CONGRATULATING CAROL STREAM
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
CHIEF MICHAEL KANZIA ON HIS
RETIREMENT

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the long and distinguished service of Carol Stream Fire Protection District Chief Michael Kanzia on the occasion of his retirement. On September 30 of this year, Chief Kanzia concluded his loyal service to the community he has been faithfully serving since 1976.

On November 19, the Village of Carol Stream will gather to celebrate Chief Kanzia’s impressive career, from his time as an on-call firefighter to his days as Fire Chief.

Day in and day out Chief Kanzia led the men and women of the Carol Stream Fire Protection District as they risked their lives to protect our communities. His leadership is reflected in their bravery and courage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in celebrating this special occasion and the long years of service and commitment that it represents.

RECOGNITION OF ARTHUR
“ARTIE” HILL, SR. ON HIS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

HON. GREGORY W. MEeks
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MEeks of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize and honor Arthur B. “Artie” Hill, Sr. on his lifetime achievement in the community.

Arthur B. “Artie” Hill, Sr. was born in New York City on April 2, 1922. “Artie” Hill, Sr. graduated from John Jay College in 1946 and received his MPA degree from City University of New York in 1973.

On September 16, 1946, Arthur B. “Artie” Hill began his career in law enforcement as a patrolman, retiring after 27 years of service as assistant chief, commanding officer of the Special Operations Division. Arthur B. “Artie” Hill, Sr. began a career of over 17 years at UPS on January 15, 1973 where he held several management positions throughout the company, eventually retiring on September 30, 1990 as Vice President of Public Affairs.

Arthur B. “Artie” Hill served as an alternate delegate to Democratic National Convention from New York in 1980 and 1984. Arthur B. “Artie” Hill is a distinguished member and affiliate of numerous organizations, including his service as Director of the New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority, the Apollo Theater Foundation and AmeriChoice Northeast Managed Health Care Systems of New York, Inc.; Trustee of North General Hospital; Life Member of the NAACP; Member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity “Boule,” Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, National Association of Guardsmen, Comus Club Inc., National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), 100 Black Men, 369th Veteran’s Association, Shriners and Prince Hall Masons.

In May 2008, the North General Hospital’s Board of Trustees opened the new Arthur B. and Patricia Hill VIP Patient Room on the Hospital’s sixth floor. Hill is a former board member and long-time supporter of North General Hospital and has worked to ensure that the people of Harlem continue to have access to excellent healthcare. At 87 years old, Arthur B. “Artie” Hill, Sr. remains a tireless advocate for a number of causes in the community. I would like to take a moment to have the House of Representatives recognize and honor Arthur B. “Artie” Hill, Sr. on his lifetime achievement in the community.

THE CITY OF TEMECULA CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CITY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Temecula, on the celebration of its 20th Anniversary as a City on December 1, 2009.

Since its founding, the City of Temecula has quadrupled in population and continues to provide improvements and amenities to its citizens to ensure a high quality of life. Temecula has also prioritized the protection of its citizens, instigating both regional and federal projects like the Murrieta Creek Flood Control Project. Furthermore, the city has partnered regionally to create jobs through economic development, road improvements, and funding to enhance the community’s ability to serve its citizens.

As one of California’s pioneering communities, the City of Temecula diligently works to preserve its rich historical culture, providing a wealth of cultural opportunities to its citizens. The city also values its strong relationships with the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians.

On the occasion of its 20th Anniversary as a City, I encourage the citizens of Temecula to reflect on both the present and historical significance of their community and how it makes the City of Temecula one of America’s most livable cities.

HONORING SIG SANCHEZ OF GILROY, CA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. JERRY McNERNEY, and Ms. Anna Eshoo to honor Sig Sanchez, a truly dedicated public servant of California’s 15th Congressional District. Sig, a resident of Gilroy, California, will retire this December, after 55 years of exemplary public service in Santa Clara County. His most recent service included 29 years as a Director and five-time Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Prior to this, Mr. Sanchez served as an elected member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for 18 years, a Gilroy City Councilmember for 14 years, and Mayor of the City of Gilroy for five years.

During his busy and productive career, Mr. Sanchez has also been an active member of numerous national, state, and local water resource affiliations, including the Agricultural Water Advisory Committee, Central Valley Project Authority, Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority, San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority Board and Finance Committee, Uvas/Llagas Flood Control and Watershed Advisory Committee, Santa Clara Valley Water Commission, Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Ad Hoc Audit Committee, and the South County Regional Wastewater Authority.

Even while dedicating so much of his time to water issues, Sig did not lose focus on the big picture, helping to strengthen the local community through his efforts with HOPE Rehabilitation, Wheeler Foundation Board, South Valley Hospital, Health Dimensions Inc., Odd-Fellows and Rebekah Children’s Home, and the Gilroy Elks Club.

In 1991, Mr. Sanchez was inducted into the Gilroy Hall of Fame and was honored and recognized with a 10-mile portion of state Highway Route 101 named for him. His work as a farmer and businessman, along with his years as public servant to the water community as a leader during very tumultuous times, has won him the hearts and good will of all who know him.

Our community is grateful to Sig Sanchez for his dedication to public service and contributions to the residents of Santa Clara County, and we wish him well in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, I...
CONGRATULATING JOHN “HUT” HUTSON, WILLIAM C. JENKINS, DAVID F. LUCIER, PETER MARTINEZ, PAT CHORPENNING, JOAN E. SISCO AND CARL G. SCHNEIDER—INDUCTEES TO THE ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning, Joan E. Sisco and Carl G. Schneider, the Class of 2009 inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. These citizens are recognized for their exemplary service for our country.

For both bravely serving our country and inspiring those outside their military service, 19 Arizona residents were selected to be part of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. In a state boasting more than 600,000 veterans, I am truly honored to represent five of this year’s recipients.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society annually rewards and honors veterans for their contributions to the community. Each recipient of the prestigious award is personally selected by the Office of Governor Jan Brewer in partnership with the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services.

These veterans represent the courage and patriotism that is so revered by many Americans. It is people like this that I am continuously thinking of and am proud to serve. As members of the Hall of Fame Society, I am sure these veterans will carry on inspiring and serving our community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognition of John “Hut” Hutson, William C. Jenkins, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Pat Chorpenning, Joan E. Sisco and Carl G. Schneider’s exceptional service.

THANKING GEORGE MCNEILL, FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE RIPON SOCIETY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize George McNeill for his many years of service to the Ripon Society.

For the past five years, George has served as Chief Administrative Officer of the organization. In this position, he has not only run the day-to-day affairs of the group, he has also helped position it as one of the leading voices of centrist Republican thought in Washington, D.C.

As one of the founders of the Ripon Society, I have to confess—when we established the organization in 1962, we could only dream of some of the things it has achieved since that time. Through his hard work and dedication, not only as the Chief Administrative Officer since 2004, but also as a member of the Ripon Board of Directors dating back to 2001, George has helped turn that dream into a reality.

In the process, he has not only made a difference in the life of the Ripon Society, he has also added another impressive chapter to his own rich and full life. It is a life that has taken George from the streets of his birthplace in the Bronx to the hills of his ancestral home in Scotland, from the jungles of his tour of duty in Vietnam to the meadows of his current home in Danby, Vermont. It is also a life dedicated to service, and one that has revolved around his loving family and devoted friends.

George has indeed worn many titles in his lifetime, earning the respect of friend and foe alike along the way. But the title that he is perhaps most proud of is that of husband and father. George and his wife Barbara are the proud parents of two wonderful daughters—Megan and Caitlin.

George recently announced that he is retiring as Chief Administrative Officer of the Ripon Society. It is a real loss for the organization. Those of us who have worked with and gotten to know George over the past several years would agree that there won’t be anyone to see him go. But we also understand that, after five years of commuting weekly back and forth between Vermont and Washington, the time has come to return home.

We thank George McNeill for his service to the Ripon Society. We honor him for his many contributions to the group and for advancing policy debate in Washington. And we wish him all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, this week the co-chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus joined with 129 original cosponsors to introduce H. Res. 914, a resolution supporting the observance of National Diabetes Month.

The resolution encourages people in the United States to fight diabetes through raising public awareness about stopping diabetes and increasing education about the disease. It also recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms of diabetes, and the risk factors for type 2 diabetes. Finally, it supports decreasing the prevalence of diabetes, developing better treatments and working toward an eventual cure for type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Since diabetes afflicts nearly 24 million Americans and is the seventh leading cause of death, we must increase awareness and encourage the research to find cures. National Diabetes Month is observed every November and is an excellent way to build awareness about both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Too many people are not familiar with the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes and how many of the risk factors are, and what sort of research is needed to make progress in the fight against this disease.

That is why the mission of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus is to educate Members of Congress and their staff about diabetes. It is also our mission to support legislation and other efforts to improve diabetes research, education, and treatment.

The legislative priorities of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus Caucus is to fund and ideals of National Diabetes Month. For example, H.R. 1625, the Equity and Access for Podiatric Physicians Under Medicaid Act, would classify podiatrists as physicians for purposes of direct reimbursement through the Medicaid program. Podiatry is critical to the treatment and understanding of diabetes.

The Medicare Diabetes Self-Management Training Act, H.R. 2425, would make a technical clarification to recognize certified diabetes educators (CDE) as providers for Medicare diabetes outpatient self-management training services (DSMT). CDEs are the only health professionals who are specially trained and uniquely qualified to teach patients with diabetes how to improve their health and avoid serious diabetes-related complications. The 1997 authorizing DSMT statute did not include CDEs as Medicare providers. This exclusion has made it increasingly difficult to ensure that DSMT is available to patients who need these services, particularly those with unique cultural needs or who reside in rural areas.

Another bill that is a priority of the caucus is the Preventing Diabetes in Medicare Act, H.R. 2590. This bill would extend Medicare coverage to medical nutrition therapy (MNT) services for people with pre-diabetes and other risk factors for developing type 2 diabetes. Under current law, Medicare pays for MNT, provided by inpatient hospitals to help beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases. Unfortunately, Medicare does not cover MNT for beneficiaries diagnosed with pre-diabetes. Nutrition therapy services have proven very effective in preventing diabetes by providing access to the best possible nutritional advice and help to those who need it. By helping people with pre-diabetes manage their condition, Medicare will avoid having to pay for the much more expensive treatment of diabetes.

In addition, we are working hard to pass, H.R. 3668 and related Special Diabetes Programs for Type I Diabetes and Indians. This program provides federal funding for the Special Statutory Funding Program for Type I Diabetes Research at the National Institutes of Health and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians at the Indian Health Service. H.R. 3668 would extend these critical programs through 2016 and increase funding for both programs to $200 million a year.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman MIKE CASTLE, for his many years of leadership working together with me as Co-Chair of the Diabetes Caucus. I also want to thank the members who work tirelessly and both sides of the House leadership for their bipartisan support of diabetes issues. I look forward to working with the Congressional
IN MEMORY OF SGT. EDUVIGES WOLF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sgt. Eduviges Preciado Wolf of Hawthorne, CA. Sgt. Wolf was an army sergeant assigned to the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Sgt. Wolf was a hero who gave her life in service to her country. Sgt. Wolf, also known as “Duv,” dreamed of serving in the U.S. military as a child who emigrated to the United States from Mexico with her family. As soon as Duv was able, she joined the United States military so that she could fulfill her lifelong dream to serve and protect her country. She met her husband Josh at Fort Bragg. Together they had 2 daughters: 3-year-old Isabel and 1-year-old Valerie. Both Duv and Josh were deployed to Afghanistan, where they served in separate units. Tragically, Duv recently died in an insurgent attack while in Afghanistan. She was 24 years old.

Earlier this month on Veterans Day, I had the honor and privilege of participating in events with veterans and their families in my congressional district— in Hawthorne and Inglewood, California. I was deeply moved by the families of our servicemembers. Not only do servicemembers make major sacrifices, but so do their families. They live with the harsh realities of war and its implications on them. Spouses must sacrifice long-term career planning, and children are oftentimes forced to transfer to different schools throughout the country. Tragically, as is the reality of combat theater, some of our troops do not make it home.

Today, I salute and thank Sgt. Wolf, along with all of our Nation’s past and present heroes who sacrificed a great deal in service to their country.

I expressed my condolences to Duv’s sister Cecilia in Hawthorne on Veterans Day, and I know that her friends and family are still mourning. It is my hope that they will find comfort and peace in the loving memories and the distinguished legacy of service that Duv leaves behind.

IN HONOR OF JOHN GAFFANEY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who dedicated his life to helping others, Mr. John Gaffaney of San Diego, California. Tragically, John was killed on November 5, 2009, a victim of the horrible events at Fort Hood.

John was a man of sacrifice and devotion who spent his life counseling others. After 15 years of extensive Army service, he went on to work for the San Diego County Department of Health and Human Services. After spending the last 22 years investigating cases of elderly abuse and neglect for San Diego County, John once again answered the call of duty and re-enlisted in the Army Reserves. He arrived at Fort Hood only a few short weeks ago to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan to help other soldiers cope with the trauma of war.

Madam Speaker, John Gaffaney was a man of integrity and will be greatly missed by all of San Diego, especially his wife Christine and son Matthew. I ask that this body honor John and the rest of the fallen at Fort Hood for their dedication and sacrifice to this country.
While the Lifestyles for the Disabled family continues to grow, Richard has maintained a solid connection to his roots. As an alumnus of Wagner College, Mr. Salinardi started a program to have students from his alma mater volunteer their time at Lifestyles, maximizing their college experiences.

Mr. Salinardi continues to volunteer his time with Special Olympics at Wagner College. The Special Olympics program at Wagner started 35 years ago with 10 athletes and has grown to over 500 athletes, training year-round. Since 1975, Richard has served as the Staten Island Area Coordinator and currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics of New York.

Mr. Salinardi is a truly great American and a dedicated community leader. Because of the devotion of Richard Salinardi, I know that disabled individuals on Staten Island and around New York City are in good hands.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Richard Salinardi for his dynamic leadership and acknowledging the impact he has made on the developmentally disabled of Staten Island.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPREACH OF
HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Health Care for America Act will strengthen America and offer greater security to our workers, families, seniors and businesses. It will enhance our Nation’s health care system, placing the interests of our American health care consumers where they belong: at the heart of it. H.R. 3962 will improve quality, choice and competition, while cutting down fraud, waste and abuse, and lowering costs over the long term. It will strengthen Medicare, eliminate the Part D “donut hole,” improve access for lower income citizens so that Medicare is affordable for ALL seniors, and create new consumer protections for Medicare Advantage Plans. Discrimination for pre-existing conditions, dropped coverage, and yearly or lifetime caps will no longer be tolerated. Co-pays and other cost-sharing for preventative services will be eliminated and annual caps on what an individual or a family pays out-of-pocket will be established.

Since 1987, the cost of the average family health insurance policy has risen from 7 percent of median family income to 17 percent. Family premiums are projected to increase an average of $1,800 each year and in 2007, 60 percent of bankruptcies were reported to be related to medical costs. With this bill, no American family will go bankrupt because they get sick.

Sixty percent of our Nation’s entire uninsured population are small business owners and their employees and families. This equals at least 28 million uninsured Americans. Small business premiums have risen 129 percent since 2000. In 2008, 38 percent of small companies offered health coverage, compared with 41 percent in 2007 and 61 percent in 1993.

For too long, the health of our Nation has dwindled while the pockets of the insurance giants have thickened. Our seniors have compromised prescription drugs for necessary groceries, while the pharmaceutical industry has made record profits. Hard working families have watched their savings plummet and their homes foreclosed after unexpected illnesses. Women, breast cancer victims, men with heart disease and children with leukemia or childhood diabetes have been flat-out denied health insurance coverage for pre-existing conditions or reaching insurance policy caps.

Under the House Plan, the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, the region I represent, will benefit immensely and in very specific ways:

386,000 residents will see improved employer-based coverage

167,000 households would be eligible for credits to help pay for coverage

39,000 uninsured citizens just in our region would be eligible for insurance under a reformed system

14,500 small businesses will be allowed to obtain affordable health care coverage and 12,400 among them will receive credits to help reduce the costs of health insurance

102,000 beneficiaries will benefit from an improved Medicare program

7,600 seniors will benefit from closing the prescription drug donut hole, starting with $500 of cost forgiveness in 2010

1,700 families will be protected from bankruptcy due to unaffordable health care costs

$120 million in savings will be seen by hospitals and health care providers as a result of reductions in uncompensated care.

Under this bill, for the first time, the uninsured and seniors will receive relief through a temporary insurance program. Individuals receiving COBRA will be allowed to keep their coverage until a more customer friendly, one-stop marketplace for health insurance, known as the Exchange, is created. The Exchange will offer affordability credits and tax credits for individuals and businesses that need them. Health plans will be required to allow young people until their 27th birthday to remain on their parents’ health insurance policy. Moreover, insurance companies will be subject to public review and no more closure of insurance excessive rate increases.

Much needed investments will be made right away in training programs designed to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals. Not-for-Profit purchasing collaboratives, such as the FrontPath Health Coalition from Northwest Ohio, will be strengthened to achieve careful plan management and cost-savings, and encouraged as a central provision of Title I. Community Health Centers will see an increase in funding to allow for a doubling of patients over the next 5 years. A $10 billion fund will be created to finance a temporary reinsurance program to help offset the costs of expensive health claims for employers that provide health benefits for retirees age 55–64.

The well being of individuals and our nation will benefit from these reforms. From an economic standpoint, healthcare costs have stifled the vitality of American businesses and their ability to compete in the global marketplace. The 129 percent increase since 2000 in small business premiums alone have smothered their potential to hire new employees. Our Nation’s ability to cover employees, resulting in an astounding 60 percent of our Nation’s entire uninsured population.

Affordable health insurance reform is necessary to cut the costs of doing business, reduce the share of government expenditures spent on health care, help our companies to be more competitive in the world market, unleash the entrepreneurial talents of the American people, and give peace of mind to the middle class and others that everything they have worked for will not be taken away if they get sick.

As someone who grew up in a small business family, I watched our father forced to sell our small family grocery when he became ill. He needed health insurance for his family and took a job at a local auto assembly plant to obtain it for his wife and children. I promised myself when I was elected to Congress that passing legislation to cover small business would be one of my top priorities. Finally, it has become possible to vote on a bill that will do this for millions of our fellow citizens.

With the mounting economic strain on American families and the rising costs of health insurance to workers, businesses and federal budget, the status quo has proven unsustainable, fiscally irresponsible and morally unacceptable. The time has come for this historical change. I stand in support of its promise to the American people.

THANKING RICK KESSLER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE RIPON SOCIETY

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Bill Gates once said, “Great organizations demand a high level of commitment by the people involved.”

I rise today to recognize Rick Kessler, whose commitment to one particular organization—the Ripon Society—has not only spanned three decades, but has left a lasting impact on public policy debate in the United States.

In 1962, as a student attending Harvard University, I helped found the Ripon Society. The intent was to provide Republicans with a place where they could debate the issues and discuss the challenges of the day.

Rick’s involvement with Ripon dates back to the early 1980s. He had been involved with John Anderson’s presidential campaign, where he served as National Finance Director before going on to serve on the Inaugural Committee for President Reagan.

Rick joined the Ripon Society as Executive Director in 1981 and immediately set out to revitalize the organization. Among his accomplishments, Rick created the Congressional Advisory Board; the nonpartisan Ripon Educational Fund Transatlantic Conference; the Congressional Liaison Board; the Rough Rider Awards Dinner; and he oversaw the rejuvenation of The Ripon Forum, the Society’s journal of thought and opinion. More than anything, though, Rick carried the organization on his shoulders through good times and bad.

In 2004, Rick was invited to follow in the footsteps of the Honorable Bill Frenzel and become the President of the Ripon Society. He has served in this role with great distinction.

Rick also was busy raising a family. He and his wife Daphne have been married for 21
years, and are the proud parents of two wonderful children, their daughter Sam and son Ryan.

After five years as President, Rick recently announced that he is stepping down and becoming President Emeritus of the Ripon Society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has done for Ripon. What started out 47 years ago as a seed on the Harvard campus has become a strong and sturdy tree in Washington, DC, today.

It is a tree rooted in ideas, and one whose growth over the past 30 years would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of Rick Kessler. I thank him for his service.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Interior-Environment Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: ROB BISHOP
Bill number: H.R. 2996
Account: Forest Service Land Acquisition
Legal name and address of requesting entity: The Trust for Public Land, 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 401, Washington, DC 20003

Description of project: The Bonneville Shoreline Trail was initiated in 1990 to complete a trail corridor along the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Bonneville and along the foothills of the Wasatch mountains from Ogden to Provo. This partnership has been so successful that the communities in Cache and Box Elder counties have worked to extend the trail north. The 150-acre North Ogden property is a priority for protection by the U.S. Forest Service. The property serves as important habitat for deer and elk and as an important buffer for fire protection for the rapidly developing area along the Wasatch Front. The property also provides watershed protection for neighboring areas in addition to key recreational resources.

The North Ogden program is a partnership effort to fill in the boundaries of the national forest along the BST in North Ogden and Pleasant View. In 2005, a five-mile stretch of the BST along North Ogden and Pleasant View was secured through a trail easement along an existing utility corridor granted to the nonprofit Weber Pathways. The property available for protection this year is critical to the North Ogden program because it will bring Forest Service ownership to this stretch of the BST and add critical trail access to the citizens in this area of the state. Protection of this property will also protect beautiful views of the foothills of the Wasatch Front and Ben Lomond Peak, one of Weber County’s most important landmarks, while conserving important wildlife habitat and winter range along this rapid growth area.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES HILDEBRAND FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

HON. JEFF MILLER OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Hildebrand, a community leader and public servant who is retiring from over thirty-five years of service with the Social Security Administration. Charles spent his career serving others, and I am proud to honor this dedication and service.

After graduating from South Carolina State College, Charles started his federal career in 1970 as a program specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He moved to the Social Security Administration in 1973 as a claims representative in Newark, New Jersey. From 1974 to 1977, Charles also served as the vice president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 2389.

Over the course of his career with the Social Security Administration, Charles worked as an operations manager, a level 1 manager, an analyst for the Georgia and North Florida area office staffs, and a level 1 manager. He graduated from the Atlanta Leadership Development Program in 1991. The SSA twice awarded him the agency’s highest honor, the Commissioner’s Citation. Charles is also a community service leader. He serves as the 2009–2010 Chairman for the Escara Rosa Combined Federal Campaign local agency application review committee and the non-military agencies committee. He is also chair of the North Florida E-service and Integrity/Anti Fraud cadre. As chairman of the board of the Beach Institute Historic Association, Charles oversaw the development of a low-income rehabilitation project to serve the underprivileged in our area.

Charles is a role model for our young people. I am honored to recognize Charles Hildebrand for his service to the people of North Florida. He has been a dedicated public servant for forty years. My wife Vicki and I wish all the best for Charles, his wife, Iris, and his children, Nikki and Amii, as they embark on this next endeavor in their lives.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR PANNING

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate SUNY Brockport Professor Anne Panning on being named the 2009 New York Professor of the Year. This is a tremendous accomplishment and the western New York community is proud to have Professor Panning as a member of our community.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Augustsburg College, Anne went on to receive her master of fine arts degree from Bowling Green State University and then her doctorate from the University of Hawaii.

She has received much praise from her students and fellow literary scholars alike. In a review for her 2007 work Super America, the New York Times wrote that it “radiates infectious optimism.”

In addition to teaching several classes at SUNY Brockport, Anne also co-directs the Brockport Writers Forum and is the most read reading series in the country. The Forum has had a significant impact on the direction of Brockport’s English department on both the undergraduate and graduate level, and Anne has played an integral part in the Forum’s continued success along with her co-director, poet Ralph Black.

Anne has won several awards for her fiction and nonfiction writing and also for her teaching, including the Flannery O’Connor Award for short fiction, the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Lillian Fairchild Award, and now, the New York Professor of the Year.

Madam Speaker, I again wish to congratulate Professor Panning on being named the New York State Professor of the Year, and wish her much continued success.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009, introduced by my good friend Representative HARRY MITCHELL.

H.R. 3791 will reauthorize the FIRE Grants programs—comprised of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant, AFG, program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, grant program—to ensure that our local firefighters have the tools and resources they need to keep us safe and secure.

Since 2001, the Fire Grants Programs have provided more than $5 billion in support to local fire departments across the Nation, $190 million of which has gone to support Texas fire departments. H.R. 3791 provides a 5-year reauthorization of $1 billion per year for the AFG and $1.194 billion for the SAFER programs.

The AFG program was created to address concerns that local budgets were unable to handle the mounting responsibilities allocated to the fire service by providing funds to local fire departments to purchase equipment, vehicles, and training. The SAFER program assists fire departments in hiring qualified personnel and ensuring that volunteers meet the requirements. Funding through these programs has been a valuable tool in helping local fire departments provide emergency response services to their communities.
The changes made to the AFG and SAFER programs in H.R. 3791 will improve these programs by allowing funding to be used for certain volunteer emergency medical services organizations and for building inspector certifications.

I want to thank Representative MITCHELL for his hard work in crafting this legislation which reflects bipartisan cooperation and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

All fire departments, including those in our congressional district in Texas, strive to provide a superior level of emergency service that continually improves the quality of life, health and safety of our residents, and I am proud to support legislation that will ensure that they can achieve those goals.

HONORING DETROIT CATHOLIC CENTRAL COACH TONY MAGNI AND CATHOLIC CENTRAL SHAMROCKS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. THADEUS G. MCCOTTER
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Detroit Catholic Central Coach Tony Magni and the entire Catholic Central Shamrocks' Cross Country Team on their Division 1 State Championship.

I am a proud graduate of Detroit Catholic Central High School. As a student, I learned how important it was to work hard, seek out knowledge, and fight for the less fortunate. I played sports at Catholic Central, so I know how important sports are in teaching our children the importance of teamwork and motivation.

On November 7, 2009, at the Michigan International Speedway, Shamrock Ricky Galindo came in third at the race and led the Catholic Central Shamrocks' Cross Country Team to the 13th Congressional District for the past 150 years.

AMB. LYNDON OLSON SPEECH—IMPORTANCE OF CIVILITY IN AMERICAN LIFE AND POLITICS

HON. CHET EDWARDS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD wise words from Ambassador Lyndon Olson that we would all do well to follow.

In a time of such little civility in our public discourse, Ambassador Lyndon Olson reminds us what is best about America. It is the strength of our values, our character, and common respect for our fellow man and woman that make our nation great.

We must strive to protect and nurture those values of common respect for one another if we are to grow as a nation.

Remarks of Ambassador Lyndon Olson upon accepting the Texas Legacy Award from the Center for Public Policy Priorities at the Eighth Annual Texas Legacy Luncheon November 12, 2009, Austin, Texas

Thank you very much for this honor. I appreciate the kind remarks of my friend Congressman Edwards. I am particularly grateful for this opportunity to talk to this distinguished group about a concern of mine.
scant time for reflection or reasoned analysis. Market forces demand instantaneous information and jarring entertainment values, not sober analysis or wisdom. The news media is too focused on the latest flash of profit, creating controversy where little or none exists so the message, the theme of the day, is played out on TV and the media. They’re seeking to cause arguments, to create conflict in order to raise hackles, money, and attention...fomenting issues to suit their agenda. It’s all about the message, not the solution, not the negotiation, the debate, the compromise to move forward. It’s about who is controlling the message, who is defining the message, who is creating the message, who is keeping the conflict alive often where none existed before the consultant decided one was needed. Is this what our teacher’s throat? because you...do to play in making things better. 

Is it talk radio, attack TV? Is the talk shows, the shout forums where absolute hyperbole is the only currency? Mean-spirited hyper-partisanship and cynicism. Citizens are increasingly cynical about politics and about government’s ability to work. The damage to the state, to the nation begins. Whose job is it to change course and effect the necessary repairs? I’m not sure I have the answer to that, but I propose that in a room where politicians and politicians, men and women talk to the media, who work in the public arena, who hire consultants, who sell agendas, maybe we have a role to play in making things better.

You know, I can say that there are some people in this room, people I consider dear friends, who understand this problem and I believe share my concern. To those friends I say, you and I both know that we disagree very fundamentally on some very big issues but the truth is that we could care less about our disagreements and are more concerned about where we can find consensus and reasons to work and live together to construct a better future. I consider this kind of commitment to open dialogue crucial to maintaining a sustainable society.

And indeed, isn’t it about building a better future for our community, for our country, for our children? I say that even on the most intractable of issues, there is room for constructive debate, for consensus building, for the search for some common ground.

President Johnson once said to his Democratic colleague, Gov. George Wallace of Alabama, during the crisis of civil rights in the South, that left behind? If you have a great, big marble monument that says, ‘George Wallace: He built.’ Or do you want a little piece of scrappy pine lying there that says, ‘George Wallace: He hated?’

The people I know in this room are builders. But we are confronting a world today where hate seems to be a predominant factor in the crisis of incivility confronting our politics. Where are the rules that govern conduct? What happens eventually after this continuous rancor tears the fabric of our society completely asunder? Can we survive with this tension...taking no prisoners, giving no quarter?

I’m raising these questions because you folks here are blessed with skills, talent, experience, commitment to positive public policy. You understand the importance of maintaining and protecting our commonweal where we strive to serve our clients, our community, our country, and our state. If civil discourse self-destructs, we cannot move on the issues that matter. Think of this as an environmental crisis, the environment being our civil society and our very ability to live and work and prosper together.

I don’t want to sound pious or preachy here, but if we are to prevail as a free, self-governing people, we must work together. We shouldn’t try to destroy our opponents just in order to have our way, just in order to have our tongues. The Proverbs tell us, chapter 18, verse 12, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.” How do we choose to use words—good or for wrong—clearly our choice. The health of our democracy depends upon a robust public discourse.

Recognize that I am not saying that conflict in our political life is to be avoided. Hardly so. It is not only proper but necessary for candidates to vigorously debate the issues of our day and examine their opponents’ records. Don’t let people confuse civility with goody two-shoes niceness and mere etiquette. Civility is a robust, tough, substantive civic virtue, critical to both civil society and the health of our democracy. Civility entails speaking directly, passionately, and responsibly about who we are and what we believe. Divisions based on principles are healthy for the soul. Vigorous and passionate debate helps us to define issues and to sharpen positions.

Conflict cannot, should not be avoided in our public lives any more than we can avoid conflict with the people we love. But just as member of a household, as a family learn ways of settling their differences without inflicting damage on others. So in, in our politics, must find constructive ways of resolving disputes and differences.

Our work is here. We build from the base. We will foster our example...by working together, respecting one another, and negotiating our differences in good faith and with mutual respect. Civility is neither a small nor inconsequential issue. The words come from the French civilite, which is often translated as “politeness.” But it means much more. It suggests an approach to life...living in a way that is civilized. The words “civilized,” “civility,” and “city” share a common etymology with a root meaning to live together. To be civilized is to understand that we live in a society as in a household. There are certain rules that allow family members to live peacefully within a household. So, too, are there rules on how to live peacefully within a society. As we all learned in 1st grade a long time ago, we owe certain responsibilities to one another. Perhaps we spend a lifetime learning how to play well with others. So be it. It is a crucial goal for a civil society. Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF J.E. “GENE” SMITH

HON. JEFF MILLER
FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009
Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. J.E. “Gene” Smith, a national and community leader who is retiring from almost thirty years of service with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Gene spent his career serving others and giving back to our community, and I am proud to honor this dedication and service.

W. HAZEN HILLYARD POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF
HON. ROB BISHOP
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, November 16, 2009
Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, individuals like Hazen Hildyard deserve to be remembered. He has spent his career serving his community, and I am happy to sponsor this legislation to name the Smithfield Post Office after him. His life was a hallmark of dedicated public service, at the level
closest to the people where it really matters and makes a difference.

That service included time as President of the Kiwanis Club, many years on the City Library Board, work as Chairman of the Smithfield Historical Heritage Society and multiple terms on the Smithfield City Council.

He was a charter member of the Cache Valley Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and in 1961 received the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his long time service in the scouting program.

The Smithfield Lion’s Club honored Hazen in 1974 with its Outstanding Citizen of the Year award.

Hazen Hillyard was appointed Postmaster of Smithfield in 1934. At the time of his appointment, there was no house-to-house mail delivery in the city, so residents were required to go to the Post Office for their mail. Hazen enjoyed interacting with the people as they stopped at the general delivery window for their mail and for other mail services. He was very involved in the Utah chapter of the National Postmasters Association and was even elected President of the state chapter in 1952. He visited all of the post offices in Utah during that year of service.

As the population of Smithfield increased, Mr. Hillyard recognized the need for expanded and better postal facilities. He was successful in getting a new, larger building for the post office in 1957. In 1963 he completed arrangements for city delivery of the mail to houses in Smithfield.

A letter from the city manager of Smithfield says, “The citizens of Smithfield City have long appreciated and admired the legacy of W. Hazen Hillyard. As a city we strongly encourage and support an effort to rename the Smithfield Post Office in recognition of his lifetime service and achievement.”

When Hazen grew older he still was very interested in the improvement and advancement of Smithfield. His life and service clearly prove that he loved the people and the community, and I’m honored to help the United States House of Representatives acknowledge and recognize that.

COMMEMDING CENTURYLINK’S COMMITMENT TO LOUISIANA

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with deep appreciation for this company’s many contributions to Louisiana that I rise today to commend CenturyLink.

The telecommunications provider has an impressive track record of success. In July, CenturyLink was formed through the acquisition of Embarq Corporation by CenturyTel Inc., becoming the nation’s fourth largest traditional telephone company. It is currently one of three Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Louisiana, and more importantly, it has been one of the state’s top private-sector employers for many years.

CenturyLink, which has approximately 20,000 employees in 33 states, announced yesterday it will add 350 jobs in Louisiana while maintaining its headquarters in Monroe for at least the next decade.

The recent decision by CenturyLink to stay and grow in the Monroe area is a testament to the strong and skilled workforce found in Northeast Louisiana. During this time of economic uncertainty, CenturyLink is actively working to create new jobs in our communites. I am confident that markable прогession of CenturyLink will continue to provide great opportunities for the residents of our area.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting CenturyLink and its commitment to building a stronger Louisiana.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS

HON. JO BONNER
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I am very proud to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding achievement of the University of South Alabama Jaguar football team. The University of South Alabama is located in my Congressional district.

During 2009, the NCAA Division III Jaguars, under head coach Joey Jones, delivered a perfect 7–0 season.

The undefeated Jaguars made history not only for their unblemished record on the gridiron, but also for the fact that until this year, the Jaguars never had a football team. What’s more, they didn’t even have a marching band until this year.

The Jaguars’ 2009 inaugural season was nothing short of a Cinderella performance, capped by an impressive 35–0 final game victory over the Huntington College Hawks on November 12. The average inaugural season game attendance was an impressive 18,000.

Speaking at USA’s Media Day on November 16, Jaguars Head Coach Joey Jones put their victory into context: “Number one, it makes a statement that South Alabama is here to build a Division I football program.”

This summer the Jaguars took on a daunting task and they defied the odds by building on the basics and truly working together as a team. With this winning combination, they will surely succeed in reaching Division I.

I would like to congratulate the USA coaching staff and the team: Head coach Joey Jones and coaches Bill Clark, Kurt Crain, Greg Gregory, Mitch Rodrigue, John Turner, Jeff Bailey, Barrett Parker, Dameyune Craig, Chuck Dunn, Tommy Perry, Brian Turner, Duwan Walker, Brent Bedsole, and Justin Schwind.


Much credit also goes to President Gordon Moulton and the Board of Trustees and the alumni for their vision and support of the inaugural USA football program.

The Jaguars’ story is inspiring to us all, and I know that I speak for the entire community when I wish them congratulations on a job well done.

Can’t wait for 2010. Go Jags!

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT. COL. (RET.) RICHARD KLEIN DERRIDGEING

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I want to pay tribute to retired LTC Richard Klein Derrick of Tampa, Florida, who passed away on September 4, 2009 after a long illness.

Dick was a successful businessman, decorated military veteran, and devoted family man. Born on March 4, 1932, in Easton, Pennsylvania, Dick grew up in Chambersburg. He was a hard working young man and a devoted Eagle Scout. He attended Corpus Christi School and played football at Chambersburg High School. Dick then attended Gettysburg College and joined the Air Force to fly in Vietnam.

Returning to the United States, Dick continued to serve as an instructor pilot for single engine fighters and became Captain of an air-refueling tanker for 6 years. His last assignment was Chief of Flight Tests at Rome Air Development Center where he earned the Flying Safety Award for saving the crew, passengers, cargo, and the aircraft after the KC–135 he was piloting experienced multiple mechanical failures. In addition to earning other decorations, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star for Valor.

Dick earned his masters degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern
California, and after retiring from the Air Force, he became President of Air North in Vermont, and then president of Dolphin Airways in Tampa, Florida. Dick was an avid entrepreneur and started several additional businesses in Florida including a gift shop, a sheet metal business, and an interior landscaping company.

Our hearts are with Dick’s wife, Dawn, and his children and grandchildren in this time of sorrow. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this remarkable man who was a lifelong patriot dedicated to his country and his family. His humility, kindness, and compassion continue to inspire those who knew him and he will be greatly missed in our community.

IN SUPPORT OF U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND’S EFFORTS IN EL SALVADOR

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the humanitarian assistance efforts of the U.S. Southern Command, whose headquarters is in south Florida.

Last week, El Salvador was hit with torrential rain storms, causing massive flooding and mudslides that devastated parts of that country.

Nearly 200 people were killed. Many thousands more were left stranded and in immediate need of assistance.

The very next day—the same day our Nation paused to celebrate Veterans Day—U.S. troops deployed nearby in Honduras boarded helicopters bound for the affected areas. These troops spent their Veterans’ Day partnering with their counterparts in El Salvador, supporting them in saving lives and fulfilling a mission of cooperation that continues to serve our Nation well.

In just four days our troops distributed more than 217,000-pounds of aid to villages completely isolated due to damaged roads and bridges, food, water, milk, clothing and other emergency necessities.

I understand that these airlifts were the only way to get the supplies to the stranded village.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my thoughts and prayers to the people of El Salvador, and to also express my appreciation and admiration for the members of U.S. Southern Command.

HONORING JUDGE SOLOMON CASSEB, JR.

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak of sad tidings. The south Texas legal community lost a great leader and a great friend on October 16, 2009, when Judge Solomon Casseb, Jr. passed away at the age of 94.

A native San Antonolan, Judge Casseb graduated from Central Catholic High School and St. Mary’s University before earning his law degree at the University of Texas Law School in 1938. After several years in private practice, he enlisted as a private in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, and was honorably discharged as a Major by the time he returned from overseas. He then practiced law until his appointment and two subsequent elections to serve as a Judge of the 57th District Court in Bexar County. He presided over many important cases during his career, though none may be more famous than 1984’s Texaco case, which resulted in what was the largest award of damages in history.

During his time on the bench, Judge Casseb was repeatedly honored by his colleagues in the legal community and time again as an outstanding jurist, and the endowed Judge Solomon Casseb Jr. Research Professorship in Law at the University of Texas Law School stands as a tribute to the esteem in which he was held.

Before and after he obtained senior status in 1985, Judge Casseb worked to improve the lives of the people of South Texas outside of his official duties as well. He was a co-trustee of the Lamar Bruni Vergara Trust and was a bold and diligent advocate for the poorest citizens of his community.

Solomon Casseb Jr. was a great judge, a great friend, and a great man. His family, friends, and all those who had the privilege to know him will miss him deeply.

THIS THANKSGIVING IN HONOR OF ALL THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit a heartfelt poem penned by Capitol Guide Albert Caswell, entitled “This Thanksgiving” in honor of all the members of the Armed Forces and their families who are separated by war and death this Thanksgiving. Our thoughts go out to all of them this Thanksgiving. Bless them all.

This is a special Thanksgiving as we recognize the success of Cold War veterans from Korea to Vietnam and across the world who achieved victory on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall inspired by Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II working with Lech Walesa of Poland and Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia.

The spirit of Ronald Reagan is kept alive by Young America’s Foundation preservation of the Reagan Ranch, Rancho del Cielo (Ranch of the Sky) in California.

THIS THANKSGIVING

This Thanksgiving . . .
Be thankful, when you’re at home . . .
With your family all at peace, remember all of those so all alone . . .
Who on battlefields can not be home . . .
Families at dinner tables with tears in eyes . . .
All of those who upon battlefields of honor died . . .

The ones who so live without the ones, they so can not live without . . . who now so cry . . .
And all of those children, whose daddies and mommies, can’t wipe those tears from their eyes . . .
And not watch their children grow and smell that pumpkin pie . . .
The ones who but gave, That Last Full Measure!

One’s Life, The Greatest of All Treasures

The ones without arms and legs . . .
As their fine eyes they gave . . .
Showing us all, of what a hero is made!
So Few, but for so many . . .
Have carried that load . . .
Have bore all of the heartache so . . .
And when you watch that touchdown run . . .
While, holding your loved ones . . . having all that fun . . .
But, let your thoughts to them so run . . .
The ones who died, for what is true . . .
And all of those out on the front, the face of death must so view . . .
And the loved ones at home, each day who wait by the door . . . the phone . . .
Bow down now upon your knees . . .
And ask our Lord God, so please . . . to bless all of these . . . The Families . . .
Who with such heartache, and will never see another day of peace . . .
And as you say grace . . .
Say a prayer for all of those Heroes of such splendid grace . . .
Who did not so hesitate . . .
And all of those families, whose loved ones for them now so wait . . .
Who sit, with one less spot at the Thanksgiving table set . . .
Be ever thankful, for what they gave . . . and have to yet . . .
On this day of days . . .
Give Thanks, Be Thankful for all of those who gave!

This Thanksgiving . . .

PRAISING NEBRASKA’S HONOR FLIGHTS

HON. ADRIAN SMITH
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, a week ago, our Nation celebrated Veterans Day. I rise today to honor a couple who have done a great service for Nebraska’s Veterans.

Bill and Evonne Williams have organized seven Heartland Honor Flights which made it possible for 1,454 World War II veterans to come to Washington D.C. in 2008 and 2009 to receive the recognition they deserve.

Veterans participating were able to visit the World War II memorial, as well as other points of interest here in the Nation’s capital.

I know their visit to Washington was a trip of a lifetime for each and every one of them, and I know I speak for all of us when I thank them for their service to our country. Bill and Evonne also deserve our thanks for making these moments possible. Without their dedication and commitment, we would not have been able to honor these men and women who have helped make our Nation great.
HONORING THE 102ND INFANTRY AND THE 250TH ENGINEER COMPANY OF THE CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JO COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the deployment of 102nd Infantry Battalion and the 250th Engineer Company. On November 15, 2009, Connecticut sent off 700 soldiers from the two Connecticut National Guard units to be deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The logistical and tactical work that the Connecticut soldiers will do in Iraq and Afghanistan is critical to the nation’s success in the two conflicts. The 102nd Infantry will deploy to Afghanistan to partner with the Afghan security forces to assist, train and mentor the Afghan army and Border Police forces in order to strengthen, stabilize and legitimize the Government of Afghanistan. The 250th Engineer Company will work in Iraq to provide bridge support for theater mobility, and to ensure rapid emplacement of bridging assets in the event that routes in their area of operations become impassable.

The Connecticut National Guard currently has nearly 500 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan in support of counterterrorism missions. This is the largest single deployment of Connecticut Army National Guardsmen since the Korean War and will bring our total number of deployed Soldiers and Airmen to 1,200.

The 250th Engineer Company, commanded by Captain Charles Taylor of Hamden is based in my district out of New London. The unit’s motto is “No Bridge Too Far,” which refers to its primary mission of supporting our combat forces by literally building bridges over otherwise inaccessible terrain and rivers. In Iraq, the 250th will be a part of the drawdown of our forces and equipment there—a massive, historic undertaking in the history of our military.

This will be no easy feat—about 3.1 million pieces of equipment of all sorts, over 100,000 vehicles, military and civilian, 24,000 short tons of ammunition, over 120,000 containers of supplies, and around 120,000 U.S. military personnel that have to be moved out of Iraq, mostly through Kuwait.

This past weekend, I had the honor of joining many of my colleagues in the Connecticut Congressional Delegation, state officials and Adjutant General Thaddeus Martin in a moving and well attended “send off” ceremony for the 102nd and 250th. The ceremony, of course, was one of mixed emotions. On the one hand, these men and women represent the best of what our State and Nation has to offer. They have trained and worked to be the very best at what they do, and we are so proud of them. However, on the other hand, Connecticut is sending its own to do a hard and dangerous job.

The eyes of Connecticut and the families of these soldiers are on them, eagerly awaiting their safe return. But soon, the eyes of the world will be on them. And all of us in Connecticut will be so proud to watch the work that they do. Their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan are critical to America’s mission to secure and keep the peace in the world’s most troubled regions, and all of us from Connecticut are proud to say these dedicated men and women are our fellow citizens.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring these men and women who defend our Nation every day. We thank them for their service and look forward to welcoming them home again after a successful deployment.

It is my honor to recognize Ida Fiorella for her upcoming birthday.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Ida Fiorella, a longtime Buffalo resident who will be celebrating her 95th birthday this December 26th.

Ida was born in Buffalo’s West Side on December 26, 1914. The daughter of Italian immigrants Joseph Pizzuto and Maria Cardoro Pizzuto, Ida attended Buffalo’s public schools and went on to work in her family-owned grocery store at the intersection of Prospekt and Virginia located in Buffalo, New York.

Ida’s brother Russell Pizzuto, now deceased, served honorably and was wounded in World War II; he was the father of six children.

Ida and her family were parishioners at St. Anthony’s Church where she married her husband, Vincent (Jimmy) Fiorella on November 11th, 1940. Together Ida and Jimmy raised their three children, Russell, Bonnie, and Joseph, on Buffalo’s West Side. Their marriage spanned 50 years until Jimmy passed away on March 19th, 1991.

When her children were grown, Ida went on to a successful career in retail sales. She spent a number of years at Hengerer’s downtown, then at the Sample Shop on Hertel Avenue, and finally at Joseph’s on Delaware Avenue, all located in Buffalo.

Ida is a wonderful homemaker, avid Italian cook, and premier pie maker. One of her proudest accomplishments was encouraging all of her children to go on to receive a college education.

Ida loves meeting and entertaining people and is very independent. Even to this day she does all of her own cooking, baking, and only stopped driving after her car was no longer road worthy. Ida still attends church and is a very devoted Catholic.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Ida Fiorella as she approaches the celebration of her 95th birthday. I congratulate Ida for her many contributions to her family, friends, and community and wish her many more years of happiness.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DRAUGAS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Draugas newspaper on its 100th year of daily publication.

Draugas was founded in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1909 as a Lithuanian language Roman Catholic paper and moved to Chicago in 1916. The location changed a few times in its early years, but Draugas has been located at 4545 W. 63rd St. in Chicago since 1957. Many Lithuanian-Americans live in the Southwest Side of Chicago and in the surrounding suburbs I represent, and they greatly appreciate the reporting and cultural commentary that Draugas provides.
Draugas serves approximately 10,000 daily readers. It is the only Catholic paper to be published daily in both the United States and Canada, and the only paper outside of Lithuania to be published in Lithuanian. In an effort to reach younger generations of Lithuanian-Americans, Draugas plans the publication of an English language edition in the near future.

An event honoring the newspaper’s 100th anniversary took place in Willow Springs on October 17 and a Bishops Conference and Catholic Mass were held in Chicago on October 18 to honor Draugas and Lithuania’s millennium.

I ask you to join me in honoring Draugas for its dedication to reporting, community service, and the preservation of Lithuanian culture around the world.

HONORING REVEREND E. THURMAN WALKER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALES. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, to report the passing of the Reverend E. Thurman Walker after a long illness. For more than 22 years, Reverend Walker was a leader in the city of San Antonio, first as assistant pastor and for the past 16 years as the senior pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

Under Reverend Walker’s leadership, Antioch grew to three thousand members and opened the Christian Academy, a private school at the Church, in 1995, and the Antioch Community Transformation Network, an organization dedicated to community service, in 2000. Reverend Walker was the spiritual leader of his congregation, but he insisted that the church play a role in the whole community and in the daily lives of all San Antonians. The church has been a pillar in the San Antonio community for a long time, but its role and reach increased under Reverend Walker as well. He forged alliances with other churches, particularly through the Community Churches for Social Action, and with other religious and social service organizations and with the city’s political and business leaders. As his wife, Jo Angelia Walker, recalled his words, “If the church is doing nothing to serve and minister to the community then we might as well lock up the doors, close down and go home!”

Reverend Walker gave a voice to so many different groups of people in San Antonio’s community, uniting people around their shared ideals and helping them to productive discussions even when their views diverged, always seeking out the best path for every one. He touched the lives of so many men, women, and children during his too short life. Though he may be gone, that legacy will live on forever.

HONORING ANNE BURKHOLDER

HON. MELVIN L. WATT
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Anne Burkholder, the Nebraska Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s Beef Quality Assurance Program Producer of the Year Award winner. Anne grew up on a family farm, graduating from college in 1989 as a biology major, and worked for the Nebraska Beef Council for 22 years, after which she decided to open her own feedyard business. Today Anne runs the Burkholder Feedyard, a key producer in Nebraska’s cattle industry.

Anne is a wife, mother of three young children, and a cattle feedyard owner and operator with 3,000 head of cattle. Anne grew up in rural Nebraska, learning the cattle business from a young age. She is dedicated to the feedyard business—from operating the feedyard to helping to productive discussions even when their views diverged, always seeking out the best path for every one. He touched the lives of so many men, women, and children during his too short life. Though he may be gone, that legacy will live on forever.

HONORING REVEREND JESSE JACKSON, SR.

HON. MELVIN L. WATT
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. Twenty-five years ago, Reverend Jackson took an historic step when he ran for President of the United States, becoming only the second African-American to run for that office. He received over eighteen percent of the total Democratic primary vote and won five primaries and caucuses.

The numbers, while impressive, don’t begin to convey the broad impact of his candidacy. Reverend Jackson motivated millions of new voters to register to vote and become engaged in the electoral process. His example of hope and achievement affirmed the self-worth of an entire generation of young African-American men and women. His candidacy was not a compromised, watered-down one. It demanded publicly that the national political agenda include the issues affecting a “Rainbow Coalition” of individuals, including African-Americans, Hispanics, Arab-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, gays, lesbians, farmers, the poor and the working class, and it started a whole new public dialogue.

Reverend Jackson challenged us to think bigger and inspired more African Americans to pursue careers in public service. He paved the way for many of us in this body to run for political office and laid the foundation for the candidacy, nomination and election of President Barack Obama, our most recent historic candidacy and election.

Re. Jackson’s place in American history was legend long before his presidential candidacy—through his activism at North Carolina A & T University and leadership of civil rights demonstrations in Greensboro, North Carolina, his work with Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. at the S.C.L.C. and the formation of Operation PUSH and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. But his presidential run twenty-five years ago solidified his place in history and continues to be an inspiration for all Americans today.

Rev. Jackson, thank you for all that you have done.
I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future.

RECOGNITION OF STEVE BAERTSCHE BEING INDUCTED INTO THE FARM SCIENCE REVIEW HALL OF FAME

HON. MARY JO. KILROY
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Steve Baertsche on his induction into the Farm Science Review Hall of Fame on September 22, 2009. Mr. Baertsche was inducted as one of five members of the 20th Hall of Fame Class.

Mr. Baertsche recently retired as the Assistant Director for Ohio State University Extension. OSU Extension seeks to bring the knowledge of the university to those Ohioans who do not have regular access to campuses around the state. Extension fulfills the land-grant mission of the Ohio State University by interpreting research developed by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Ohio State, and other land-grant universities, so that Ohioans can use scientifically-based information to improve their lives. OSU Extension serves a vital role by strengthening communities through research-based educational programming.

Mr. Baertsche led OSU Extension’s leadership effort for more than 15 years and helped enhance the program’s presence at the Farm Science Review. FSR, FSR manager Chuck Gamble stated that, “Steve Baertsche’s leadership was much appreciated. His understanding of Extension and its mission definitely led to the success of Ohio State University research and educational efforts at Farm Science Review. He took Extension to a higher level.”

I am privileged to say that Steve Baertsche is one of my constituents. I would like to congratulate Mr. Baertsche again, and thank him for his service and his work to instruct Ohioans how to better their lives through education.

EXpressING CONDOLENCES AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN O’QUINN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredibly gifted personal injury lawyer and dedicated philanthropist, Mr. John O’Quinn.

Mr. O’Quinn spent his career serving others by fighting to make sure the most vulnerable members of our society received justice. As a lawyer, his unwavering commitment to his clients was legendary, and throughout his legal career, he used his unique personality and staggering intellect as an advocate for the powerless. In his life, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America by the National Law Journal, 100 Legal Legends of Texas by Texas Lawyer magazine, Five Best Texas Trial Lawyers of the Past Century by the Houston Chronicle, and was recognized in Harvard Law’s “Best Lawyers in America.”

It is important to note, however, that Mr. O’Quinn’s remarkable capacity in the courtroom was only one part of his dynamic personality. As a notable philanthropist, he handsomely endowed his alma mater, the University of Houston, by helping to fund the John O’Quinn Law Library and the John O’Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium. He served as a Regent for the university as well as a Trustee for the law school. Additionally, he assisted numerous other charitable organizations including the Children’s Assessment Center, the Women’s Center, Baylor College of Medicine, the End Hunger Network, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital, and the South Texas College of Law Advocacy Center.

Madam Speaker, the world truly lost a gracious soul with the untimely death of John O’Quinn. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in both honoring this brilliant attorney and celebrating his life and countless accomplishments. He will be truly missed.

HONORING CAPTAIN DANIEL C. RHODES ON BEING NAMED “MARINE OF THE YEAR”

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Daniel Rhodes of La Grange, Illinois on being named the 2009 Marine Corps Times Marine of the Year. All our service men and women make extraordinary sacrifices and are worthy of acclaim. But the Marine Corps Times has chosen a truly exemplary member of our Armed Forces for this incredible honor.

Growing up in La Grange and attending Lyons Township High School, Daniel Rhodes always knew he would be a Marine. His strong faith and passion for community service are a tribute to his parents, who have spent the last 10 years in Lima, Peru running an orphanage. With their selflessness as his guide, Daniel Rhodes enlisted in the Marines in May 2001 with an uncommon drive and certainty of purpose.

Then First Lieutenant Rhodes served as the commander of Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines in Karmah, Iraq starting in August 2008. With just two years of experience as an officer, he commanded 200 Marines and more than 500 Iraqi military members, functioning as both a warrior and a mentor. Daniel Rhodes and his men used emergency relief funds to commence more than 30 service projects in the area in and around Karmah. The results included the refurbishment of 21 schools, four bridges, two water treatment plants, two roads, a community center, and two factories, as well as the development of an adult literacy program. These projects helped thousands of Iraqis and are examples of the kinds of critical but often unseen efforts that lie at the heart of our military’s work in Iraq.

During his personal time while deployed, Daniel Rhodes authored a book on military ethics that is now used throughout his battalion. He also incorporated discussion of ethics and leadership into his company’s weekly routine. Truly, Daniel Rhodes is a man of uncommon ability and unimpeachable character.

Upon his return to Hawaii, Daniel Rhodes was promoted to Captain and named commandant of Charlie Company, 1/3. There he developed a relationship with Aloha United Way, and continued to be involved in community service projects, helping to refurbish vacant public housing units and assisting with food drives along with his men.

After eight years, Captain Daniel Rhodes left the service this past July to continue his education and to spend more time with his wife, Marine Captain Elizabeth Jackson. I have no doubt that he will accomplish more great things in life. I ask you to join me in honoring Captain Daniel Rhodes for his outstanding service and recognition as the 2009 Marine of the Year.

FOREIGN STUDENTS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. SAM JOHNSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Foreign Students Social Security Numbers Reform Act. Simply put, this bill would prohibit foreign students from receiving Social Security numbers. In no way however would this bill prohibit foreign students from getting jobs as they can do so now. As is currently the case, foreign students may receive Social Security numbers for work purposes even though they do not need to pay Social Security taxes on any of their earnings.

Given that the real purpose of a Social Security number is to track workers’ earnings on which they have paid Social Security taxes, it makes no sense that we are giving out numbers to those who are here temporarily and do not pay Social Security taxes. Moreover, a 2007 Inspector General report found that some foreign students “may have obtained Social Security numbers for purposes other than on-campus employment or other authorized work.” After all, these are highly prized numbers.

So rather than giving out numbers to those who don’t really need them, we should instead work to better safeguard numbers to those who should have the numbers in the first place. Also this likely will prevent foreign students from overstaying their welcome.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation:
killed in the tragic shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, earlier this month.

Maj. Caraveo, a resident of Woodbridge, Va., was a Medical Service Corps Officer in the U.S. Army Reserves who had arrived at Fort Hood just one day prior to the shootings. He was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan, where he planned to provide stress counseling to deployed service members.

He was active in his adopted home of Prince William County, where he spent time counseling prison inmates. He also offered his services for anger management training and couples therapy.

A native of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Maj. Caraveo came to the United States as a teenager and became the first in his family to graduate from college. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at El Paso and earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Arizona.

According to local news accounts, he was a generous, giving friend and father who enjoyed spending time playing in the yard with his children.

Maj. Caraveo is survived by his wife, Angela Rivera; their son and her two daughters; three children from a previous marriage and six siblings.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable life and service of Maj. Caraveo and the lives of the twelve others killed on that tragic day at Fort Hood. Their brave service, and that of their families, will never be forgotten and we extend our sympathies to them.

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DR. HANS R. WILHELMSEN

HON. C.A. DUTCHE RUPPERSBERGER
OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmsen, 33 Degree Sovereign Grant Inspector General, for his distinguished service to the principals of the Masons, Scottish Rite, and Grand Lodge.

Dr. Wilhelmsen was raised as a Master Mason in December 1982. He received the 32 degree in the Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore in the Spring Class of 1983. In 1991, he became an Honorary Past Master of Pythagoras Lodge and received the Knight Commander Court of Honor in 1995. Dr. Wilhelmsen was coroneted a 33 degree mason in 1997.

During the early years of his Masonic journey, Dr. Wilhelmsen’s time was devoted mainly to plastic and reconstructive surgery. He is a 1959 Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Injured by the lectures of Dr. Milton Edgerton, Professor of Plastic Surgery, Wilhelmsen matriculated to the University School of Medicine. In 1963, Dr. Wilhelmsen obtained his medical degree in General Surgery. He completed Plastic Surgery training in 1965 at the University of Pittsburgh.

While much of his time was dedicated to plastic and reconstructive surgery, Dr. Wilhelmsen dedicated the spare time he had to Masonry. In 1995, he was appointed to the Scottish Rite Holding Company. Wilhelmsen progressed to assisting the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Dr. Bernard E. Rothman. In 2003, he was coroneted Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Maryland and Active Member of the Supreme Council. Three years later, Dr. Wilhelmsen was awarded the highest honor that is given by the Grand Lodge of Maryland for his contribution to masonry in the State of Maryland. A portrait of him is now mounted in the Pillars of Charity Portrait Gallery at the House of Temple in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wilhelmsen’s medical and personal philosophy emphasizes treating all people with respect and dignity. He is a tireless worker for his patients, whose lives have been enriched by his professional manner and surgical ability. Though his profession left little time for extracurricular activities, Dr. Wilhelmsen has remained actively involved in Masonry.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me today to honor Dr. Hans R. Wilhelmsen for his commitment to Masonry, Scottish Rite, and Grand Lodge. Dr. Wilhelmsen’s enthusiasm and commitment is a remarkable asset to the Masonic organization.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL NICHOLS STATE VETERANS HOME

HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day for the Bill Nichols State Veterans Home in Alexander City, Alabama.

This important Veterans facility opened November 30, 1989, and was named after William “Bill” Nichols, who was instrumental in making Alabama’s first state veterans home a reality. Congressman Nichols, a World War II Veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966 and served until his passing in December of 1988.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home is a 150-bed skilled nursing home for our Veterans, and because of its excellent quality of care, has well over 100 Veterans awaiting admission. To date, over 1,500 of our heroes have resided there.

The Bill Nichols State Veterans Home was awarded the 2009 Quality Award from the American Health Care Association for its commitment to continuous quality improvement in long-term care. On November 30, 2009, the facility and its proud employees will host a 20th Anniversary Celebration program followed by a luncheon and open house.

I would like to congratulate this facility, its proud employees and the community for reaching this important milestone. These Alabamians are shining examples of dedication for the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform and I wish them all the best at this important occasion.

THE TAXPAYER INVESTMENT PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, with little more than the blink of an eye, the American taxpayers have lost $25 billion—without transparency, accountability or justification.

In December 2008, the Treasury Department loaned General Motors $13 billion. In the spring, Treasury loaned GM another $6 billion. Days before GM declared bankruptcy, the Obama administration poured in another $30 billion—just in time to convert taxpayer loans to equity and take ownership of this American giant. All of these funds came from the Troubled Asset Relief Program—a bailout never intended for such purposes. As the Congressional Oversight Panel wrote last month, “the use of TARP funds for the automotive industry raises questions regarding both presidents’ authority to use these funds under EESA legislation and, more broadly, under the U.S. Constitution.”

Last month, the ex-“Car Czar” Steve Rattner, the Government Accountability Office and the TARP Congressional Oversight Panel independently estimated the taxpayers’ $49 billion investment in GM to be worth about $25 billion. The government’s “Bridge Loan to Nowhere” lost half of the taxpayers’ money. This is only one company. The U.S. taxpayer owns debt and equity securities in other private corporations, including Chrysler ($12.5 billion), Citigroup ($45 billion) and AIG ($41 billion). How much are taxpayers losing on nearly $100 billion invested in these struggling firms?

Today, I introduce the “Taxpayer Investment Protection Act,” which sets a December 2010 deadline for the Treasury Secretary to divest the federal government’s ownership of private firms. These TARP-funded government investments add to the Treasury’s $12 trillion debt burden and put taxpayer funds at risk for greater loss. The time has come to protect the taxpayer from any more losses and set a timetable for withdrawal to get the government out of private business.

HONORING THE PANTRY OF BROWARD, INC.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has helped countless individuals in my community. The Pantry of Broward, Inc., is not a for profit organization that provides food and support services to low-income seniors and to grandparents raising grandchildren.

In Florida alone, there are 147,893 grandparents raising grandchildren, yet 8 percent of grandparent caregivers live in poverty, as do nearly 10 percent of all seniors. For those who live in Broward County, and the children who rely on them, the Pantry of Broward is an indispensable resource.

Each month, the Pantry of Broward delivers a 60 pound box of food items to hundreds of...
CELEBRATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEATTLE’S DOWNTOWN EMERGENCY SERVICE CENTER

HON. JIM MCDERMOTT
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer special recognition to Seattle’s Downtown Emergency Service Center, DESC, on its thirtieth anniversary. For three decades, this non-profit organization has committed itself to serve the most vulnerable homeless populations of Seattle with shelter, services, advocacy, and housing.

DESC began as a partnership among the City of Seattle, the Greater Seattle Council of Churches, and Washington Advocates for the Mentally Ill to address the shortage of shelter and services for a growing population of homeless persons in the Seattle area. On November 19, 1979, with fourteen staff, DESC opened its doors to nearly 200 homeless adults as an overnight emergency shelter in the ballroom of the Morrison Hotel, in Seattle’s historic Pioneer Square. A year later, DESC became a Mental Health Care licensed agency. Since its early years, DESC has been a leader in developing programs that provide a full continuum of care to address the root causes of homelessness.

In 1985, DESC was selected as a pilot location for the national “Health Care for the Homeless” program to integrate chemical dependency, mental health, and nursing with shelter services. In 1989, DESC enhanced its local outreach program by sending clinically trained staff to the streets to seek out and establish first contact with Seattle’s most vulnerable homeless men and women. That novel practice has become the standard outreach strategy used in nearly major U.S. cities today.

In addition, DESC began developing permanent supportive housing for the hardest-to-serve homeless men and women. In 1997, it opened the Lyon Building with 64 apartments for homeless adults affected by HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or addiction, implementing a “Harm Reduction” model. That same year, it also introduced the “Housing First” model to Seattle with the opening of the Kerner Scott House: 40 apartments for formerly homeless, essentially addictions-challenged adults. In 2005, DESC expanded its “Housing First” model with the opening of the 1811 Eastlake, a 75-unit building for late-stage chronic inmates, typically high users of public services.

Over the years, DESC has received dozens of awards and widespread recognition for its innovative programs and service delivery. In 2004 and in 2005, it received the Metlife Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing, making it the only organization to win the award in two successive years. In 1999, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded its “Best Practice Award” to DESC for innovation in developing services that later became industry standards. Most recently, DESC won the 2007 Maxwell Award of Excellence for its 1811 Eastlake project. A study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2009 revealed that the 1811 Eastlake program has saved taxpayers $4 million dollars annually.

Madam Speaker, for more than thirty years, DESC has served disabled and vulnerable homeless adults through a continuum of care model that not only helps people survive but breaks the vicious cycle of homelessness. Today, it has become one of the largest multi-service centers for homeless adults in the Pacific Northwest, employing more than 300 employees who provide permanent supportive housing, clinical and emergency services, and overnight shelter. DESC is an invaluable asset to our community, to the Seattle-King County Coalition to End Homelessness, and to our nationwide efforts to address homelessness. I extend my best wishes and commend DESC’s Executive Director Bill Hobson, its Board of Directors, its staff, and its clients on “30 years of opening doors to end homelessness.” I know DESC will continue to lead the way with thoughtful, innovative answers to our most challenging social issues.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DEA SPECIAL AGENT FORREST LEAMON OF DALLA CITY, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the lives of three local men, who recently died in a tragic helicopter crash while serving with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency in Afghanistan.

Their work was a critical part of recent U.S. efforts to fight the Taliban insurgency that is believed to be funding Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. These were the first DEA fatalities since the war began even though the agency has been operating in Afghanistan since 2005.

Special Agent Forrest Leamon was a resident of Woodbridge, Va., and had served in Afghanistan. His family includes his wife, Ana, and their soon-to-be-born child; his parents, Richard and Sue Leamon, of Fortuna, Calif.; two sisters; a niece and two nephews; his grandmother; as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the lives and service of these brave men and extending our sympathies to their families.

HONORING WILSON HALLIDAY PIPKIN

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wilson Halliday Pipkin, 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 96, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Wilson has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wilson 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 Wilson Halliday Pipkin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING THE BIRTHDAY OF PRESIDENT ZACHARY TAYLOR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday of a great American president, Zachary Taylor.

Zachary Taylor was born on a farm in Barboursville, Virginia, on November 24, 1784. His father had served with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and his family members were prominent planters. Zachary Taylor had a 40-year military career in the U.S. Army, serving in the War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Second Seminole War, and the Mexican-American War, where he earned the nickname “Old Rough and Ready,” because of his willingness to share his troops’ hardships and face overwhelming odds to triumph in a battle against the Mexican General Santa Anna at Buena Vista.
This extraordinary record of service to the Nation was further enhanced when Zachary Taylor was elected president of the United States in 1848. Under his administration, the Department of the Interior was created. Much of Taylor’s administration was focused on the issue of the expansion of slavery, with the Compromise of 1850 coming shortly after his death.

Madam Speaker, I call the attention of the House to the life, legacy, and accomplishments of Zachary Taylor on the upcoming 225th anniversary of his birthday.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Stupak-Ellsworth-Pitts-Smith-Kaptur-Dahlkemper Amendment that maintains existing Federal law on the compelling issue of abortion. For 34 years, citizens of conscience on all sides have weighed in on this important moral and legal question. Lawmakers have attempted to accommodate very divergent views, even on the meaning of life itself. Many lives must be considered—the life of the mother, the life of the child, including the unborn but conceived, and in my opinion the rarely mentioned responsibilities of the father as well.

Our legislative struggle to do what is proper is rooted in interrelated moral, scientific, legal, and yes, theological dissonances. What is right? What should be legal? And what will lead to a just and responsible society for all? I continue to approach this deeply moving issue as a representative from a widely diverse Congressional district in northwestern Ohio, an area of our Nation comprised of people from many different ethnicities, races, faiths, denominations and belief systems. My representation of these varying views embodies the deepest respect for all our people, and for those with whom they have arrived at their values.

This amendment reaffirms longstanding, existing law, and nothing more. It represents the broad consensus of the American people after decades of consideration on the issue. Recent Gallup polls show that 51 percent of Americans consider themselves “pro-life” on the issue of abortion. But, this amendment does not resolve all moral questions that face pro choice, prolife, and non-aligned Americans on this issue. All it does is restate existing law.

It states that no Federal funds “authorized under this Act may be used to pay for any abortion, or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion,” except in the cases of the life of the mother, rape or incest.

Effectively, the precedent setting Hyde amendment—which has been in effect for 34 years in our Nation—will apply to the public option, and to any Federal plans which include elective abortion. The amendment does no more, and no less. Further, with the added coverage for all Americans that this bill provides, perhaps the abortion choice will become less attractive for those faced with such a life wrenching choice.

This amendment will not bar any one from purchasing their own private supplemental rider. Our language is the same that applies in current law on Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Plan, and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Plan, FEHBP. itself which offers many private insurance plans. The FEHBP is a model for how this language will be applied. It has been tried, tested, and proven.

The inclusion of this amendment clarifies the bill’s language on the potential fungibility of premium dollars deposited in Federal accounts that are used to cover non-sanctioned insurance paid for by taxes, premiums, or Federal subsidies diverted to pay for abortions by those who do not agree with the procedure.

Importantly, for the first time, the base measure itself will help vast scores of women to obtain health coverage and, by so doing, limit abortion by enhancing broad coverage options for women’s and children’s health. The rate of infant mortality, which is fueled by shamefully high rates of premature birth in the United States, shows us that we are not addressing the real problems of our society. Providing the necessary support for women is the answer. This bill will vastly improve preventive care, double funds available to community health centers including obstetric and gynecological care, and move America fully into this 21st century. No woman, no matter how poor, pregnant, unemployed women, working women, single women, and nursing women—will be left out of health insurance coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce this important bipartisan legislation with my colleagues, Representatives HELLER, NADLER, KENNEDY, CAPPS, WAXMAN, SPEIER, McGovern, ISRAEL, GRIJALVA, RICHARDSON, PERRELLIO, ENGEL, DELAHUNT, COSTA, WATSON, HALL (NY), STARK, CHU, NORTON, MOORE (KS), and HOLT. The companion bill has been introduced in the Senate by Senators FRANKEN, GRASSLEY, HATCH, and FEINSTEIN.

I have been working on the issue of DNA technology since 2001 when I, along with former Representative Steve Horn, held a hearing in the Government Reform Committee where we heard from a courageous rape survivor, Debbie Smith. It was for Debbie, and the thousands of rape survivors like her, that I authored “The Debbie Smith Act” to provide Federal funding to process the unconsolable backlog of DNA evidence. This legislation passed as part of the Justice for All Act of 2004, authorizing the necessary funding to start processing the backlog through the creation of the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program. Since 2004, millions of dollars in funding have been appropriated under the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program.

Despite the availability of funding and some progress made, the national backlog continues to persist. Recent media reports have documented that across the country, backlogs continue to rise and sexual assaults occur that might otherwise have been prevented were the kits processed in a timely manner. This bill addresses the continuing problem and several other problems that work to deny justice to victims of sexual assault—including the denial of free rape kits to survivors of sexual assault, and the shortage of trained health professionals capable of administering rape kits.

By creating incentives for jurisdictions to eliminate their rape kit backlogs, process their incoming rape kits in a timely manner, and publicly report their backlog numbers, this legislation would go a long way to ensuring that the purpose and intent of the Debbie Smith Act be fully realized.

According to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, every two minutes someone is sexually assaulted somewhere in the United States. DNA evidence does not forget and it cannot be intimidated. With the evidence, we can prevent rapists from attacking more innocent victims and ensure that the survivors and their families receive justice.

RECOGNIZING NEW YORK YANKEES OWNER GEORGE STEINBRENNER III

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner III. I recently sponsored a resolution congratulating the Yankees on their 27th World Series win. Since the World Series victory was dedicated to Mr. Steinbrenner, I wanted to honor his dedication to the city of New York and the Yankees. He has owned the franchise for 36 years, the longest serving owner in Yankee history.

Mr. Steinbrenner always has had a long-standing interest in coaching and sports management. He began as an athletic director and baseball/football coach at an Ohio high school. In 1955, he became an assistant football coach for Northwestern University. The following year in 1956, he was an assistant coach for the Purdue University football team. By 1961, he led a team of investors in the purchase of the Cleveland Pipers of the National Industrial Basketball League, which soon joined the American Basketball League, ABL. In May of 1962, Steinbrenner got the coveted young rookie, Jerry Lucas, to play for the Pipers. That same year the Pipers won the ABL Championship. Under his ownership, Steinbrenner made history by having the first African-American coach in professional basketball, John McLeod.

It was not until 1973 that Mr. Steinbrenner became part of a now historic deal when he bought the Yankees for $10 million from Columbia Broadcasting Company, CBS. When Mr. Steinbrenner took ownership of the Yankees, they were a team in decline. After the 1962 season, the glory days were winding down for the Yankees. In 1966, they finished last in the American League, which had not
happened since 1912. As owner, Mr. Steinbrenner took over a Yankees franchise that needed rebuilding from the bottom up. He accepted nothing less than victory and made sure everyone in the Yankees organization worked together towards that goal. Within 4 years, he had directed the team back to its winning ways by helping guide the Yankees to World Series championships in 1977 and 1978.

This winning tradition has continued over the years. Overall, under his management, the Yankees have brought home 7 World championships, 1 American League pennant and 16 division titles. Many Yankee legends have played for the team during Steinbrenner’s tenure as owner. Derek Jeter was quoted in the Associated Press after the recent World Series win as saying that, “He’s the reason we’re here. First of all, we wouldn’t be in this stadium if it wasn’t for him. We wouldn’t have this group together if it wasn’t for him. This is a special moment. We all tried to win it for him. He deserves it.”

There is no question that George Steinbrenner has changed and modernized major league baseball and professional sports. A Yankees franchise that sold for $10 million in 1973 has grown to a current value of $1.5 billion under Steinbrenner’s leadership.

Mr. Steinbrenner is also a dedicated and generous philanthropist. He established the Gold Shield Foundation in Tampa Bay and the Silver Shield Foundation in New York City, both of which financially support families of fallen police officers. Among many other endeavors, he has donated funds to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Ohio State, the University of Florida, and most notably, given $1 million to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund at Virginia Tech University. These are just a few of his many efforts to assist other organizations.

Although Mr. Steinbrenner was not in attendance at the 27th Yankee World Championship, his legacy was an important part of the franchise’s victory. The message displayed over the field on that November night says it all: “Boss this is for you!”

The Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 takes an aggressive and multifaceted approach to combating HIV/AIDS and STIs by increasing access to voluntary screening and other preventative methods while preserving patient rights and confidentiality.

Among other things, my bill includes 83 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, FMAP, rate for the screening of HIV/AIDS and other STIs and requires all private health insurance plans to cover screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. My bill provides grants to Federally Qualified Health Centers to serve individuals who cannot access screening because they lack insurance coverage or sufficient income. And, my bill urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement an approach to covering screening for HIV/AIDS, and encourages CMS to take steps to reimburse screening for other STIs.

Additionally, the Increasing Access to Voluntary Screening for HIV/AIDS and STIs Act of 2009 supports access to early medical and mental treatment. It includes language from the Early Treatment for HIV/AIDS Act, ETA, and requires testing facilities to link patients to appropriate medical and mental health services.

Lastly, the bill will make screening and other preventative services more accessible to groups that have been historically underrepresented in public health interventions for HIV/AIDS and other STIs. It requires the Director of the CDC to work with appropriate entities to track screening trends for HIV/AIDS and STIs among people with disabilities, and ensure that comprehensive sex education materials are accessible to these individuals. The bill directs the National Institute on Drug Abuse and Human Services to take the appropriate steps to ensure that all women have equal access to screening for cervical cancer regardless of sexual behavior or sexual orientation. And, this bill directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve research efforts concerning the prevention, spread and transmission of HIV/AIDS and STIs in the transgender community.

Madam Speaker, voluntary and routine screening for HIV/AIDS and other STIs is an effective and low-cost approach to decreasing the life-threatening and life-altering effects of these diseases. Many organizations support this important bill that includes a comprehensive and evidence based strategy to improve the overall health of our nation.
Waxahachie Indian Marching Band for officially being recognized as one of the top 10 high school bands in the State of Texas. This achievement represents the highest marching award that the Waxahachie Marching Band has earned in the school’s history.

"This is the little band that could." With only 122 members on the field, they were the smallest band in the UIL 4A State Band Contest to make the finals. And from all accounts, their performance of their 2009 marching show entitled “A Kinetic Mind” encompassed every meaning within “kinetic”—constant motion, fast-paced energy, literally electrifying the crowd inside the Alamodome.

Now let me explain how big this accomplishment actually is. There are hundreds of Division 4A bands in the State of Texas, and in November, only 26 qualified to compete for the title. The Spirit of Waxahachie Indian Marching Band finished eighth and I couldn’t be more proud of what these students accomplished on the field.

But it is what they do in the classroom and in the community that makes them even more special. These teenagers begin practicing and training over the summer, dedicating several hours each day to learn the music and routines required to achieve excellence. This alone is quite a feat when you consider just how hot it is in Waxahachie in August.

But these are first and foremost students whose determination and dedication not only applies to the band program, but to their academic and community efforts as well. Once they leave class and band practice ends—these teens keep working. A majority of them are involved with community service projects and volunteer with organizations all over the city.

These students, their directors and their supporters have truly exemplified their title as The Spirit of Waxahachie. I am proud to represent them here in Congress and once again congratulate them for proving that hard work and dedication lead to great accomplishments.

The Spirit of Waxahachie Indian Marching Band includes:

Directors: Rich Armstrong—Head Director, Reg﹜g﹜, Kendra Ray—Assistant, Dan Francis—Assistant, Donnie Owens—Assistant, Johnny Young—Percussion Instructor, Layci Dagley—Percussion Instructor, Denise Armstrong—Color Guard Instructor.

Drum Majors: Tiffany Neale, Haley Nutt.


CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

November 19, 2009

EXPANDING ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 1842, the “Expanding Entrepreneurship Act of 2009.” I would like to thank my colleague, Representative LUEKEMEYER, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the cosponsors.

When people think of the American Dream, there are few things they are more likely to think of than opening a small business. Our President called them the dreamers who built this country. In his words, “They’re the workers who took a chance on their desire to be their own boss, the part-time inventors who became the full-time entrepreneurs, the men and women who have helped build the American middle class, keeping alive that most American of ideals.” My home city is very much a part of this dream—according to Fortune Small Business magazine, Houston, Texas, is one of the five best cities in which to start a small business.

That is what makes the Expanding Entrepreneurship Act such an important bill. It would make several changes to the Small Business Administration’s, SBA, entrepreneurial development programs including establishment of planning standards, greater coordination of SBA programs, maintenance of an entrepreneurial development database, creation of an entrepreneurial development portal, and the introduction of community specialists to the program.

Under this legislation, the Administrator of the SBA would be required to develop a job creation strategy for 2009-2010. This plan would include the agency’s intent for using existing programs, including Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, Women’s Business Centers, WBCs, Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE, Veterans’ Business Outreach Centers, Hispanic American Outreach, and other appropriate initiatives, to create and retain jobs throughout the United States. The SBA Administrator would establish performance measures and criteria including job creation, job retention and job retaining goals, to evaluate the agency’s progress in this effort.

Also, under this act the Administrator would be required to oversee the coordination of SBA’s Entrepreneur Development Programs with other Federal agencies when it is appropriate. The Administrator would be required to report to Congress annually on opportunities to foster coordination, limit duplication, and improve Federal entrepreneurial development programs, without regard to the agency that houses an entrepreneurial outreach effort.

To ensure easy access for entrepreneurs, a portal will be designed on the SBA website with links to all of the SBA’s entrepreneurial development programs. This portal will also have links to relevant web content organized by industry type, stage of business, and level of need. A separate database of providers of entrepreneurial development services will also be established on the SBA’s website.

A community specialist would also be recruited to serve in every SBA District office. Their sole purpose would be working with
join with the members of his church who honored him on November 13, 2009, as a man who overcame insurmountable obstacles, and as the quiet man who has touched and made a difference in so many lives.

THE DIABETES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a serious and expanding health problem. Rates of type 2 diabetes continue to rise—despite our knowledge of how to prevent it—and it is time we took action to reverse the disturbing trend.

Thirty years ago, there was no known or proven strategy to fight the onset of type 2 diabetes. Now, we know how to delay onset of this disease, or prevent it completely, according to the National Institutes of Health, NIH. And yet, we are not using this potentially life-saving knowledge to our greatest benefit.

Meanwhile, those who develop the illness still suffer from and can’t always properly recognize its symptoms, including fatigue and vision problems. When type 2 diabetes causes those symptoms to progress, it can lead to detrimental and heartbreaking results.

Furthermore, the cost to care for diabetes patients reached $174 billion in 2007, and that number is only expected to get larger. The illness is a growing problem in the population as a whole, and appears to be increasing among children and adolescents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. It makes sense to work to prevent onset of type 2 diabetes. This will both ensure quality of life for patients and reduce overall health spending especially when the number of Americans at risk is predicted to grow.

I am introducing the Diabetes Prevention Act of 2009 to put our medical knowledge to use to reduce and delay instances of type 2 diabetes. Through the CDC, communities will be able to apply for grants to establish prevention programs designed to assist those diagnosed with pre-diabetes. Working with local medical officials, the programs will help patients with good diet, exercise plans, and other lifestyle changes needed to prevent or delay onset of the illness.

The Diabetes Prevention Act of 2009 builds on the success community organizations have had with similar programs in preventing illness. It is crucial that we address this serious problem and act now to stem the number of cases of type 2 diabetes developing in our country.

I urge consideration of the legislation.

RECOGNITION OF SPRINGFIELD
NARFE CHAPTER 893

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Springfield Chapter 893 and applaud its dedication and service to the local community. This chapter of NARFE enjoys the second largest membership in the country, and continues to carry out NARFE’s mission of safeguarding and enhancing the benefits of America’s active and retired federal employees, and their survivors. Our recent meditation is a moment to remember and reflect on friends and family who have served in the armed forces. Of particular note was a poem written by Chaplain Margaret Yowell entitled “What Is a Veteran?”

“What Is a Veteran?”

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day and making sure the armored personnel carriers didn’t run out of fuel. He is the barroom loudmouth whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang. He is the POW who went away one person and came back another—or didn’t come back at all. He is the Quantico drill instructor that has never seen combat—but has saved countless lives by turning young men into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other’s backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand. He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass by him.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean’s sunless depths, or in the cozy comfort of the supermarket—paled now and slow—who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being—a person who offered some of his life’s most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That’s all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chaplain Margaret Yowell and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Springfield Chapter 893 for their dedication and service to our brothers and sisters who have so bravely served their country. Our veterans deserve that ultimate sacrifice to their nation, and I am proud to work with NARFE to ensure we uphold our commitment to our federal employees and service men and women.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, this morning our national debt was...
$12,030,202,701,513.91. I should note this week is the first time our debt has broken the 12 trillion level.

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 $1,391,776,955,220.11 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 63RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. A. NORMAN BANTZ

HON. ERIC CANTOR OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. A. Norman Bantz.

On November 16, 2009, Norman and Gloria Bantz celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary. Norman was born on July 17, 1921, and his wife, Gloria, was born on November 16, 1922.

The couple married on November 16, 1946 at Annunciation Church in Crestwood, New York.

Over the years, Norman and Gloria have been blessed with 6 children, Alexandra Louise, Rita Marie, Ralph Fredrick, Margaret Elizabeth, Katherine Mary, and Peter James; 13 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

On November 16, the couple along with their family and friends celebrated their anniversary at the home of their daughter. I would like to congratulate, Norman and Gloria, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING CARY LIGHTSEY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a nationally recognized leader in protecting the environment and a sixth generation Florida rancher, Cary Lightsey of Lake Wales, Florida, who was awarded the 2009 Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

The Sunbelt Agricultural Exhibition Southeastern Farmer of the Year Award honors excellence in agricultural production and management, leadership in community and farm organizations, and recognizes family contributions in producing safe, abundant supplies of food, fiber and shelter for U.S. consumers. Cary Lightsey, as the sixth award recipient to come from the state of Florida, represents some of the best of American agriculture.

It is a great privilege to recognize Cary Lightsey and his family for their many achievements and contributions to the farming industry and to their community.

Brahma Island, a large secluded region in Lake Kissimmee, is home to 28 endangered species, 14 nests of bald eagles and 300-year-old oaks, ancient Indian settlements, wildlife game, and commercial beef cattle. This island, owned by Cary Lightsey, and the Lightsey Cattle Co., is preserved in its natural state and will remain so through a perpetual conservation easement. On the island and his other ranches, Lightsey raises over 7,000 head of cattle.

Lightsey and his family have been innovative leaders in methods to market cattle, development of replacement stock, as well as expansion and vertical integration into the cattle market throughout the United States. In addition to raising livestock on the island, Lightsey offers ecological tours and guided hunts for wild hogs and exotic deer.

Cary Lightsey was the first Florida rancher to use conservation easements. By keeping 40 percent of his ranches in native land use, Lightsey has been able to implement extensive use of conservation easements that cover about 70 percent of his ranching properties. With the easements, Lightsey retains ownership of the land and receives benefits from environmental and governmental organizations in return for giving up his land.

In addition to these conservation and livestock endeavors, Lightsey has been involved in several other innovative ventures including harvesting palmetto berries used for a prostate cancer medicine, relocating threatened gopher tortoises onto his ranches, and raising Wagyu cattle for the Japanese beef market. He has also established new grass varieties used for forages and treatments for water flow nutrients, sharing these technologies with other Florida ranchers.

Cary Lightsey has made valuable contributions to his community through numerous civic activities as well. Each year he donates cattle to the Florida State Fair Futurity Steer Show, is active in the Polk County Youth Fair, and has served on numerous conservation and water management board and easements.

I stand today to commend Cary Lightsey and his family, including his wife, three children and grandchildren for this honor, which was said to be have been bestowed due to his entrepreneurial spirit, good business judgment, sound farming practices, high ethical standards and leadership in his family, community, state and nation. The 2009 Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year title was also awarded to Lightsey for his sensitivity to the environment, his response to community and social concerns, and his "abiding devotion to his family, his faith and his nation."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent this great American.

HONORING CHRIS MARROU

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GONZALEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the end of an era. For just shy of 35 years, Chris Marrou hosted the news broadcast at San Antonio’s KENS–5 television. On November 24, 2009, he will give his final broadcast.

Though he spent his youngest days in San Marcos, TX, Chris was born in San Antonio and has lived in the city for most of his life. He was among the first students at Robert E. Lee High School. After being voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by his graduating class, it was off to Pepperdine University where his career in broadcasting on the campus radio station, WPBR. Upon graduating, Chris returned to San Antonio, working first in radio, for KITE and KBAT, before moving into television with WTOJ, where he soon began covering sports.

Chris lost his home briefly, on a Dallas radio station lured him away, but he soon returned, taking over the anchor spot at KENS-5 television on December 24, 1973. And what a Christmas present that was.

Over the past 36 years Chris has been one of the most trusted and respected voices in San Antonio and South Texas, even during his brief sojourn in Boston. He has won numerous awards from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and other organizations. Not content with just one career, however, Chris began attending St. Mary’s University School of Law, graduating with his Juris Doctor in 2007, the same year he was voted “Best TV News Anchor” by the San Antonio Express-News. After passing the Texas bar later that year, he founded the firm of Ramirez, Marrou & Martinez de Vara, PLLC, with some of his law school classmates.

Chris Marrou has been a great friend to the City of San Antonio, a familiar and trusted friend, welcomed into the homes, and hearts, of Antonio in person, briefly, at 6 p.m. and 10 every night. He will be greatly missed, though we wish him the best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

COMMENDING BETA GAMMA CHAPTER (VSU) OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Reps. RANDY FORBES, to call attention to a group of young students from Petersburg, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their University, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I direct my colleagues’ attention to the brothers of the Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity at Virginia State University. Over the last three years the Beta Gamma chapter has partnered with Big Brothers Big Sisters and has maintained one hundred percent chapter membership participation rate. They are the first, and only, Alpha Phi Alpha chapter in the country to accomplish this remarkable achievement. I would like to applaud my brothers for volunteering to be responsible role models for at-risk youth, helping them to reach their full potential and to lead vibrant, successful lives.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. As the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established for African Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a brotherhood and study and support group for many students, including Cornell, but it also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political and social injustices faced by African Americans.
From that initial foundation at Cornell, the core Alpha Phi Alpha principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character and the uplifting of humanity were established. Alpha Phi Alpha now has a presence on hundreds of college campuses as well as in hundreds of alumni chapters in 44 States. The presence we feel here in Washington, where nine members of the U.S. Congress are members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

In 1991, an agreement was entered into between Alpha Phi Alpha and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America to unite their efforts to transform communities and the lives of young African Americans. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha have become thoroughly engaged in recruiting volunteers, and cultivating a positive relationship and experience with their Little Brothers.

The brothers of Beta Gamma continue this proud tradition by proactively engaging the Petersburg community’s schools and families, in addition providing one-on-one youth mentoring for children at-risk of slipping through the cracks of our society. Studies show that the regular presence of a responsible adult provides lasting, positive impacts on the life of a child. Those children mentored by the Big Brothers of Beta Gamma chapter will be less likely to use drugs and alcohol, will perform better in school, and will have healthier family relationships.

Today, I rise to recognize these young gentlemen for their genuine concern for their local community and for their dedication to public service.

RECOGNIZING CAKES BY HAPPY EATERY
HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a sign of recovery and reinvestment in our nation’s economy. On November 19, 2009, “Cakes by Happy Eatery” opens its doors for business in Manassas, Virginia.

This family-owned business was established in 1986 as the “Happy Eatery Restaurant and Bakery.” It previously operated in Alexandria, Virginia as a traditional Chinese restaurant with an in-house bakery for 17 years. In 2002, the business moved to a location in Centreville, Virginia and became “Cakes by Happy Eatery.” During this move, the family decided to undergo more than just a name and location change. They also transformed the business model and focused all of their talents and efforts on becoming a full-service bakery.

This has proven to be a successful business decision. The family’s recipes and catering services have been well received and the business has outgrown its Centreville location. The new Manassas location will expand the family’s services and responsibilities. The matrarch, Mrs. Fu-Mei Wu, will act as the chief quality control manager. Mrs. Wu’s daughters will continue to be involved in the bakery’s everyday business. Ms. Lai-Wu Wu will oversee daily operations. Charlotte Wu Homemaker, Emily Wu-Rorrer will handle advertising and Emily Wu-Rorrer will continue to create the popular bakery’s new products.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Wu family for creating jobs by opening a new “Cakes by Happy Eatery” location. I admire the Wu family for their hard work, and I hope for their continued success.

HONORING SIMON HUGHES
HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, recently the Texas record for the largest gator killed on state property was broken by 110 pounds. The new state record stands at 800 pounds and 12-foot-6-inches. The remarkable thing is that the shooter, Simon Hughes, had only a year of experience under his belt. Even more remarkable was that the shooter is a five year old from Goodrich Texas, near Lake Livingston.

Simon Hughes is the son of Scott Hughes a sixth generation rancher also from East Texas. Mr. Scott Hughes was reasonably worried that something “real big was out there” and driving smaller gators into his stock ponds. He then obtained a state permit to kill the alligators populating his 5,000 acre ranch near the Lake. Mr. Hughes also took his son, a mere first grader, along for a hunt seeing as he already had been taught gun safety since he was “big enough to walk and stand in a deer blind.” When the gator came upon Simon, he screamed “holy moly,” and shot the beast that was twenty times his size with his new junior-sized .410-gauge shotgun.

Madam Speaker, in true cowboy fashion Simon wants the world to know that he was never afraid for a second. Texas commends Simon for his bravery and outstanding accuracy at such a young age.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STEVEN FOSTER AND SENATOR JOYCE FOSTER
HON. DIANA DeGETTE
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of a distinguished couple in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado, Rabbi Steven Foster and State Senator Joyce Foster. Rabbi Foster has served as Council President during 2001–2002. Upon her election, she became the first Jewish woman to sit on the Council. She subsequently spent 10 years representing District 4 and served as Council President in 2001–2002. As a Councilwoman and Council President, she was a leader on transportation, land use issues, and regional cooperation between the City and its surrounding suburbs. She represented Denver on the Denver Regional Council of Governments Board, and developed close working relationships with other cities and counties, business and transportation organizations, and state agencies such as the Colorado Department of Transportation. One of her signature accomplishments was working to bring middle and single residents to help build a skate park in downtown Denver, which helped reduce crime and benefited the community by providing an after-school activity for young people.

After retiring from the Denver City Council, in 2008 Joyce Foster was elected to represent her community as Senate Senator for Colorado’s District 35. As a State Senator, Joyce Foster has been a champion for access to health care as a basic human right and for high-quality education for all children. Named by Denver’s 5280 magazine as one of four Coloradans “Fresh Faces in Politics to Watch,” Senator Foster has earned a reputation as a savvy legislator who reaches across the aisle to serve the public good.

HON. JOE WILSON
Of South Carolina
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman of the Afghanistan Caucus, I want to congratulate President Hamid Karzai on his inauguration for a second term in Afghanistan. In his speech, I am pleased President Karzai stated that he is committed to tackling corruption and restoring security in his nation.

I support the reappointment of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who attended the inauguration, that President Karzai has his chance to “have accountability and tangible results that will improve the lives of the people.” In my nine visits to Afghanistan, I have learned of the dedication of Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak and Interior Minister Haneef Atmar. I know firsthand of the capabilities of the Afghan police and army units, who were trained by my former National Guard unit, the 218th Brigade led by Brigadier General Bob Livingston, 2007–2008, of the South Carolina Army National Guard.

It is vitally important that in order for Afghanistan to turn the corner, the U.S. must do everything promised to the people of Afghanistan to provide for a secure and stable society. We must fund the necessary resources with our NATO allies to President Karzai to get the job done.

I was grateful to learn last night at a dinner with Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sino-Slovakian Treaty, that Slovakia is committing its troop commitment in Afghanistan. Slovakia is a revered partner of America promoting freedom and democracy.

HON. DAN BURTON
Of Indiana
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, last month in Zurich, Switzerland, with the strong support of the United States, the foreign ministers of Turkey and Armenia took an unprecedented step forward in their efforts to overcome decades of animosity and distrust between their two countries. Almost before the ink was dry special interest groups in both countries and abroad who profit from the status quo were attacking the deal which means that there are still immense hurdles left before Turkey and Armenia fulfill their promise.

The protocols have been submitted to the Turkish and Armenian parliaments for debate and ratification. The stage is now set for the two parliaments to both deliberate the contents of and hopefully pass the protocols. It will not be an easy vote but the potential, economic and international benefits for both sides are enormous; that is if Turks and Armenians are willing to take the chance for real peace; and willing to give up business as usual.

For years I have come to this Floor advocating that issues concerning Turkey and Armenia should be resolved at the negotiating table by the two countries in question. I urge my colleagues to strongly support this process.

HON. BART GORDON
Of Tennessee
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Debbie Spero, recipient of the 2009 John Campanius Holm Award.

Each year, the National Weather Service honors Cooperative Weather Observers with this prestigious award, named after John Holm. During the years 1644 and 1645, Holm recorded observations of the local weather twice a day, and he is the first known person to have kept these observations.

Since September 1, 1985, Debbie Spero has been involved with the NWS Cooperative Observer Program in Bethpage, Tennessee, reporting daily weather and precipitation data to the Army Corps of Engineers. Her reports are used to document the climate of Middle Tennessee and are also used by local NWS officials to verify forecasts, warnings and precipitation patterns.

Through her 24 year involvement, Debbie has been an incredibly reliable observer. Her observations are complete and in near real time. When she has been unable to make her observations because of illness or travel, she has enlisted help to ensure as few breaks in the records possible.

In her spare time, Debbie is an active community member. As a Girl Scout leader for more than 14 years, her troop has helped serve underprivileged girls in the Bethpage area by meeting with them weekly. Debbie also works as a Youth Leader at Grace Baptist Church and served as President of the Bethpage Parent Teacher Organization.

Each year, the John Campanius Holm award is given to only 25 Cooperative Observers from more than 11,000 in the program. The award is based on complete and accurate observations, outstanding enthusiasm for imparting observational knowledge, and civic involvement in the community. The award is only given to active observers of more than 20 years.

Debbie, thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving your community. I wish you all the best in the years to come.

HON. XAVIER BECERRA
Of California
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Renewable Water Supply Bond Act of 2009 with Representative Ginny Brown-Waite. This legislation would authorize public water agencies to issue tax credit bonds as a financing vehicle for certain innovative new water supply technologies.

Drought, global climate change, population growth, and increased competition for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs have combined to create potential water shortages of crisis proportions in the decades ahead unless Congress acts quickly to invest in new, alternative water supply facilities.

Fresh water is a limited resource in high demand. Population growth continues to strain available and quickly diminishing water supplies, leading to a growing need for new investments in water supply and treatment facilities. The U.S. General Accounting Office has stated that even under normal water conditions, 36 States anticipate water shortages in the next 10 years.

However, innovative technologies exist that can help provide new sources of clean water while helping to improve the environment. While the costs of these technologies continue to decline, the initial capital expenditures required to build their infrastructure is still too high to use conventional financing mechanisms. A deeper subsidy is needed and can be achieved through the use of tax credit bonds.

This legislation would authorize the use of tax credit bonds, Clean Renewable Water Supply bonds, or CREWS, to finance certain kinds of innovative water supply facilities. These facilities include water-recycling facilities, projects to clean up and use impaired groundwater, and both seawater and brackish ground water desalination facilities. These CREWS bonds would be issued by public water agencies in exactly the same way as those agencies can presently issue conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds.

The proceeds from the sale of the bonds would result in an interest-free loan to the agency. Instead of allowing the agency to make interest payments to the bondholders, as would be the case with conventional tax-exempt municipal bonds, the Federal Government would provide the bondholders with a tax credit equal to what the interest payments would have been. Under the proposal, the agency would save over $60 million in interest payments on a $100 million water supply project, which is the type of subsidy necessary to offset the upfront capital expenditure.

Working with Representative Brown-Waite, I hope this Congress moves with all due speed to consider and pass this vital legislation. Let me also take this opportunity to invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this bill that takes concrete action to address our nation’s future water needs.
Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009 through the morning of Friday, November 6, 2009, I could not be present for votes due to a family funeral back in Michigan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 832. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 833. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 834. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 835. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 836. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 837. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 838. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 839. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 840. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 841. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 842. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 843. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 844. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 845. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 846. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 847. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 848. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 849. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 850. I would have voted "no." 

House Rollcall Vote 851. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 852. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 853. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 854. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 855. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 856. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 857. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 858. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 859. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 860. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 861. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 862. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 863. I would have voted "yes." 

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on Monday, November 2, 2009 through the morning of Friday, November 6, 2009, I could not be present for votes due to a family funeral back in Michigan.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

House Rollcall Vote 832. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 833. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 834. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 835. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 836. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 837. I would have voted "yes." 

House Rollcall Vote 838. I would have voted "yes." 

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House Rollcall Vote 863. I would have voted "yes."
provide a more convenient, transparent and affordable way to choose among a variety of health plans that meets individual needs. Americans who cannot afford to purchase coverage within the exchange will receive financial assistance to ensure that they can obtain comprehensive coverage. Additionally, small business will receive tax credits that will make it more affordable to offer insurance to their employees.

I am also pleased that this bill encourages competition by ensuring that Americans will have the ability to choose a public plan as an alternative. Unlike private insurance carriers, the public option will not be obligated by big profits for shareholders or large salaries for CEOs. And while it represents just one option for the consumer and one component of health care reform, it will serve as an important tool to increase choice and competition and lower overall insurance costs.

Included in this proposal are a number of important health consumer protections. It will finally end insurance discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions and prevent insurance companies from imposing lifetime limits or dropping coverage when people are sick and need it most. It will cap out-of-pocket expenses so people don’t go broke when they get sick; eliminate extra charges for preventive care like mammograms and diabetestests that are covered by Medicare for seniors while working to eliminate the “donut-hole” gap in coverage for prescription drugs. It will also require that insurers reinvest at least 85 percent of their premiums back into health coverage. This will limit the amount of money spent on marketing, underwriting, overhead and profits that do nothing but reduce health benefits for patients.

Improving access to coverage will also require investments in our health care workforce. Our system is strained by a lack of nurses and primary care physicians, particularly in underserved areas. That is why our bill contains important workforce development initiatives like new scholarships and loan repayment programs, grant programs for primary care training and immediate financial support for community health centers. This will strengthen the number of nurses, doctors and other health care professionals necessary to meet the increased demand for services.

This bill also makes historic changes to our antitrust laws by removing exemption enjoyed by insurance companies so that they are no longer shielded from liability for price fixing or dominating their market—all of which reduce competition and increase prices for consumers. It establishes new grant programs designed to encourage states to implement alternatives to traditional medical malpractice litigation with the goal of reducing frivolous lawsuits while allowing legitimate cases to be heard. This bill also has my strong support because every portion will be completely paid for, and it will reduce the deficit by $109 billion over the next ten years.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is incumbent on us as policymakers to offer a new vision for health care in America—one that contains costs, improves quality, increases efficiency, promotes wellness, puts health care decisions back in the hands of patients and doctors, and guarantees coverage as a right to our citizens.

Every American deserves the promise of quality, affordable health care. I urge my colleagues to join me in fulfilling that promise today, and support the Affordable Health Care for America Act.

RECOGNITION OF THE 211TH REGIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 211th Regional Support Group from Corpus Christi, Texas, for their tireless efforts to ensure the security and well being of not only the country of Iraq but the United States as well.

Deployed on December 1, 2008, this unit worked in the face of grave danger and performed in an exemplary fashion in the management of installation and camp activities.

Sixty members of this unit will be returning to my district on Saturday, November 21, and it is my honor and privilege to welcome them home.

Our Reservists put their lives on hold, to fulfill the duties asked of them. I have the greatest respect for our service men and women who selflessly disregard their own safety in order to voluntarily serve our country.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the 211th Regional Support Group of Corpus Christi, Texas, for their service to our nation.

HONORING ST. HUGO OF THE HILLS IN BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the selection of St. Hugo of the Hills, Michigan, as a 2009 Blue Ribbon School. This prestigious award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Department of Education. That St. Hugo earned this designation is a testament to the dedication of its administration, teachers, staff, students, parents and community members, whose hard work of self-evaluation, review and goal-setting for the future has proved exemplary.

The Blue Ribbon Schools designation is reserved for schools that provide only the most rigorous academic programs or which have made only the most dramatic strides in improving their students’ academic achievement. In fact, St. Hugo School was the only private school in Michigan to receive the award this year. St. Hugo of the Hills has a long-celebrated and exemplary tradition of striving for academic excellence, with standardized test scores that reflect a deep commitment to high achievement. St. Hugo of the Hills provides its students an outstanding program of nationally recognized excellence in an environment in which the teachings of the Catholic faith are instilled, nurtured and demonstrated. Since 1940, it is this combination that has enabled St. Hugo to count among its alumni scores of community leaders and dedicated, productive citizens.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my recognition of St. Hugo of the Hills on the honor of its outstanding achievement for being designated a 2009 National Blue Ribbon School.

CONGRESSMAN BOBBY L. RUSH
DAY

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus I rise today in honor of my colleague and fellow CBC member, the Honorable Bobby L. Rush. Throughout his distinguished career, Congressman Rush has served as a determined leader for civil rights and a passionate advocate for our nation’s least fortunate citizens and their communities. On Saturday, November 28th, Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will honor Congressman Rush during “Bobby Rush Day,” a celebration of his life and service.

Congressman Rush was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1946 and spent his childhood growing up on the north and west sides of Chicago. As a child, his Boy Scout Master encouraged Bobby to pursue public service. Congressman Rush enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17, which marked the beginning of what was to become a lifelong career in public service. After serving honorably for 5 years, he left the Army to attend Roosevelt University, where he graduated with honors in 1973.

It was during this time that Congressman Rush began his passionate advocacy for the basic civil and human rights of minorities, as a member of the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to serving as a member of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Congressman Rush co-founded the Illinois Black Panther Party in 1968. With the Panther Party, Congressman Rush organized the Free Breakfast for Children program and established a Free Medical Clinic, which gained renown as the nation’s first to develop a mass sickle cell anemia testing program.

This commitment to the health and dignity of communities of color has been a remarkable achievement of Congressman Rush’s career and a leader and vocal proponent for issues such as health care reform, job creation, environmental protection, gun control and ending the embargo against Cuba. Most recently, as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, Congresswoman Rush used his deplorable leadership to shepherd the bipartisan passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (H.R. 4040), which modernized the Consumer Product Safety Commission and established essential safety requirements for children’s products.

An ordained Baptist minister, Congressman Rush has remained true to the principles of truth and justice throughout his distinguished
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2009 today to raise the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), or contribution of the federal government from 70 percent to 75 percent, and to reduce the District's unique role as the only city, except for New York, that pays any portion of Medicaid, an expense that is carried by states and counties in our country. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent local match to Medicaid, while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District's statutorily mandated 30 percent contribution. I introduce this bill because the District's continuing responsibility for the share of Medicaid costs typically borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and a threat to the financial stability of the city itself, according to the District's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Today, in the midst of an unprecedented recession and of structural change in the U.S. economy, this burden is not sustainable. Yet the District, unlike other cities which have lost significant populations, has no state economy to share this burden. More than 25 percent of District children and adults are enrolled in Medicaid, compared to 12 percent in Maryland and just 9 percent in Virginia. On average, the District spends over $7,000 per enrollee, while Maryland and Virginia spend $5,509 and $5,177, respectively, reflecting serious health conditions that are concentrated among big city residents in this majority African American city.

In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress recognized that state costs were too high for any one city to shoulder. To alleviate the resulting financial crisis in the District, Congress increased the federal Medicaid contribution to the District from 50 to 70 percent, and took responsibility for some, but not all, state costs—prisons and courts—relieving the immediate burden, but the city continues to carry most state costs.

In 1997, a formulaic error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment reduced the 70 percent FMAP rate, and as a result, the District received only $23 million instead of the $49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to $32 million from FY2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of $20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing DC's Medicaid reimbursement payments to $57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. However, through today's bill cannot reimburse the District for the years a federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses. Now, with health care before the Congress, the time has come to close the loop on this leftover issue.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments becomes necessary. The District Medicaid agency won federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the federal government's child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance and recovery. On December 11, 1989, the Pennsylvania Female College was renamed the Pennsylvania College for Women. Over the years, the student body grew and the school expanded into the buildings and grounds of several adjacent mansions, including those previously owned by Andrew Mellon, Edgar Braithwaite, Fickes, James Rea, and George M. Laughlin, Jr.

In 1955, the Pennsylvania College for Women was renamed Chatham College, in honor of William Pitt, the Elder—the first Earl of Chatham, the statesman who led Great Britain to victory in the Seven Years' War, and the man for whom Pittsburgh was named.

In 1992, Dr. Esther Barazzone became the school's 16th President, and under her leadership, the school has undergone substantial growth. New construction was undertaken, co-educational graduate programs were established, and the school's endowment was increased substantially.

On April 23, 2007, the school was granted university status by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and it officially changed its name to Chatham University a year later on May 1st, 2008.

Today, the university is home to three colleges. Chatham College for Women continues the school's original mission of providing a high-quality undergraduate education for women. The College for Continuing and Professional Studies offers a number of certificate, masters, and doctoral programs, and online degree programs were begun in 2005. The College for Graduate Studies offers masters' and doctoral programs for both women and men in more than 40 teaching and research areas, including art, architecture, business, health sciences, teaching, and creative writing. In 2007, Chatham University's Creative Writing M.F.A. program was singled out by The Atlantic Monthly as one of the top five innovative and unique programs in the country. Today, Chatham has more than 2,200 students enrolled. The university is home to several outreach centers as well, including the Center for Women's Entrepreneurship, the Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy, the Rachel Carson Institute, and the Pittsburgh Teachers Institute.

In 2008, Chatham University expanded dramatically to accommodate the growth in a number of academic programs.

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an upcoming landmark event in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District—the 140th anniversary of Chatham University, one of the oldest women's colleges in the country.

On December 11, 1869, the Pennsylvania Female College was founded in the City of Pittsburgh by the Reverend William Trimble Beatty, the founder and pastor of the Shady Side Presbyterian Church. The college was originally housed in the Berry mansion on Woodland Avenue in Pittsburgh's Shadyside neighborhood. The college's original mission was to provide educational opportunities for women of comparable quality to those available at that time to the best colleges for men. Chatham University is one of the outstanding institutions of higher learning that call the Pittsburgh region home. In the past 140 years, this school has been committed to providing a high-quality education to young women. Chatham's motto is "Filiae nostrae scut antarii lapides"—"That our daughters may be as cornerstones, polished after the similitude of a palace"—and for well over a century, the faculty and staff of this respected institution have labored hard to live up to that standard. Graduates have gone on to leadership roles in business, government, and academia, not only locally, but across the country. Chatham's most famous graduate so far is probably Rachel Carson, of the class of 1929—the individual almost single-handedly responsible for the birth of the environmental movement in this country.

Over the last 140 years, a number of traditions have become an important part of the school's identity—the Opening Convocation, the passing of the class colors from graduating seniors to the incoming first years, the song contest, May Day activities, and the Closing Convocation, to name a few. Needless to say, many alumnae retain treasured memories of these traditions for the rest of their lives—and while many wonderful traditions have been established and preserved, the school has changed and grown as well.

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In 2008, Chatham University expanded dramatically to accommodate the growth in a number of academic programs.

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

November 19, 2009

career. Today we rise in appreciation, not only of his contributions to date, but in anticipation of that which he will accomplish in the future. He is, and continues to be, an inspiring advocate for equality and a voice for the voiceless. The Congressional Black Caucus is stronger because of Congressman Rush's diligent work. His clarity of purpose and visioning forces the CBC's role as the "Conscience of the Congress." For that we are deeply grateful. We salute and celebrate this great leader for freedom and justice.

To all, we wish you a very happy "Bobby Rush Day!"
On May 1, 2008, the Eden Hall Foundation gave Chatham University the Eden Hall Farm in Gibsonia, a suburban municipality near the city of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. This 400-acre farm had been the summer home of philanthropist and H.J. Heinz Company Vice President Albert Mueller in the early 1900s. At Mr. Mueller’s death in 1938, his entire estate, including Eden Hall Farm, was committed in his will to benefitting women. For the next 70 years, it was operated as a vacation and respite destination for the H.J. Heinz Company’s working women. The Eden Hall Foundation was established in 1983 to further Mr. Mueller’s goals of supporting other charitable efforts.

Chatham University’s Eden Hall Farm Campus now is home to a number of educational, environmental, women’s leadership, and community programs. It also provides a convenient campus for serving Chatham University certificate and degree program students who live in the suburban communities north of Pittsburgh as well as young participants in the school’s Summer Music and Arts Day Camp.

In September of 2008, Chatham purchased a building in Pittsburgh’s East Liberty neighborhood to hold its architecture and health science programs. The new facility is less than a mile from the university’s main campus in nearby Shady Side. Establishment of this new facility, named Chatham Eastside, both benefited from and contributed to community efforts to redevelop and revitalize East Liberty.

Madam Speaker, Chatham University has grown from a founding of 100 undergraduate students 140 years ago to a university with more than 2,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students today. It is a highly respected institution of higher learning that has faithfully carried out its mission of educating young women and promoting women’s leadership for nearly 150 years. I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends and supporters of Chatham University on the 140th anniversary of its founding, to express the appreciation and deep respect that the residents of Pennsylvania have for this venerable institution, and to wish Chatham University continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MR. AUSTIN LAYNE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Austin Layne, a trail-blazing entrepreneur and valued member of the St. Louis community. For over 30 years Mr. Layne has served the residents of St. Louis with an admirable sense of compassion during their most difficult times.

Upon graduating from Vashon High School, Layne entered the U.S. Army where he studied to become a computer specialist. Layne was motivated to pursue a career as a funeral director after a family friend, Gilbert Wade Granberry, offered him a position working at his mortuary. This rewarding experience inspired him to earn his associate’s degree in applied science from the School of Mortuary Science at Forest Park Community College.

Mr. Layne opened his first business in 1979, the Austin A. Layne Mortuary. He has since opened the Layne Renaissance Chapel and most recently, the Austin Layne Normandy Chapel. Mr. Layne independently owns and operates all of his businesses.

Mr. Layne is committed to providing people with the highest quality care possible and has remained dedicated to being available to his clients, both physically and emotionally during their times of grief. He is acutely aware that every family has different needs and strives to accommodate each family that he serves.

Throughout his career, Mr. Layne has been a supportive and gentle person, determined to do more for families than simply conduct a funeral. What makes Mr. Layne so extraordinary is his ability to empathize with each family. He puts himself in their position and works to ensure that arranging funerals for their loved ones goes smoothly as possible.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Layne; a man who has made a difference in each life that he has touched. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Austin Layne.

FIRE GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPREAD OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole on the House of the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3791) to amend sections 33 and 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act.

The economic downturn is adversely affecting the budgets of local governments and threatening a range of emergency services that communities count on. As declining state revenues force governors and city managers to drive home the point! His confrontations with City Hall, L.A. County, and other elected officials and community leaders are legendary. He spoke his mind, and was bold and uncom-
Tommy was an inspiration to me and to so many other people. He was daring, fearless and bold, helping us to gain the courage to openly discuss and deal with race, discrimination and inequality in a way that few had been able to before.

I will truly miss his presence and the long conversations we would often have, which would usually start when he’d say “Hey Mac, what do you think about that?” He was an incredibly deep thinker. He was especially an inspiration to young people in the community, often speaking at high schools, colleges and universities to encourage them to succeed, to give back, and to hold their heads up high.

There will never be another Tommy Jacquette, and I know that the legacy he has left behind is enshrined not only in the Watts Summer Festival, but in the larger community. I look forward to working with his family and the Board of Directors to make sure that the Festival continues, though there will be a big hole that can never be filled.

I thank him for all that he was and all that he wanted for all the lives he reached, and for his friendship. I will miss him dearly, but he was not, for all the lives he reached, and for his Festival continues, though there will be a big hole that can never be filled.

Jay Harrington began his coaching career as an assistant at Western Kentucky University for one year followed by a year as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Jay’s first position as head coach was at Wabash Valley College where he coached for three years. He next took over as head coach at Southwestern Illinois College, then Belleville Area College, where he has been for the past 30 years. Last season, Coach Harrington posted his 600th victory as the coach of Southwestern College.

Coach Harrington entered the 2009–2010 season with a career total of 696 wins. He posted his 700th victory with a 64–49 win over Highland College before the home crowd at the Bankstorm Basketball Classic at Southwestern Illinois College. With typical modesty, Jay deflected accolades over this milestone, preferring instead to discuss the good performance of his players.

Jay Harrington is enshrined in both the Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame and the National Junior College Athletic Association, NJCAA, Basketball Coach’s Hall of Fame. He has been named the Junior College Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and Co-Coach of the Year, Junior Colleges by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jay Harrington on his milestone 700th victory as a men’s college basketball coach.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK HALL

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, Norco, California has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. I rise today to recognize and honor one of those individuals: outgoing Norco City Council Member, and former Mayor, Frank Hall.

Frank started his public service career in 1993 as a member of the Streets and Trails Commission in Norco, California. With that experience he was elected as a Norco City Councilmember in 1997. As member of the Norco City Council, Frank also served as Mayor in 2008, 2004 and 2000. In 2000, Frank received the Norco Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year Award.

Over his accomplished career, Frank served on a number of special committees which addressed a wide range of issues. He worked on transportation issues as a member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Riverside Transit Authority Board of Directors and the Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Northwest Zone Committee. He promoted education and learning in the community as a member of the Riverside Community College, Norco Friends of the Library, Norco Historical Society and the Corona/Norco Family YMCA. He also was successful in rallying support for NSWC, Corona and joined a regional effort to keep the base from being realigned to Port Hueneme during the last round of Base Realignment and Closure.

Frank Hall will leave the Norco City Council with many accomplishments; his legacy will serve as a shining example and constant reminder of what it means to be a public servant. I am proud to call Frank a fellow community member, American and friend. It has been an honor to work with him for the betterment of our community and I salute his service to the City of Norco.

GIUSEPPE TAORMINA
HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Giuseppe Taormina. His powerful voice, passion and talent make him the true “King of High C.” Mr. Taormina was born in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. He started voice training at a very young age and began performing in Sicily. When he arrived in the United States, he immediately auditioned for the Metropolitan Opera Company, where he was accepted into the Young Artist Program. Because of his beautiful voice, he received invitations to perform with the North Fork Philharmonic and the Monmouth Symphony.

Most notably, Mr. Taormina is the only person in the United States who has received the prestigious honor of Necklace Knight, “Cavaliere di Collona” and the noble title of Saint George in Carinzia Supreme Military Order.

Mr. Taormina has had the honor to perform for the Kings of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, as well as Imelda Marcos, the former First Lady of the Philippines. He has also traveled to the far corners of the world spreading his passion for music with the “Ambassadors of Opera.” On November 1st, Mr. Taormina performed at the 48th Annual Mario Lanza Ball, where he was the evening’s special guest tenor. Mr. Taormina helped celebrate the life and career of Mario Lanza. His one of a kind tenor voice is a great tribute to a star that left us far too soon.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the talent and accomplishments of Giuseppe Taormina.

HONORING NORTON BUFFALO OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Norton Buffalo, a man of enormous musical talent, who passed away October 30, 2009, after a short battle with lung cancer. Although he is no longer with us, his music and his virtuosity as a harmonica player are gifts that will live on for generations to come.

Born 58 years ago in Oakland, California and raised in the blue collar streets of Richmond, California, Norton developed an appreciation for music from his father, a harmonica player in his own right, his mother, a nightclub singer, and his great-uncle, an Academy Award winning composer. He won his first talent contest in 1963 while in the 6th grade and he never looked back.

For decades he called Sonoma County home. His first solo album and tribute to his adopted home, “Lovin’ in the Valley of the Moon,” was released in 1977. In addition to his own albums, he played on more than 180 albums by other artists and was a member of the Steve Miller Band for 30 years. He was a master of all genres, from jazz to rock to blues to honky tonk. He toured with such notables as the Doobie Brothers, Kenny Loggins, Olivia Newton John, Commander Cody, Mickey Hart, Jerry Garcia and slide guitar player Roy Rogers, as well as his own bands.

I was honored and privileged to know Norton as a friend, long after I was a fan. I grew up on his music and sought out his performances at small clubs and venues throughout Northern California. When we became friends many years later, I was touched by his compassion and his dedication to making the world a better place. He was a man with a heart to match his talent.

Norton was a performer to the end. He was on tour with the Steve Miller Band in August when he received his diagnosis and was writing songs just days before his death. He is survived by his wife Lisa Flores, his children, Aisah and Elias, his stepchildren, Siera Ruelas, and Bo Winterburn, his father, Ken Jackson, and five brothers and sisters.
INTRODUCTION OF THE RUNAWAY REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation, the Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, along with my friends and colleagues Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONDERS of Michigan, and Mr. CARDOZA of California.

One of the few things more terrible than learning that a child was missing would be learning that everything possible wasn’t being done to find him or her. Shockingly, the New York Times recently reported that many run-away children are missing not only from their homes, but also from the very database meant to help law enforcement officers find them.

If one knows that a child is missing, that child is unlikely to be found. It is imperative that everyone—parents, communities, and especially law enforcement authorities—combine their resources and work together to find and protect missing children. The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database is designed to help make information sharing easier. Virtually every law enforcement officer in the United States can access the NCIC database, which means that they can more easily cooperate in investigating and resolving multi-jurisdictional cases.

Every child reported to have run away is supposed to be listed in the NCIC database as a missing person. However, according to the New York Times’ series “Running in the Shadows,” as many as 16 percent of reported runaways are never entered into the NCIC database. Madam Speaker, this is outrageous and unacceptable. Without an NCIC entry, law enforcement officers will not share information or resources, and are much less likely to find or protect a missing child.

The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009 would help solve this problem and protect missing children by making two small but useful changes to the current law. First, the bill would require law enforcement agencies to certify that they comply with federal law by entering all missing children into the NCIC database. Madam Speaker, this bill would require that law enforcement agencies provide someone who reports their child missing with information about the services of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National Runaway Switchboard, as well as 24-hour, toll-free contact information for those resources. NCMEC and NRS have a long and successful history of helping parents and law enforcement agencies work together to find and protect missing kids.

Madam Speaker, we simply must do better by our children. The necessary resources are already in the NCIC database. The Runaway Reporting Improvement Act of 2009, will help ensure that those existing resources are used to find and protect the children who need them most.

EDUARDO PEÑA
HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to serving others. Mr. Eduardo Peña’s lifelong commitment to public service and the Hispanic American community are to be commended. Peña, a native of Laredo, Texas, is a 1957 graduate of the University of Texas in Austin with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. He received his law degree in 1967 from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., while working full time for the Department of Labor.

Peña has a long and distinguished career in public service, working for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the U.S. Senate, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is a two time recipient, 1968 and 1969, of the DOL’s award for meritorious achievement. In 1979, he resigned from government service to enter private law practice. However, this did not prevent him from engaging in a number of community service activities.

In 1978 he was elected president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), where he served for one year and used his expertise to ensure civil rights for Latinos. Today, Peña remains heavily involved in LULAC as a volunteer and his wife, Ada, serves as the State Director for the District of Columbia. Earlier this year Eduardo Peña stepped down as General Counsel for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), a pro bono post he held since March 1978. In this role he committed his own time and energy to providing pro bono expert legal counsel and guidance to an organization that has grown dramatically since he began his work.

His efforts have assisted thousands of young Latinos to achieve a college education and take the first steps towards launching a successful career in public service and many other fields. CHCI’s growth and advancement as an organization have taken place thanks to the dedication Eduardo Peña has demonstrated for more than three decades.

Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere gratitude for more than 30 years of service to CHCI and a lifetime of contributions to the Hispanic American community and the nation.

RETIREEMENT OF HERMOSA BEACH CITY COUNCILMAN J.R. REVICKZY
HON. JANE HARMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man of many abilities and talents, whose contributions to the City of Hermosa Beach enriched his community and contributed to the economic health of the region for the past 16 years.

A South Bay resident since childhood, my good friend and City Councilman J.R. Revickzy enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve after graduating from Bishop Montgomery High School in Torrance, California, also in my Congressional District. Following an honorable discharge from the Naval Reserve, he embarked on a career as an electrician. During his 37-year career, he worked his way up the ranks from apprentice to his current role as Training Director for one of the largest electrical contractors in the United States.

J.R. was first elected to the Hermosa Beach City Council in 1993, and has served four distinguished terms as Mayor. His lasting mark can be seen throughout the community. As a member of the Open Space People’s Action Committee, he was instrumental in the development of Hermosa Beach’s many acres of beautiful parks and recreation facilities, including the conversion of railways into a community treasure known as the Greenbelt. He was also one of the co-founders of the Beach Cities Holiday Toy Drive which, for the past 15 years, has collected and distributed thousands of toys to needy children throughout the 36th Congressional District and beyond.

I have personally benefited from J.R.’s counsel and encyclopedic knowledge of local issues and history. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank Councilman J.R. Revickzy for his dedicated service to the people of Hermosa Beach and wish him continued success as he and his wife, Nancy, begin the next chapter of their life.

AARON THOMAS NEMELKA
HON. JIM MATHESON
OF UTAH
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Utah has lost a venerated hero with the passing of PFC Aaron Thomas Nemelka of West Jordan, Utah.

Private First Class Nemelka was killed while serving his country at Fort Hood, Texas. On November 5, 2009, a lone gunman opened fire and caused the death of 12 soldiers, 1 civilian, while 30 more Americans were wounded.

Private First Class Nemelka is remembered for his dedication to both his family and his country. As a combat engineer in the 27th Infantry Battalion, 36th Engineering Brigade, he specialized in munitions diffusion.

Aaron was set to deploy on his first tour of the Middle East in January 2010. He will forever be remembered for having sacrificed his life in the defense of our great nation. His selfless devotion to those around him is a great tribute to his spirit.

Aaron grew up in West Jordan, Utah and was the youngest of four children. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and through his efforts was able to help better his community by always extending a hand of service. Aaron graduated from West Jordan High School in Utah in 2008 and enlisted in the military shortly thereafter.

Private First Class Aaron Nemelka was very young, and he served his country honorably and heroically. Please join me in taking a moment to honor this Utahn for his service to our country. My thoughts are with Aaron’s family during this difficult time.
Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan B. Perel, a dedicated physician, leader in the MS community and a true humanitarian. He is one of Staten Island’s “everyday heroes.”

Dr. Perel was educated in New York City schools, attending Brooklyn College, and obtaining his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center. He completed his residency at Columbia University—Presbyterian Hospital and interned at Staten Island University Hospital.

Dr. Perel is a great physician, and he gives back to his community. His has gone above and beyond by providing unprecedented care to those affected by Multiple Sclerosis and other life altering conditions. He has served as the Director of the Multiple Sclerosis Center of Staten Island/Cooper Site NYCMS Society for the past 15 years.

He is also the Chairman of the Board of the Staten Island Heart Society for the past 5 years and was the only Neurologist to have served as President of the American Heart Association. Dr. Perel also founded and serves as the director of the Staten Island University Hospital—NYS Department of Health Certified Stroke Center.

Throughout his career, Dr. Perel provided educational materials to the community and supported legislation that benefitted both doctors and patients. He helps coordinate the Island-wide September 11 Memorial blood drive, and continuously supports charity walks for many causes.

Dr. Perel has been an active participant of the Richmond County Medical Society since 1989. In July of 2008, Dr. Perel was selected to be the organization’s president. On Saturday, November 14th, the Richmond County Medical Society honored Dr. Allan Perel for his tireless dedication to his profession and the people of his community. I wish to join this organization in praising the accomplishments of one of Staten Island’s finest physicians.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Dr. Allan B. Perel on his dedication to the citizens of Staten Island.

SPEECH OF
HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act because it eliminates the discriminatory insurance industry practice of charging women higher premium rates than male customers for the same insurance benefits. This practice, known as “gender rating,” leaves women burdened by higher insurance costs. In fact, women are charged 25–50 percent more than men for comparable insurance benefits. For decades, insurance underwriters have tried to justify this disparity by asserting that women use more healthcare, especially during child-bearing years. This claim is contradicted by the reality that many women are denied insurance coverage for maternity care and even denied coverage for several high risk conditions. Further, female nonsmokers pay more for health insurance than men who smoke. In a recent study, more than half of women (compared to 39 percent of men) reported delaying needed medical care due to cost. Gender rating is prohibited in the individual market in 10 States (Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington). Two States have “rate bands” that allow 20 percent variation in charges (Vermont and New Mexico). Twelve States ban gender rating in the small group market, including my home State of Maryland (as well as California, Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, and Washington). H.R. 3962 ends the discriminatory practice of gender rating in all States and ensures that women and men are charged equitable prices for premiums.

As a life-long advocate of women’s rights and a domestic violence prevention advocate, I support this ban on gender rating and support equal access to the insurance market for women.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) TAX BENEFITS ACT

SPEECH OF
HON. JOHN P. SARABANES
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SARABANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Property Assessed Clean Energy, PACE, Tax Benefits Act. This legislation supports efforts by state and local governments to help homeowners and businesses install energy efficiency upgrades.

PACE projects are an innovative way to finance energy efficiency investments like insulation and home sealing projects, energy efficient appliances or renewable energy generation systems. These programs provide homeowners or business owners capital to pay for the improvements and allow them to finance repayment through the property assessment taxes they pay to state or local government. Because PACE financing offers real savings immediately and in the long term, homeowners and businesses are much more likely to pursue energy efficiency improvements.

The legislation I am introducing will make it easier for state and local governments to raise capital for PACE programs by making the interest earned on PACE-related bonds tax free. For example, under current law, when government bodies issue bonds for the construction of roads, schools, or other infrastructure, their investors receive tax free interest payments. The PACE Tax Benefits Act will ensure that energy efficiency projects are treated in the same manner—allowing state and local governments to raise adequate capital and providing the low cost financing to property owners that will make PACE programs more widespread.

This is an innovative and cost-free mechanism to encourage energy efficiency. The potential for economic growth and energy savings is vast if we establish a framework that allows for them to expand more broadly. By doing so, we will create thousands of new jobs; save billions of dollars in energy costs for consumers; and make significant progress in our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
HONORING JOSYF SLIPYJ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong service and dedica-
tion of a Servant of God, Patriarch Josyf Slipyj to the Ukrainian Church and community.

He died on September 7, 1984, and on No-

vember 22nd, 2009, a monument will be
raised in his memory at the Sts. Volodymyr
and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Parish.

Josyf Slipyj was born on February 17, 1892
in the village of Zazdrist, Ternopil region,
Ukraine, into the Kobernytskyi-Slipyj and
Anastasia Dychkovska families. He completed
grammar school in his village and secondary
school in Ternopil. He studied theology in
Lviv, and completed his philosophical and theo-
ological studies in Innsbruck, Austria.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Met-
ropolitan Andrej Sheptytsky on September 30,
1917.

He returned to Innsbruck to continue his
post-graduate studies, attaining a doctorate in
sacred theology. From there he traveled to
Rome where he was bestowed with the title
Magister Agregatus.

He began lecturing in 1922 on dogmatic
theology at Lviv Theological Seminary. Toward
the end of 1925 he was appointed rector of
this institution, and in 1929 he was appointed
rector of the newly created Theological Acad-
emy. In 1939 metropolitan Andrej consecrated
him bishop with the right of succession. On
November 1, 1944, he became head of the
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

On April 11, 1945 he was arrested by the
Bolsheviks and given an eight year sentence
of hard labor in Siberia. After this ended and
without any cause, he was imprisoned a sec-
ond time for an unspecified term. In 1957 he

was given a third term—seven years of hard
labor. Due to the efforts of Pope John XXIII
and U.S. President John F. Kennedy he was
freed in 1963 to take part in the sessions of
the Second Vatican Council.

Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic
Parish in Chicago, Illinois was founded in
1968 by Patriarch Josyf Slipyj. Among the rea-
sons for establishing this distinct parish was
the desire to preserve and more intensely nur-
ture the traditions of the Ukrainian Church.
The elements contributing to the Ukrainian
Church’s distinctiveness within the Universal
Catholic Church are the Julian Calendar, a tra-
ditional liturgy, as well as a unique spiritual
heritage.

Members of the parish are proud of the fact
that Patriarch Josyf Slipyj was involved in all
significant events of the parish’s development.
Besides establishing the parish, Patriarch
Josyf blessed the cornerstone of the church
and subsequently, in 1973, blessed the church
itself. The reason for the parishioners’ pride
had to do with the Patriarch’s position in the
Catholic Church as a Confessor for the Faith.

Taking the lead from his predecessor Metropol-
itan Andrey Sheptytsky (+1944), as well as the
decisions of the Second Vatican Council, Josyf
Slipyj worked to restore self-government
to the Ukrainian Catholic Church in the form of
a Patriarchate. In 1965, he was made a car-
dinal by Pope Paul VI.

He died on September 7, 1984. In 1992 his
remains were brought to Lviv, where they,
in the presence of more than one million faithful,
were re-interred in the crypt of St. George’s
Cathedral. Patriarch Josyf Slipyj has been pro-
claimed a Servant of God and the Ukrainian
faithful pray for his beatification.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join
me in recognizing the great sacrifices and
contributions Patriarch Josyf Slipyj made in his
lifetime. His monument will stand as a re-
minder to all of his great achievements to fu-
ture generations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GRADUA-
TION FOR ALL ACT OF 2009

HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I
rise today in support of H.R. 4122, the Gradu-
ation for All Act of 2009 (GFA). I would like
to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER for intro-
ducing this comprehensive bill that creates a
three-year grant to help turn around our na-
tion’s lowest performing schools. This bill will
help address some of the problems facing our
schools and ensure that they are moving to-
ward a goal of graduating all of our children.

For far too long, schools have not been held
accountable for ensuring that students grad-
uate on time with a high school diploma. As a
result, some students leave high school with-
out a meaningful education that provides qual-
ity academic experiences sufficient for suc-
cess in college or the workplace. Additionally,
high school students are dropping out at an
alarming rate. A recent study found that only
53 percent of all young people in the nation’s
50 largest cities are graduating from high
school on time. Regrettably, roughly 12 per-
cent of all secondary schools in the United
States produce approximately half of the na-
tion’s secondary school dropouts. In these
secondary schools, known as “dropout fac-
tories,” African American, Native American
and Hispanic students have graduation rates
that are 50 percent or below.

Recently, strong reform efforts have tar-
ged dropout factories and other low per-
forming high schools, but it is obvious we
have to do more and start our efforts earlier.
More of an emphasis must be placed on the
lowest performing middle schools. Too many
students leave middle school with significant
deficiencies such as being behind on English
and Math proficiency; this leaves them ill pre-
pared for the rigors of high school.

Increasing graduation rates and improving
academic achievement will enrich the lives of
our children as well as strengthen our work-
force and nation as a whole. A nation enjoys
a competitive advantage in the global market-
place when it has a well educated and well
trained workforce. If we expect to compete,
we must ensure that all of our children receive
a quality education.

The Graduation for All Act will make edu-
cation a priority and invests significant funding
to accomplish several goals. First, it provides
funding for schools to increase teacher and
leadership effectiveness, hire highly qualified
teachers, restructure schools, and transition
students out of low performing schools into
higher achieving schools. Second, the bill will
fund initiatives that increase college access
and completion such as dual enrollment and
early college programs. Finally, the legislation
includes provisions from the Every Student
Counts Act (ESCA, H.R. 1569), which I intro-
duced on March 17, 2009, that will require
consistent and accurate counting of high
school dropouts, require the establishment of
aggressive and attainable graduation rate
goals, and provide incentives to meet these
goals.

This bill will make significant strides toward
improving student achievement, postsec-
ondary readiness and graduation rates. It is
my hope that Congress will move this legisla-
tion quickly and it will be signed into law. This
will ensure that all of our nation’s students will
receive the kind of help and support required
for them to obtain a quality education. Thank
you.