources and direct them toward urban areas and environmental purposes for a profit.

Marcia Aronoff, the Environmental Defense Fund's senior vice president for programs, said Mr. Graff was responsible "for putting together the first major change in water law and federal policy in modern times."

The idea of upending the principle of "use it or lose it" when it came to water rights was radical when Mr. Graff suggested it in the 1980s, but he persuaded lawmakers in Washington and Sacramento to let farmers save water and then sell it to supply urban consumers and critical ecosystems.

Mr. Graff helped codify these incentives through the 1990 Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act and the 1992 Central Valley Project Improvement Act. "Water policy had been a socialized system based entirely on subsidies and political considerations," said Tom Jensen, who got to know Mr. Graff while serving as the chief water lawyer for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee on water and power under Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Mr. Graff's ability to influence the legislative process—he was dubbed "the Godfather" by California Lawyer magazine—stemmed from his impressive analytical ability, array of contacts and listening skills, and a willingness to use tough legal and public relations tactics when needed.

"He was subtle and strategic. He could play at every level of the game," Jensen said. "He could be a spotlight-grabbing advocate or he could be utterly invisible, insidious and influential."

Mr. Graff was known for writing concise, one- or two-paragraph missives that crystallized key policy questions. He once ghostwrote a letter for a member of Congress that ultimately prodded the Interior Depart-

ment to release water from Arizona's Glen Canyon Dam in order to allow the Colorado River to flow more freely through the Grand Canyon.

Thomas Jacob Graff was born Jan. 20, 1944, in Honduras to German Jews who had fled Nazi Germany. He grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., and graduated from Harvard College in 1965 and from Harvard Law School in 1967.

He attended the London School of Economics, was a legislative assistant for New York Mayor John V. Lindsay and an associate at a law firm in San Francisco before opening the defense fund's California office. Defense fund head Fred Krupp once said Mr. Graff joined the organization because of the affinity the young lawyer felt "for an organization whose informal motto back then was 'sue the bastards.'"

His marriage to Joan Messing Graff ended in divorce. Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Sharona Barzilay of Oakland; a daughter from the first marriage, Samantha Graff of Oakland; two children from his second marriage, Rebecca Graff of Cambridge, Mass., and Benjamin Graff of San Jose, Calif.; a sister; and two grandsons.

A fan of the Oakland Athletics, Mr. Graff liked to say that not only had he managed to tutor his children in how to score baseball games with precision but that this training proved to be invaluable when his daughter Rebecca chose to pursue a doctorate in statistics at Harvard.

A number of prominent politicians mourned Mr. Graff's death, including Bradley, who said the lawyer's "good sense and judgment guided" the federal 1992 water law. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), speaking at the signing ceremony Thursday for a California water reform law, lamented the fact that Mr. Graff was not in the audience.

"The reason why I wanted to mention him is because he was a great environmentalist," Schwarzenegger said, "someone that was very heavily working for 30 years on preservation, conservation and protecting the environment, protecting the [Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta] and who was very instrumental to get us where we are here today."

[From the Contra Costa Times, Nov. 12, 2009]

TOM GRAFF, CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
WATER PIONEER, DIES AT 65

(By Mike Taugher)

Thomas J. Graff, the Harvard-educated lawyer who was among the most influential environmentalists in California water policy during the last 30 years, died Thursday morning after a long battle with cancer. He was 65.

Graff, of Oakland, gave up a career at a prestigious San Francisco law firm to open the California office of the Environmental Defense Fund in the attic of a UC Berkeley fraternity house in 1971, helping the organization grow in the following decades into one of the most powerful voices on environmental issues ranging from climate change to oceans to water policy.

Friends and colleagues recalled Graff as exceptionally smart, interested in the views of others, a master negotiator and an energetic and forward thinker. He was devoted to his family and a good friend and mentor to many colleagues, friends said.

"He was one of the earliest environmentalists to advocate (that) if water could be marketed and moved more freely, it would be used more efficiently and we wouldn't need more dams," said Laura King Moon, assistant general manager for the State Water Contractors, a water industry group.

"You could be arguing violently with him one minute and hugging him goodbye a half-

hour later. He was a lion in the water environmental movement over the last three decades," King Moon added.

Graff was born Jan. 20, 1944, in Honduras to German Jews who had fled Nazi Germany. He grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., and later attended Harvard College, Harvard Law School and the London School of Economics.

At the Environmental Defense Fund, he was a champion of the idea of using market forces to improve the environment by pushing for water marketing in California, and for plans to cap-and-trade sulfur dioxide emissions in the eastern states to combat acid rain. "He was a great listener," recalled Spreck Rosekrans, a water policy analyst at the organization. "He always got along with people."

He was also a driving force behind the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, the 1992 law that reworked one of California's biggest water projects and perhaps the most important piece of environmental legislation in the career of Rep. George Miller, D-Marinez.

"One of Tom's great insights was in advocating for, and helping to develop, the water-marketing agreements that helped bring the business world and the urban water community on board," Miller said last year in a speech to Congress.

Graff was a leader in the political fights against construction of a Peripheral Canal around the Delta. When the Sierra Club was debating whether to accept a compromise that would allow the canal to be built, Graff argued that the canal would allow San Joaquin Valley farmers and Southern California to take too much water out of the estuary. He sued the East Bay Municipal Utility District to block plans to tap into the American River, starting a 17-year legal battle over the health of the river and the Oakland-based district's contract rights to water. The utility eventually gave up its plans to build an intake on the American River and reached an agreement with environmentalists and Sacramento interests to move the intake downstream to the Sacramento River.

Graff is survived by his wife, Sharona Barzilay, the assistant head at the College Preparatory School of Oakland; sister Claudia Bial of Fort Lee, N.J.; daughter Samantha, son-in-law Miguel Helft, and grandchildren Avi and Rafael Helft of Oakland; son Benjamin of San Jose; and daughter Rebecca of Cambridge, Mass.

A private memorial is scheduled this weekend. A public service will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF SAM HOUSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Sam Houston Elementary School in the Oak Lawn neighborhood of northern Dallas.

On December 6, 1909, the Oak Lawn School opened its doors to roughly 200 students under the leadership of Principal Mary Spears. The school included eight classrooms, five of which were used for academic purposes, and was located near the corner of Throckmorton Street and Dickason Avenue. Within a year, a petition was filed with the Texas Board of Education to begin a kinder-

garten program in the unused rooms of the school, and in March 1910 the first free kindergarten under the control of the Dallas School Board opened with an attendance of 25 students. Shortly thereafter, the Oak Lawn School changed its name to the Sam Houston School in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.

Today, Sam Houston Elementary School stands as the oldest school in the Dallas Independent School District to continue to operate in its original building. For 100 years, the faculty and staff of this institution have educated young people in North Texas to become responsible and productive members of society. Through their hard work, Sam Houston Elementary has developed a legacy of excellence, and I am so proud to have this school within my District in Texas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in celebrating the success of this institution's century of existence and to recognize the faculty and staff's hard work and continued determination to ensure a quality education for children in north Texas.

HONORING JONATHAN ROBERT HUBBS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jonathan Robert Hubbs, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jonathan has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jonathan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jonathan Robert Hubbs for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING SUTTER LAKESIDE HOSPITAL OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sutter Lakeside Hospital of Lake County, California. On November 19th, 2009, Sutter Lakeside will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for their new Mobile Health Services Unit.

The Mobile Health Services Unit project began over 2 years ago. Twenty percent of Lake County's residents and 31 percent of its children are living below the poverty line. This fact, combined with the county's rural nature, means an unacceptably high number of residents have no access to basic health care

services. The Mobile Health Services Unit will ensure that these underserved populations receive the care they need, where they need it.

The entire Mobile Health Services Unit team at Sutter Lakeside deserves our thanks for their efforts in making this project a reality. In particular, a debt of gratitude is owed to Charlie Melo, owner of American Custom Coach, who provided the expertise and leadership that made this all possible. He was also so kind as to donate the unit's solar panels.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor Sutter Lakeside Hospital and thank them for their contributions to the citizens of Lake County. The new Mobile Health Services Unit is an invaluable addition to the community and all involved in making this happen are to be commended for their efforts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BILL BOYD

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and memory of my friend, Bill Boyd. Enclosed they may read a profile piece in the Dallas Morning News featuring Bill's distinguished life of service, love of Texas, and devotion to family.

[From the Dallas Morning News, Aug. 31, 2009]

WILLIAM M. "BILL" BOYD: STORIED DALLAS ATTORNEY DEFENDED TEX WATSON, POLICE CHIEF

(By Rudolph Bush)

William M. "Bill" Boyd, 71, a storied attorney who gave up a career in politics to build up a successful McKinney law firm founded by his father, died Saturday of heart failure. Mr. Boyd of Dallas was well known in Texas' political and legal circles for his sharp mind, constant optimism and kindness. His career spanned five decades and countless cases.

A 1963 graduate of Southern Methodist University Law School, he was elected Collin County district attorney in 1964, before he had even passed the bar. As the son of attorney Roland Boyd—a close adviser to House Speaker Sam Rayburn and a friend of President Lyndon Johnson—Mr. Boyd might easily have built his early success into a lifelong political vocation, friends said.

"He would have done well in politics, but he loved the law. He loved legal practice," said Kent Hance, chancellor of Texas Tech University and a former U.S. representative. Mr. Boyd served four years as district attorney before returning to Boyd Veigel, where he practiced until his death.

From the earliest years of his career, Mr. Boyd was involved in high-profile cases. When Manson family member Charles "Tex" Watson was arrested in connection with the murders of actress Sharon Tate and others, Mr. Boyd fought his extradition from Texas to California all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"He did everything he could to keep him over here because Watson had already been convicted in the papers over there. He didn't feel like Watson could get a fair trial," said John Stooksberry, a longtime partner of Mr. Boyd.

Though ultimately unsuccessful at blocking Watson's extradition, Mr. Boyd did see

many legal victories. In 1991, he successfully defended former Dallas Police Chief Mack Vines against a perjury charge, calling a slew of witnesses, including former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, to the stand.

At the time of his death, Mr. Boyd was leading a long-standing lawsuit pitting Dallas police officers and firefighters against the city in a dispute over back pay. Elements of that case, which could involve hundreds of millions of dollars in potential damages, are now before the state Supreme Court.

Mr. Boyd's wife, Barbara White Boyd, recalled her husband's passion for the law and for politics as grounded in a keen intelligence and attention to detail.

"He always managed to put things in such an eloquent and kind way, even when he was critical. He was the most open and honest person," she said.

He was loyal, too. In conservative Collin County, he never wavered from his commitment to Democratic politics.

"After I changed parties in the '80s, he told me, 'I still love you even though you're a Republican.'" Mr. Hance said. "He had friends on both sides, and he never took his politics so personal it affected his friendship with anyone."

Mr. Boyd's mark on law in Collin County is clear from a visit to the county courthouse, where he has placed two works of art, a sculpture of Alamo hero William Barret Travis and a portrait print of decorated World War II soldier Audie Murphy.

Mr. Boyd had said the sculpture of Travis represented what he believed in when it came to the law.

"It stands for courage, and that's what you need in a lawyer. You need someone that will stand up against the state, against powerful forces that you may be, as an individual, up against," he said.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Boyd's survivors include his sons, William Bradley Boyd of New Orleans and Blake Edward Boyd of Los Angeles; his sister, Betty Skelton of Houston; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Boyd.

His body will lie in repose from 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Turrentine Jackson Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 N. Central Expressway in Allen. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church of McKinney, 1615 W. Louisiana St. Burial at Lake View Cemetery in Lavon will follow.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE
DIRECTOR ROBERT PARKER

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Police Director Robert Parker from the Miami-Dade County Police Department.

Director Parker has 33 years of distinguished service for the eighth largest police department in the country and for the last five years Mr. Parker has served as Director of the force, overseeing more than 4,700 dedicated sworn and non-sworn personnel.

Director Parker joined the Miami-Dade Police Department in 1976 where he was quickly promoted through all the civil service ranks. He has diverse experience in police manage-

ment and operations, including posts as Assistant Director of Police Services, Division Chief of the North Operations Division and the Special Investigations Division, and Police Bureau Commander. In 2004, he made history when he was appointed as the first African American Director of Police for Miami-Dade County.

Known as a gifted leader in his community and in the Department, Director Parker was appointed by the Governor of Florida to serve as Co-Chair of the Southeast Regional Domestic Security Task Force. He also served as President of the Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police from 2006–2007, presiding over more than 35 municipal police departments as well as other state and federal law enforcement member agencies.

With Director Parker at the helm, the Department became known nationally as a leader in law enforcement. The Miami-Dade County Police Department holds accreditation from two agencies, the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA), documenting its commitment to the highest level of service.

I am proud today to honor Director Parker's distinguished career and leadership in the South Florida community and wish him and his family well on their future endeavors.

U.S. SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievement of U.S. Senator ROBERT C. BYRD on becoming the longest serving Member in the history of the United States Congress.

Senator ROBERT C. BYRD has made a career of setting the standard for his fellow Members of Congress to emulate and today, he has, again, set the bar of Congressional service one notch higher.

This is a history-making day. But Senator BYRD's record-setting achievement is not gauged best by the number of years, days, and hours he has spent in office—though he could tell us to the minute. It is, instead, more correctly measured by the wealth of hope his work has generated, the vast number of lives his efforts have touched and improved, and the multiple generations of citizens his struggles from virtual orphan to the heights of political power have inspired.

His work, in short, has been monumental. His efforts have provided for public services and fundamental structures—modern highways, safer bridges, veterans centers, clean water systems—but these fall far short of the greatest and most lasting monument that he has given the people of West Virginia, his devotion and tireless work to make their lives richer.

I am proud and awed—though not in the least surprised—to be able to congratulate West Virginia's senior Senator on becoming the longest serving Member in the history of the U.S. Congress. And I look forward to many more record-breaking years of ROBERT C. BYRD serving in the U.S. Senate and setting a wise and fruitful course for the future of West Virginia and the Nation.

HONORING VINCENT PAUL
WHITAKER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Vincent Paul Whitaker, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Vincent has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Vincent has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Vincent Paul Whitaker for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 85TH
BIRTHDAY OF ROSEMARY MCCANN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor an outstanding American and a great public servant who will celebrate her 85th birthday on November 20, 2009. Rosemary McCann has served her country with an unyielding sense of determination, and she has cared well for so many people through her distinguished and long career as a nurse.

After raising two exceptional children, Rosemary's caring nature led her to begin a career in nursing. She served for more than a decade as the occupational health nurse in Tiffany & Company's medical department. During her tenure, she served approximately 900 employees and provided emergency care and follow-up for the injured. She also helped to implement important safety and health education programs, which no doubt prevented future injuries from occurring on the job.

After her time at Tiffany & Company, Rosemary's desire to serve her country guided her to become the medical officer aboard the USNS *Silas Bent* and later with the U.S. Merchant Marine. During her service, she cared for sick or injured crewmembers and technicians on world-wide voyages, from the North Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. She also maintained the on-board medical inventory, oversaw food sanitation, and ensured that sailors had potable water to drink.

Her humor and compassion were a comfort to sailors away from home and she made sure that they stayed in contact with their families while at sea. Early one May, as Mother's Day was approaching, bad weather kept the USNS *Silas Bent* away from port. Always an expert at handling emergency situations, Rosemary passed out her supply of handmade cards to sailors to send home to their mothers. The cards made it home just in time.

Today, well past the customary age of retirement, Rosemary continues to touch people's lives as a relief nurse for numerous

agencies and companies, including the U.S. Public Health Service, Time Warner, and Tiffany & Company.

Throughout her career, Rosemary has consistently demonstrated her intelligence, compassion and desire to serve others. Her determination has garnered the admiration of her co-workers and the respect of her patients.

It is a special privilege to honor Rosemary McCann because I know firsthand what a remarkable human being she is. I also have the privilege of knowing her daughter Leonore Horowitz and her family, and can say with great confidence that Rosemary McCann's values live on. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating her 85th birthday and thank her for her decades of service to our nation. She has made her family strong, and her community and country better by all she has done.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week marked the 20th anniversary of one of the greatest triumphs of freedom and democracy in history—the fall of the Berlin Wall.

But two decades ago, the national media gave Americans a biased account of the issues surrounding this historic event, according to a new report by the Media Research Center, titled “Better off Red?”

MRC found that many in the national media failed to portray the evils of communism and suggested that free-market capitalism was somehow worse.

Furthermore, the media's coverage often tipped in favor of the oppressors—not the oppressed—and frequently criticized those who were fighting communism rather than those who were perpetuating it.

It is just as important today as it was 20 years ago that the national media give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

ON THE PASSING OF EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER, THE CREATOR OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of a Great American, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Her life and her times were a lesson to us all about a life well lived. From mother to matriarch, hers was a life of love, nurturing and giving. The creator of the Special Olympics. A woman who led by example, and of great faith, who ever throughout her lifetime, asked the question, “Have you done enough?” I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell in honor of her be placed in the RECORD.

BUT, HAVE WE DONE ENOUGH?

Sunrise, Sunset . . .
All in these, the days of our lives that we have left!

All in these the moments, that which so race . . . of which lie before us in our life's face . . .

Only, so much time to find . . . all in one's lifetime, that which our world to grace!
To give to this our world, all in what we have done . . .

To make our lives burn bright, burn bright like the morning sun!

To ask that question, “have we done enough?”

A Mother, A Wife, A Sister, A Matriarch . . .
A Champion for others, as was Eunice's most splendid part!

For she was such a woman of faith!
Such a woman of heart!

As to all of these, Eunice could not so give enough, her art!

As to all she so asked as such!

But, have you done enough?

As a Champion For Children, as her heart was so filled in!

Creating The Special Olympics, a work of art to help all hearts mend!

For from a beautiful Rose, once came a flower so beautiful to help hearts win . . .

So bright, a giver of light . . . a true lover of life!

As above great American Women she so towers, as we look back upon her hours . . .

For she never asked more, than what she was willing to give herself . . .

For in all hearts, she always saw good . . . as how a life should be lived as felt!

As someone, who so came from such heartache and pain . . .

And yet, somehow in her fine heart . . .

Her Profiles In Courage . . . still remained!

Showing us all, her light!

But, have we done enough?

To make our world burn bright?

To Heaven now our sweet child, rise . . .
looking into our Lord's eyes . . .

But, have we done enough?

CONGRATULATING SHARK TOWN MICRO COMMUNITY

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Monday, November 23, in Port Lavaca, Texas, IBC Bank and HJM Elementary School will co-host the Shark Town Micro Community Grand Opening. Shark Town Micro Community is an innovative education program that gives HJM Elementary students the opportunity to learn “real world” business and financial skills. I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the people of IBC Bank, HJM Elementary, and all the businesses, educators, and, especially, students participating in this program.

The Shark Town Micro Community is a small community within the school run by the students. The HJM Elementary student council serves as the Shark Town council, and the student council president serves as the mayor of Shark Town. HJM Elementary students named the community after their school's mascot, a shark.

Students may choose to work at any of a variety of business, including an IBC Bank, Wal-Mart, and HEB grocery store. Students can also work at Shark Town's branch of the IRS, student workers have to pay taxes, one of Shark Town's utility companies, the post office, the local newspaper, the safety patrol, or the recycling center. Students may also train to be future teachers.

Local Port Lavaca businesses sponsor their Shark Town counterparts. The businesses

provide their Shark Town counterparts with signs, badges, and shirts for their employees. Local businesses also provide funds for the Shark Town companies. Employees of the local businesses also periodically visit the school to offer assistance to their counterpart businesses.

Students receive salaries based on their jobs and their work performance. In order to participate in Shark Town, students must submit job applications and be interviewed. Payment is in the form of “sand dollars.” Students may use their sand dollars to pay their taxes and utility bills as well as to shop at Shark Town's stores.

Madam Speaker, the Shark Town Micro Community program represents an innovative means of providing students with a unique opportunity to learn about how businesses operate as well as develop work and financial management habits that will serve them well throughout their lives. It is my pleasure to again congratulate all those participating in the Shark Town Micro Community project.

COPD AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, today is World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Awareness, COPD, Day. COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States.

COPD includes many conditions such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, refractory asthma and bronchiectasis. It is preventable and treatable. However, it is also progressive and there are millions of Americans that do not detect COPD in the early stages.

There are over 12 million Americans diagnosed with COPD and that number is growing. It is estimated that COPD will be the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2020. Despite all this, there is lack of awareness of COPD.

That is why, as one of the founders of the COPD Caucus, I've worked to highlight the problem of COPD and am introducing today, a Resolution, with my friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, designating COPD Awareness Month.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was \$12,039,319,107,488.80. I should note this week is the first time our debt has broken the 12 trillion level. We have added \$8,019,921,198.73 to the national debt since yesterday.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

The national debt has increased by \$1,400,893,361,195 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year

is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

COMMENDING THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Water Replenishment District of Southern California on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California was created by the voters of California on November 17, 1959.

The successful election and creation of the Water Replenishment District was the culmination of a 17-year effort by groundwater producers in the Central and West Coast Basins to devise a system to finance and manage the restoration of dangerously depleted basins, retard and reverse the intrusion of sea water, institute a program of annual replenishment, and adjudicate and protect the rights of groundwater producers.

For five decades, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California has pursued this mission, assuring the continued beneficial use of the basins for groundwater production.

The programs and projects of the Water Replenishment District have included the pioneering use of recycled water and the capture and use of storm water for replenishment, multiple groundwater contamination cleanup projects in the Central Basin, desalination of brackish water in the West Coast Basin, and the supply of water to the sea water barrier wells in both basins. These successful programs have resulted in the steady reduction of reliance on the expensive and uncertain supply of imported water and a steady increase in the use of locally-developed water.

The goal of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California is to eliminate the use of imported water for replenishment by 2015. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, I want to commend the district for a job well done and to recognize the crucial role the Water Replenishment district plays in the daily lives of Southern California residents.

HONORING MAX AND MARION VOLTERRA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Max and Marion Volterra of Attleboro, Massachusetts. Max and Marion Volterra are pillars of their community. Their dedication and service to the betterment of the city of Attleboro is inspiring. In acknowledgement of their many contributions to the good and welfare of their community, they have been selected to receive the United Regional Chamber of Commerce's "2009 Persons of the Year" award.

Max Volterra has devoted the better part of his life to ensure the success and prosperity of the city of Attleboro. He served as a City Councilor and as City Solicitor prior to launching a successful campaign for State Representative. He then represented the city of Attleboro in the State Legislature until he was tapped to serve as Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Michael Dukakis in 1978.

Leaving state politics to return to his law practice in Attleboro, Max focused his attention on bringing a formerly vital and prosperous downtown back to life. He personally invested in the downtown by purchasing a vacant train station and converting it to office space for his law firm and other offices. He was one of the founding members of an organization called Friends of Attleboro Interested in Revitalization and served as a member and past chairman of the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority that was responsible for several successful economic development projects. He volunteered countless hours for the purpose of ensuring that Attleboro would once again become a vibrant place to work and raise a family.

Marion Volterra's many accomplishments parallel those of her husband. She embodies the concept that a truly successful community must provide opportunities for people of all ages and ethnicities to experience art and culture in order to produce well-rounded citizens. Marion has volunteered with the Attleboro Arts Museum for so many years that no one has any idea how long it has actually been. With her support and guidance, the museum has become an oasis in the center of the city, welcoming all to participate in its educational and cultural opportunities. In her spare time, Marion volunteers as a mentor to students at Attleboro High School and serves on the Board of Directors of the YMCA.

Together Max and Marion Volterra accomplish far more than the sum of their individual efforts, and do so with enthusiasm and dedication. In tribute to their outstanding service to the city of Attleboro, I congratulate Max and Marion Volterra on receiving this award. I know all my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to them today.

HONORING JACOB OWENS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob Owens, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob Owens for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING WNY AMERICORPS, PUSH BUFFALO, AND BUFFALO REUSE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, most are familiar with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition program which embarks on the monumental task of building a new home from the ground up in just one week for a deserving family. Last week WNY AmeriCorps, People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse, organizations in my hometown, took on that job.

On a visit to the site I was expecting to see the team's progress on the Powell family home on Massachusetts Avenue but what I witnessed far exceeded expectations.

The extreme team, which comprised of WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse, in partnership with David Homes and many more from the community stepping up to help, went house to house patching roofs, fixing porches, planting shrubs, painting siding and more.

Hailed by producers as unlike any community effort they've seen in the show's history, the organizations worked in perfect synchronization, Buffalo ReUse deconstructing and recycling building materials, AmeriCorps donating and managing volunteers by the thousands and PUSH Buffalo working throughout the neighborhood, all operating around the clock for one week improving over 50 homes. But it didn't stop there. Their generosity inspired others, prompting food and blood drives and the construction of a community garden.

Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse for taking on the assignment to develop a home and turning it into an opportunity to develop hope—hope for a family, a neighborhood and an entire city. While the spotlight highlighted their efforts last week, these organizations work quietly each and every day building a better future for the Western New York Community and for that we are deeply grateful.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD today becomes the longest-serving Member of Congress in our nation's history. I join my fellow West Virginians and, indeed, citizens from across the country in congratulating Senator BYRD for this historic record.

We mark Senator BYRD's longevity today, but that longevity is not what captures his greatness. I have worked with Senator BYRD for more than a quarter of a century—barely half of his tenure in the Senate—and I have known him for most of my life. His greatness is built on three pillars.

First is his personal story and the way that it has always informed his career. ROBERT C.

BYRD grew up as the adopted son of a miner, graduated as class valedictorian in the depths of the Great Depression. Unable to afford college, he worked where he could find employment—pumping gas, selling produce, cutting meat, welding metal in shipyards. He courted, married, and relied for almost 70 years on his beloved wife, Erma. He earned a law degree even while serving as a Member of Congress. The qualities of discipline, industry, integrity, and commitment underlying that personal history would define greatness in any man no matter his station in life.

Second is his profound connection to the people of West Virginia. Senator BYRD is of the people and he is for the people. He has given West Virginians a lifetime of commitment and faithful service, and the people in turn have given him an unbreakable bond of trust, respect, and deep affection. I cannot imagine ROBERT C. BYRD representing any state other than West Virginia—and I cannot imagine West Virginia without the decades of service Senator BYRD has given it.

Finally, Senator BYRD's greatness derives from his devotion to the Senate and reverence for the Constitution that established it. As that other icon of the Senate, Ted Kennedy, put it, "Bob Byrd personifies what our founding fathers were thinking about when they were thinking about a United States Senate. He brings the kind of qualities that the founding fathers believed were so important for service to the nation."

Madam Speaker, even as we congratulate Senator BYRD for his years of service to his state and his country, we also recognize that it is not the number of those years we are celebrating but the content of those years. That content demands that for as long as there are people who care about the history of this nation, the name ROBERT C. BYRD will be mentioned in the same breath as Daniel Webster, Robert La Follette, Henry Clay, Edward Kennedy—the half dozen or so true giants of the Senate.

HONORING 90 WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to honor a group of 90 World War II veterans from South Carolina who will make their way on November 21st to Washington, DC, in order to visit the World War II Memorial among other national monuments. Their visit will include the Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials, along with the National Cemetery at Arlington.

The veterans who make the journey to Washington represent all four branches of service, and they fought in all of the major theaters of the war. They fought in Europe in places like France, Italy, and Germany, and in the Pacific in islands like Guadalcanal and Okinawa. Represented in this group are veterans who saw service in pivotal battles such as D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, and Tarawa.

WWII was a time when America was at her best. Our nation met the threats of tyranny and fascism and came to the aid of our allies.

The valor of our veterans never shone more brightly, and the sacrifice borne by these veterans should never be forgotten.

We can never forget that WWII was a time of triumph and tragedy. Sixty million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the war.

In South Carolina, the war was a time of special sacrifice. 166,119 servicemembers from our state participated in the war. 4,153 lost their lives. We prize our WWII veterans in South Carolina and their tales of victory over tyranny.

Accompanying these veterans and representing the future leaders of our military and our next generation of veterans are students from Andrew Jackson High School's Reserve Officers Training Corps. These young leaders will benefit from the mentoring and guidance provided by the WWII veterans during this trip.

I would like to thank the volunteers from the Honor Flight of South Carolina. This group, ably led by Bill Dukes, Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer and Medal of Honor winner Charles Murray are to be commended for ensuring that these veterans have the opportunity to see the memorial dedicated to them.

I ask the House of Representatives to join with me in honoring these 90 veterans who make this memorable visit to Washington, and pay tribute to their service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD AND PUBLIC POWER UTILITIES

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the rich history of Oregon's People's Utility Districts, PUD, and the efforts of Northern Wasco County PUD, the lone PUD in Oregon's Second Congressional District. Last month, Northern Wasco County PUD joined Oregon's numerous Municipal Electrical Utilities and Rural Electrical Cooperatives to celebrate the 23rd anniversary of Public Power Week and to recognize over seven decades of public power generated by the clean and renewable federal hydropower system in the Pacific Northwest. I commend Northern Wasco County PUD for their continued commitment to the utilization of clean renewable power in Wasco County, as well as their exemplary efforts in energy efficiency and conservation.

On September 28, 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt stood on Oregon soil as he dedicated the newly constructed Bonneville Dam, which became one of the first in a series of dams to be installed along the Columbia River as part of the President's vision to improve economic opportunities, flood control and, more importantly, provide electricity to communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. Since that day, public power utilities across Oregon, including Northern Wasco County PUD, have harnessed the renewable power of the region's hydroelectric dams to provide clean renewable electricity to Oregon's communities and deliver steady supplies of power to small and large businesses. By providing some of the lowest-cost power to businesses in the Nation, public power utilities play a major role

in maintaining thousands of jobs throughout rural and urban Oregon.

Besides delivering reliable hydropower, public power utilities and their ratepayers' across the West have invested a tremendous amount of financial resources in energy conservation and renewable energy projects. Since Congress passed the 1980 Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana have conserved a combined 3,700 average-megawatts of energy. This savings is equal to the annual combined energy needs of Idaho and western Montana, or the output of seven 500-megawatt coal-fired power plants. These conservation efforts have also resulted in a reduction of 13.5 million tons of CO₂ emissions and nearly \$2 billion in consumer savings per year.

Over the years, Northern Wasco County PUD customers have invested \$27 million in two hydroelectric projects, both of which allow for enhanced fish passage and an increased supply of renewable power. These projects include a five-megawatt generator located at The Dalles Dam and a 10-megawatt generator at the McNary Dam. Both projects generate clean power with no emissions and enhance the survival of listed fish along the main stem of the Columbia River.

In addition, Northern Wasco County PUD is developing a methane gas capture energy project in partnership with the The Dalles, Oregon at the city's wastewater treatment plant as well as a micro-hydroelectric generation installation on the city's water mainline. Furthermore, Northern Wasco County PUD is exploring a U.S. Department of Energy grant for potential geothermal generation in cooperation with a group of other northwest utilities. From my conversations with Northern Wasco County PUD officials, I know they are most proud of their commitment to providing their residential and industrial customers with adequate and predictable supplies of energy at affordable prices, especially in light of the difficult economic circumstances facing rural Oregon.

I also know that the commitment of public power utilities to providing clean renewable energy options for customers is strong. In fact, many now offer their residential, commercial and industrial customers the option of purchasing up to 100 percent renewable electricity produced from resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro.

Madam Speaker, as the debate continues about how to best address climate change, energy independence, and our smarter energy future, it is imperative that entities providing public power in the Pacific Northwest, like Northern Wasco County PUD, receive credit for the work and investments they have already made in protecting our environment through the responsible use of the renewable energy hydropower system and through energy conservation. I commend them for these efforts.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH ROMAINE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Brookhaven Town Councilman

Keith Romaine. Tragically, Councilman Romaine's life was cut far too short on November 14 at the age of 36.

Keith Romaine devoted himself to family and to the community he loved. Like his father, Keith believed in putting public service first. He served as a Congressional aide and small business owner before his election in 2007 to the Brookhaven Town Board. Although Keith could have simply run on his strong family name, he worked hard to establish his own identity and accomplishments.

He served as President of the Moriches Bay Civic Association where he was a tireless advocate for this community.

On the Brookhaven Town Board he worked equally as hard, serving as a full-time representative for his community. Among his accomplishments in just one term were closing the composting facility on Papermill Road in Manorville, working with other levels of government to establish a skate park, and legislation to reduce unnecessary vehicle expenses which will save Brookhaven residents millions of dollars.

Shortly after his election to the Town Council, Keith sat down with me during some of my Community Office Hours and we discussed issues where we could work together. I saw his passion for his community and so did the people he represented.

In one of his last interviews, when Councilman Romaine was asked why he wanted to serve in Town government, he gave a simple, but telling answer, "You're the closest to the people."

Keith Romaine's career was only beginning and the Town of Brookhaven and Long Island will be worse off without him. My heart goes out to Keith's father Ed, his brother Kevin, his grandfather Edward, and the entire Romaine family on this tragic loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KEITH
ROMAINE

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life and legacy of Keith Romaine, Brookhaven Councilman who we lost too soon on November 14, 2009 at the age of 36.

Keith will be remembered by family, friends, and constituents as a devoted public servant who worked tirelessly to improve his neighborhood and community. I offer my support to his family and friends upon the loss of a bright, intelligent, and dedicated community leader who will be sorely missed by the people of Long Island.

HONORING VENERINI ACADEMY,
WORCHESTER, MA

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an incredible school, Venerini Academy, located in my district of

Worcester, Massachusetts. The mission of the Venerini Sisters in Worcester celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, and I am proud to recognize its many contributions to the community over the last century.

The school's and order's founder Rosa Venerini was born in Viterbo, Italy in 1656. She started the first public school for girls there, marking a milestone in the evolution of the education of women. Rosa knew the barriers women faced when life choices were limited often to marriage and the convent. Her father instilled in her a great respect for education and she wanted the same for future women. Rosa came to adopt the maxim, "educate to liberate".

In 1713, Rosa opened a school in Rome and Pope Clement XI paid her the honor of a visit. The Pope stayed the whole morning in the school listening to the class of catechism and asking the students questions. At the end of the visit, he called Rosa and her companions; he thanked her for their precious work, and said to them: "I desire that these schools spread to all of our cities." Within a short time the schools opened everywhere, teaching young women to read and other life skills such as sewing. By the time of her death in 1728, Rosa Venerini opened 40 schools across the world.

In 1909, the movement she started came to the United States, establishing its first mission outside Italy on Edward Street in Worcester, Massachusetts. Venerini Academy's hallmarks of dedicated educators and rigorous programs would become a vital part of the community and a model for many other successful missions in countries across the globe.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that the entire House of Representatives joins me in honoring and thanking the Venerini Sisters and the Venerini Academy for their contributions to our community and the education of our children, as well as expressing our hope and confidence in an even more accomplished second hundred years.

RECOGNIZING DAVID STAPLETON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, most are familiar with ABC's Extreme Makeover: Home Edition program which embarks on the monumental task of building a new home from the ground up in just one week for a deserving family. Last week in my hometown David Stapleton, owner of David Homes took on that job.

On a visit to the site I was expecting to see the construction team's progress on the Powell family's home on Massachusetts Avenue but what I witnessed far exceeded expectations.

Under David's leadership volunteers by the thousands were transforming not one home but an entire neighborhood on Buffalo's West Side. With local organizations including WNY AmeriCorps, PUSH Buffalo and Buffalo ReUse as partners and many more from the community stepping up to help, the extreme team went house to house patching roofs, fixing porches, planting shrubs, painting siding and more.

Hailed by producers as unlike any community effort they've seen in the show's history, David's team managed 4,500 volunteers working around the clock for one week improving over 50 homes. But it didn't stop there. Their generosity inspired others, prompting food and blood drives and the construction of a community garden.

David agreed to this project knowing he could not simply go into this neighborhood and build one home. Producers feared he would lose focus but he knew he would have to do better and that he did.

Madam Speaker, today I am honored to recognize David Stapleton for taking on the assignment to develop a home and turning it into an opportunity to develop hope—hope for a family, a neighborhood and an entire city. What David Stapleton built last week is a better future for the Western New York Community and for that we are grateful.

HONORING COACH VERNON GLASS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Lamar University Cardinals in Beaumont, Texas lost one of its legends in December 2005 with the passing of former head football Coach Vernon Glass. In an effort to keep Vernon's presence in the football program alive, The University recently renamed its newly renovated practice field The Coach Vernon Glass Field of Champions.

Glass served as Lamar's head coach from 1963 through 1975. His 1964, 1965, 1966, and 1971 Cardinal teams won Southland Conference Championships and he finished his career with a 63–68–1 record. He was recognized as the NCAA College Division Coach of the year in 1964 and 1965. One of Coach Glass' former students called him 'a true champion and a great legend'. Therefore, it is only fitting for the university to recognize him by naming the practice field the "Field of Champions".

Madam Speaker, it is truly remarkable when one human being can touch so many lives. Coach Vernon Glass did just that during his years as a football Coach at Lamar University. The Second District of Texas recognizes Coach Glass for his years of dedication and service to the University and to improving the lives of the many players who played on the field under his leadership.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

City of Lufkin Water Project. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City

of Lufkin, P.O. Drawer 190, Lufkin, Texas 75902, \$400,000 to help the city purchase the water production and transmission facilities owned by a local, but long-idle and deteriorating paper mill in danger of becoming an environmental hazard with long-term national implications. The funding will be used to develop infrastructure for the storage and treatment of 17 million gallons of water per day from the Angelina River and Kurth Lake, helping meet the increasing residential, commercial and industrial demands for potable water in a growing region of the state, which is relied on repeatedly by evacuating hurricane victims.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chair, as the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I study national security issues a great deal and fully understand the risks posed by terrorism.

Terrorists from home and abroad have killed innocent Americans, which is why we in Congress have an obligation to diminish the likelihood of these kinds of terrorist attacks by strengthening our military, by giving law enforcement additional tools, and by authorizing common sense homeland security regulations. But, in writing laws to protect the American people, we must carefully consider how new regulations might impact citizens and businesses.

In 2006, Congress directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish risk-based security performance standards for chemical facilities that use or store chemicals that can be attractive to terrorists. The Department issued its final chemical security regulations—the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards—in 2007, and, since then, businesses have been working in a collaborative manner with the Department to implement them.

For agriculture, the Department has acknowledged the unique nature of farming with respect to chemical regulations and has indefinitely exempted from regulation all end-users of chemicals used in agriculture, including farms, ranches, and other crop, feed, or livestock facilities.

In October 2009, the authority for the Department of Homeland Security to regulate chemical facilities expired. It was recently extended for one year through the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security appropriations bill. In an effort to more permanently extend the Department's authority to regulate chemical facilities and to expand federal regulations to drinking water and waste water facilities, the House of Representatives considered H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009.

To be sure, improving the security around these entities is an important national security objective, and the House Homeland Security Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee deserve a great deal of praise for gluing together H.R. 2868.

However, as a Congressman from rural Missouri, I examined H.R. 2868 through the lens of the farmers I represent. Some in the agricultural community do not support portions of this legislation relating to so-called Inherently Safer Technology requirements. They believe these new requirements could force makers of their fertilizers to change to more expensive or less effective products, eventually adding to producers' input costs.

I realize that the Committees of jurisdiction over H.R. 2868 worked hard to reach out to the agricultural community and that the bill was improved in Committee by Congressman MIKE ROSS (D-AR) and Congressman ZACH SPACE (D-OH) who added technical assistance grants for agricultural wholesalers. I also fully appreciate that the Department has exempted farms from its regulations for an indefinite period of time.

But, after careful consideration and review, it seems more work remains to assuage agriculture's concerns about the Inherently Safer Technology requirements. As H.R. 2868 was presented in the House, I could not lend my support to it based on the concerns of my farmers and Missouri's agricultural retailers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 16, 2009, I missed the last vote in a series of three votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 891. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 891: "aye" (On agreeing to H.R. 3767).

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SLE LUPUS FOUNDATION AND THE LUPUS COOPERATIVES OF NY FOR BEING LEADERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LUPUS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the SLE Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Cooperatives of New York for their contributions to help people with lupus and for fighting gender and racial disparities in the treatment of lupus for almost 40 years.

Systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE, commonly called lupus, is a chronic and potentially fatal autoimmune disorder. It is one of the Nation's least recognized major diseases, and it disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. In lupus, the body's immune system forms antibodies that can attack virtually any healthy organ or tissue, from the

kidneys to the brain, heart, lungs, skin, joints and blood. Lupus is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, and stroke in young women. No major new treatments for lupus have been approved in 50 years.

The SLE Lupus Foundation, headquartered in New York City with a West Coast division in Los Angeles, was founded in 1970. It is a nonprofit organization that provides direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for novel lupus research on the national level. The Foundation deals with the predominance and severity of such lupus complications as kidney and cardiac disease in Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Madam Speaker, in 1998, the SLE Lupus Foundation opened the first Lupus Cooperative of New York in East Harlem. The Lupus Cooperative programs ensure that people of lupus receive the medical treatment, emotional care and practical assistance needed to live with this chronic disease, no matter their gender, or ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Over the past decade, the Lupus Cooperatives have focused on communities characterized by high poverty rates, large numbers of uninsured residents, numerous single-parent families and a population at high risk for lupus. They have worked actively to address gender and racial health disparities by demonstrating a collaborative model for the management of chronic illness among young, inner-city minority women.

The SLE Lupus Foundation is a member organization of the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, which has affiliate organizations nationwide. Through the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition, the SLE Lupus Foundation has created visibility for the needs of underserved populations through awareness-building, advocacy and direct education programs on a national, state and local level.

Highlights of accomplishments include:

"Invisible No More" forum on race and lupus at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2004;

Educational panel on heart disease and lupus presented at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in 2005;

Spanish language public awareness campaign to alert Hispanic women to the dangers of lupus in 2005;

Congressional briefing on racial disparity in lupus to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in 2006;

Five-City series on the increased risk of heart disease in people with lupus, particularly young women and African-American women. That was presented in conjunction with the Association of Black Cardiologists in 2007. The series was held in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Detroit;

National Lupus Health Education for Physicians and Health Care Providers—in partnership with the Office of Minority Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, the SLE Lupus Foundation has accomplished and will continue to accomplish great things for people with lupus. I am grateful to the SLE Foundation and the Lupus Cooperative of New York for the work that they do to help people with lupus nationwide.

HONORING SHIRLEY COELHO AND
CHERYL NIMIROSKI

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate New Hope Board Members Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their many years of dedicated service to this inspiring organization. New Hope is a non-profit agency serving communities in Central and Southeastern Massachusetts that is committed to ending domestic violence by helping people live safer lives.

Ms. Coelho and Ms. Nimiroski have worked tirelessly over the past 20 and 15 years respectively to provide individuals and families with the resources they need to identify, overcome and prevent domestic violence. Not only have their efforts improved the lives of those they have worked with directly, but they have also made the lives of countless individuals in their greater communities safer.

At New Hope's annual meeting on October 29, 2009, Shirley and Cheryl were specially honored with the creation of the "Coelho-Nimiroski Volunteer of the Year Award" which will be awarded to an outstanding volunteer who embodies the values of and shows dedication to the mission of New Hope. The creation of this award ensures that Shirley and Cheryl's work will continue to inspire future volunteers for years to come.

Madam Speaker, domestic violence affects us all and sadly, it still exists in communities across the United States. The care, compassion and commitment to ending domestic violence shown by devoted individuals like Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski is truly exemplary. We should all be inspired by their invaluable work.

I respectfully ask the entire U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Shirley Coelho and Cheryl Nimiroski for their years of service to New Hope and for their dedication to ending domestic violence.

HONORING MEL AUST OF LAKE
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Mel Aust, General Manager of the Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District in Lake County, California. Mel is being honored this evening on the occasion of his 20th anniversary with the district.

Mel's contributions to the people of Lake County and California over the years are immeasurable. Mel was the driving force behind the water reclamation treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant to sustain build-out of the Hidden Valley Lake community. In 2001, his Community Services District helped build a ballpark at Coyote Valley Elementary School. He also secured \$250,000 in labor grants to clean up Coyote Creek, Gallagher Creek and drainage ditches throughout the Hidden Valley Lake subdivision. He played a

key role in crafting a letter that secured essential federal funding for the training and technical assistance HVLCSO offers to water and wastewater systems all over California.

The list of boards and commissions on which Mel has served is equally impressive. Locally, he serves on the Lake County Business Outreach Team, the Board of Directors of the South Lake County Fire District and the Board of Directors of the Toys for Kids program. Statewide, he served on the Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs committee and the California Department of Water Resources Drought Preparedness Committee. Mel also serves as California's representative at the National Rural Water Association and is on NRW's Asset Development, Legislative and Conference Committees.

Mel is known across the state for his immense knowledge of complex water issues and his public speaking ability. He frequently lobbies in Sacramento and on Capitol Hill for the Association of California Water Agencies, American Water Works Association, California Rural Water Association and National Rural Water Association. He is the go-to speaker for these organizations when needed, often speaking to audiences of thousands with ease.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to recognize Mel Aust for his many years of service to the people of California and to thank him for his many contributions on behalf of our country and our community. I am proud to call him a friend. I join his wife, Connie, and all of our colleagues in congratulating him on this milestone.

CONGRATULATING KATHLEEN
HODGES OF GARLAND'S WALNUT
GLEN ACADEMY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week I visited Garland's Walnut Glen Academy to congratulate Kathleen Hodges for winning the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award 2008–2009. The Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Awards recognize eleven exemplary K–12 humanities teachers in the Lone Star State. The exceptional Rowlett resident stands head and shoulders above her peers for her role as a terrific humanities teacher making a difference in the lives of young Texans.

Humanities Texas, formerly the Texas Council for the Humanities, is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Humanities Texas conducts and supports public programs in history, literature, philosophy, and other humanities disciplines.

I wish my colleagues could have seen the heartwarming patriotic celebration that coincided with this wonderful announcement heralding Kathleen's accolade. On Veterans' Day, Walnut Glen Academy rolled out the red carpet for patriots young and old. The faculty and students at Walnut Glen Academy went to great lengths to stress the importance of service before self—and pointed a shining example of that—Kathleen's tireless work on behalf of young people. It was truly inspiring. Most important, Kathleen received the special rec-

ognition and her time in the sun for her tremendous achievement she so truly deserves.

After spending the day at her school, it is easy to see why Kathleen considers her proudest accomplishment the art program she has helped establish at Walnut Glen Academy. Congratulations are in order for Kathleen Hodges and the students and faculty at Walnut Glen Academy. God bless you and I salute you.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding funding received in my district as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Lanana Creek Water Initiative. STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project, the City of Nacogdoches, P.O. Box 635030, Nacogdoches, Texas 75963, \$500,000 for regional detention ponds to complete a storm water mitigation initiative at Lanana Creek, Nacogdoches, Texas, which will prevent submergence of a number of bridges by keeping Lanana Creek at a low water level. This will allow for full access of emergency personnel to areas south of the North Loop 224 bridge at all times, and dealing with untenable wetland issues.

HONORING THE COAST GUARD
AND MARINE CORPS AIRCRAFT
PILOTS LOST IN CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 891, "Expressing the gratitude of the House of Representatives for the service to our Nation of the Coast Guard and Marine Corps aircraft pilots and crewmembers lost off the coast of California on October 29, 2009, and for other purposes." The safety of American citizens lies in the hands of our service men and women on a daily basis. With honor and respect our service men and women devote their lives to their duty and time and time again they prove to be faithful servants. We in the Gulf Coast region will never forget their bravery in saving 22,000+ lives during Hurricane Katrina.

On the evening of October 29, 2009, a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft with two pilots and five crewmembers on board was involved in a search and rescue mission off the coast of California. Unfortunately at the same time, a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra carrying two pilots was involved in a military escort mission nearby. The two aircraft are suspected to have collided while traveling east of San Clemente Island, California. The following crew members of the Coast Guard C-130 are

missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Lt. Cmdr. Che J. Barnes of Capay, California; Lt. Adam W. Bryant, of Crewe, Virginia; Chief Petty Officer John F. Seidman of Stockton, California; Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl P. Grigonis of Mayfield Heights, Ohio; Petty Officer 2nd Class Monica L. Beacham of Decaturville, Tennessee; Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason S. Moletzsky of Norristown, Pennsylvania; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Danny R. Kreder II, of Elm Mott, Texas. The following crew members of the Marine Corps helicopter are missing and presumed to have lost their lives in the line of duty: Maj. Samuel Leigh of Kennebec, Maine, and 1st Lt. Thomas Claiborne of Douglas, Colorado.

The men and women of the Coast Guard are "Always Ready" to safeguard the United States against all hazards and threats at our ports, at sea, and around the world. As the men and women of the Marine Corps are "Always Faithful" to their mission of defending the United States on the ground, in the air, and by sea, in every corner of the globe. These individuals lost their lives in service to their country and I, as well as every other Member of Congress, should support this resolution in their honor.

CELEBRATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the month of November as Native American Indian Heritage Month, and to express my support for the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

Over 562 Native American tribes have made extraordinary professional, educational, and cultural contributions to our community. After centuries of gross mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. government and generations of unequal, exploitative policies that have worked to effectively rob Native Americans of their land, culture, and livelihood, it is a privilege to honor the many accomplishments that these groups are making today. Their rich ancestry and surviving traditions are a living testament of the strength and unyielding spirit shared by many great tribal nations across this land, and their legacy will continue to be a major part of the ethnic fabric of American society.

Since its inception in 1990, Native American Indian Heritage Month has sought to promote recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the United States, and increase awareness of the tragedies and discrimination these groups have experienced throughout history. This year's theme, *Pride in Our Heritage*, Honor to our Ancestors, reflects the importance of remembering the rich and diverse cultural legacy of our Native American communities.

In the spirit of recognizing the longstanding social and economic inequalities facing Native American tribes, it is crucial that we take steps to ensure that Native American communities achieve equal access to public services, government funding, employment, business and

educational opportunities. Individually and as distinct nations, Native Americans have made distinguished and significant achievements in the fields of agriculture, business, medicine, music, language, and art. I have every confidence that they will continue to distinguish themselves in those arenas as well as in government, as entrepreneurs, athletes, and scholars in the years and decades to come.

As we proceed to strengthen America's economic and social infrastructure, it is imperative that we target existing inequalities and discriminatory policies and make an active, nationwide effort to include Native Americans in future programs through forward-thinking legislation, such as the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009.

I strongly support H.R. 1834, the Native American Business Development Enhancement Act of 2009, which will be considered by the House today. This legislation, introduced by my colleague Rep. ANN KIRKPATRICK, will establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration. This effort will increase Native American entrepreneurship and engage tribes in the small business arena.

In this vein, I have been working to further Native American business and economic development by supporting the elevation and funding of the Office of Native American Business Development, ONABD, at the Department of Commerce. I believe the ONABD should be more independent and receive an increase of funds in order to expand its activities, and fulfill its duties to expand business development, trade promotion and tourism opportunities for Native American tribes and their enterprises.

In closing, Madam Speaker, celebrating Native American Indian Heritage Month and supporting our Native American community is an important milestone to increase public awareness of their role in American history and recognize their cultural legacies that enrich our everyday lives.

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 841, which will designate November 29, 2009, as "Drive Safer Sunday". I strongly support the passage of this resolution because at some point in time, all of our lives have been or will be in the hands of a driver. Motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation for most of us here in the United States. Advocating safer driving methods will help save the lives of countless mothers, daughters, fathers and sons. Losing the people we love due to another drivers' lack of attention, carelessness or belligerent intoxication while driving is inexcusable.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, in 2005, Americans now spend more than 100 hours a year commuting to work. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, estimates that in 2009, 37,313 people, an average of more than 100 drivers a day, were

killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Throughout the first half of this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, has reported over 16,000 deaths. Throughout 2008 in Houston, my home district, the 18th District of Texas, there were an estimated 74 fatalities according to the Texas Department of Transportation, TxDOT.

Between driving to work, taking our kids to school, running to the grocery store and various other errands; for many of us, our highways and byways become a home away from home. Unfortunately, distracted drivers have endangered us all with careless antics. 'Distracted driving' includes anything that takes your eyes, hands, or mind away from driving, including food and beverages, traffic accidents, adjusting the radio, children, pets, objects moving in the vehicle, talking or texting on a cell phone, smoking, putting on make-up, shaving, and reading.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, conducted a study on driver distraction with respect to both behavioral and vehicle safety countermeasures in an effort to understand and mitigate crashes associated with distracted driving. In September of this year, the Department of Transportation, DOT, Secretary Ray LaHood announced research findings by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, that showed nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted or inattentive driver, and more than half a million were injured. Distracted driving was reported to have been involved in 16 percent of all fatal crashes in 2008, according to data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System, FARS. The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group, 16 percent of all under-20 drivers in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. Crashes in which the critical reason for the crash was attributed to the driver, approximately 18 percent involved distraction, according to the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, NMVCCS.

While traveling on our roads and highways, we all need to drive safer to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents. Driver behavior can be effectively changed through education and awareness. The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year and would be appropriate to be designated as "Drive Safer Sunday."

HONORING THE LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE ILLINOIS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lyons Township men's soccer team on its victory in the Illinois 3A State Championship match on November 7 in Naperville, IL.

Lyons Township enjoyed immense success this season, posting a record of 26 wins and only three losses. This year marked LT's sixth appearance in the state tournament. But after five previous trips ended in early exits, this

year's team was determined to come home with a different result, and displayed resilience and skill all the way to the end.

Finishing the season on a 15-game winning streak, LT was playing its best soccer coming into the tournament, and that momentum carried over into the playoffs. With excellent coaching and strong senior leadership, LT put together a playoff run that included coming from behind, defeating an opponent that had twice beaten it in the regular season, and knocking off the defending state champions. All this set the table for an intense championship match against Lake Zurich High School. Ninety minutes proved insufficient, as it took overtime for Lyons Township to close out a hard-fought 2-1 victory.

I ask you to join me in honoring the members of the Lyons Township men's soccer team for achieving what every high school athlete strives for—a State Championship.

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Reserve Officers Association Modernization Act. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I understand the role of the brave men and women of the National Guard and the Reserves and I strongly support legislation that facilitates their ability to continue to provide an excellent service to the United States.

The Reserve Officers Association was founded in 1922 by several hundred military officers, many of whom were veterans of World War I. The Association was concerned that in the wake of World War I, the complacency and isolationism that was sweeping across the political landscape would lead to a return to America's pre war unpreparedness. In June 1950, President Truman signed the Reserve Officers Association's charter into law. Today, over 80 years after the Association's founding, the complacency that its founders feared is long gone, yet the Reserve Officers Association remains committed to its mission: ". . . [to] support and promote the development and execution of a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate National Security."

Today, the Reserve Officers Association is organized into 55 departments with one department in each of the 50 states, and 5 additional departments located in Latin America, Puerto Rico, Europe, the District of Columbia and the Far East. Each department is further divided into chapters. There are over 550 chapters around the world.

The Reserve Officers Association helped to establish the bipartisan Reserve Component Caucus in the House of Representatives, of which, of course, I am a member, to provide congressional oversight of Reserve issues and programs.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, our country has relied more heavily on the National Guard and the Reserves than at any other time in recent history. The National Guard and the Reserves play a significant role

in the United States military, national security and disaster relief efforts. The Reserves and the National Guard have stepped forward to answer the call of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Furthermore, they have each played pivotal roles in homeland security and disaster relief. These new, demanding responsibilities of the National Guard and the Reserves require an update of policies, and of the Reserves Officers Association charter.

This legislation is designed to update the Reserve Officers Association's Federal Charter to reflect the current operations of the Association. The bill extends the Association's National Executive Committee, its governing body, to include the Association's president-elect. It also names the president-elect as an officer of the Association. Furthermore, it provides for the possibility of having more than 3 national executive committee members as officers and on the National Executive Committee. The bill also provides for one vote for each member of the Committee except the president elect and the executive director. The bill also provides for certain officers to be decided in accordance with the Association's Constitution.

It is our responsibility to provide for the needs of the National Guard and the Reserves. They each contribute to our Nation's military, our national security and disaster relief efforts. I am proud and honored to support the brave men and women of the Reserves and the National Guard by endorsing this legislation. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in support of this bill to bring the Reserve Officers Association Federal Charter up to date so that the organization can continue to provide a valuable and honorable service to the United States of America.

THE BENEFITS OF BUYING LOCAL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, as the holiday shopping season approaches, I want to urge my colleagues to consider the benefits of buying local, and join me in sharing your support for strengthening our local economies, creating local jobs, and ensuring local, sustainable economic development in our communities.

Buying locally strengthens the viability and competitiveness of local businesses. For every \$100 in consumer spending, the total local economic impact is only \$13 when goods and services are purchased at a national chain store.

The same amount spent with a local merchant, small business, or retailer yields more than three times the local impact, nearly \$45 for every \$100 spent.

Buying locally benefits small businesses, retailers and merchants who maintain a healthy and competitive marketplace for goods and services. Doing so ensures choice, diversity and competition in the marketplace for goods and services.

Moreover, as a former Mayor, I know that buying locally from independent businesses raises the standard of living in local neighborhoods because they take their profits and buy products and services from other local busi-

nesses in the area. As a result, local jobs are created in the community and the unique character of our neighborhoods and towns is preserved.

I want to recognize the work of Local Arizona First, a non-profit organization consisting of independent businesses, in making Arizona communities aware of the economic impact independent businesses have on local economies. Their mission is to promote, support, and celebrate a vibrant and sustainable Arizona economy by educating citizens about local business ownership, social equity, cultural diversity, environmental kinship, and collaboration.

On Friday, November 27, 2009, Local Arizona First will be launching their "Buy Local Week" in Arizona. I applaud their work and wholeheartedly support their efforts in showcasing the economic benefits of buying locally in our community.

HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
SEARCH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to offer my support of House Resolution 851 recognizing and honoring the 40th Anniversary of SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics. For the past 40 years, SEARCH has worked to identify and solve information management problems of law enforcement agencies across the United States.

Accurate, efficient and effective communications between and among Federal, State and local agencies have posed challenges to effective public service since the beginning of organized governments in America. Thus, in 1969, the Department of Justice's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration developed SEARCH, a 10-State project designed to test the feasibility of an interstate automated exchange of criminal history records. The program was a success, and over the past 40 years, SEARCH has maintained a leading role in providing solutions to information management challenges nationwide.

SEARCH is a nonprofit organization created by and for the States and governed by a membership group that includes one appointee from each of the 50 States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its mission is "to improve the quality of justice and public safety through the use, management and exchange of information; application of new technologies; and responsible law and policy; while safeguarding security and privacy." SEARCH has succeeded in using information sharing technology to help agencies to make accurate, informed, immediate and well-secured decisions about criminal justice and security issues.

SEARCH has played a crucial role in developing systems of collaboration for law enforcement agencies across the Nation. A few examples include: the Interstate Identification, a national index of criminal histories maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, a mechanism for determining eligibility to buy a firearm; the National Fingerprint

File, a tool that allows States to maintain their own fingerprint records while still sharing information with Federal and State law enforcement agencies around the country; and the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, a national fingerprint identification and criminal history system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such systems have been critical in sharing data to enhance law enforcement capabilities nationwide.

It is important to recognize, however, that accuracy in law enforcement is as important as vigilance. Accurate law enforcement requires strict focus on privacy rights especially when sharing information. SEARCH has been instrumental in championing privacy and civil rights in law enforcement. SEARCH has addressed the need to protect privacy, civil rights and civil liberties while promoting public and individual safety.

For example, in its "Guide to Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments for State, Local, and Tribal Information Sharing Initiatives," SEARCH identifies the potential risks of law-enforcement agency information-sharing. It writes: "[Data Sharing's] inappropriate or reckless use may irreparably damage reputations, threaten individual liberty, place personal safety at risk, or deny individuals access to some of life's most basic necessities such as employment, housing, and education. Greater information-sharing capabilities and opportunities are accompanied by equally greater responsibilities for protecting the privacy of the information being used and exchanged." In that document, SEARCH goes on to instruct agencies on how to assess the potential privacy risks of their information-sharing programs, and how to develop policies to help mitigate some of those risks.

I further congratulate SEARCH on its cutting edge technological advancements. Who could have guessed at the inception of SEARCH in 1969 that communications systems would evolve as far as they have? Over the years, SEARCH has managed not only to keep up with the remarkable technological advances of the past 40 years, but to be at the cutting edge. The original purpose of the SEARCH project was to examine the possibility of an automated system for exchanging information about criminals.

Today, it uses a variety of technological tools ranging from biometric technologies to cellular device data recovery tools to aid in crime prevention. SEARCH also trains and equips law enforcement agencies nationwide on issues of high-tech crime. It provides courses through its outreach training program on topics including: systems security, digital data recovery, and computer forensics. Further, SEARCH provides resources for investigators investigating crimes involving the internet such as online child exploitation. Such focus on technological advances is part of the reason for the success of SEARCH over the past 40 years and will certainly be an important component of its continued success over the next 40.

In addition to those SEARCH activities designed to aid law enforcement, I think it is important to recognize and applaud SEARCH's impact on public safety through its communications interoperability training programs. Information sharing and agency collaboration plays an important role, not just in crime prevention, but also in disaster relief. In August 2008, SEARCH was instrumental in enhancing Texas' communications response to Hurricane Gustav.

Gustav approached the State of Texas as a SEARCH All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader, COML, training course was being conducted in my home town of Houston. As the hurricane bore down, the SEARCH instructors immediately mobilized the State emergency managers along with their students to construct the State's emergency communications response to Gustav. The instructors then deployed some students from the course to use the course's teachings to coordinate interoperable communications for emergency first responders. This is just one example of how SEARCH's programs have benefited, not only the people of my home State of Texas, but people all across the country. Efficient emergency response communications are an important part of keeping Americans safe.

Providing 40 years of effective information management tools to Federal, State and local agencies across the Nation is a wonderful accomplishment. Indeed, SEARCH has managed to stay at the forefront of communications technology as it pertains to law enforcement and public safety. It has effectively navigated America's transition to the information age of the 21st century and provided services to aid governments in saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution to salute SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, for its success in providing quality tools for law enforcement and public safety across the United States of America.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

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 Thursday, November 19, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
NOVEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary John Miller, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary, and Charles Collins, of Maryland, to be Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

DECEMBER 2

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine policy options for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Disaster Recovery Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine disaster case management, focusing on developing a comprehensive national program focused on outcomes.

SD-342

DECEMBER 10

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the role of grid-scale energy storage in meeting our energy and climate goals.

SD-366