EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FINDINGS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (C)(2)(C) OF H. RES. 1493, PROVIDING FOR BUDGET ENFORCEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, pursuant to paragraph (c)(2)(C) of H. Res. 1493, Providing for Budget Enforcement for Fiscal Year 2011, I submit the following findings that identify changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure may authorize.

INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is committed to improving efficiency in the Federal Government and providing cost savings to accomplish the joint goals of reducing expenditures and ensuring maximum value to the taxpayer in Federal programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Beginning in the 110th Congress, the Committee has aggressively reviewed program implementation to ensure that Federal agencies, and their state and local partners, were appropriately implementing laws consistent with statutory intent and the best needs of the public. The commitment is not to programs, but to the goals and objectives that best serve the needs of the American people in an efficient, fiscally responsible way. To that end, the Committee has developed and will continue to develop multiple proposals to improve the operation of government, including opportunities to reduce expenditures and the deficit. Because many of the programs within the Committee's jurisdiction are implemented in partnership with state and local governments, the Committee continues to pursue improvements at all levels of government.

Today's report describes a list of activities and proposals that include reductions in and elimination of mandatory spending, reductions in and elimination of authorizations for discretionary spending, investments that would be expected to achieve quantifiable future savings, and revenues that more equitably distribute the cost of government services among the beneficiaries of those services and reduce demands on the General Fund. These proposals will allow the Nation to achieve its investment goals at less cost and allow Federal investment to provide increased benefits.

These proposals reflect the Committee's efforts to date. The Committee will continue its efforts to find creative and efficient ways to make government more responsive to the needs of the Nation.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Committee's oversight efforts recently resulted in exposing unwarranted cost overruns in Federal construction. At the Committee's request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) analyzed courthouse construction since 2000 and determined that expenditures have been unnecessarily increased by nearly $900 million. The Committee is responding through general legislation and authorizations for specific Federal courthouse construction projects to ensure that such unnecessary costs are not repeated.

Other positive results of the Committee's efforts have resulted in improvements and corrections to the Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater Program, the Federal Aviation Administration's regulatory responsibilities and air traffic control modernization, mismanagement at the Federal Maritime Commission, disaster response by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, international water quality expenditures, and the civil works program of the Corps of Engineers.

The Committee's efforts associated with the Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater Program (Deepwater) continue to provide benefits. Deepwater is a series of procurements being undertaken by the Coast Guard to replace or upgrade its major surface and aviation assets. The procurements are expected to cost $25 billion by the time they are complete in 2026.

The Committee conducted an investigation that probed deeply into the contract management and decision-making processes within the Coast Guard and its contract partner, Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS) (ICGS consisted of Lockheed Martin Corporation and Northrop Grumman Corporation). The Committee found that the Coast Guard was warned of flaws in the designs for Coast Guard assets long before the designs were finalized. The Committee also found that in some cases, substandard information technology equipment was installed on the patrol boats. Finally, records indicated that there were irregularities in the process for testing and certifying the ships for standards designed to prevent the release of classified information.

The Committee's investigation resulted in the Coast Guard removing ICGS as the lead systems integrator for Deepwater, and a reimbursement claim by the Federal government of $96 million from ICGS.

The Committee continues to monitor the Deepwater Program, guarding against waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and ensuring that taxpayers receive the full value of their investment.

While the Committee continues to conduct oversight of agency programs in all areas of its jurisdiction, in this Congress, the Committee is being particularly aggressive in overseeing the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) (P.L. 1115).

The Recovery Act provided $64.1 billion for programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, including $38 billion for highway, transit, and wastewater infrastructure formula programs. Since enactment of the Recovery Act, the Committee has performed vigorous oversight, to ensure that the funds provided are invested quickly, efficiently, and in harmony with the job-creating purposes of that Act.

Just 10 days following enactment of the Recovery Act, the Committee requested monthly reports from States, major public transit agencies, and metropolitan planning organizations on the use of highway, transit, and wastewater infrastructure formula funds provided under the Recovery Act. The Committee continues to receive those reports.

The Committee's request goes beyond the transparency and accountability requirements of the Recovery Act, expanding the scope of programs covered by the reporting requirements, and accelerating the deadline by which information is reported. These reports include information on the number of projects that have been put out to bid, are under contract and underway, and have been completed. The information also includes job hours created or saved and payroll figures. The Committee receives monthly reports from Federal agencies implementing Recovery Act programs under the Committee's jurisdiction.

Since April 2009, the Committee has published a monthly report reflecting this information. All released information can be found at the Recovery Act section of the Committee's website: *http://transportation.house.gov*. The Committee requested that these recipients continue to submit monthly reports directly to the Committee for the remainder of 2010.

Of the $38 billion available for highway, transit, and wastewater infrastructure formula program projects under the Recovery Act, as of June 30, 2010, $35 billion (92 percent) has been put out to bid on 18,718 projects. Within this total, 18,002 projects totaling $33.4 billion (88 percent) are under contract. Across the Nation, work has begun on 17,024 projects totaling $32.7 billion (86 percent)—work producing badly needed jobs today. Work has been completed on 6,920 projects totaling $5.3 billion. From these investments, not only has the economy benefited from the jobs created, the public benefits from the investment itself through improved transportation and quality of the environment.

In addition to the monthly reporting, the Committee has held 18 oversight hearings on the Recovery Act since its enactment, with seven of these hearings occurring during 2010. This total includes nine Full Committee hearings and nine subcommittee hearings. These 18 hearings included a total of 123 witnesses and spanned 64 hours. The breadth of witnesses included Ray LaHood, Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as other Federal, State, and local government officials, private industry leaders, and workers actively engaged in implementing the Recovery Act.

The Committee held its most recent oversight hearing the last week in July, and will continue to hold oversight hearings on the Recovery Act throughout 2010.

In addition to overseeing implementation of the Recovery Act, as of the date of this report, the Committee and its subcommittees have conducted 23 separate hearings in 2010 to review the budgets and programs of agencies within the Committee's jurisdiction. Additional hearings are planned.

This report includes specific findings and recommendations developed by the Committee related to Federal spending and government operations. As the findings and recommendations demonstrate, the Committee has made and continues to propose many

positive changes to improve the efficiency 'of government and deliver the best possible outcomes to our constituents.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REDUCE EXCESS EXPENDITURES ON NEW COURTHOUSE PROJECTS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing waste by ensuring that the number of courtrooms in proposed new courthouse projects constructed by the General Services Administration (GSA) more accurately reflects needs and budgetary realities by aligning the number of courtrooms to reflect courtroom sharing by judges, and realistic projections of additional, future judgeships. Where practicable, the Committee seeks to ensure authorizations directing that courthouses be redesigned to eliminate not only excess courtrooms, but also the additional building volume that would have accommodated those excess courtrooms.

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. 3307, appropriations for specific GSA construction projects may only be made if authorized by resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

The Government Accountability Office reported (GAO–10–417) that courtroom overbuilding, as a consequence of both inordinately high judgeship projections by the Judiciary and the Judiciary's failure to share courtrooms in a fashion supported by empiric courtroom usage data, resulted in construction of 1.8 million square feet of unnecessary space for 33 courthouses completed since 2000.

This excess construction translates into a one-time construction cost waste of $422 million, and an annual waste of $26 million in additional operation and maintenance costs for the unneeded space.

The budgetary impact of downsizing proposed courthouses is being realized today. Since June 2009, the Committee has authorized five courthouses with curtailed numbers of courtrooms. According to budget estimates provided by GSA, or derived from information provided by GSA, the Committee has saved more than $87 million to date by limiting the number of courtrooms in new courthouses. The savings are a consequence of lower initial capital costs to build, and less money spent by GSA to lease space because the proposed courtroom space can now be used by Federal agencies that do not need to be located in leased facilities.

	[In millions]
San Diego, California Courthouse:	$50.8
Greenbelt, Maryland Courthouse Annex:	$5.2
Mobile, Alabama Courthouse:	$7.8
Savannah, Georgia Courthouse:	$7.8
San Antonio, Texas Courthouse:	$15.5
Total savings (to date):	$87.1

Additional savings will be realized as the limitations are applied to other courthouse projects not yet authorized or constructed.

ELIMINATE FUNDING FOR LOW-PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by eliminating more than $713 million in currently available funding for low-priority transportation projects. It will be accomplished by enacting H.R. 5730, the ''Surface Transportation Earmark Rescission, Savings, and Accountability Act'', a bill introduced by Representative Betsy Markey of Colorado. On July 27, 2010, the House passed H.R. 5730 by a vote of 394–23.

H.R. 5730 rescinds $713.2 million of Federal-aid highway contract authority that was provided in four prior surface transportation authorization bills and that is currently available for 309 Member-designated projects. Rescinding this $713.2 million means that it cannot be spent or used to offset increased spending in the future. Any savings from this bill would reduce the deficit.

In addition, the bill establishes a process for the Secretary of Transportation to track unspent project funds going forward, enabling Congress to identify projects that have inactive funds or that have been completed in the previous year. This tracking process will create opportunities for future, additional savings.

Member-designated projects play an important role in the Federal-aid highway program. They provide constituents with a chance to interact directly with their elected officials on community priorities, and allow Members an opportunity to support transportation safety and mobility improvements that may be overlooked by a State department of transportation.

Yet, it is also necessary to use a commonsense approach to funding for projects that are complete or no longer viable. Many of the funds rescinded under this bill are from projects that are complete, but have excess remaining funds. There is no reason for these funds to remain available such that they could be used for future spending.

Other projects affected by H.R. 5730 are those that show no likelihood of going forward due to changing community priorities or other transportation needs. Rescinding funds from projects that are no longer viable is a practical approach to saving taxpayers' dollars.

Rescinding this $713.2 million prevents it from being spent or used as an offset to increased spending in the future.

It has, unfortunately, become somewhat routine for appropriations bills to rescind existing contract authority to offset other spending. Under budgetary rules, even if a contract authority rescission is ''scored'' as only reducing budget authority, not outlays, a budget authority offset is often all that is needed to facilitate additional spending in an appropriations bill.

In fact, the Senate Committee on Appropriations has proposed to use a portion of the funds rescinded in this proposal to offset spending in its version of the FY 2011 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill.

Rescinding the $713.2 million outside the appropriations process makes that amount unavailable for use in some future appropriations bill, and it will indeed result in real savings.

The proposal is in line with the High Priority Project reform principles issued by the bipartisan leadership of the Committee in April 2009, which established an unprecedented level of transparency, accountability, and reform for surface transportation projects going forward.

These principles called for the repeal of funds from older projects that have not been spent. The proposal is an effective and thoughtful means of achieving this policy objective and will save the government money.

ELIMINATE FY 2010 FUNDING FOR CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by eliminating funding for certain Department of Transportation programs that will not be used in 2010. It will be accomplished by enacting H.R. 5604, the ''Surface Transportation Savings Act of 2010'', a bill introduced by Representative Thomas S. P. Perriello of Virginia. On July 20, 2010, the House passed H.R. 5604 by a vote of 402–0.

H.R. 5604 rescinds $82 million in excess contract authority that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Federal Transit Administration cannot use in fiscal year 2010. In doing so, the bill makes these funds unavailable for expenditure or as an offset against other spending in the future.

The largest rescission occurs in NHTSA's safety belt performance grants program. This program received $124.5 million in FY 2010 to carry out an incentive grant program to encourage States to enact and enforce laws requiring the use of safety belts. This funding level equals the amount authorized for this program in FY 2009 under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L. 109–59).

According to NHTSA, only three States are expected to qualify to receive an incentive grant under this program in FY 2010, requiring no more than $28.5 million to carry out the authorized activities of the program.

NHTSA does not have authority to redistribute the unused program funds this fiscal year, and the funds will remain unallocated in FY 2010. The bill rescinds $56.0 million in existing but unusable contract authority from this program.

H.R. 5604 also rescinds $8.5 million in contract authority from NHTSA's administrative expenses, the National Driver Register, and NHTSA's research and development programs.

This excess contract authority was made available under the extension of current surface transportation programs passed as part of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE Act) (P.L. 111–147).

Because the amounts of contract authority provided for these programs under the HIRE Act exceeds the funding levels provided by the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (division A of P.L. 111–117), NHTSA. cannot use these funds this year. However, the unavailability of the funding this year does not preclude the opportunity for the funds to be transferred or used as an offset in future years.

Finally, the bill rescinds $17.4 million of contract authority from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) formula and bus grant programs. The HIRE Act provides $8.361 billion in FY 2010 to carry out FTA's formula and bus grant programs, $17.4 million more than the funding level provided in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. FTA does not have the ability to utilize these funds this year.

Although the $82 million rescinded by the proposal cannot be used at the present time, there are two ways this $82 million could be used to increase spending in the future if it is not rescinded now. First, a future appropriations or other legislative act could increase the obligation limitations that control spending for these highway safety and transit programs, thereby allowing this $82 million to be spent. Second, a future appropriations act could rescind this $82 million and use that rescission to offset increased spending on other programs.

Unfortunately, it has become somewhat routine for appropriations bills to rescind surface transportation contract authority to offset increased spending elsewhere. In fact, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111–212), rescinds $25 million in highway safety contract authority as an offset for spending in that law. Had this proposal been enacted earlier, it would have preserved the additional $25 million in spending reduction, for a total savings of $107 million.

The Committee on Appropriations includes such rescissions in appropriations bills because the rescissions offset other spending.

Under budgetary rules, even if a contract authority rescission is ''scored'' as only reducing budget authority, not outlays, a budget authority offset is often all that is needed to facilitate additional spending in an appropriations bill.

Rescinding $82 million outside the appropriations process makes that amount unavailable for use in some future appropriations bill, and it will indeed result in ''real'' savings.

This proposal is a common sense step toward improving the Nation's fiscal foundation and ensuring that the Federal surface transportation funds are invested as efficiently as possible.

CONSOLIDATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government through consolidating administrative functions across several regional development commissions. These commissions include the Denali Commission, the Northern Border Regional Commission, the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority, and the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

The Denali Commission (established in 1998), the Northern Border Regional Commission (established in 2008), the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (established in 2008), the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (established in 2002), and the Southwest Border Regional Commission (established in 2008) have similar purposes while serving different areas of the country. Each is designed to enhance and promote wealth generation and economic growth strategies and projects. Their efforts focus on leveraging public, private, and philanthropic resources in areas such as transportation and basic infrastructure, job skills training and entrepreneurial development, comprehensive strategy development, advanced technologies and telecommunications, and sustainable energy solutions.

Opportunities exist to reauthorize and rationalize the structures of these several regional commissions and authorities. The proposal includes a consolidation of Inspectors General Offices, accounting and contracting functions, and certain other administrative functions. A possible location for consolidation is within the Department of Commerce since the Secretary of Commerce currently has responsibility for appointing several of the Federal Co-chairs associated with the commissions and authorities.

The budgetary savings associated with this proposal are estimated at $1 million.

CREATE AN EQUITABLE METHOD FOR BENEFICIARIES OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TRANSPORTATION PERMITS AND APPROVALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COST OF SERVICE

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing expenditures from the General Fund by requiring the Secretary of Transportation to establish a reasonable fee for processing applications for, and ensuring compliance with the terms of, special permits and approvals. The fee would be an offsetting collection for administering the special permits and approvals program. This proposal is contained in H.R. 4016, the ''Hazardous Material Transportation Safety Act of 2009'', as ordered reported favorably by the Committee on November 19, 2009.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration processes about 5,000 special permits and 10,000 approvals annually. Currently, the expenses associated with special permits and approvals are paid from the General Fund. Charging a fee commensurate with the costs of providing the permits would reduce the deficit by reducing demands on the General Fund. Such fees are appropriate because the benefits are specific or localized and costs should more appropriately be the responsibility of the beneficiaries of the service.

The budgetary impact of this proposal would be to reduce demands on the General Fund for all or some of the costs of processing the permits and approvals, currently estimated in excess of $20 million annually.

DEAUTHORIZE ANTIQUATED PROJECTS OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing waste by using both legislative and administrative means to deauthorize projects authorized to be carried out by the Corps of Engineers (Corps), thereby ensuring that no future appropriations will be made for them and they will not be built.

The Corps currently has in excess of $60 billion in authorized but unconstructed projects or elements of projects. Deauthorizing some of those projects will eliminate future expenditures. H.R. 5892, the ''Water Resources Development Act of 2010'', as ordered reported favorably by the Committee on July 29, 2010, deauthorizes 12 specific, currently authorized water resources projects. Under the bill, on the date of enactment of H.R. 5892, these projects would no longer be authorized for construction by the Corps.

Section 1001 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 directs the Corps to provide Congress with a list of unconstructed projects, or unconstructed separable elements of projects, which have been authorized, but have not received obligation of Federal funding for the full five fiscal years preceding the transmittal of the list. All 12 projects identified in H.R. 5892, the ''Water Resources Development Act of 2010'', meet these criteria, and were identified as eligible for deauthorization by the Corps.

The budgetary impact, according to the Corps, of deauthorizing and not constructing the 12 projects in H.R. 5892 is a reduction of future Federal spending of $871.8 million.

USE FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING MORE EFFECTIVELY TO IMPROVE BRIDGE CONDITIONS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by (1) focusing more Federal highway funding on the Nation's core highway and bridge network, (2) requiring increased State reporting on the use of this funding, and (3) prohibiting transfers of funding between different highway programs. In combination, these provisions will increase the effectiveness of Federal highway funding in improving bridge deficiencies.

H.R. , the ''Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009'', as recommended favorably by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on June 24, 2009, includes such provisions.

On July 21, 2010, the Department of Transportation's Inspector General testified before the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit that the Federal Highway Administration's accounting system is unable to link expenditure of Highway Bridge Program funding to improvements made to deficient bridges. Furthermore, States are currently allowed to transfer Bridge Program funds to other Federal-aid highway programs, and the agency has no ability to determine the extent to which these transferred funds are used on bridge projects.

The budgetary impact of more efficient use of Federal highway funding to reduce bridge deficiencies (and increased accountability for the use of that funding) will reduce the Nation's backlog of deficient bridges—and consequently reduce the amount of Federal bridge funding needed in future surface transportation authorization acts.

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN FEDERAL BUILDINGS THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing waste by creating highly efficient operating systems and energy conservation measures as key attributes of High-Performance Green Buildings. The term ''High-Performance Green Buildings'' also encompasses sustainability, safety, security, durability, and functionality. Savings in reduced Federal building energy consumption will occur as a consequence of investments made under the Recovery Act for retrofitting GSA facilities with energy efficient building systems and components. GSA's expenditures under the Recovery Act may address all aspects of High-Performance Green Buildings, but savings estimates are only readily made with regard to energy efficient systems and components.

The Recovery Act made available $4.5 billion to be used to convert GSA facilities to ''High-Performance Green Buildings''. Recovery Act expenditures were justified predominantly in terms of creating employment opportunities for Americans and, in the case of Federal infrastructure spending, improving infrastructure conditions, performance, and efficiency.

The budgetary impact based upon GSA's estimates and calculations for 66 of 252 building modernization projects is energy savings achieved due to reinvestment funded under the Recovery Act of 13 percent to 20 percent of the buildings' total energy footprint, with most savings averaging closer to 20 percent. This is equivalent to $41 million per year, or $698 million over the 30-year useful life of the infrastructure improvements (calculated on a present value basis).

APPLY REALISTIC, SITE-APPROPRIATE SECURITY STANDARDS THAT FULLY MEET SECURITY NEEDS AT AN AFFORDABLE COST

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing waste by having the Committee expand its practice of directing GSA to apply the Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Standards to Department of Defense (DOD) space procurements rather than DOD's more stringent and more costly Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Standards for non-military office (i.e., civilian and support elements within DOD, as opposed to combat or special forces) functions that will be housed in commercial leased space.

In accordance with 40 U.S.C. 3307, GSA can only enter into a commercial space lease where the annual cost is greater than $2.7 million if the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate adopt resolutions authorizing the lease.

Through testimony of both Federal officials and private sector security experts given at a hearing before the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management on May 20, 2010, the Committee determined that there is no public policy justification, and no technical security justification, for the routine use of the DOD Anti-terrorism Force Protection Standards in GSA lease procurements for civilian agencies within the Defense establishment.

The budgetary impact of the proposal would be substantial whether the space is new construction or retrofitted existing space.

For example, a recent review of a lease proposal to accommodate the DOD Medical Command Headquarters indicated that the

cost differential in retrofitting buildings to meet the DOD security standard, relative to the ISC standard, is approximately $65 per square foot. This translates into an annual rental premium of approximately $9 per rentable square foot per year. For the DOD Medical Command Headquarters, at 750,000 rentable square feet, this cost premium equates to $6.75 million per year, or $101.25 million in nominal dollars over the 15-year lease term. If the DOD needs were met by new construction built expressly to the requirements of the DOD security standards (as opposed to retrofitting an existing building), the overall construction cost premium would average between 8 percent and 10 percent (exclusive of the additional land cost needed for the larger building set-back requirements). This would translate into a $2 per rentable square foot premium. It is hard to estimate what the additional land cost would contribute in terms of a higher rent. For the DOD Medical Command Headquarters procurement, the cost premium for the construction alone (excluding land) equates to $1.5 million per year or $22.5 million over the lease term.

Therefore, using the DOD procurement as an example, the potential savings associated with this reform proposal for just this one procurement ranges between $22.5 million for new construction and $101.35 million for retrofitted space.

Because of a BRAC-imposed deadline, the Committee authorizing resolution for the DOD Medical Command Headquarters procurement allowed GSA to proceed with the most expeditious procurement solution, and so savings associated with the use of the ISC standard in lieu of the DOD standard were not realized in this transaction. Nonetheless, the Committee confirmed the opportunity for significant future savings.

For future large space lease procurements implemented by GSA on behalf of DOD, which will total well over 2 million square feet over just the next few years, the savings potential through reliance upon the ISC standard rather than the DOD standard is approximately $180 million.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by requiring new transportation performance measures designed to achieve specific national objectives. Recipients of Federal transportation funds will be required to meet a variety of performance targets, and their progress will be monitored and publicly reported by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

H.R. , the ''Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009'', as recommended favorably by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on June 24, 2009, includes such provisions.

The Department of Transportation has few tools for monitoring and holding grant recipients responsible for successful and efficient use of surface transportation funds. Currently, DOT does not measure how Federal transportation funding achieves national goals, nor does the Department distribute funding based on performance criteria.

The budgetary impact of specific performance measures will result in much more efficient use of taxpayer dollars, and provide taxpayers with tangible and measurable results for their investments in improving mobility, increasing safety, and expanding mode choice.

INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S NEXTGEN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and guarding against waste, fraud, and abuse by increasing accountability within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to ensure timely and efficient implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The proposal would establish a Chief NextGen Officer as the primary point of accountability for NextGen implementation at the FAA, elevate the Director of the Joint Planning and Development Office to the position of Associate Administrator for NextGen Planning, Development, and Interagency Coordination, and create reporting and other requirements to ensure accountability for NextGen-related deliverables.

The various offices responsible for different aspects of the FAA's NextGen program have encountered difficulties in coordination. The air traffic control modernization program was on the High-Risk List of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) from 1995 to 2009. Although GAO removed the air traffic control modernization program from the High-Risk List, GAO and the Committee remain concerned that NextGen is a high-risk effort because of its cost and complexity.

The positive budgetary impact of this proposal will accrue from ensuring that a single person within the FAA is equipped with the stature and authority necessary to coordinate NextGen implementation across numerous FAA offices, eliminating duplicative efforts and ensuring accountability.

ADJUST FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FEES

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government, and reducing expenditures from the General Fund, by requiring the FAA to establish fees for aircraft registration, certification, and related services, and to update the amounts charged for overflight fees (fees assessed to the operators of aircraft that fly in U.S.-controlled airspace but do not take off or land in the United States). Fees will be an offsetting collection and subject to appropriations. Permit fees will be adjusted periodically as necessary to cover the FAA's cost of providing the services for which the fees are charged.

Revising the FAA's registration fees will equitably assign the costs of providing services to the beneficiaries of those services. These revised fees will allow the FAA to recover much of its costs, lessening the demand on the General Fund.

The proposal is contained in H.R. 915, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009'', which passed the House on May 21, 2009, by a vote of 277–136. The initial fee rates would reflect the FAA's current costs of providing each service. The FAA would periodically adjust the fees established under this proposal when cost data reveal that the cost of providing the service is higher or lower than the cost data that were used to establish the fee then in effect.

The proposal also directs the FAA Administrator to update the amounts of overflight fees that are currently charged to operators of aircraft that fly in U.S.-controlled airspace but neither take off nor land in the United States, to ensure that the fees reflect the FAA's current cost of providing services to such flights. These fees were initially authorized by the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–264), and the rates currently in effect are identical to those originally established by the FAA's final rule on overflight fees in 2001 (14 C.F.R. 187 Appx. B (2008)). The Administrator should set overflight fees in amounts that bear reasonable relationships to costs.

The budgetary impact of this proposal would be savings through improved efficiency by permitting the FAA to assess fees for services in amounts that are realistically commensurate with the costs of providing those services. The proposal assists the FAA in recouping substantial costs, lessening demand on the General Fund and reducing the deficit.

INCREASE OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S ADS-B CONTRACT

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by enhanced oversight of performance of the FAA's automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B) contract.

This proposal requires the FAA to submit a report detailing the Administration's plans and schedule for integrating ADS-B technology into the National Airspace System (NAS). In addition, this proposal requires the FAA to insert provisions into the contract that protect the Federal Government's interest, such as: requiring FAA's approval before the contract is assigned to or assumed by another entity, including any successor entity, subsidiary of the contractor, or other corporate entity; designating the assets, equipment, hardware, and software used in the performance of the contract as critical to national infrastructure for national security; requiring the contractor to provide continued broadcast services for a reasonable period until the provision of such services can be transferred to another vendor or to the Government in the event of termination or material nonperformance of the contract; and permitting the Government to acquire or utilize the assets, equipment, hardware and software necessary to assure the continued and uninterrupted provision of ADS-B services for reasonable compensation.

This proposal is contained in section 204 of H.R. 915, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009'', which passed the House on May 21, 2009 by a vote of 277–136.

On August 30, 2007, the FAA awarded a performance-based service contract for ADS-B services to a consortium led by ITT Corporation. Instead of adopting a more traditional acquisition strategy for ADS-B, whereby the FAA would own, operate, and maintain the system, the FAA chose a service contract approach, whereby the ITT team will build the ADS-B ground stations and own and operate the equipment. The FAA's use of this approach to ADS-B implementation justifies continuing oversight of the implementation process.

The budgetary impact will be reflected in the subscription charges relating to ADS-B use by properly equipped aircraft and air traffic control (ATC) facilities. The total value of the contract, which has a number of options extending through 2025, is $1.86 billion. Because it is a nontraditional acquisition, vigorous oversight of its implementation will promote efficiency and ensure against mismanagement or waste. The taxpayer benefits in the long-run through dramatic improvements in the safety and efficiency of the Nation's air traffic control system. FAA air traffic controllers will be equipped to handle an increasing volume of air traffic and will process that traffic much more efficiently than before, while aircraft operators will conserve fuel and minimize greenhouse gas emissions by flying more efficient routings.

MODIFY THE AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND FORMULA

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by ensuring that the amount that is made available from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (Trust Fund) each year to fund the Federal Aviation Administration more accurately reflects actual receipts.

This proposal modifies the formula that determines the amount that is made available from the Trust Fund each year to fund

the FAA. The modification ensures that the Trust Fund maintains a positive balance despite overly-optimistic revenue forecasts.

The uncommitted cash balance in the Trust Fund has declined dramatically in recent years. At the end of FY 2001, the uncommitted cash balance was $7.3 billion. For FY 2009, the uncommitted balance was approximately $299 million. This decline in the Trust Fund's uncommitted balance is due to overly-optimistic revenue projections, combined with a statutory requirement to appropriate from the Trust Fund an amount that is equal to those revenue projections.

The current statutory formula requires that estimated Trust Fund receipts each year must equal Trust Fund expenditures. Under these conditions, the Trust Fund balance should remain stable. However, the Trust Fund revenue estimates included in the President's budget for the past seven years were overly optimistic; such that the amounts appropriated from the Trust Fund (based on those estimates) exceeded the amounts actually deposited into the Trust Fund, resulting in declines in the uncommitted cash balance. The eventual impact would either be a dramatic decline in resources available to the FAA (and a decline in service), or the need for additional revenues from the General Fund.

This proposal modifies the statutory formula to make available from the Trust Fund an amount equal to 90 percent of the estimated revenues, rather than the current 100 percent, until the actual level of revenues received for that year is known. Once actual revenues are known, a ''look-back'' adjustment compares the actual revenues received by the Trust Fund to the amounts made available from the Trust Fund for that year, and the difference between the two is applied as an adjustment to the amount made available from the Trust Fund for the current budget year. This change provides greater room for error in revenue estimates until the actual level of revenues received for that year is known, and an adjustment is made to reconcile actual amounts deposited to the Trust Fund with actual amounts appropriated from it. Given recent revenue estimates, a 10 percent margin of error is necessary.

This proposal is contained in section 105 of H.R. 915, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009'', which passed the House on May 21, 2009 by a vote of 277–136.

The budgetary impact of this proposal would be greater funding stability by mitigating the effect of overly-optimistic revenue projections. The current expenditures from the Trust Fund could create a need to use the General Fund to alleviate budget short-comings, or result in diminished services. This proposal protects both services and the General Fund.

UPDATE REVENUES FOR THE INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by updating revenues for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to ensure the ability to meet the authorized non-Federal cost-share of inland waterways capital investment projects carried out by the Corps of Engineers.

Section 102 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 establishes that the costs of construction for navigation projects on the inland waterways transportation system of the United States are equally divided between funds appropriated from general revenues of the United States and funds appropriated from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (Trust Fund). The Trust Fund was established in 1978, consisting of receipts from a new inland fuel tax. Title XIV of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 amended the tax rate, which is currently derived from a 20-cent-per-gallon tax on diesel fuel used by commercial vessels engaged in inland waterway transportation, plus investment income.

Over the past few years, the annual balance in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund has declined (estimated to be just $23 million at the end of fiscal year 2010), and this lack of available funding is expected to have an adverse impact on the pace of construction projects on the inland system due to the unavailability of the 50 percent share of the construction costs for such projects that is derived from the Trust Fund.

In April 2010, the Inland Marine Transportation Systems Capital Investment Strategy Team released a report, entitled Inland Marine Transportation Systems (IMTS) Capitol Projects Business Model, Final Report that recommends several actions to address the construction of projects on the inland system. One recommendation in the report to address the ongoing shortfall in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund is to adjust the current fuel tax by an amount ranging between $0.06 and $0.09 per gallon. (The $0.09 per gallon increase would increase the current fuel tax to the level it would otherwise have reached if it had been indexed for inflation from 1994.)

The budgetary impact of the proposal would preserve the role of non-Federal interests participating in construction and rehabilitation of the inland waterways. The current $0.20 per gallon tax on diesel fuel has been in place since 1994. According to the Congressional Research Service, had the initial authorization of fuel tax been indexed for inflation since 1994, an additional $302 million would have been available from the Trust Fund for construction. Because the shortfall in revenues in the Trust Fund is expected to adversely impact the pace of construction of these vital inland waterways projects, modifying the current fuel tax to a level that adjusts the rate for inflation over the past 16 years is essential to efficient construction of navigation projects on the inland system. In addition, modifying the fuel tax ensures that users of the inland system continue to contribute an equitable portion of the funding for inland navigation projects.

RESTRUCTURE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by dramatically reforming the programmatic structure through which Federal surface transportation funding is distributed to States and local governments. The proposal consolidates or terminates more than 75 existing programs and directs the majority of surface transportation funding into several core categories. The proposal also requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to work in an integrated manner to increase intermodal transportation solutions.

H.R. , the ''Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009'', as recommended favorably by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit on June 24, 2009, includes such provisions.

The Department of Transportation currently has 108 surface transportation programs administered separately by a multitude of different agencies attempting to address mobility and infrastructure needs. While each of these programs serves an important purpose, because they are segmented and focused on addressing specific modal issues rather than intermodal goals, managing 108 separate programs prevents DOT from using all available tools simultaneously and efficiently in a truly intermodal fashion.

The budgetary impact of reforming the structure of the Department of Transportation's Federal programs will provide taxpayers with a better return on their investment. DOT will be able to provide intermodal solutions to the mobility, safety, and maintenance challenges facing our transportation network. By bringing together different programs and modes, DOT can offer effective, least-cost solutions, reducing costs in our Nation's surface transportation programs and making them more transparent and accountable.

IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PROPERTY INVENTORY

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by clarifying the FAA's current authority to purchase and sell property needed for airports and air navigation facilities, and includes the authority to retain funds associated with disposal of property.

This proposal is contained in section 217 of H.R. 915, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009'', which passed the House on May 21, 2009 by a vote of 277–136.

Real property assets that are not needed for FAA's mission are marked as ''Inactive/Excess'' in the Real Estate Management System. These are non-performing assets. Currently, because of costs associated with disposal (such as demolition, environmental audits, and asbestos abatement), some extraneous properties and equipment (e.g., non-directional beacons, radars, outer markers) unnecessarily remain in the FAA's active inventory for long periods of time. These are physical assets that provide no benefits to the FAA or public, yet require continuing involvement by the FAA.

The budgetary impact of this proposal is from allowing the FAA to reduce its non-performing assets. According to the FAA, the current total replacement value of non-performing assets, as reported to the Office of Management and Budget, is $64.1 million. Allowing the FAA to dispose of these assets will remove costs associated with carrying the assets, plus allow any real property to be placed into productive use. Clarification that the FAA has the authority to retain proceeds from the sale of property will allow the FAA to cover the costs of disposal and the shutdown of extraneous equipment, and will ultimately improve the Federal balance sheet.

INCLUDE STAKEHOLDERS IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MODERNIZATION PROJECTS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government, and avoiding waste, fraud, and abuse by ensuring that employees are involved in Air Traffic Control (ATC) modernization projects.

This proposal requires the FAA to establish a process for including and collaborating with qualified employees selected by each affected exclusive collective bargaining representative in the planning, development and deployment of ATC modernization projects, including Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). In addition, the FAA is required to report to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction on the implementation of this section within six months of the date of enactment.

This proposal is contained in section 205 of H.R. 915, the ''FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009'', which passed the House on May 21, 2009 by a vote of 277–136.

Many past ATC modernization projects had to be reworked because employee groups, representing the operators of new equipment, were not consulted on human factors issues early in the development of the project. Experience demonstrates that active engagement with employees can improve the decisions affecting employee performance.

Investments needed to achieve the end-state NextGen, FAA's primary ATC modernization effort, are estimated to cost between $15 billion and $22 billion. Utilizing tools to improve the efficiency of that process will ensure that benefits are maximized for the expenditures made.

REFORM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S PILOT RECORDS SYSTEM

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government and reducing expenditures from the General Fund by requiring the FAA to create a pilot records database.

Under the Pilot Records Improvement Act of 1996 (PRIA) (P.L. 104–264), air carriers must obtain the last five years' performance and disciplinary records for a prospective pilot from his or her previous employer. PRIA also requires carriers to obtain records for a pilot from the FAA. FAA records regarding pilot certification are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. However, PRIA requires carriers to obtain a limited waiver from prospective pilots allowing for the release of information concerning their current airman certificate and associated type ratings and limitations, current airman medical certificates, including any limitations, and summaries of closed FAA legal enforcement actions resulting in a finding by the FAA Administrator of a violation that was not subsequently overturned.

The FAA's records system is technologically outdated and inefficient. The ''Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010'' (P.L. 111–216) reforms the records process by requiring the FAA to establish one database containing each airman's comprehensive record, including both FAA records and air carrier records.

When fully implemented, such a database will enable the FAA to process records requests more efficiently and in an automated fashion. As envisioned in the statute, the FAA will be responsible for establishing the database and inputting years of record information. While the initial process of establishing the database will require sufficient time and funding, the long-term effects will be a more efficient system for all users—the FAA, air carriers, and airmen—and will allow for the quick and seamless retrieval of information that is necessary to improve airline safety. In addition, the statute enables the FAA to establish fees for airmen to access their records, which will enable the FAA to recover some system costs.

The budgetary impact associated with this proposal will be determined from a combination of reduced processing costs and offsets from fees, reducing demands on the General Fund.

ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by implementing specific performance measures and goals to track progress in meeting specific environmental improvements to the Nation's estuaries carried out by the 28 established National Estuaries Programs.

This proposal is contained in H.R. 4715, the ''Clean Estuaries Act of 2010'', which passed the House on April 15, 2010, by a vote of 278–128.

The National Estuaries Program was established in the Clean Water Act in 1987 to improve the quality of estuaries of national importance. The law directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work cooperatively with state and local interests to develop plans for attaining or maintaining water quality in an estuary. The Administrator of EPA convenes a management conference of all interested parties where the Administrator determines what control of point and nonpoint sources of pollution to supplement existing controls of pollution is required to provide for protection of public water supplies and the protection and propagation of a balanced, indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and allows recreational activities, in and on water. Each program establishes a comprehensive conservation and management plan (CCMP) to meet the statutory goals.

The Environmental Protection Agency currently has few tools for holding recipients of National Estuaries Program grants accountable for the timely, efficient, and effective use of Federal funds. In addition, according to information from EPA, several communities that currently participate in the National Estuary Program were given an EPA rating of fair to poor, but it is difficult to assess whether this is a result of lack of available funding to implement National Estuary Program CCMPs, or a result of the failure of individual programs to achieve their stated environmental restoration goals.

The budgetary impact of specific performance measures, including the authority for the Administrator to suspend or terminate the eligibility of a grant recipient to receive National Estuaries Program funding, will result in more efficient use of taxpayer dollars, and provide for tangible and measurable results from Federal investment in the restoration of the Nation's estuary areas. In recent years, individual national estuary programs have received, on average, approximately $500,000 annually to carry out restoration efforts within their geographic regions; however, under current law, there are no specific criteria to evaluate the performance of the 28 currently authorized programs. The absence of performance criteria does not afford EPA a tool to determine the effectiveness of the expenditures. It also reduces the ability to disseminate information among estuary programs.

The performance measures contained in H.R. 4715 will provide a mechanism for the evaluation of individual program performance, as well as a process for suspending or barring future appropriations to poor performing programs.

PROMOTE ASSET MANAGEMENT OF PUBLICLY-OWNED TREATMENT WORKS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by requiring all eligible recipients of funding from Clean Water State Revolving Funds to conduct an inventory and assessment of the critical assets of the treatment works, and to prepare an asset management plan for maintaining, repairing, and, as necessary, replacing such assets (e.g., sewer lines, pumping stations, treatment plants), as well as a plan for funding such activities.

This proposal is contained in H.R. 1262, the ''Water Quality Investment Act of 2009'', which passed the House on March 12, 2009 by a vote of 317–101.

The Environmental Protection Agency and others estimate that the Nation will need to invest between $300 to $400 billion over the next 20 years to address critical water and wastewater infrastructure needs, including the repair and replacement of a large portion of the approximately 1,000,000 miles of storm and sanitary sewers across the United States. However, a 2004 study by the then-General Accounting Office (GAO) (GAO–04–461) estimated that significant long-term savings on sewer system repairs and replacements could be achieved through increased asset management by local wastewater utilities. The rationale is that increased awareness of the condition of local sewer systems, paired with a more regimented asset replacement program, could reduce the need for more costly repairs through emergency actions (and the associated disruption in service), as well as the potential increased response costs from the release of untreated sewage into the environment. In addition, this increased awareness of the actual condition of local systems could provide incentives to better match local rates to both short-term and long-term capital needs.

The budgetary impact of asset management on budgetary savings is undefined. The GAO report identified several local examples of how increased asset management had resulted in significant cost savings for individual utilities, both in terms of decreased costs from more effective maintenance programs, as well as prioritizing the expenditure of local resources on repairing and replacing the highest-risk local assets (i.e., assets at the highest risk of failure). In addition, the report identified how detailed awareness of the actual conditions of local systems could provide increased incentives to modify local rates, which, according to EPA, could reduce the overall long-term need for Federal capital expenditures. For example, according to EPA estimates, a three percent annual adjustment in local infrastructure spending could significantly reduce the overall gap between annual wastewater infrastructure spending and indentified needs.

INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS BY REINVESTING IN NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

This proposal achieves deficit reduction by promoting efficiency and reform of government by increasing Federal investment in addressing nonpoint sources of pollution as a cost-effective way of improving water quality throughout the Nation.

During the initial years following enactment in 1972, the modern Clean Water Act enabled the Nation to make great advances in improving the quality of U.S. waters and controlling various sources of pollution. However, over the past two decades, progress has slowed because of the failure to address a significant exception—nonpoint sources of pollution. Nonpoint source pollution refers to the polluting of water by diffuse sources rather than single identifiable ''point'' sources such as industrial and municipal discharges. These diffuse sources are usually associated with precipitation runoff and land use activities as opposed to end-of-pipe discharges. After 38 years of Federal and State efforts to protect water quality under the Clean Water Act, the single largest-remaining and uncontrolled contributor of pollutants to the Nation's waters is nonpoint sources. In fact, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimated that 90 percent of the Nation's impaired waters are contaminated, in part, by nonpoint sources of pollution.

Because of the regulatory structure of the Clean Water Act, EPA's ability and available tools to address pollution differ whether the origin is a point source or a nonpoint source. When a waterbody is impaired for certain pollutants, such as nutrients, the structure of the Act can require imposing ever-more-stringent requirements on individual point sources of pollution, such as sewage treatment plants, to address pollutants that may emanate from both point and nonpoint sources. In many instances, it would be cheaper and more effective to invest in upstream controls of nonpoint sources of pollutants than to require the construction of advanced treatment technologies for downstream dischargers. As noted in the most recent EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey, over 10 percent (or $24 billion) of the currently reported need for wastewater infrastructure is for advanced treatment. Much of

that investment is associated with reducing nutrients from nonpoint sources. Nonpoint source controls are generally more effective and efficient than structural advanced treatment.

The budgetary impact of the proposal, although difficult to quantify, is that increased investment and implementation of nonpoint source control measures will improve water quality in many of the Nation's rivers, streams, and lakes in a more cost-effective manner than expenditures for ever-more-stringent requirements of point sources for the same pollutants.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF CHIEF JOSEPH V. PUCCI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Joseph V. Pucci, devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, United States veteran and retired tire chief for the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. Chief Pucci lived life with an unwavering commitment to family, community and country.

The son of Italian immigrants, Chief Pucci was raised in Brooklyn, Ohio, and called Brooklyn home his entire life. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943 and served with honor and courage. He survived combat as an infantryman in North Africa and Italy and was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he suffered in Anzio. Chief Pucci was also honored with the Good Conduct Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. After the war, he began working for the City of Brooklyn as a bus driver and service department worker. In 1951, he began working as a firefighter. Nine years later he was appointed to role of fire chief. For the next thirty years, he served as leader of the Brooklyn Fire Department with excellence, integrity and dedication. He retired in 1990. Chief Pucci's commitment to the safety of residents was unparalleled. He led many initiatives that strengthened the entire department, including an effort to establish the first state-certified paramedic program in Ohio's history.

The only thing that eclipsed Chief Pucci's dedication to community safety was his devotion to his family. In 1949, he met and married Lois McCormick. Together, they raised their children Theresa, Frank and Joseph. A devoted husband; father; father-in-law to Darwin, Kathleen and Kitty; and grandfather to Nicol, Marlo, Joseph, Francesco, Michael and Kevin; Chief Pucci's family was the foundation, joy and strength of his life. Reserved, humble and kind, Chief Pucci was known for his generous heart and willingness to help others whenever and wherever needed.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Joseph V. Pucci, whose life was lived with great joy, love and in service to others. I offer my deepest condolences to his beloved family, extended family and many friends. His legacy of devotion to the safety of the citizens of Brooklyn, and his love of family and friends will be forever remembered.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is $13,440,225,498,627.42.

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

This means the national debt has increased by $2,801,799,752,333.60 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK LOVIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Chuck Lovin, a World War II Navy and Marine veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Chuck Lovin was recognized on Tuesday, July 6. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: CHUCK LOVIN

(By Alexander Hutchins)

When millions of men are mobilized for a war effort, it is easy to neglect the sheer logistical network needed. Amidst the brutality of the Pacific island invasions, there were touches of a more orderly life. At one point in the war, Charles ''Chuck'' Lovin, 90, was in a foxhole on the Marianas Islands as Navy Corpsman, providing dental care in the midst of a marine invasion.

Lovin grew up on a farm, and said that in a way the life of work was good preparation for his tour in the Navy, and later the Marines.

''All we did was work, and every day we got up at 4 a.m.'' Lovin said.

Despite the work, he was an avid fan of sports and played them consistently through his school career. He participated in track, basketball, tennis and just about everything except football . . . as long as his chores were completed.

Lovin was a student at Upper Iowa University when World War II began, studying social studies and physical education. His goal was to be a coach and make a career out of his passion for sports.

Lovin was exempt from the draft at the beginning of the war due to his status as a student, but when he reached the end of his studies, he enlisted in the Navy. After entering the Navy in August of 1942, he was trained as a dental technician before being assigned to the USS Nevada, which had been damaged in the Pearl Harbor attack but was repaired and returned to service. Lovin served for one and a half years on the Nevada, cleaning teeth and providing other dental services.

''The ship was good duty. There were so many guys on there it was like living on a city,'' he said.

When the ship was briefly reassigned to the Atlantic theater, passing through the Panama Canal, the crew took on a number of American sailors who were suffering from mental disorders after traumatic tours on submarines. Some of the sailors were under enough distress that they were restrained or placed on suicide watch.

''They were calm during the day, but at night, when the moon would come out, it would get bad,'' Lovin said.

He still remembers today a doctor explaining that many of the men would return to normal when they returned home, but some soldiers would suffer difficulties for their remaining years.

Lovin would clean teeth for the sailors late at night on the ship as a matter of duty and didn't charge, but small donations from troops gave Lovin enough money to play poker and buy necessities. Throughout the war, Lovin saved up a portion of his pay to buy the ring he would present to his long-time girlfriend, Lorraine, before they married. The two were split by the war, but wrote to each other almost every day. Necessities of war meant that mail arrived in batches about once a month, and letters were censored. ''I faired a lot better than some guys who got Dear John letters,'' Lovin said. Lorraine still has the ring he presented her.

Lovin returned to the U.S. after his tour on the ship and entered a ten-week training program with the Marine Corps to prepare him for entering the Fleet Marine Force, or FMF.

''They had a lot of fun, the Marines, taking the Navy guys and working them over for ten weeks,'' Lovin said jokingly.

He was assigned to the 18th anti-aircraft battalion and paired with a doctor named Jim Holdt who would become a long-time friend. Lovin and Holdt worked closely throughout the invasion of Tinian in the Marianas Islands, initially providing care to Marines with a foot-cranked dental station that Lovin carried onto the island with his duty pack.

''My greatest impression was landing with the Marines. I had this whole pack, plus the medical [equipment] on the side, and I told the doctor 'I don't think I can get over that rope ladder and down into the water.' He swore at me and said 'you're going to make it, Charlie.' I made it, but the impressionable thing was all the dead bodies of the Japanese and even the Marines. You pushed them aside when you made the landing. When we got in there, by then they had a lot of the Japanese in corrals and all they wanted was the American cigarette,'' Lovin said.

''It was your job, and that was it. You just did it, and in that sense it was like growing up on a farm,'' Lovin said. ''I held sick call and treated all the trench mouth and all that.''

He treated ailments for the Marines protecting Tinian from Japanese air attacks after he came aboard the island in one of the later waves of the invasion.

''Doctor Holdt, that I was with for two years and shared the same foxhole, he would take over. . . when he would drill teeth I'd provide the power and clean the teeth at the same time,'' Lovin said.

Prior to his landing Lovin was on his troop ship when the initial Marine invasion landed, and could hear the conflict as the occupation fought to take enough of the island to allow support troops to move in. He was assigned to patrol around the major smokestack of his ship while the invasion occurred, and said he was always fearful that an enemy bomber would manage to hit the ship while the invasion raged on.

Lovin and Holdt slept on cots under mosquito netting on the island, and Lovin remembers clearly that Holdt slept with a .45-caliber pistol.

''I kept saying that one of these days you're going to wake up from a dream and shoot me,'' Lovin said jokingly.

He worked in trenches and foxholes after initially landing, and in only a few weeks the engineering corp had built a facility that Lovin moved into for treating soldiers. He spoke of helping to unload injured Marines from hospital ships that had steamed in from Okinawa and other islands once engineers could build a hospital. Lovin said he always remembered though some of the soldiers were bandaged, injured or burned severely they all asked him for cigarettes.

''I always said they ought to pull that ship up to New York and make the American people go aboard that ship,'' Lovin said.

Lovin's duties were the same on the battleship and with the invasion, but the experiences surrounding his work were vastly different.

''With the Marines there was more of an 'esprit de corps,' because you all depended on the other guy,'' Lovin said. ''Long toward the end of the war I got sent back to go to officer training school at the University of Pennsylvania, but the war ended while I was home on leave.''

There was no fanfare for Lovin when the war ended. He was given his severance pay, boarded a train, and came home. Because he had earned his degree from Upper Iowa University before joining the Navy, he was hired as a sports coach in Rockford, Iowa almost immediately after the war. Lovin said the days after the war were excellent times for finding work, as there were so many jobs opening up after soldiers returned from Europe and the Pacific. He moved to Boone to coach tennis, basketball and other sports and joined a number of civic organizations such as the Lion's Club and the American Legion. ''I'd never been involved in things like that, living on a farm,'' Lovin said. He and his wife took picnics, wintered in Arizona for many years and took in the community.

The Lovins eventually met Holdt, the doctor Lovin had worked with in the war, and the two couples visited each other in their respective communities.

Lovin encouraged citizens today to do what they can to understand the importance of the protection the military provides. Donating care packages or sending correspondence to troops can make a big difference, he said.

Much of Lovin's time is now taken by visiting numerous class reunions for all of the years he worked in the Boone schools. His legacy is displayed in the pictures of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren on a wall in his home and in the years of school classes he receives invitations for reunions from.

I commend Chuck Lovin for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DUANE FURMAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Duane Furman for receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. He has lived a long and distinguished life and career, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

Duane was born in Dinuba and moved to Madera in 1963 to become the superintendent of Madera School District. Under Duane's leadership, Madera Unified School District unified ten school districts into one and grew to serve a broad range of students and helping them reach their academic potential. Duane's background in education started in the classroom as a school teacher and then principal.

Duane is exceptionally well connected within his professional community. He is a life member of the National Education Association, the past president of the Madera County Chapter of the California Elementary Administrators Association, the state chairman of the California Elementary Schools Administrators Association. In addition, he was the past president of Phi Delta Kappa Delta Chapter, as well as the California Association of School Administrators. This just scratches the surface of Duane's contributions and participation in his professional career.

In addition to professional organizations, Duane is deeply involved in his community. He is past president of Madera Rotary Club, part of the Madera County Mental Health Advisory Board, and part of the Education and Ambassador Committee of the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Duane was a founding board member of the Madera County Arts Council. He has been given numerous awards including the Fresno State Kremen School of Education Noted Alumni Award, the Phi Delta Kappa Service Award, and the San Joaquin River Trust Director Emeritus Award, all in 2007.

Duane is married to Patricia, also an educator, and they have three children. Presently, Duane serves on the Board of Directors for the Madera Community Hospital, as well as the San Joaquin Valley Paleontology Foundation.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Duane Furman for a life well-lived and wishing him the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDITH HURLEY STANLEY COLEMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the life of Mrs. Judith Hurley Stanley Coleman. Mrs. Stanley Coleman, an active philanthropist and environmentalist in her community, passed away on August 1, 2010 at the age of 75. She was a model citizen and adored by her colleagues. Her faithful dedication and commitment toward others is unquestionably worthy of this body's recognition.

Mrs. Stanley Coleman was raised in Asbury Park, New Jersey by her mother and grandparents. She graduated as valedictorian from Asbury Park High School in 1952 and later went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Her academic accolades have earned her a position in the Asbury Park High School's Hall of Fame.

Judith Stanley Coleman's exceptional record of community service can be traced back more than four decades. Mrs. Stanley Coleman served as a trustee and held various leadership positions on the boards of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Monmouth Medical Center Foundation, Monmouth Medical Center, Monmouth University, Rumson County Day School, Stevens Institute of Technology, Count Basie Theatre, the SPCA, and Monmouth Museum. Her passion for better, more accessible health care was matched by her love of community activism, politics, historic preservation and environmental justice. As founder and President of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, President of the Save Sandy Hook organization, and a trustee of the Monmouth Park Charity Fund, Mrs. Stanley Coleman fought hard to preserve Central New Jersey's beautiful natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Her work in the community continued with her involvement in public service and politics. Mrs. Stanley Coleman was a member of the New Jersey Highway Authority under former Governor Thomas Kean. She was also appointed the Chairwoman of the Middletown Planning Board and served with this organization for over thirty years. Mrs. Stanley Coleman remained an active member of the Republican Party, serving as New Jersey's Republican National Committeewoman for ten years and fundraising for various GOP candidates throughout the country. She was a leader determined to make a difference in the community. Mrs. Stanley Coleman's unending generosity and charitable activities have undoubtedly touched may lives and have helped countless people throughout Central New Jersey.

As a result of her exceptional work, Mrs. Stanley Coleman received countless awards and honors for her achievements. She was awarded the 1983 Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Salvation Army's Others Award in 1984, and the 2003 Christine Todd Whitman Award of Distinction. Mrs. Stanley Coleman was also listed in the 1987 edition of ''Who's Who in American Women.''

Madan Speaker, Judith Stanley Coleman dedicated her life to philanthropy and environmentalism and her actions touched the hearts and minds of countless men, women and children. Her legacy has served as an inspiration to us all and she will be truly missed.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1610 a measure honoring those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001. I would like to thank the leadership from both sides of the aisle for their efforts in bringing this resolution to the floor, and I support its swift passage.

By coming together today we show that, despite some of our differences, our entire nation is committed to defending the American people and honoring the memory of those who lost their lives to senseless violence nine years ago.

First and foremost, this effort is about remembering and respecting those who lost

their lives on September 11th. Their presence can never be replaced, and their absence remains with all of us.

I have met many of the families who lost loved ones in the terror attacks, and I share their pain having lost a cousin and many friends myself that day. I know that the pain of that day does not simply disappear with the passage of time. Today, we not only offer our enduring respect to those who died we honor their friends and families who carry on with their lives.

We must never forget that the attack by Al-Qaeda on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were not just an attack on those inside the buildings. They were attacks on the United States of America. The terrorists believed that September 11th would weaken Americans, our values and our way of life. They were wrong. We will not rest until justice is served to those who attacked and murdered innocent American civilians.

IN RECOGNITION OF CALPINE CORPORATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calpine Corporation on the 50th Anniversary of their commercial operations at The Geysers in Lake County, California.

Calpine Corporation owns and operates the world's largest renewable geothermal power facility at The Geysers. The company's 15 geothermal power plants there are capable of generating up to 725 megawatts of baseload renewable, green energy around the clock.

Calpine is expanding its production at The Geysers through wastewater discharge projects in which clean, reclaimed wastewater from local municipalities is recycled into the geothermal fields where it is converted to steam for electricity production. This provides an environmentally-sound wastewater discharge solution for the neighboring cities and increases the long-term productivity of The Geysers.

In addition to The Geysers, Calpine operates natural gas fueled power plants in 21 states and Canada. Its 93 power plants have nearly 29,000 megawatts of generating capacity. It is the nation's largest operator of combined-cycle and cogeneration plants.

In April 2010, the California Department of Conservation recognized Calpine for its ongoing commitment to safety and the environment for its facilities at The Geysers.

At The Geysers, Calpine owns and operates the Cartwright Geothermal Visitors Center, a 6,500 square foot learning center that is open to the public. More than 60,000 visitors from all 50 states and 77 countries have visited the center. Calpine regularly hosts open houses for the community and guided tours of its plants there.

The 330 full-time Calpine employees at The Geysers volunteer in the community and each year host a popular Earth Day event and contribute to the Blood Bank of the Redwoods and United Way. Calpine helps underwrite local paramedic services, community pools, sports fields and recreation areas.

Madam Speaker, Calpine Corporation is an industry leader and one of the leading community partners in my district. It is therefore appropriate that we honor them today on the 50th Anniversary of their operations at The Geysers.

TYLER SPARKS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tyler Sparks. Tyler is 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 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Tyler has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Tyler has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Tyler has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and is a member of the Order of the Arrow. Tyler has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Tyler designed and constructed 6 raised historical gardens at Watkins Mill State Park outside of Kearney, Missouri.

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

HONORING AMERICAN TROOPS WHO DIED ON D-DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on June 6, 1944—D-Day—Allied forces crossed the English Channel to land in Normandy, France. Code-named Operation Overlord, the Normandy landing remains the most massive and complex opposed amphibious invasion in history.

With tremendous courage, the Allies pushed entrenched German forces back from the beaches of Normandy. Thus began the liberation of France and the massive campaign that would ensure the defeat of Nazi Germany in western Europe.

American leadership and the courageous sacrifices made by American servicemen and women were essential to the success of the operation. Led by President Franklin Roosevelt, Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and General Omar Bradley, American soldiers and airmen sacrificed dearly to defend the United States, our allies, and the world against the savage aggression of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

Today, let us honor the courage and sacrifice of those thousands of brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the American people and the people of the world from tyranny.

INTRODUCING H.R. 6127—''EXTENSION OF HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED AT QARMAT ALI ACT''

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill, H.R. 6127, the Extension of Health Care Eligibility for Veterans who Served at Qarmat Ali Act, to extend the VA healthcare enrollment period for certain veterans who served in the Qarmat Ali region of Iraq.

Soon after the conflict in Iraq began in 2003, Army National Guard units from my home state of Indiana as well as units from Oregon, West Virginia, and South Carolina and National Guardsmen mobilized as individual augmentees from across the nation were called up and tasked with guarding the Qarmat Ali water treatment facility.

For 6 months—from April to September—these National Guardsmen from across the nation bravely guarded the plant, located just outside Basra. Their mission was to secure the facility and provide protective services for the independent contractors who were working throughout the region to restore Iraqi oil production.

Recently, they have been notified of their possible exposure to a toxic chemical known as sodium dichromate and are being asked to come forward, be evaluated, and enroll in VA's Gulf War Registry. Health problems associated with such exposure include respiratory issues, skin lesions, and burns. Contact may cause increased rates of lung cancer and other ear, nose, throat, and skin disorders.

The men and women of these National Guard units completed their mission—and served our country—well. It was hard for me to discover that despite their safe return, their service may continue to put them at risk. In particular, I am very sensitive to the Hoosiers who may have been injured.

Under current law, combat veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force during a period of ''hostilities'' after November 11, 1998 are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system, notwithstanding sufficient evidence of service-connection, for five years following separation from service.

This includes members of the National Guard and Reserve who were activated and served in combat support or direct operations as long as they meet certain requirements.

When Congress established the 5 year period of open enrollment for VA health care it was with the understanding that some wounds of war may not manifest themselves until years after a veteran leaves military duty.

But despite our best intentions, we are finding that some veterans are faced with combat-related health problems that were not apparent even 5 years after the veteran re-entered civilian life. This creates a gap in services that unfairly penalizes these men and women for conditions out of their control.

I commend the VA for their efforts to contact these veterans and create the Qarmat Ali Registry to aggressively track and treat veterans exposed to this toxic chemical as part of the Gulf War Registry.

However, it is also important for them to have immediate access to VA's high quality health care system. The use of VA health care will help to identify potential medical conditions, and provide counseling, immunizations, and medications to prevent illness. Appropriate preventative care can substantially improve health outcomes and the quality of life for our honored heroes.

But, some of the Qarmat Ali veterans who separated from service following their deployment in 2003 may no longer be eligible to enroll in VA health care under the 5-year open enrollment period. As a result, they must first file a claim and seek a service-connected disability rating before enrolling in the VA health care system and gaining access to the comprehensive medical care VA provides.

Unfortunately, the claims process can be both time-consuming and daunting. It is unacceptable that the Qarmat Ali veterans, already subjected to harmful toxins during service to our country, must now await the outcome of a lengthy and sometimes adversarial claims processing system before they can enroll in VA health care.

The VA was established expressly to care for veterans like these who willingly left their homes, families, and lives to protect and defend our nation and may find themselves sick or injured as a result of such selflessness.

H.R. 6127 would correct this unintended gap in services by extending the enrollment eligibility period for Qarmat Ali veterans by 5 years from the date of notification. This would allow them to immediately begin receiving services at VA medical facilities for any and all of their health care needs.

Breaking down barriers to needed care is the very least we, as a grateful nation, can do for the men and women who fight for our freedoms, in Qarmat Ali and around the world.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6127 and these brave American heroes.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT MAJOR ROLANDO MOORE, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., upon his retirement from the U.S. Army, which follows nearly 30 years of honorable and dedicated service to our country.

In 1981, Sergeant Major Moore enlisted into the U.S. Army, completing basic training at Fort Leonard in Wood, Missouri. He received advanced training at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas. Throughout his military career, Sergeant Major Moore Jr. sought higher learning in the military, where he excelled in numerous courses and training programs, and also at private institutions of higher learning. He earned a Bachelor's degree in business management from Columbia College, and is currently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix.

Sergeant Moore's military education included in-depth training and education in the areas of patient advocacy and administration. He worked as a senior advisor, patient administration consultant and chief clinical officer at military medical facilities across the country and overseas, including: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC; Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia; and military facilities in Alabama, Colorado, Michigan, Hawaii and Korea. Sergeant Moore has been recognized with numerous military honors, including the Meritorious Service Medical Award with three oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal with three oak clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon; the Army Service Ribbon; and the Overseas Ribbon Award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and gratitude of SGM Rolando Moore, Jr., for his exemplary service on behalf of our country. His military career is framed by dedication and unwavering commitment to the health and welfare of our veterans, and his work will have a positive impact on the lives of countless veterans and their families for years to come. I wish Sergeant Major Moore, his wife, Mary Moore, and his daughters, Jazmen Moore and Kalea Moore, much peace, health and happiness in all their future endeavors.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, thoughtful stewardship of our national budget and accountability in government should be a top national priority. Toward that end, in the 111th Congress, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been vigilant in conducting oversight hearings to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government, and this effort has informed the development of a number of legislative initiatives that would produce substantial deficit reduction. Pursuant to the instructions in H. Res. 1493, following is a discussion of major Committee initiatives in this area.

One of the main areas of the Committee's focus has been promoting efficiency and effectiveness in our nation's health care system. The Affordable Care Act, which the President signed into law earlier this year, contains reforms that will save the taxpayers $130 billion over the next ten years and $1.2 trillion over the following decade.

This legislation contains many important provisions to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system. These include new tools to identify fraudulent providers and prevent them from enrolling in Medicare and Medicaid; new and stronger penalties for providers that defraud Medicare and Medicaid; new data-sharing and data-reporting requirements to identify waste, fraud, and abuse; and new funding to identify, prevent, and prosecute fraudulent Medicare and Medicaid providers.

The Committee has been reviewing additional cost-cutting initiatives involving health coverage. One concerns drug manufacturer rebates under the Medicare Part D program. The costs of drugs for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligible enrollees (which are paid almost entirely by the federal government) should be no higher under Medicare Part D than they are under Medicaid. The Committee-passed version of health reform included such a rebate provision. A version of this provision that passed the House (but was not enacted into law as part of the Affordable Care Act) would have saved taxpayers approximately $115 billion over ten years.

Significant taxpayer savings for the federal government would also result by prohibiting "pay for delay" agreements between brand-name drug manufacturers and generic drug manufacturers under which the generic companies are paid to delay the marketing of generic products. Each year, the government spends billions of dollars on prescription drugs through programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and the inflated drug costs that result from artificially delayed entry of generics onto the market mean higher costs for the government. The Committee and the House approved health reform legislation that included such a prohibition, but this language was not included in the version of the bill that became law.

Energy policy provides another potential for significant savings. Last year, the House passed comprehensive energy legislation that would have saved the taxpayers $9 billion over ten years. This legislation has not yet been considered by the Senate.

Other areas the Committee is examining also provide avenues for savings. In the telecommunications area, efforts to improve spectrum management and identify opportunities for spectrum reallocation and auction could save taxpayers billions of dollars. Further, the universal service fund costs consumers approximately $8 billion per year. Under the leadership of Subcommittee Chairman RICK BOUCHER, the Committee has been examining ways to make this fund more efficient and control costs.

The Committee will continue its broad-ranging efforts to consider these and other approaches to address waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government and reduce the federal deficit.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MONDT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize David Mondt, a World War II Army Air Corps and National Guard veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. David Mondt was recognized on Tuesday, June 29. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: DAVID MONDT

(By Alexander Hutchins)

At 21 years of age, many kids are still wet behind the ears and trying to carve out a living for themselves. When David Mondt was 22, he was flying nighttime raids to drop paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne into the battlefields of Europe.

Mondt, 87, previously a first lieutenant in the Army Air Corps during World War II, was born in Boone and has lived in the community nearly his entire life. He lived in Perry for a year in his childhood, at which time he was hit by a Hawkeye Laundry truck. No lasting injuries resulted from the accident, but Mondt soon returned to Boone and continued his education.

''The biggest thing was getting a bicycle, which I eventually did,'' Mondt said of the most significant part of his childhood.

When World War II began, Mondt watched the Iowa National Guard mobilize and head to Louisiana.

''Then they started the draft, and I didn't want to wait for that, so I joined the Air Force,'' he said.

Mondt began training to be an Army Air Corps mechanic when he first joined, as pilot training was only available to soldiers 21 and older. While in mechanic training, the age requirements for pilot training were lowered, and Mondt, then 18, applied and was accepted into program. He went into the pilot school in Texas, and mere days before graduating the program was scrapped and modified to the Flight Officer Program.

''In one day, November the 10th, 1942, I was a Private, a Staff Sergeant and a flight officer in a matter of hours,'' Mondt said.

Mondt was eventually placed with the 62nd Troop Carrier Squadron, men with whom he would fly for the rest of the war. Every man in the squadron would return home alive at the war's conclusion.

The squadron flew mostly day-to-day supply and troop transport missions. Mondt flew a C–47 Skytrain cargo plane for the entirety of the war, and said he missed a pre-D-Day appearance by General Eisenhower because he was running a load of supplies. Mondt originally flew runs in North Africa, then as part of the American invasion of Italy where he dropped paratroopers on Sicily.

After the fascist collapse in Italy, Mondt was sent to England and prepared for the D-Day invasion. Mondt would drop members of the 82nd Airborne in the now-famous invasion of Europe, and in the nighttime raid the C–47s received enemy fire, but managed to deploy the paratroopers successfully.

''Everything was fine, as long as you were over England or over the water. When we hit the coast of France we started receiving fire from the Germans,'' Mondt said. One plane from the squadron was shot down, but the crew survived.

Mondt's plane would return from the mission, but it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. All the windows were blown out and Mondt was hit by the shrapnel flying about the cabin. Mondt received the Purple Heart for his injury, although he would carry pieces of shrapnel in his back for years.

Despite all the events conspiring around him that would become critical to world history, Mondt said that in the end the daily activities were orderly and regimented.

''Whatever they told you to do, you did,'' Mondt said. ''It was really just an everyday occurrence. When you weren't dropping paratroopers, you were hauling supplies to frontline troops.''

Mondt flew British and Polish soldiers into the Battle of Arnhem, but toward the end of the war more flights were daytime operations. Mondt said that after crossing the Rhine River, there were hardly any German air forces left. The planes had all been bombed at the airfields by the Army Air Corps.

''If you got back from the flight, you got a place to sleep, and it was warm, and [you got] good food. The ground troops ate out of mess kits. We never did,'' Mondt said.

When he returned to the U.S. after his tour of duty, he was offered a chance to leave the Air Corps while in St. Louis. Mondt accepted and returned to Iowa. He didn't spend long out of an airplane, however, as he joined the Army Aviation of the National Guard upon returning to Boone. He would fly aircraft with the National Guard, including helicopter training in Texas, and would serve in the Guard until the age of 60. At one point Mondt was told the Army would be decommissioning all of its planes for helicopters, but he never heard what came of that plan.

Life was normal after the war. Mondt sold insurance when he wasn't on Guard duty, and he married his wife, Yvonna. They raised four children and lived a quiet life.

''Mowing grass,'' Mondt said jokingly when asked what he did for a hobby while living in Boone. Mondt said the war had little permanent effect on him, as his outlook on life after the war was similar to his outlook on life before the conflict.

''It [the war] hasn't affected me at all, as far as I can recall,'' Mondt said. Beginning in 1951 his squadron from the war began holding reunions, and the original gathering had 41 participants. Though the numbers have dwindled, Mondt still attends reunion functions for the war.

I commend David Mondt for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE HINDU TEMPLE OF CANTON

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of the Hindu Temple of Canton, a beacon of community and spirituality benefitting the Hindu community of Greater Detroit.

Just a little over a year ago, I stood at the Temple site along with the members of the Hindu Temple to turn the first shovels of soil for this center's major expansion. Its completion marks a new phase of growth and prominence for this vibrant community, and I am proud and honored to recognize this dedication.

In October of 1986, a small group of dedicated members of the Hindu community decided that there was a clear need to build a Temple that would cater to the western suburbs of Detroit. Construction began in 1988, and the Temple first opened its doors on December 25, 1990.

For the past 20 years, the Temple has fulfilled its role as a true center of the community—offering classes and concerts, hosting countless gatherings, annual celebrations of Indian Independence Day, and supporting the broader community through a Scholarship Program for graduates of Plymouth Canton High School.

With the completion of this new expansion, the Temple will be able to welcome ever-larger numbers of members into its doors and continue to provide the rich and dynamic programming that has become its signature.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to mark the dedication of the Hindu Temple of Canton and the milestone of progress and growth it represents for the Hindu Community of metro Detroit.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, it is difficult to believe that it has been 9 years to the day when our Nation was attacked by foreign terrorists who claimed the lives of 2,977 Americans including 411 of our Nation's bravest first responders.

As a Member of the Homeland Security Committee I am proud of the steps we have taken since that fateful day to make the American people safer, but our work is far from complete and this is a mission we, as public servants, can never stop striving to achieve.

I am also proud that this Congress passed the aptly-named Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act which designates September 11 as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

On September 11 more so than any other day of the year we should come together as Americans and find new ways to serve our Nation.

For it was on September 11 that so many Americans unexpectedly found themselves in the middle of a truly horrible situation and yet summoned the courage to help save others without regard to themselves.

So I say to all of you that many of the wounds of that fateful day will heal over time, but that we will never forget the heroism we witnessed, the lessons we learned, and the redemption the American people earned through our own strength.

On September 11, more than any other day in our history, we witnessed what it truly means to serve our Nation as a first responder.

We witnessed police officers, fire fighters, and paramedics racing up flights of stairs, hoping to save even a few more lives, without once thinking about their own safety.

Its not only those of you who are already serving our communities that understand this sacrifice, it is also evident in all of our current trainees, because after 9/11 no one could possibly make the commitment to being a first responder without fully understanding what kind of sacrifice was being asked of them.

As a public servant, I can not pretend to relate to this level of sacrifice, but I do strongly share your determination that those first responders who lost their lives on 9/11 should not just merely be commemorated, but in fact their memories should spur us towards making our Nation stronger and safer.

As a Member of Congress and as an original member of the House Homeland Security Committee, I believe we must commit ourselves to providing our Nation's first responders with all the tools they need to protect our communities.

I also believe it is critical on this day to say that we need Congress to bring back the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act—and this time we need bipartisan support to pass it.

While the entire Nation watched with sorrow for those we lost and tried to heal emotionally after that day—there were only a few brave souls who went back to that rubble day-after-day and endured the physical and mental strain of clearing the remains of the towers in lower Manhattan.

On that day we gave those brave souls the ''all clear'' sign, but we now know that we were exposing those men and women to a poisonous dust that would stay with them for the rest of their lives.

We need this bill because it will finally provide comprehensive health care and compensation for thousands of our ailing 9/11 heroes.

This isn't just a bill for New York and New Jersey—this is a bill for all Americans. We know that people from all 50 States were in lower Manhattan on or after 9/11 and now are facing serious health concerns.

This is not about Bill Pascrell or any other public official, but I tell you all of this because I want you, the protectors of our communities, to know that I stand firmly behind the mission of our Nation's first responders.

We can not turn back the clock and provide our first responders with the equipment they should have had on 9/11, but we must take every step necessary to ensure that all of you are equipped with the tools necessary to face all the threats of the future.

These are bipartisan solutions that all Americans have embraced because we understand now that if we are not strong here in our communities than we are not safe as a Nation.

I want to conclude by simply stating that even 9 years after 9/11 we will continue to bow our heads for those we lost, but we will also hold our hands in solidarity with one another, in the determination of those brave first responders who proved on 9/11 that we may have been attacked, but that we would not be defeated.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1493 and on behalf of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I submit the following findings that identify potential changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within government programs authorized by the Committee.

On February 26, 2010, the House of Representatives passed H.R 2701, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. This legislation includes a number of changes in law that would help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, as well as promote efficiency and reform in government, and control spending within intelligence programs.

Creation of an Inspector General for the Intelligence Community. The bill would create a statutory and independent inspector general for the Intelligence Community (IC/IG), whose office would have authority to conduct audits and investigations within and across the elements of the Intelligence Community. The IC/IG would be a powerful tool for identifying waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the Intelligence Community.

Granting access to the General Accounting Office. The bill would require the General Accounting Office be given access to Intelligence Community records and personnel for the purposes of conducting audits and investigation as directed by the congressional intelligence committees. These audits and investigations have proven critical to Congress' ability to identify waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement throughout the federal government; this provision will bring the same level of congressional oversight to the Intelligence Community.

Review of covert action programs by Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency. The bill would require that the CIA/JIG conduct audits of each covert action program at least once every three years, which would ensure that these critical and sometimes costly programs receive an appropriate level of scrutiny.

Improvements to congressional oversight. The bill would enhance congressional oversight over the Intelligence Community in a number of ways, which would better enable Congress to help reduce the deficit by promoting efficiency, controlling spending, and reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. These include:

Reform to congressional reporting on covert actions. The bill would make a number of improvements to the process through which the Intelligence Community informs Congress regarding certain sensitive covert actions, including a requirement that all notifications to the Gang of 8 (the Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority and Minority Leader, and the Chair and Ranking Member of the two Intelligence Committees) be provided in writing; and that all members of the congressional intelligence committees be provided with ''general information'' regarding a notification to the Gang of 8. The bill also defines the specific terms that would necessitate congressional notification.

Certification of compliance with oversight requirements. The bill would require the head of each element of the Intelligence Community to certify semi-annually that the element has notified Congress of all significant and significant anticipated intelligence activities, as required by law.

Cybersecurity oversight. The bill would require notification to Congress of all new and existing cybersecurity programs, giving Congress better visibility into this evolving and resource-intensive mission.

Security clearance reform. The bill would require extensive reporting to Congress, including a comprehensive quadrennial audit, regarding the processes used by the federal government to provide security clearances. It would also create an ombudsman responsible for addressing complaints regarding the security clearance system. Committee hearings and other investigations have identified numerous inefficiencies in the security clearance systems, which these reforms will help to address.

Reform and oversight of personnel policies. The bill includes a number of provisions intended to help control the growth of personnel and other administrative costs within the Intelligence Community. These include:

Caps on personnel levels at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The bill would limit the number of personnel at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which has increased substantially since the ODNI was created.

Annual personnel level assessments. The bill would require that the Intelligence Community conduct a comprehensive review of all personnel, both federal employees and contractors across all agencies, which would assist the Intelligence Community and Congress in identifying redundancies, excessive growth, and other inefficiencies.

Report on intelligence community contractors. The bill would require a comprehensive report on the use of personal services contractors within the Intelligence Community, the impact of these contractors on personnel management systems, plans to convert positions from contractor to federal employee, and accountability methods. The use of contractors in the Intelligence Community has increased substantially over the past ten years, at considerable cost to the taxpayer.

This report will enable Congress to identify contractor mismanagement and to monitor the implementation of responsible and cost-effective policies regarding contractors across the Intelligence Community.

Reports and plans. The bill includes provisions to require reports or plans on various subjects, which will assist Congress and the Intelligence Community in determining ways to achieve a variety of missions more efficiently and effectively without waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement. These include:

Report on intelligence resources dedicated to Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill would require a report summarizing the intelligence resources dedicated to Operation New Dawn (formerly Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Operation Enduring Freedom, so that Congress can ensure that they are used in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Report on transformation of the intelligence capabilities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has undertaken significant internal restructuring to better enable it to collect intelligence on potential terrorists, among other threats. The bill requires a comprehensive assessment of this effort, which would allow Congress and the FBI determine whether further changes are necessary and/or cost-effective.

Intelligence community financial improvement and audit readiness. The bill requires that each element of the Intelligence Community produce a plan for achieving full, unqualified audits by September 30, 2013, which is an integral step toward implementation of sound financial management practices at these agencies.

Inspector General report on over-classification. The bill requires that the IC/IG conduct an analysis of the over-classification of national security information and recommend ways to resolve the problem. Over-classification can inhibit the sharing of intelligence, which can lead to redundancy and waste.

Report on information sharing practices of joint terrorism task force. The bill requires a report on the information sharing practices of the FBI-New York Police Department Joint Terrorism Task Force to help identify ways in which combining federal, state, and local resources can result in a more efficient use of those resources.

Plan to implement recommendations of the data center energy efficiency reports. The bill requires that the Director of National Intelligence prepare a plan to comply with a report regarding the use of energy efficient data centers, which would help the Intelligence Community reduce its energy costs.

Repeal of certain reporting requirements. The bill would reduce the resources expended across the Intelligence Community on preparing reports that are redundant or obsolete.

HONORING PONZI VINEYARDS

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offering congratulations to the Ponzi Vineyards on their fortieth anniversary of outstanding wine making and stewardship of the land.

Located in Beaverton, Oregon, in the heart of my district, Ponzi Vineyards has a long tradition of creating highly rated wines in the great wine-producing region of the Willamette Valley. Ponzi Vineyards is internationally acclaimed for producing some of the world's finest pinot noir, pinot grin, pinot blanc, chardonnay and white riesling, as well as arneis and dolcetto, two rare Italian varietals.

Ponzi Vineyards remains a family owned business, with the second generation now directing the operation. Founded by Dick and Nancy Ponzi, the winery has always maintained an unwavering commitment to building a tradition of winemaking excellence, as well as a commitment to protecting the environment.

All of the Ponzi's vineyard land is certified to comply with the world's highest standard for sustainable viticulture. Since the beginning, the Ponzis have instilled a strong belief in respect for, and responsibility toward our natural resources.

I congratulate the Ponzi family on its forty years of producing high-quality wines, while simultaneously protecting the Earth.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Budget Enforcement Resolution, I submit those changes in law resulting from legislation approved or filed by the Committee on Homeland Security that will help achieve deficit reduction by enhancing efficiency, accountability and oversight, while eliminating waste, abuse, mismanagement, and fraud in Government programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Below are measures within the Committee's jurisdiction that have, to date, been approved by the House during this Congress and reflect the Committee's efforts to promote efficiency, government reform and result in budgetary savings:

H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, which creates a standard for formatting finished intelligence and eliminates redundant classification efforts.

H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, which streamlines management at TSA, requires risk-based allocation of resources, and promotes operational efficiency.

H.R. 4842, the Homeland Security Science and Technology Authorization Act of 2010, which establishes new internal controls, more robust standards, and reforms for all of the research and development conducted by both the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate and the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

H.R. 3978, the First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act, which allows the Department of Homeland Security to accept gifts for its first responder training centers, thereby alleviating need for the Department to purchase certain equipment or material.

H.R. 3980, the Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act, which requires the identification of redundant rules and regulations and a plan to eliminate redundant reports and regulations.

H.R. 1148, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a program in the maritime environment for the mobile biometric identification of suspected individuals, including terrorists, to enhance border security, which promotes government efficiency by streamlining processing, prosecution, and deportation of suspected individuals.

H.R. 2868, the Chemical and Water Security Act of 2009, which controls spending by requiring that grants be awarded on a merit and risk based basis, streamlines the regulatory requirements for securing chemical and water treatment facilities and, by enhancing the security of such facilities, mitigates against the potentially astronomical costs associated with the response to and recovery from a successful terrorist attack on such a facility.

H.R. 1617, the Department of Homeland Security Component Privacy Officer Act of 2009, which establishes a privacy officer in each Department of Homeland Security component, thus enhancing efficiency by reducing the potential for the production of regulations or guidelines that are subject to challenge under privacy laws.

H.R. 4748, the Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010, which enhances the efficiency of governmental efforts to prevent the illegal trafficking of drugs across the northern border by requiring a strategy stating the specific roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies.

H.R. 1178, a bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the use of Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, and for other purposes, which requires a report to Congress focusing on the feasibility and cost effectiveness of using the Civil Air Patrol to supplement Departmental air resources involved in border enforcement and other homeland security missions.

H.R. 1665, the Coast Guard Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, which eliminates massive cost overruns and potential future costs overruns for Coast Guard acquisitions.

H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, which creates an acquisition directorate to provide guidance and oversight for Coast Guard acquisitions, the result of which will be cost savings.

Madam Speaker, the measures I have listed display the Committee on Homeland Security's commitment to advancing legislation that seeks to reduce the national deficit by promoting government efficiency while focusing on our primary mission of pursuing legislation that enhances the security of our nation.

RECOGNIZING STEVE LEWANDOWSKI ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANNOUNCING AT THE SAN DIEGO POLO CLUB

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tenure of Mr. Steve Lewandowski, on the occasion of his 20th anniversary as announcer at the San Diego Polo Club. As a beloved media personality in San Diego County, I would like to congratulate Steve and celebrate his two decades of outstanding commentary for the Club.

Known as the Voice of the San Diego Polo Club, Steve has provided invaluable entertainment acting as a play-by-play announcer, color commentator and ambassador for the game he learned to play at the club. With Steve's wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the game, you wouldn't know that he didn't have much background in polo when he arrived in San Diego in 1982 as a naval officer based in Coronado. But after his first match at the Club in 1991, he was instantly hooked.

With a background in public speaking, Steve came in to announcing at the club by chance, as a last minute backup whose versatile talents instantly took everyone by storm. From there it was history as Steve proceeded to take over the distinguished post that has warmed hearts for the last 20 years.

Novice fans count on him to provide the introductory polo basics, seasoned veterans want the inside scoop—Steve delivers it all in an eloquent balance. Known for his ability to convey tremendous excitement and enthusiasm, Steve has announced at the World Cup, done commentary as ''the voice of polo'' for ESPN, and has traveled all over the world, including Mexico, Ireland, and Australia.

Furthermore, Steve has made countless contributions to our community as the Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer for hundreds of charity events. Steve holds a particular passion and longstanding commitment to supporting wounded warriors. Time and again, Steve has demonstrated his admirable dedication and unwavering support for wounded warriors and the organizations that serve them.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in recognizing Steve

Lewandowski on the occasion of his 20th anniversary announcing at the San Diego Polo Club. Thank you.

HONORING BILL DAWSON

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Bill Dawson for receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. He has lived a long and distinguished life, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

Bill Dawson was born in Glendale, California and moved to Madera in 1985. He spend ten years as the production control manager for National Can. He was also a plant controller for Penata Foods and Industrial Blow Molding. In addition, he spent 25 years as the owner of Round Table Pizza and recounts the highlight of his careers as helping kids see the benefit of a good education.

Bill is well connected within his community. For almost twenty years, he has been a member of the Lions Clubs, both Breakfast and Evening Lions. He was awarded the Lion of the Year award seven times. Additionally, he was past president of Madera Linkage Foundation. He is currently the president of the Foundation for high school Athletic Needs and was the 1996 Homecoming Grand Marshall.

Bill is married to his wife, Brenda. It is clear that they will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Bill for a life well lived and wishing him the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

HARRISON J. SHIPMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Harrison J. Shipman. Harrison is 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 249, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Harrison has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Harrison has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Harrison has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Harrison designed and constructed a memory garden at Weston Christian Church in Weston, Missouri. Harrison honored the memory of 70 late members of the church with bricks with their names inscribed on them,

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

RECOMMENDATION OF CHANGES IN LAW THAT HELP ACHIEVE DEFICIT REDUCTION BY REDUCING WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT, PROMOTING EFFICIENCY AND REFORM OF GOVERNMENT; AND CONTROLLING SPENDING WITHIN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section (c)(2)(C) of H. Res. 1493, the Small Business Committee has taken steps to "identify changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs" that fall within the Committees' legislative jurisdiction. With the economy beginning to show promising signs of recovery, it remains imperative that Congress and this Committee effectively oversee that taxpayer funds are used effectively. This includes not only terminating duplicative programs, but also taking steps to eliminate wasteful practices in federal agencies.

The Committee has taken its oversight role very seriously. H. Res. 40, which was passed at the beginning of this Congress, amended Clause 2(n) of House Rule XI by requiring that committees undertake intensive and regular examination of executive branch activities. We have exceeded the 1 hearing per 120 day requirement under H. Res. 40 and held 10 hearings on the Small Business Administration (SBA) and its programs. This has included 4 Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigations, all of which were requested by this Committee.

As a direct result of these oversight activities, the Committee makes the following recommendations pursuant to H. Res. 1493:

1. Termination of Patriot Express Loan Program: The Increased Veteran Participation Program contained in P.L. 110–186, the Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act of 2008, provides a more suitable financing alternative for veteran-owned small businesses than the Patriot Express Loan program. In particular, the program established in P.L. 110–186 provides for a higher guarantees, larger loan sizes, and reduced fees than the Patriot Express pilot program currently operated by the SBA. For this reason, the Committee recommends the termination of the Patriot Express initiative because the alternative program established in P.L. 110–186 will better serve veteran entrepreneurs.

2. Termination of SBA Express Loan Program: Given increasing defaults and the projected costs associated with the SBA Express program, the Committee recommends that this program be immediately terminated. The initiative has grown costly and does not satisfy any public policy goal, making it a poor use of scarce taxpayer funds. With a reduced guarantee of only 50 percent, the SBA Express Loan program fails to provide a sufficient incentive for lenders to make loans that they would otherwise not make.

3. Termination of the HUBZone Program: In the last three years, GAO has found that the program was continually subject to widespread fraud and mismanagement. The program places taxpayer funds at substantial risk for fraud, waste, and abuse. Given the high frequency of fraud, legitimate small business contractors are placed at a distinct disadvantage due to the continued operation of this program. As a result, the Committee recommends that it be terminated.

4. Termination of the Emerging Leaders Initiative: While the goals of this program are justifiable, the Committee is concerned about the effectiveness and efficiency of the initiative due to its program design and past performance. As a pilot program, the initiative failed to demonstrate the capacity to generate a significant economic impact despite the large share of resources allocated to it. This program only produced 132 jobs at a cost of $800,000—an average of cost of $6,000 per job created. This amount is almost twice as much as the job creation cost of the Small Business Development Center program, which costs $3,500 to create one job. In addition, this program is duplicative of SBA's extensive network of entrepreneurial development providers. As a result, the Committee recommends that it be terminated.

5. Termination of the Regional Innovation Clusters Initiative: The Committee has major concerns over the design of the regional cluster program. Although the program's goal is to target significant resources to regional industry clusters, the institutional framework to implement the proposal has not been clearly established. Plans for the allocation of resources, partnership agreements among local, private, and federal service providers in the targeted areas, and decision-making coordination remain unclear. In addition, the program lacks a specific implementation strategy, has inadequate federal oversight over the allocation of resources, and does not contain sufficient performance measures to determine its success. Due to these limitations, there is significant concern over abuse of thirds for this initiative. As a result, the Committee recommends that this program be terminated.

6. Termination of the National Veterans Business Development Corporation: This Corporation was created to provide training and entrepreneurial development services to veterans. Unfortunately, it has not reached its full potential and the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have called for its termination. Given concerns that the organization is insufficiently fulfilling its purpose to provide comprehensive assistance to separating members of the nation's military forces, the Committee has authored and the House passed an alternative program in H.R. 1803, the Veterans Business Center Act of 2009. This legislation establishes a dedicated national network to deliver the services more efficiently than the Corporation. The Committee's commitment to promoting veteran entrepreneurship remains strong. Therefore, it is critical that assistance programs to the sector are effective and that veterans have access to these resources so they can establish successful enterprises in all stages of the economy.

7. Termination of the Drug-Free Workplace Program: The Drug-Free Workplace program was originally created to assist small firms in the implementation of a plethora of substance abuse counseling and training activities. This included creating workplace drug policies, drug prevention training and education seminars, providing for drug-testing,

and counseling employees on substance abuse. Instead, the program has evolved into a subsidy solely for drug-testing centers, a private industry that does not warrant funding from the SBA, an agency whose mission is to promote and assist small businesses. Given the financial challenges facing the government, it is not prudent to use scarce taxpayer funds to purchase drug-testing services from and for viable private sector companies. As a result, the termination of program funding is appropriate due to the lack of meaningful returns on the public investment.

8. Termination of the National Women's Business Council (NWBC)—The NWBC mandate is to conduct research on women entrepreneurship, which is duplicative of the research work of the SBA's Office of Advocacy. Having two research entities conduct similar research is unnecessary and the NWBC funding should be terminated. The Office of Advocacy is the appropriate entity to conduct all entrepreneurship-related research as it benefits from both economies of scale and scope in its organization structure and staff capabilities.

In the last 18 months, small businesses have increasingly turned to the SBA for assistance. This has helped stem job losses and, in some parts of the country, created pockets of new growth. As a result, we are now beginning to see signs of strength, as private sector jobs continue to be added. To this end, the National Association for Business Economics recently found that 31 percent of companies added jobs between April and June, the highest level since 2007. Additionally, 39 percent of businesses surveyed reported that they expect to hire more workers over the next six months, which is the most since January 2008. Such growth is promising and it suggests that the business climate is becoming ripe for the establishment of new firms. This means that the SBA needs to be prepared to help these firms succeed, while also containing its costs. The Committee's proposals, if implemented, will accomplish this by reducing the federal deficit, curtailing fraud, and enabling the SBA to focus on its most important and successful programs. By increasing efficiency, the agency's existing tools and resources can be improved, without imposing additional costs on the taxpayer. This is a means to not only act in a fiscally prudent manner, but also a way to meet the needs of our nation's small businesses.

IN RECOGNITION OF MADLYN AND JAMES AARON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of James and Madlyn Aaron's long-standing dedication to their community and to applaud their many contributions to the public. I hope that their faithful devotion to the state of New Jersey may serve as an example to us all.

James Aaron has been practicing law for 41 years and is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and Monmouth Bar Association. He is currently partner at the distinguished firm of Ansell Grimm & Aaron, based in Ocean, New Jersey. Jim has been able to connect his professional career with his desire to contribute to his community. He has served as a panelist for the Monmouth University Real Estate Institute and has lectured for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. In addition, Jim has been the City of Long Branch's City Attorney since 1994, has served as the municipal prosecutor and attorney for the zoning board for the City of Long Branch, and has held the position of Ashbury Park's City Attorney. In fact, he is the only City Attorney in the history of New Jersey to serve these cities at the same time. Jim's impressive legal career includes practicing before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals, and the United States Court of Claims.

Mr. Aaron's active participation in New Jersey civic life extends to a variety of other spheres as well. In 2006, Jim was appointed the Commissioner of the New Jersey Racing Commission. He also sits on the Board of Trustees of the Hollywood Golf Club. In addition, because religion is important to him, Jim has attended Temple Beth Miriam for his entire life. He is now a member of the Temple's Board of Trustees.

Jim's wife Madlyn Aaron was a school teacher in the Long Branch school system for over 33 years. She holds a B.A. and an MBA from Monmouth University, and her commitment to education has continued even after retirement. Madlyn and Jim sponsor the Leslie B. Aaron Scholarship Fund which provides a scholarship to a deserving Long Branch High School senior every year. They also sponsor Heimlich-Aaron Scholarship Fund which provides a scholarship for a worthy graduate of Temple Beth Miriam's Hebrew High School. The couple supports Monmouth University and the Monmouth Medial Center, and their contributions to civic life also include their active membership in the Long Branch Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps most notably, Jim and Madlyn recently served as co-chairs of the Temple Beth Miriam's ''Capital Campaign.'' The campaign successfully raised over $2.5 million dollars for the Temple.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the dedication of James and Madlyn Aaron to their community. Their contributions to civic life and charitable and religious organizations make them tremendously valued citizens of my district and the state of New Jersey.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. CLAIRE COLEMAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to remember and honor the life of a dear friend, Dr. Claire Colman. Claire was an accomplished physician, a staunch champion of women's rights, and a dedicated Democratic activist.

Since her passing last December, friends from around the Metro-Detroit area and Michigan have remembered Claire in various ways, including a most fitting dedication by the Birmingham-Bloomfield Democratic Club of a park bench in Birmingham's Shain Park. I am honored to add my words today to the growing list of tributes of Claire's life.

Claire embodied progressive values and had an abiding passion for human rights. She was a tireless leader, ably heading key organizations as Michigan NOW and Detroit WAND, even while struggling with serious health issues. Through her leadership and activism, Claire was the essence of advocacy. Even the most minor task warranted her attention—she was ever on the phone, at meetings, raising money and raising spirits. She remains an example for us all.

Above all, however, Claire was a loving and devoted wife to Michael and mother to Joe and Brian. To both my wife Colleen and I, she was not only a dear friend but a trusted advisor and stalwart advocate.

In so many ways, Claire's passion, energy and enthusiasm for life and goodness lives on in each of us. Her memory inspires us to work toward a world that expresses our shared values. She is missed. She is cherished. And she will always be in our hearts.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of H. Res. 1493, the House-passed Budget Enforcement Resolution, I am submitting the following information for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Budget Enforcement Resolution requires that I identify the Committee actions that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs, promoting efficiency and government reform, and controlling spending in the government programs. This requirement reflects the House's commitment to deficit reduction and bringing about a more efficient and accountable government for the American people. As Chairman of the Oversight Committee, I am pleased to comply with this requirement.

A September 2 letter from the Speaker of the House and Majority Leader to House Committee Chairs identifies some of the important legislative steps the Oversight Committee has taken to promote deficit reduction, fiscal responsibility, and government reform in the 111th Congress. The Oversight Committee and the House of Representatives passed the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness and Performance Improvement Act, H.R. 2142. As the letter acknowledges, the enhanced oversight provided by this legislation will significantly cut government waste. In addition, the Committee approved the Improper Payments Elimination and Reduction Act, H.R. 3393, which was also signed into law (as S. 1508) on July 22, 2010. The Office of Management and Budget recently reported that the federal government made an astonishing $98 billion in duplicate, erroneous, or undocumented payments in 2009. The Committee's and the Congress' efforts, in passing H.R. 3393 / S. 1508, will provide the government with the tools it needs to recover these overpayments for the American taxpayers and stop them from occurring in the first instance.

In addition to these important reforms, the Oversight Committee is pursuing a broad-based approach to deficit reduction and budget savings. The Committee's actions include direct oversight of agencies to improve and address inefficient practices that would result in over $19.4 billion in budget savings. The Committee also has advanced legislative reforms to strengthen the internal watchdogs at government agencies, improve the investigative and auditing arm of Congress, empower federal workers to fight fraud and waste without fear of retaliation, improve government efficiency by facilitating the sale of surplus federal real property, and save hundreds of millions of tax dollars by expediting the transition of government-wide telecommunication services. These efforts are described below.

HOLDING AGENCIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OVER $19.4 BILLION IN COST SAVINGS REFORMS

At the request of the Oversight Committee, Inspectors General from across the government identified improvements and efficiencies in government operations that would result in over $19.4 billion in savings to the federal budget if fully implemented. As the country begins to recover from the economic crisis, the American public should have confidence that agencies will be held accountable for taking any actions necessary to recover such significant savings of their hard-earned tax dollars. The Oversight Committee will monitor implementation of each of these IG recommendations. The Committee will require agency heads to report back on the steps they are taking to recoup these savings for the U.S. taxpayers, to provide a timeline for the realization of these savings, and detail any administrative or legislative action needed to bring about these savings and efficiencies.

STRENGTHENING THE IG COMMUNITY

The Oversight Committee is also taking legislative action to promote better and more efficient government. This September, the Committee plans to bring legislation (H.R. 5815) to the floor of the House of Representatives that will better equip Inspectors General to fulfill their statutory mission of rooting out waste and fraud in the federal government. The legislation complements and strengthens the Committee's ongoing oversight efforts in this area. The legislation will require corrective action by government agencies to address IG cost saving recommendations. A statutory mandate will remove the bureaucratic inertia and barriers that too often slow or thwart agency efforts to tackle inefficiencies that account for billions of dollars in unnecessary spending every year. The legislation will also provide IGs with the tools they need to conduct complete and thorough investigations of waste, fraud, and abuse in government contracting. Collectively, the reforms in H.R. 5815 will strengthen the authority of IGs so they can better fulfill their important mission of fighting waste and protecting the interests of the taxpayers.

IMPROVING THE GAO

During this Congress, the House of Representatives passed legislation (H.R. 2646) sponsored by the Oversight Committee that will strengthen the authority and effectiveness of the General Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO helps inform the Congress, Executive agencies, and the public about areas and programs within the federal government that are performing well, and those that need to be improved or are vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse. GAO audits provide reliable assessments as to whether the taxpayers are receiving full value from important government programs. H.R. 2646, which is awaiting action in the Senate, will increase the effectiveness of GAO by ensuring that GAO is not unnecessarily restricted in its efforts to secure necessary information in the course of performing its auditing and investigative functions for the Congress.

EMPOWERING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO COMBAT WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

The Oversight Committee is committed to advancing H.R. 1507, the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2009, and is currently negotiating with the Senate on this essential reform. Similar legislation was passed as part of the Recovery Act in the beginning of the Congress, but was unfortunately stripped out in conference with the Senate. The government should make every effort to ensure that tax dollars are not misspent or vulnerable to waste, fraud, or abuse. Federal employees at financial and other agencies throughout the government are often the first to witness abuses or illegality that presents a risk to the taxpayer. They are in a position to call attention to waste in government operations because they see what is happening inside our government on a day-to-day basis. Providing strong protections for those who disclose misconduct helps to promote a more accountable and transparent federal bureaucracy. Importantly, the legislation also extends strong whistleblower protections to employees of government contractors.

FACILITATING SAVINGS THROUGH SALES OF REAL PROPERTY

Last September, the Oversight Committee favorably reported H.R. 2495, the Federal Real Property Disposal Act. This legislation would encourage the sale of surplus federal real property by allowing the General Services Administration to use its funds to prepare unneeded properties to be reported excess. It would also allow agencies to retain the proceeds from the sale of surplus real property. These measures would implement recommendations by GAO, which has stated in its High-Risk Series that the funding needed to prepare property for disposal and some agencies' inability to retain sale proceeds have been longstanding barriers to the sale of surplus property. The language of H.R. 2495 is being added to S. 1510, the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division Modernization Act, and the Oversight Committee is currently negotiating with the Senate on final language for the bill.

SAVING TAX DOLLARS BY EXPEDITING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRANSITION

The delay in transitioning government-wide telecommunications services from the General Services Administration's FTS2001 contract to Networx has resulted in the loss of approximately $22 million a month. At the current pace, those losses could total between $300 million and a half-billion dollars in unrealized cost savings by May 2011. The Oversight Committee held a hearing on this issue in May 2010 and will continue closely monitoring and working with the General Services Administration, the Office of Management and Budget, and individual Agencies to expedite the transition to Networx. In addition, I am planning to introduce legislation requiring agencies to complete the transition to Networx before the current FTS2001 bridge and crossover contracts expire in May 2011. If enacted, this legislation would eliminate the need for the General Services Administration to enter into any additional bridge contracts.

I look forward to continuing to work with House leadership, the other Committee Chairs, and the Members of this body as we take steps to eliminate the deficit, and promote government that best protects the interests of the U.S. taxpayers.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HATCH ACT NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PARITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Hatch Act National Capital Region Parity Act. This bill would remedy an omission in federal law that treats District of Columbia residents who work for the federal government differently from their federal colleagues in the Washington metropolitan area. This omission is another remnant of the days before the District of Columbia was a self-governing jurisdiction. This bill would give the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) authority to designate the District of Columbia similar to other local jurisdictions so that federal employees who reside there may take an active part in political management and political campaigns for local partisan elections. Under the Hatch Act, OPM only has authority to designate Maryland and Virginia localities in the immediate vicinity of the District, or towns in which the majority of voters are federal employees, as exempt from the Hatch Act's prohibition on federal employee participation in local partisan elections. Currently, federal employees residing in 47 Maryland localities, 15 Virginia localities and 12 other localities across the United States are permitted to participate in local partisan elections.

OPM's authority to exempt certain localities recognizes that, if large numbers of residents in a jurisdiction are federal employees, much of a locality's population would be denied the opportunity to participate in local affairs. When the Hatch Act was passed in 1940, the old Civil Service Commission (CSC) was given authority to exempt federal employees living in Maryland and Virginia localities near D.C. because large numbers of residents of those localities were, and continue to be, federal employees. However, CSC was not given the same authority for the District of Columbia, even though a large number of residents were, and continue to be, federal employees, probably because D.C. did not have local elections until the Home Rule Act of 1973.

This bill is part of our ongoing mission to wipe away all the disparate treatment of District residents left in federal law. Our related pending bill, the Hatch Act Reform Act (H.R. 1345), which the House passed last year and is now on its way to the Senate floor, would permit the District of Columbia, the only local jurisdiction where local government employees are under the federal Hatch Act, to enact and operate under its own local Hatch Act, like other jurisdictions in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the District of Columbia as a self-governing jurisdiction by supporting this bill.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS E. PUGH ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE JOHN HEINZ REHABILITATION CENTER IN WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Thomas E. Pugh on his retirement from the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Pugh was born in Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania in 1942.

A lifelong resident of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Mr. Pugh graduated from Northwest Area High School in Shickshinny, Pennsylvania before attending the Pennsylvania State University where he majored in English.

Mr. Pugh served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

For the past three decades, Mr. Pugh has worked at the John Heinz Rehabilitation Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, part of the Allied Services network of health care and service organizations that provide rehabilitative, vocational, home care, and residential services throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

John Heinz Rehab specializes in inpatient rehabilitation services, particularly in the areas of brain injury, injured worker recovery, and pediatrics.

After almost thirty years working at John Heinz Rehab and Allied Services, Mr. Pugh will retire as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Pugh's exemplary work at John Heinz Rehab over the past few decades has been recognized throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 2009, Mr. Pugh received the Individual Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities.

This award recognizes an individual who, ''by an unusual act or by a significant history of service, has made a substantial contribution to the development of rehabilitation facility or has a marked impact on both the quality and quantity of services provided by rehabilitation programs.''

Throughout his career, Mr. Pugh has also consistently donated his time and efforts throughout the community.

He has served on the boards of the Greater Wilkes-Bane Association for the Blind, the Luzerne County Community College Foundation, the Northwest Area School District, and the Arthritis Foundation, where he was honored as ''The Community Leader of the Year'' in 2006.

Mr. Pugh has also devoted his time to assisting local veterans, and has been a strong advocate for children suffering from autism and learning disabilities.

Mr. Pugh currently resides in Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania with his wife, the former Christine Cummings. They have four children, Jennifer, Sarah, Rachel, and Matthew.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the remarkable career of Mr. Thomas E. Pugh. Over the past three decades Mr. Pugh has devoted himself in many ways to improving the lives of the residents of our community.

IN HONOR OF THE OBAMA WAY COMMITTEE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a remarkable group of citizens in my Central California district. They are gathering today to commemorate our nation's historic election, nearly two years ago, of its first African-American President. No American could remain unmoved by this great historic watershed. That is particularly true in the California Central Coast Community of Seaside.

Seaside grew up as an Army town, the neighboring community to Fort Ord, one of the U.S. Army's largest training and operational bases for much of the 20th Century. That alone would have made Seaside much like any other Army town across the country—except that Fort Ord was the first Army facility to desegregate following President Truman's 1948 executive order. So while the home states of many prominent Army bases remained gripped by segregation, Fort Ord and its surrounding communities became a magnet for African American soldiers to serve and later to retire. As Seaside's first lawyer, my father, the late State Senator Fred Farr, represented many soldiers who wanted to avoid reassignment to a southern state post because they had married a white or Asian woman during their time in the service and could not return to a State where that marriage was illegal.

So the election of an African-American child of a mixed marriage holds a special symbolism for a community that grew out the same hard fought tradition of multi-racial tolerance. Which brings me to the efforts of this remarkable group of Seaside community members.

Following the election, the idea arose that Seaside should rename one of its primary thoroughfares in honor of President Obama. An informal committee of volunteers took the idea and worked through the intricacies to municipal administration. A full name change posed significant challenges to the businesses and residents who had invested in the Street's traditional name. A compromise was reached. So this afternoon Seaside community members and elected leaders will gather to give Broadway Avenue the honorary designation of 'Obama Way' in recognition of our Nation's historic election of its first African-American President. To my knowledge this is one of the first such street designations in the United States in honor of the President, though I am confident that many more will follow.

In closing, I formally recognize those leading citizens who played the central role in this small, but remarkable achievement. They include the Chairman of the Obama Way Committee LTC(R) Morris McDaniel, former Seaside Mayor Don Jordon, his wife Alice Jordon, former Councilmember and MPUSD Trustee Helen Rucker, the Rev. H.H. Lusk, Ruthie Watts, Kathy Badon, Sandra Lackey, Yolanda Grimble, and Carlos Ramos. Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in commending them for their community service.

PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 15TH LITERACY AWARENESS DAY IN WHEATON, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 15th 2010, as Literacy Awareness Day in Wheaton, Illinois, in the heart of my Congressional District.

Literacy Awareness Day is an initiative of the non-profit group Literacy DuPage. Literacy DuPage reaches over 30 communities in DuPage County. The group's mission is to change the lives of future generations by providing one-on-one English literacy tutoring for adults. To celebrate Literacy Awareness Day on September 15th, participating Wheaton businesses will donate a portion of their sales to help fund the group's literacy programs.

Today, we join together to celebrate Literacy Awareness Day and the growth and continued good works of Literacy DuPage.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in recognizing September 15th as Literacy Awareness Day in Wheaton, Illinois, and in wishing Literacy DuPage continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF K–9 SERGEANT THOMAS ''TOMMY'' ALEXANDER

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of K–9 Sergeant Thomas ''Tommy'' Alexander, a brave and dedicated Rayville police officer, who was fatally shot in the line of duty on September 11, 2010 at the age of 57.

Alexander was a devoted husband and father of two as well as a faithful community advocate. In addition to his duties as an officer, he shared his talent of cooking to help local churches raise money and lent his time to the local high school by taking tickets at games and making travel arrangements for the football team. A lifelong friend said it best as he described Alexander as a ''selfless man, who had God in his heart.''

I extend my deepest condolences to those he leaves behind. Words cannot express the depth of the loss felt by his family, friends and community he loved to serve.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the service and sacrifice of Tommy Alexander. He was a remarkable example to us all, and today, I salute him.

HONORING DON AND CATHI WARNOCK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Don and Cathi Warnock for receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. They have lived a long and distinguished life, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

The Warnocks meet at California State University, San Jose and married in 1965. They then moved to Cathi's hometown of Madera, where Don went to work for his father-in-law at Valley Grain Products in 1971. In 1986, Don left the company and with Cathi, founded Warnock Food Products. Today, Warnock Food Products is the largest snack food company in Madera.

The Warnocks are well connected within their community. They have been involved in Camp Fire USA, the Alegria Guild, and the Madera Sunrise Rotary. Additionally, Don has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America and was a founding member of the Madera Ag Boosters.

Don and Cathi are proud parents and grandparents of three children and five grandchildren. It is clear that they will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. and Mrs. Warnock for a life well-lived and wishing him the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

HONORING JOHN CALLENDER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the retirement of Mr. John Callender from the Ohio Hospital Association. His August 30, 2010 retirement marked thirty years of service.

John is a native of St. Joseph, Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State University. Prior to his work at the Ohio Hospital Association, John worked at the Health Care Financing Administration, within the Department of Health and Human Services for ten years. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was honorably discharged in 1977.

During his tenure, the Ohio Hospital Association has benefited from John's hard work and institutional knowledge. He oversaw activities for all fiscal matters affecting Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance. John was also responsible for maintaining professional relationships with Congress and the executive branch, managing the Hospital Care Assurance Program, the Data Services Program, and chairing the Ohio Hospital Association's Center for Education. He served as chair of Ohio Hospital Capital, OHA Solutions and the Ohio Health Council. He is a member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association and the American Society of Association Executives.

I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize John for his dedication and achievements during his thirty years of service. I wish John and his wife, Betty, all the best. I am confident John will continue his good works and find happiness in the years ahead.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Natural Resources, pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of H. Res. 1493, which passed the House on July 1, 2010, I am submitting findings that identify changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement and promoting reform of government programs.

In this regard, the Committee on Natural Resources has reported, and the House has passed, H.R. 3534, the ''Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.'' According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation would reduce future deficits by $5.3 billion over the 2011–2015 period and $1.7 billion over the 2011–2020 period by reducing abuses which have occurred in the federal offshore oil and gas leasing program and by promoting greater efficiencies in those programs.

Specifically, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act would make several significant changes to current law in order to create greater efficiencies, transparency, and accountability in the development of federal energy resources. In this regard, the bill would impose tough new ethics standards, including putting an end to the revolving door between government and the oil and gas industry. It would reform the Minerals Management Service by breaking it up and removing the conflict-of-interest between leasing, inspections, and revenue collection. And it would close royalty loopholes that allow companies to get away with shortchanging the American people, including provisions designed to do away with the ability for companies to pay zero royalties during times of high oil prices—consumers paying sky-high gas prices that fuel record profits should not face the indignity of receiving no royalty on the sale of the public's oil.

The legislation would also provide for strong new safety standards for offshore drilling, including independent certifications of critical equipment, demonstrations of the ability to respond to future blowouts or major spills, increased inspections, stiffer penalties for safety violations, and an end to the practice of issuing environmental waivers for drilling plans.

Enactment of this legislation would reduce the budget deficit and reform government programs while promoting the energy security of the United States.

FINDINGS SUBMITTED BY JOHN CONYERS, JR., CHAIRMAN OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to H. Res. 1493, as chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, I submit the following highlights of ''changes in law'' enacted in the 111th Congress within the jurisdiction of the Committee that ''help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs.'' These enacted changes in law include:

(1) Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (Public Law 111–21). This law clarifies and strengthens the criminal penalties for various forms of fraud, including fraud in connection with the Troubled Asset Relief Program and other federal assistance programs, including economic stimulus funds. It also strengthens incentives and protections under the False Claims Act for private citizens to help root out fraud against the federal government and help bring the perpetrators to justice. See 111 Cong. Rec. H5260–67 (May 6, 2009).

(2) Antitrust Criminal Penalty Enhancement and Reform Extension Act (Public Law 111–30). This law extends and strengthens a temporary program that promotes more effective and efficient detection and prosecution of illegal price-fixing cartels, by giving secondary participants in the cartel legal protection for blowing the whistle on the cartel and cooperating in the investigation and prosecution. This program has been demonstrated to substantially enhance the reach of the Justice Department's cartel enforcement resources. See 111 Cong. Rec. H3716–7 (May 24, 2010).

(3) Human Rights Enforcement Act (Public Law 111–122). This law consolidates Justice Department jurisdiction over serious human rights crimes into one section within the Department's Criminal Division. This will enable the Department to employ its enforcement resources with greater efficiency and effectiveness to vigorously prosecute perpetrators of serious human rights crimes. See 111 Cong. Rec. H14892–4 (December 15, 2009).

(4) Foreign Evidence Request Efficiency Act (Public Law 111–79). This law promotes greater efficiency and cooperation in international law enforcement by streamlining the process by which the federal government responds to requests for evidence by foreign governments in their investigations. Instead of having to file and process a request separately in every federal judicial district where the evidence or witnesses might be found, which could require involvement by a dozen or more different U.S. Attorneys on a single request, the request can now be handled centrally by one or two U.S. Attorneys. See 111 Cong. Rec. H10092–4 (Sept. 30, 2009).

In addition, other proposed legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee has been approved by the House and would reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promote efficiency and reform of government, and control spending within Government programs. This legislation includes:

(5) H.R. 2247, the Congressional Review Act Improvement Act, which would provide for federal agencies to more efficiently promulgate final rules, while ensuring effective Congressional review;

(6) H.R. 3632, the Federal Judiciary Administrative Improvements Act of 2009, which would improve the efficiency of the federal court system, including by improving the control and protection of confidential information and the reporting of criminal wiretapping orders; and

(7) H.R. 3808, the Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act of 2009, which would improve the efficiency of federal and state courts by requiring them to recognize documents lawfully notarized in any state where interstate commerce is involved.

In addition to the legislative activity described above, the Committee has conducted extensive oversight aimed at reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and improving federal government efficiency. A primary focus of the Committee's oversight efforts is the Department of Justice (DOJ) and its component divisions and agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Both the Committee and the DOJ Inspector General have devoted considerable attention to the FBI, DOJ, and other agencies, with several Committee hearings held relating to the Bureau and other agencies this year, including:

(8) Committee Oversight Focusing on FBI-ATF Problems. The Committee's Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee held a hearing on February 24, 2010, focusing on three recent Inspector General reports raising concerns about long-standing problems in FBI and other DOJ operations. These include wasteful and potentially dangerous overlap and rivalry between the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) on explosives investigations, backlog and related problems concerning the FBI's foreign language translation work, and coordination and related problems concerning DOJ and FBI anti-gang activities. The hearing and related oversight of the FBI and DOJ have revealed significant progress in addressing these difficulties, and DOJ indicated at the hearing that it was moving forward vigorously to complete its efforts to resolve the decade-long FBI–ATF problems. In fact, in early August, 2010, the acting Deputy Attorney General issued a memorandum and protocol specifying the division of responsibility between FBI and ATF on explosives-related matters, including the conduct of investigations and the maintenance of a single national explosives database.

(9) Other Committee Oversight Concerning the FBI. On March 24, 2010, the Committee held a hearing including representatives of the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, as well as the National Counterterrorism Center and the Departments of Homeland Security and State, which focused on efforts to improve the sharing and analyzing of information to prevent terrorism. On May 20, 2010, the Committee's Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee held a hearing at which an FBI representative provided an update concerning national efforts to eliminate the DNA backlog in forensic casework and the Combined DNA Index System that supports the national DNA database. A staff briefing on FBI efforts to remedy the backlog is scheduled for September 20, 2010.

(10) Committee Oversight on the Department of Justice and its Divisions. Other Committee oversight hearings have focused on DOJ and its divisions. On May 13, 2010, the Committee held a DOJ oversight hearing at which Attorney General Eric Holder testified and answered a full range of questions from Committee members about many aspects of DOJ operations. The Committee has submitted followup written questions, including questions focusing on efforts to improve DOJ efficiency with respect to financial and grant funds management. On March 4, 2010, the Committee's Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security Subcommittee held a hearing on efforts to enforce criminal laws against medicaid fraud, which included testimony from the Department's Criminal Division. Overall, the Committee has held 12 oversight hearings during this year alone focusing on DOJ, including testimony from officials from the Antitrust, Civil, Criminal, and Civil Rights Divisions, the FBI, and the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

(11) Committee Oversight on Other Federal Agencies. The Committee has also held a number of oversight hearings focusing on agencies within its jurisdiction that are outside DOJ. For example, focusing on hearings during this session, on March 23, 2010, the Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which included testimony from the Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office on efforts to improve information technology, fees, and other aspects of USCIS management. On May 5, 2010, the Committee held an oversight hearing on the United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), which led to the PTO-related legislation discussed above. On May 20, 2010, the Committee's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law held a hearing on the recently revived Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), which featured testimony by the Chairman of ACUS and Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Antonin Scalia. On June 29, 2010, the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security held an oversight hearing featuring testimony from the Secret Service. And on July 27, 2010, the Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee held a hearing on Federal Rulemaking and the Regulatory Process, which included testimony from Cass Sunstein, Administrator of the federal Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 519 and 520, I was unavoidably detained due to travel complications. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MOVE ME IN HONOR OF LT COL. ANNETTE BERGERON ''RET.'' UNITED STATES ARMY MATC SUPERVISOR P.T. AMPUTEE

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army, Annette Bergeron. Annette is the MATC supervisor of the P.T. Amputee section over at Walter Reed. She has worked virtually with all of the amputees coming back from the war.

She inspires all of her patients with her motivation and ability to reach so deep down inside of all of her wounded warriors. Inspiring them by demanding the best out of all her heroes, as she brings them to new heights by not pitying them but pushing them beyond their limits. And her greatest gift is knowing her patients, with her strong knowledge and sixth sense to read them.

There are families all across this nation, and magnificent heroes who will carry her in their hearts for the rest of their lives. Knowing the great debt they owe to her, and the angels over at Walter Reed who are but some of our nations greatest unsung heroes, I ask that this poem penned in honor of her at the request of SSG. Poe of North Carolina and by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

Move Me
Move me. . . .
Bend me, reach me . . . then she. . . .
As she so but brings out, but the very best in me!
As she will not so rest, will she!
So relentless, but to the tenth degree!
Like a Jedi Knight, her light we see!
And from all of us, will not so settle for less . . . will she!
Until, I can but so be. . . .
So but be, but the very best I can be!
Men and women without arms and legs. . . .
Broken into so many pieces, as are they. . . .
Magnificent heroes who to this our nation so gave. . . .
As she's rebuilding fine lives night and day!
The queen of pain, bringing all of them to a better day. . . .
With but her heart of a lioness, bringing us to the highest degree!
All in what a heart can be, as she so bids us to so believe. . . .
So begs us all to so reach . . . to so reach, so deeply down so deep. . . .
As her promise, to us all as she so keeps. . . .
Move me!. touch me! motivating all of us, as such she!
As does she!
As against all odds, but to the core, reaching us all so very deeply. . . .
Letting us all, but to be . . . but the very best we can be. . . .
From out of the ashes of war, so resurrecting all of our lives indeed!
Making us whole, giving us all that we so need!
For in her world, there is no such word as self pity!
Only, how high a soul can reach!
Making us all so believe!
As an angel on earth, as but her fine worth!
To all of our precious men and women, of that red, white & blue. . . .

For them she so bleeds, so tried and true!
A shining star over at Walter Reed, a real who's who!
For Bo knows hearts, of most heroic hues!
And how to get inside them so very deep to view!
Bo, you move me! oh yes you do!

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SECOND LIEUTENANT MARK J. PINCEK

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army 2LT Mark J. Pincek, who passed away on July 11, 2010.

Born and raised in Michigan, Mark joined the U.S. Navy in July, 1991 and rose to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class. He served two deployments aboard the USS *Vicksburg* as a gunner's mate before graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelor's Degree in communication and film studies.

On September 17, 2009, Mark graduated from Fort Benning's Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was then assigned to Charlie Company of the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion where he completed the Military Intelligence Basic Officer Leadership School and was then assigned to Bravo Company of the 304th and was responsible for updating the Afghanistan training scenario. His work in the training scenario function earned him many laudatory comments.

We remember Mark and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Mark made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe Mark and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his service to his country.

Mark is survived by his wife, Kerin; father, Stephen; mother, Dianne Heskett-Ward; brothers, Steven, Duane and Devin; and sisters, Diana, Nancy, Susan, Sandy and Mara.

TRIBUTE TO CLYDE ''BILL'' NEELY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Clyde "Bill" Neely, a World War II Army Air Corps veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Clyde "Bill" Neely was recognized on Tuesday, July 13. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: CLYDE ''BILL'' NEELY

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Clyde ''Bill'' Neely, 86, a former Army Air Corps Sergeant, lives a full life. He resides today in his childhood home, and what was once an attached grocery store is now a personal museum to his life's achievements.

Neely served in the Boone Fire Department after the war, drawing strength from the same discipline he called upon when he served in the Army Air Corps in World War II.

Neely was born in Boone in 1924 in a house across the street from his current residence. He graduated from high school and played sports in the community. Neely met his wife Florence while still in high school. They would marry in 1943, and he would be one of the few married men in his unit.

''I had a real excellent childhood. In fact, I've had an excellent life,'' Neely said with a smile.

His father was a butcher who ran a grocery out of the house that the Neely's now reside in. Neely would run the grocery for several years when he returned from the war, though he would eventually close the store and join the fire department.

Neely's role in the war began in 1943.

''Originally I started right after I got out of school, because we knew after Pearl Harbor that our life was going to be in the military,'' Neely said.

He had wanted to train in a nearby military Ferry School to ship airplanes overseas for the war effort, but the program was cancelled before Neely entered the Army. He then enlisted in the Air Corps in Des Moines and attended basic training in Miami, Florida. Neely's older brother, Noel, was one of four Boone men he trained with.

''Like I said, I've had good luck all the way through my life,'' Neely said.

Neely's eyesight kept him from being trained as a pilot, but he entered the Armament service and trained to maintain and repair weapons, as well as load bombs and cargo on the B–24 bombers his unit flew. He would serve part of the war in the U.S. before being stationed in Aldborough, England.

Part of Neely's early duty in the war was in training other Air Corpsmen in the U.S.

''We used to train aerial gunners with a .50 caliber machine gun. We'd start them out with pistols and rifles and work them up to their machine guns. Then, when they went into advanced training, we'd put a big sleeve on behind a tow plane and we'd take all the bullets they would use and put different colors of paraffin on them so when the bullet went through the sleeve it left a color. That's a way we could identify just how many of the gunners could hit their targets,'' Neely said.

When Neely was stationed in England, he worked in Armament to load the B–24 bombers for missions. His unit, the 8th Air Corps, included Neely's Commanding Officer as the youngest Colonel in the Air Corp and the actor Jimmy Stewart as an operations officer. The ground crew could tell from the bomb and fuel loads where the planes would be flying, and Neely said the crew would always ''sweat out'' the flights while the bombers were away. The 8th Air Corps had more casualties per unit than any other branch of the service, Neely said.

''From D-day until we won supremacy of the air over there, we were loading out two or three missions a day,'' he said.

Neely's first experience upon arriving in England was hearing an Axis Sally radio broadcast that promised the German air force would ''pay them a visit.'' The base was bombed that night, and after that engagement drone bombs would sometimes zip over the base bound for targets further into England.

''People forget how smart the Germans were,'' Neely said.

At the end of the war, Neely and the 8th Air Corps were assigned to pack up equipment and prepare to deploy to the pacific theater. That redeployment was thankfully unnecessary and Neely was released from the Air Corps while on duty in California.

Neely returned home and ran the family grocery store, but after marrying his wife Florence and starting a family he was informed of an open position on the Boone Fire Department in 1951. He would serve a career with the Boone Fire Department until retirement in 1984. He also coached baseball for almost 20 years. When a drowning occurred at Ledges State Park, Neely was instrumental in one of the first underwater rescue teams in the state. He and Florence would raise three sons: Allen, Richard and Ronald (who has since passed away).

Neely attributed much of his success in the fire department to the attitude and discipline he acquired as a result of his service.

''People don't realize it, but your fire department to be exact, or your police department, have to be partially military,'' Neely said.

His training also helped him learn to control his temper, restraining a tendency he had to ''fight at the drop of a hat'' in his younger days.

Neely said he has no real regrets from his time in the war. ''I did it. I'd do it again,'' Neely said. ''The nation came together in a rare way, and everyone did their part in that time.''

He did say that modern wars are a different enterprise, as soldiers today aren't able to trust the people around them.

''A fight is one thing, but that's not a fight,'' Neely said. One of the important things to do, he said, was to thank veterans when the opportunity is available.

Neely has previously served as grand marshal in Boone parades, and a memorial to his son, Ronald, sits in the current fire station, commemorating his years of service.

I commend Clyde ''Bill'' Neely for his many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, it is the highest priority of the Appropriations Committee to ensure that the American people are well served by sound investments in federal programs and services. To this end, the Committee has been working to produce fiscal year 2011 appropriations legislation in a fiscally disciplined manner. The Committee conducted more than 160 hearings this year in order to thoroughly review the President's fiscal year 2011 budget request and to conduct vigorous oversight of ongoing programs.

In keeping with an overall discretionary funding level of $14.5 billion below the President's request, two fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills have passed the House and the remaining 10 bills have been approved at the

subcommittee level. In the coming weeks, the Committee will continue its work to produce fiscal year 2011 appropriations that meet Americans' highest priority needs within this fiscally responsible framework.

In the two fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills that have passed the House thus far—Transportation/HUD and Military Construction/VA—the Committee has made some significant cuts below the Administration's request. Among these reductions, the Committee cut $500 million below last year and $1.36 billion below the request for ill-defined or duplicative programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation. The Committee also cut $545 million below the request for military construction projects due to bid savings and ill-defined plans for the realignment of forces to Guam.

In recent years, the Appropriations Committee has also eliminated or cut hundreds of wasteful and duplicative programs. Last year alone, the Committee terminated 60 programs and significantly cut funding for another 660 programs.

Since 2007, the Appropriations Committee has strengthened contract oversight and independent audits to make programs across federal agencies more effective and efficient. As an example, the Committee has led an initiative to double enforcement capacity to end improper payments, fraud and other abuses at the Social Security Administration and the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services. These efforts are projected to save more than $48 billion over the next 10 years.

Furthermore, the Appropriations Committee has ended unnecessary no-bid contracts and strengthened competition, management and oversight in government contracts across the federal government.

Most notably, the Committee has worked to impose discipline and strengthen accountability for Department of Defense, (DOD), contracted services. From 1997 to 2007, DOD contracted service costs grew 143 percent from $125 billion to $299 billion. Yet, DOD had no system of accountability for contract services, and couldn't even identify the number of its contractors. At the Committee's direction over the past three years, the Pentagon is now implementing reform efforts to strengthen contracting and clarify rules prescribing when outsourcing is and is not appropriate. The Army can now identify the number of its contractors (213,000) and is working to bring in house inherently governmental functions. The Defense Department estimates that these actions will result in a $4.5 billion savings by 2015. Last year, the President followed the Appropriations Committee's lead and announced government-wide contracting reforms based on the Committee's direction to DOD over the past 3 years.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS' OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the budget enforcement resolution for fiscal year 2011 passed by the House of Representatives on July 1, 2010, as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs I am submitting "findings that identify changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs" the Committee may authorize.

Under Democratic leadership, the Committee has undertaken an active and far-reaching oversight agenda that has, among other accomplishments, identified ways to save millions of taxpayer dollars within the Department of Veterans Affairs through improvements in the operation and management of veterans' benefits and health care programs. Working closely with the VA's Office of Inspector General, we have pushed the VA to more effectively utilize the generous and robust budgets provided by this Congress under your leadership.

Since the beginning of the 110th Congress, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been striving to revolutionize the manner in which the VA provides benefits to veterans. By mandating greater efficiency and a veteran-first attitude, we have sought to change the perception of the VA as being the veterans' adversary to standing as the veterans' advocate.

To further this effort, we are continuing to work toward major reforms in the VA's claims processing system and the VA's acquisition and procurement system. I am confident that when these reforms take place, taxpayers will realize major cost-savings by providing greater efficiency, fairness, and accountability. The Committee is also working toward integrating the VA's Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and improving and streamlining the application process.

These efforts will, in the months ahead, result in assisting the House in working toward its goal of making government more responsive and effective while saving taxpayer dollars and reducing our deficit.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF CAROLE A. SLIWA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Carole A. Sliwa who lived her life with great energy, joy and with love for her family, friends and community.

Mrs. Sliwa was the devoted wife of Theodore "Ted" Sliwa for 56 years. Since childhood, her faith and her family served as her strength and her foundation. She remained very close to her extended family members, especially her brother Daniel and his wife, Patty; her sister, the late Patricia, and her brother-in-law, Donald. In addition, Mrs. Sliwa was a cherished friend to many people throughout the Greater Cleveland community.

Mrs. Sliwa's enthusiasm for local arts programs never wavered, and she shared her artistic gifts with many. Her beautiful paintings are displayed in the homes of numerous friends and relatives. Mrs. Sliwa's lifelong commitment to and passion for the arts is also reflected in her membership and leadership in several community art centers, including the Ohio Artist Color Society, the Friendship Center of Bay Village, the Lakewood Art League, and the Art Mart of Brecksville.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Carole A. Sliwa. I offer my condolences to her devoted husband and to her entire family and many friends. Mrs. Sliwa lived her life with great joy and love. Her devotion to family and friends, and her passion for the arts, will be treasured and remembered always.

–FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

HEALTH CARE/MEDICARE

Congress spent the first part of this session enacting landmark health reform legislation that substantially reforms and strengthens the Medicare program. As a result of this legislation, CBO estimates net deficit reduction of $143 billion from 2010 to 2019, and deficit reduction of more than $1 trillion in the next decade. In addition, the Medicare Actuary estimates that the Medicare changes enacted in health reform will extend the life of the Part A Trust Fund by 12 years—the largest extension in history. Finally, as a result of the new law, national health expenditures per insured person will fall by $1,400 by 2019.

The health reform law also includes extensive provisions to aggressively reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in government health programs. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) establishes new authorities to enhance fraud-fighting when providers first enroll in the program and during the pre- and post-payment periods.

During the Medicare provider enrollment period, ACA strengthens provider screening and disclosure requirements and allows the Secretary to impose a moratorium on new providers in areas of significant risk. These tools will help keep fraudulent providers out of government programs before they have a chance to act. In the pre-payment period, ACA directs the Secretary to establish a program of increased oversight for new providers and allows for the suspension of payment, if deemed appropriate, to a provider or supplier. For the post-payment and enforcement period, ACA establishes new penalties for the submission of false data or false claims and increases funding for proven fraud-fighting programs used by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Department of Justice.

Taken together, these provisions reduce fraud, waste, and abuse by improving payment accuracy, promoting efficiency, and controlling spending within Medicare and other government programs.

The Committee's efforts to achieve deficit reduction, prevent fraud, promote efficiency, and control spending within government programs extend beyond the ACA. The Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–192) included two provisions that address these goals. First, this law clarifies the 3-day payment window for inpatient admissions to ensure that all services related to the hospital admission are included in the bundled payment. Absent this provision, hospitals would likely have unbundled hospital payments driving up Medicare spending. Second,

the law established a CMS–IRS data match to identify potentially fraudulent providers. This provision authorizes the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to collaborate with the IRS to determine whether providers enrolling or re-enrolling in Medicare have failed to file Federal tax returns or have delinquent tax debts. In doing so, the law helps to identify potentially fraudulent providers earlier in the application process and allows the Secretary to use this information in determining whether to deny such application or to apply enhanced oversight to the provider.

Following passage of health reform legislation, the Committee has held and will continue to hold oversight hearing on a number of issues, including:

FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

While many of the HHS OIG recommendations from their annual compendium were adopted in the ACA, combating fraud remains a top priority for the committee. On June 15th, the Health and Oversight Subcommittees held a joint hearing on combating fraud, waste, and abuse. At this hearing, a representative of the HHS Office of Inspector General discussed two new tools that would improve OIG's ability to prevent criminals from becoming providers in the Medicare program. The first recommendation was to provide OIG with broader permissive authority to exclude permanently from Medicare corporate executives who have been involved in Medicare fraud. Second, it was suggested that the OIG permissive authority could also be expanded to better enable the OIG to reach parent companies that may be hiding behind corporate shells.

On September 14, 2010, in response to these recommendations, Health Subcommittee Chairman Representative Stark and Ranking Republican Wally Herger introduced the Strengthening Medicare Anti-Fraud Measures Act. The bill would provide the OIG with this expanded permissive authority. We are awaiting a CBO score of the legislation.

HITECH IMPLEMENTATION

Enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which created incentive payments for providers that adopt and meaningfully use electronic medical records. Increased adoption and meaningful use of health information technology will arm providers with information that is usually held only in paper records, lower duplication rates of procedures, promote efficiency and quality, and reduce waste as providers coordinate care through improved exchange of clinical information. The Health Subcommittee held an oversight hearing on implementation of HITECH Act earlier this year and will continue to monitor the program to ensure that the advance of health information technology improves quality and efficiency of the delivery of health care in the Medicare program.

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS

The Medicare Modernization Act directed CMS to establish a competitive bidding process for payment of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) under Medicare. The first round of competitive bidding for DME was delayed in 2008 because of implementation problems. Later this year, CMS will award contracts under the first round of the revised program. The Health Subcommittee will examine whether CMS has adequately addressed problems with the competitive bidding program and explore its potential effect on beneficiaries' access to the program and supplier participation.

TAX PROVISIONS TO PREVENT TAX AVOIDANCE AND FRAUD

CLOSING FOREIGN TAX CREDIT LOOPHOLES

On August 10, 2010, the House passed H.R. 1586, the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act by a vote of 247 to 161. The bill, signed into law the same day (P.L. 111–226), included changes developed jointly by the Treasury Department, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Finance to curtail abuses of the U.S. foreign tax credit system and other targeted abuses. Foreign tax credits are intended to ensure that U.S.-based multinational companies are not subject to double taxation. However, multi-national corporate taxpayers have taken advantage of the U.S. foreign tax credit system to reduce the U.S. tax due on completely unrelated foreign income in a manner that has nothing to do with eliminating double taxation. The bill eliminated $9.6 billion of foreign tax credit loopholes.

TRANSFER PRICING

On July 22, 2010, the Committee on Ways and Means held a hearing to begin initial discussions of the complex areas of tax law that govern transfer pricing practices among related parties (multinational corporations). Pursuant to a request by the Committee in December 2009, the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) undertook a study of transfer pricing issues. Part of that study involved meetings with tax practitioners and the IRS to gain a better understanding of how companies can structure overseas operations to minimize U.S. taxes. The JCT released a report summarizing its work, beginning with a study of the issues and specific case studies to illuminate the potential for income shifting through transfer pricing. The Committee continues to investigate opportunities for reducing tax avoidance by multinational corporations through transfer pricing structures.

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 established the First-Time Homebuyer Credit, which generally provided an $8,000 tax credit to certain taxpayers for the purchase of a home. The credit was extended and expanded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 (Assistance Act). On October 22, 2009, the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on administration of the credit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). At the hearing, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) released a report finding instances of fraud and abuse in the program. In response to the report, TIGTA and the U.S. Government Accountability Office made several legislative recommendations to improve administration of the credit. On October 22, 2009, Oversight Subcommittee Chairman John Lewis (D–GA) introduced H.R. 3901, the Homebuyer Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2009, which provided the IRS with additional authority to prevent fraudulent claims and claims by minor children. On November 6, 2009, H.R. 3901 was enacted into law as part of the Assistance Act (P.L. 111–92).

PRISONER TAX FRAUD

On September 27, 2008, the House passed H.R. 7082, the Inmate Tax Fraud Prevention Act of 2008. This law allows the IRS to exchange with officers and employees of the Federal Bureau of Prisons certain tax return information with respect to prisoners whom the Secretary has determined may have filed false or fraudulent tax returns. This provision was enacted into law on October 15, 2008. In June 2010, TIGTA released a report estimating that about 1,300 prison inmates (more than 90 percent of whom were state prison inmates) claimed and received more than $9 million in fraudulent first-time homebuyer tax credits. On June 29, 2010, a provision to allow the IRS to disclose tax return information to officers and employees of State agencies charged with the administration of prisons passed the House in H.R. 5623, the Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010. On July 2, 2010, this provision was enacted into law as part of the Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–198).

TAX PROVISIONS TO PROMOTE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND REFORM

INCREASE ELECTRONIC FILING OF TAX RETURNS

The Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (RRA) established a goal for the IRS to receive at least 80 percent of tax and information returns electronically. For 2010, the overall electronic filing (e-filing) rate is projected to reach approximately 59 percent. To achieve the 80 percent goal, an estimated 40 million additional returns need to be e-filed. On October 22, 2009, Oversight Subcommittee Chairman John Lewis (D–GA) introduced H.R. 3901, the Homebuyer Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2009, which authorized the IRS to require tax return preparers to file returns electronically in order to achieve additional cost reduction and savings. On November 6, 2009, H.R. 3901 was enacted into law as part of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act (P.L. 111–92). The Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee, established by the RRA, believes that this is the single most important initiative that will enable the IRS to reach its 80 percent electronic filing goal.

REMOVAL OF CELL PHONES FROM LISTED PROPERTY

In 1989, Congress passed a law requiring taxpayers to substantiate the business use of cell phones. At that time, cell phones were an expensive perk for executives. Cell phones and similar equipment are now ingrained in daily business practices at all levels. The Administration has recognized that cell phone service in this country has changed dramatically over the past decade and recommended that the law be modernized to remove the special documentation requirements for cell phones and reduce the cost of administering and complying with the provision. On April 15, 2010, a provision to eliminate the strict substantiation rules on cell phones passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

Repeal of the partial payment requirement on submissions of offers-in-compromise. Offer-in-compromise (OIC) agreements are an important collection alternative for the IRS and taxpayers. Under current law, due to legislation passed in 2006, a taxpayer offering to settle a tax liability must make a partial payment with submission of an OIC application. The need to increase the usage of OIC agreements in situations of economic hardship was raised at a February 2009 hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Ways and Means. On May 12, 2009, Oversight Subcommittee Chairman John Lewis (D-GA) introduced H.R. 2343, a bipartisan bill that would increase the likelihood that some amount of tax is collected and promote continued tax compliance by repealing the partial payment requirement. On April 15, 2010, a provision to repeal the partial payment requirement passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

STUDY ON DELIVERY OF TAX REFUNDS

The National Taxpayer Advocate (NTA) has stated that the quickest and cheapest way to distribute tax refunds is electronically rather than by paper checks in the

mail. However, a large number of taxpayers do not have bank accounts. These taxpayers are not able to fully participate in electronic filing because the IRS cannot transmit their refunds to them electronically. The NTA recommended that the Department of Treasury develop a program to enable taxpayers to receive refunds on stored value cards. On April 15, 2010, a provision to require the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the National Taxpayer Advocate, to conduct a study on the feasibility of delivering federal tax refunds on debit cards, prepaid cards, or other electronic means passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

STUDY ON TIMELY PROCESSING AND USE OF INFORMATION RETURNS

Under current law, the IRS processes tax returns before it processes related information returns, such as Forms W–2 and Forms 1099. The IRS does not match information on income tax returns to information returns until after the filing season has ended. There are two reasons for the delay: (1) the deadline for filing information returns generally is March 31 and (2) the tax filing season begins in mid-January. A provision to require the Secretary of Treasury to study, and make recommendations on, the administrative and legislative steps required to allow the IRS to receive information returns before it processes income tax returns passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

CLARIFY THAT THE BAD CHECK PENALTY APPLIES TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Taxpayers are subject to a penalty if their check or money order in payment of their tax liabilities is not honored. On April 15, 2010, a provision to ensure fair application of the penalty by clarifying that the penalty applies to all commercially acceptable instruments of payment (i.e., electronic payments) passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. On July 2, 2010, this provision was enacted into law as part of the Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010 (P.L. 111–198).

TRADE

The Trade Subcommittee is developing Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reauthorization legislation addressing two important oversight issues explored at a May 2010 hearing: (1) correcting the agency's failure to collect antidumping and countervailing duties; and (2) addressing cost overruns and delayed implementation of the agency's new, modernized computer system, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

COMBATING THE EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS

The U.S. government loses hundreds of millions of dollars every year when foreign companies employ fraudulent tactics to evade U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty orders. Such tactics include misrepresenting the country of origin of imported products or mislabeling the types of products being imported on Customs import documentation. The resulting impact in the United States is two-fold. Not only is there lost revenue to the government, but also American businesses and workers are denied relief from the illegal trade practices that the antidumping and countervailing duties are designed to neutralize. The Trade Subcommittee is preparing legislation to counter these kinds of practices and aims to move that legislation shortly. This legislation: (1) establishes clear, expeditious timeframes for CBP to investigate and determine whether evasion is occurring; (2) requires maximum cooperation between CBP and the Department of Commerce in making and enforcing such determinations; and (3) provides authority for CBP to collect unpaid duties and assess penalties. This legislation will diminish substantially the duties lost to evasion as well as the corresponding harm to the U.S. industry.

ENSURING EFFICIENT USE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN FURTHER ACE DEPLOYMENT

The Trade Subcommittee is preparing legislation that will support the positive steps taken by CBP since its May 20th hearing to get ACE deployment back on track and moving in the right direction. ACE development to date has cost over $3 billion, and the system continues to have limited functionality to attract a critical mass of users. Completion of ACE promises significant benefits to CBP, businesses, and workers alike, increasing U.S. competitiveness and saving taxpayer dollars. The Trade Subcommittee is developing legislation to ensure that: (1) ACE is completed expeditiously and with strong functionality; and (2) the funds invested in this project, going forward, are used efficiently and effectively.

SOCIAL SECURITY

In December of 2009, Congress enacted H.R. 4218, the No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009 (P.L. 111–115) to prevent retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from being issued to individuals while they are in prison, along with beneficiaries in violation of conditions of parole or probation, or who are fleeing to avoid prosecution for a felony or a crime punishable by sentence of more than one year. The Social Security Act already barred payment of monthly benefits to such individuals. This new law ensures the prohibition applies to retroactive benefit payments as well, and allows payments to be paid once the beneficiary is no longer prohibited from receiving payments under the provisions of this bill.

In response to a Social Security Administration Inspector General report that as many as eight states use prison industries to perform work that allows inmates access to individual Social Security numbers, Chairman Pomeroy introduced H.R. 5854, the No Prisoner Access to Social Security Numbers Act of 2010. The bill would protect the accuracy of Social Security records and help shield individuals from identity theft and other potential crimes by prohibiting federal, state, and local governments from employing prisoners in any capacity that would allow inmates access to full or partial SSNs of other individuals. The Federal Bureau of Prisons already proscribes such work by federal inmates by regulation. This bill would extend this policy to all of the states.

In recent years, we have substantially increased funding for program integrity at the Social Security Administration, which will save billions of dollars in overpayments and payments to people who have become ineligible for benefits. Because the Social Security Administration uses innovative predictive modeling techniques to identify cases with the highest risk of an overpayment and targets those cases for careful review, they are able to generate savings of as much as $12 for every dollar invested in program integrity, despite Social Security's already very low error rate. For example, in 2008 their computer models allowed them to target the beneficiaries most likely to have medically improved for full eligibility reviews, saving $3.8 billion in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits. If SSA had randomly selected cases for intensive review, they would only have saved $900 million.

Because the return on investment is so significant, we plan to work on legislation that will increase our investment in Social Security's fight against fraud, waste, and abuse.

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE HOUSE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Budget Enforcement Resolution that the House passed on July 1, I hereby submit an outline of changes within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction to help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, by promoting efficiency and reform of government, and by controlling spending.

While the Budget Committee does not have jurisdiction over specific government programs, it does maintain a broad oversight role over the federal budget as well as budget process.

This year Congress enacted statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) legislation, a measure under the Budget Committee's jurisdiction. The legislation was the culmination of years of work on the part of Congressional Democrats to restore statutory PAYGO after the previous statute expired in 2002. That version of PAYGO reined in new entitlement spending and required new tax cuts to be offset in the 1990s, with the result that the federal budget returned to surplus. The new law likewise will help set budgetary priorities and restore fiscal responsibility. Since its enactment in February, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation into law with PAYGO provisions reducing the federal deficit by a total of $58.4 billion over the next five years and a total of $43.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the most recent OMB scorecard.

The passage of statutory PAYGO built on the internal House PAYGO rule, adopted during the opening week of the Democratic majority in 110th Congress—along with a rule that fast-track budget reconciliation procedures cannot be used for legislation that increases the deficit. The Budget Committee works continuously with other House committees to ensure that legislation coming to the House floor for a vote meets the requirements of these deficit-reducing rules.

One of the critical roles that the Budget Committee plays each year is to set the overall level of discretionary spending for the annual spending bills produced by the Appropriations Committee. This year, the appropriations cap is $7 billion below the comparable level proposed by the President, and follows a similar reduction of $7 billion below the President's request last year. Approving these more disciplined spending levels encourages Congress to find efficiencies and reduce wasteful spending while providing enough room to fund critical services and investments at a time when the economy is still recovering from the worst recession in decades.

In addition, on May 28 of this year, I introduced H.R. 5454—the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010—that will enhance fiscal discipline by allowing the President to sign spending bills into law while culling out unneeded or wasteful items and proposing that Congress rescind them. "Expedited rescission" under this bill requires Congress to consider the President's recommendations as one package, without amendment and on a

fast-track basis, guaranteeing an up-or-down vote within a specified time frame. While expedited rescission will not eliminate the federal deficit, it will be one more tool to control spending. Forty Democrats have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, including five Budget Committee members.

Finally, in light of the Budget Committee's broad oversight role on the federal budget, four Committee members have been appointed to the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. With representation on both sides of the aisle from the House, the Senate, and the private sector, the Commission is charged with building consensus on ways to wipe out the deficit and improve the long-term fiscal sustainability of major entitlement programs. The House Democratic leadership has pledged to vote this year on any legislative recommendations reported by the Commission and approved by the Senate, and agrees that deficit reduction as a result of the recommendations cannot be used to offset costs of future legislation. The deficit-reduction proposals of the bipartisan commission will be issued in December.

The Budget Committee will continue to examine ways to reduce the deficit and increase efficiency in government spending. I look forward to working further with all Members of Congress to address the long-term budget challenges facing the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH M. WOJCIK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joseph M. Wojcik, a native and lifelong resident of South River, New Jersey. Mr. Wojcik's outstanding legacy of public service, commitment and dedication to his community, as well as civic achievements, are unquestionably worthy of this body's recognition.

Joseph M. Wojcik's career of public service began early as a student studying at Rutgers University. While attending college, he ran for positions on the South River Board of Education and the South River Town Council. His enthusiasm for and commitment to service continued into his professional life when Mr. Wojcik served the South River Planning Board as well as the South River Recreation Commission. Furthermore, he has dedicated time to the South River Knights of Columbus where he has had the honor to serve as Deputy Grand Knight, as well as Grand Knight in recent years. Currently, Mr. Wojcik is actively working for the Borough of South River.

Mr. Wojcik's time and energy has also been dedicated to engaging with the Polish community in Middlesex County, of which he is a member. His efforts have been repeatedly recognized and, in a special tribute to his status in the community, this year he has been given the honor of serving as the Grand Marshall of the Middlesex County Pulaski Day Parade. Mr. Wojcik's father led the same parade as Grand Marshall in the early 1980's. As a proud citizen of Polish heritage, Mr. Wojcik embodies what the Parade's highest honorary position entails.

Madam Speaker, Joseph Wojcik epitomizes what it means to give back to one's community. Please join me in leading this body in acknowledgment of the extraordinary contributions of Joseph M. Wojcik. He has worked tirelessly throughout his life to assist the residents of South River and his dedication should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CORNING, MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri, as they celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary.

Since being founded as the Deutsch Evangelish Lutheraner St. Johannes in 1860, the St. John's congregation has remained a pillar of the community. The efforts of the community to save the church during the historic floods of 1951 and 1993 highlight the importance of this church to the surrounding area. The historical nature of the church was recognized in 2008 when it was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri for their 150 years of service to the Corning community.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C) of House Resolution 1493, "Sense of the House on Deficit Reduction," requesting Committees of the House of Representatives to submit findings which identify changes in law that would help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and which promote efficiency and reform of government and control spending in programs under committee jurisdiction, I submit this report. It includes an accounting of Committee legislation that: (a) has been enacted into law; (b) has been passed by the House and/or considered by the Committee; or (c) is presently being drafted in Committee under my direction. In each case I have ensured that legislation accomplishes, or will accomplish, the objectives called for the Budget Enforcement Resolution.

ENACTED LEGISLATION

The Committee reported out the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 1886), which streamlined and developed tighter benchmarks and accountability measures for the substantial American economic and military assistance being provided to the Government of Pakistan. In conference with the Senate, this bill was passed as the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which became Public Law 111–73.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE

On June 4, 2009, the Committee reported H.R. 2410, authorizing appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and to modernize the Foreign Service and other international affairs-related programs and agencies.

Title II, Section 211, of the legislation requires the Secretary of State to improve coordination among all the various efforts within the government to conduct public diplomacy.

Section 216 reauthorizes an Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy charged with conducting an in-depth review of public diplomacy programs, policies, and activities to assess their effectiveness.

Section 302 of the legislation directs the development of a national review of diplomacy and development every four years in order to make policies and programs more effective and efficient.

Section 303 authorizes the establishment of a Lessons Learned Center in order to provide support for best practices in our diplomacy and development efforts.

The legislation also contains such cost savings proposals as limiting compensatory time off for travel by Foreign Service Officers and providing for the suspension of Foreign Service Officers without pay.

Title VIII of the legislation, entitled "Export Control Reform And Security Assistance," includes:

Section 828 which require the Secretary to present plans to make defense trade licensing self-financing.

Section 807, permits the Secretary to use registration fees for licensing functions currently supported by appropriated funds.

Section 826 grants the President the flexibility to remove satellites and related components from the munitions list, thus reducing licensing costs for these items.

Title IX, "Actions To Enhance the Merida Initiative," requires the President to establish and implement a program to assess the effectiveness of assistance provided under the Merida Initiative.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Committee introduced the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 2139) that requires the Administration to develop a National Strategy for Global Development which would define and streamline the roles of each department and agency engaged in development policies. It includes a provision that requires the development and implementation of a rigorous system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of United States foreign assistance.

LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED

The Committee has also begun work on two major legislative reforms:

The first is an extensive effort to rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The purpose of the overhaul is to increase the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of foreign aid programs, which are currently fragmented across 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and nearly 60 government offices. In so doing, I hope to clear away many of the inefficiencies and program duplications which have developed since the last major re-write of the legislation in 1985.

The current system of unclear mandates, fragmented authorities, overlapping responsibilities, antiquated rules and tortuous procedures hampers our ability to deliver aid to the people who need it at the lowest possible cost. One lesson of the 1990s is that reductions in force at USAID did not result in improved efficiency. Instead, a specialized and experienced federal workforce was largely replaced by a contractor bureaucracy that operates at higher cost and with less accountability. Another lesson was that elimination of the USAID office that conducted program monitoring and evaluation seriously hindered our ability to assess the performance of our aid programs and share and replicate best practices. When resource allocations are made without the benefit of quantitative program indicators and rigorous impact evaluations, there is little basis for determining which activities and approaches are most effective and where the needs are greatest. Both H.R. 2139 and the foreign aid reform bill currently being drafted contain mandatory requirements for monitoring and evaluation of all foreign assistance programs.

The second is a redraft of legislation under the Export Administration Act of 1979 to reauthorize, streamline and update the Act to ensure that it is responsive to both current security threats and the international commercial environment in which U.S. firms must compete.

The staff draft of the export administration legislation includes two provisions requiring a periodic independent evaluation of the system. One provision would require evaluations of the effectiveness of export controls in protecting U.S. national security and would require the evaluations, with recommendations for improvements, to be sent directly to the President and Congress. The second provision would require an evaluation of the effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy in engaging with the four multilateral export control organizations. These would be the first systemic evaluations of U.S. export controls and our diplomacy regarding controls. They would contribute to modernization of the current system, which is widely judged to be falling behind in its mission.

On a related point, the Committee staff is engaged in oversight of both the Export Administration Regulations (dual-use) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (munitions) to strengthen the effectiveness of regulations, licensing and enforcement. Such oversight led to enactment of a provision in the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act (P.L. 111–195) to strengthen the enforcement authority of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

Separate from the preceding, the Committee staff is drafting legislation that would provide the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee with new authority over agencies' programs and budgets. The draft legislation would require coordination of the federal government's 17 export promotion programs, to more effectively deploy existing budgetary and staffing resources to increase U.S. exports. The bill also would require a reallocation of resources in the U.S. Commercial Service to overseas markets with potential for increased purchase of U.S. exports. The draft legislation is in response to Committee staff inquiries and a series of GAO reports that have identified significant overlap, gaps and inefficiencies in these programs.

Finally, in terms of the Committee's oversight of ongoing agency activities, Committee staff conduct assiduous review of agencies' advance notifications of grants and contracts under programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The goal is to ensure that proposed expenditures are in line with applicable statutes, federal policy and program goals. Proposed expenditures that raise questions are examined and then blocked if found to be inappropriate. As an example, in August, Committee staff urged the Trade and Development Agency to reconsider a proposed contract for technical services that could be provided more cost-effectively by federal employees. The agency did so and cancelled the proposed contract.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE ZOOS, AQUARIUMS, AND OTHER WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PLAYED IN THE RESPONSE EFFORTS IN THE GULF REGION FOLLOWING THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL THAT BEGAN ON APRIL 20, 2010

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the important role zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations have played in the response efforts in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Even in difficult economic times, zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife institutions have provided valuable staff and resources for rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf region. This resolution would give these organizations the praise and support they deserve for their dedication and selfless contributions.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified zoos and aquariums as important partners in the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the wildlife impacted by the oil spill. Many of these institutions already have in place established programs for animal rescue and rehabilitation as well as the resources needed to address short-term and long-term impacts of the oil spill on animals and habitats in the Gulf of Mexico region.

The unique expertise of the professionals at zoos and aquariums is invaluable to responding to environmental disasters like that in the Gulf region following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Additionally, their contributions to conservation programs, science education, and community development deserve our continued support and appreciation.

One of these valuable organizations is the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, AZA. Established in 1924, the AZA has been dedicated to advancing the work of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. There are over 200 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in 46 states, where they support more than 126,000 jobs and attract 180 million visitors annually. Of these AZA-accredited institutions, 70 have contributed to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts in the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill which began on April 20, 2010.

I am proud to have the Palm Beach Zoo, an AZA-accredited institution, in my district. The Palm Beach Zoo actively promotes conservation and education programs, including the incorporation of Species Survival Plans and Population Management Plans through the AZA.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the important work that these organizations do and for their partnership in the recovery efforts in the Gulf region. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the important contributions zoos, aquariums, and other wildlife organizations make in our communities.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, we have witnessed the personal courage and sacrifice made by so many West Virginians, who serve our great state and country proudly in our armed forces. But we must never forget those who lost their life on September 11, 2001—a most tragic day in our history.

Today, it is appropriate that the formal federal recognition ceremony at the West Virginia National Guard for its Joint Interagency Training and Education Center coincides with the ninth anniversary of terrorist attacks on America.

Those who delivered the blows hoped their cowardly actions would mark the beginning of our destruction. Instead, they reaffirmed our commitment to our founding values and inspired a renewed dedication to embrace once again that America's destiny is the world's destiny—to secure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Today will always be a solemn day for Dr. Kenneth and Sharon Ambrose who lost their son, Dr. Paul Ambrose. He was on board American Airlines Flight 77 that was hijacked by terrorists and flown into the Pentagon. His passion to improve health care and the well being of West Virginians through better nutrition and activity lives on through the Paul Wesley Ambrose Health Policy Program, a fellowship program at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, and the Paul Ambrose Trail for Health being developed for Huntington with the Rahall Transportation Institute. PATH is a 26-mile walking and shared-road trail that encompasses nearly every part of the city.

The Puritan preacher John Winthrop proclaimed as he and his followers sailed for America and freedom, ''The eyes of all people are upon us.''

Many have looked to us in awe, over the last nine years and through the nearly four centuries of our history—inspired by our nation rooted in liberty, and today we must re-dedicate ourselves to continue our mission to improve life and protect those freedoms we all hold dear.

REMEMBERING STAFF SERGEANT PHILLIP JENKINS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the sacrifice and courage of a young Hoosier who lost his life while supporting Operation New Dawn in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins was providing security for a visiting commander when he was mortally wounded by hostile fire. Despite the dangerous nature of military service, Staff Sergeant Jenkins always knew he wanted to join the Army. Like so many before him, Staff Sergeant Jenkins bravely answered the call of duty. We will long remember the passion and dedication he had for his country, and the joy he had for life.

Staff Sergeant Jenkins is a true American hero, but the tragedy of such a loss as this is never easy. I give my most sincere condolences to Staff Sergeant Jenkins' wife, Melissa, and two young daughters, Lindly and Piper; mother, Rose Jenkins; sister Cassie Jenkins; mother-in-law Debby Feurer; father-in-law Mike Hays; two brothers-in-law Matt Hays and Nick Hays; and paternal grandmother Darlene Carlile. The Good Book tells us that ''The Lord is close to the broken-hearted,'' and that is my prayer for the family of Staff Sergeant Phillip Jenkins.

CONGRATULATING THE TEUTOPOLIS BASEBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Teutopolis Wooden Shoes baseball team on the state championship.

Teutopolis recently upset the undefeated Harrisburg in the state championship by a score of 5–1 to claim their first state title in school history. The Wooden Shoes finished the season with an impressive 31–4 record.

My congratulations go out to Head Coach Justin Fleener, Assistant Coach Rob Bothwell and Assistant Coach Troy Bierman for their work with this outstanding group of student-athletes. But most of all, I want to congratulate the members of the 2010 Teutopolis Wooden Shoes state champion baseball team: Ryan Pruemer, Clint Lustig, Luke Bushur, Andy Hardick, Lance Niebrugge, Kyle Zerrusen, Jeff Bloemer, Derek Repking, Derek Thompson, Jordan Roepke, Damon Hoene, Bo Blievernicht, Dillon Hardick, Brock Swingler, Cole Borries, Josh Koester, Garrett Overbeck, Brett Deters and Mark Niebrugge.

They have represented themselves, their school and the community in an exemplary fashion, and I would like to join with the other members of this House in wishing them the best of luck in their future endeavors, both on and off the field.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL HECTOR E. PAGAN, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General Hector E. Pagan, United States Army, who on Friday, September 17th will retire and relinquish command of Special Operations Command South, SOCS, to Rear Admiral Thomas L. Brown II.

Since the summer of 2008, Brigadier General Pagan has exemplified unparalleled leadership through his command of Special Operations Command South in Florida. A New York native, he grew up in Puerto Rico and was commissioned as an infantry officer from the ROTC program at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. In 1980 he attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course and Ranger School and was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 51st Infantry, in Germany, as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Company Executive Officer and Scout Platoon Leader. In 1983, he attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course and remained at Fort Benning, Georgia, with the Infantry Training Group and the 29th Infantry Regiment, where he served as chief, Special Weapons Committee, operations officer, and commanded the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 29th Infantry Regiment from 1984 to1986.

Brigadier General Pagan served in Panama with the 3rd Bn., 7th Special Forces, SF Group, Airborne, 1988–1990, as an A-Detachment commander and Battalion S1. He served in Operation JUST CAUSE and deployed to El Salvador in 1989. From 1990 to 1992, he served in SF Branch, Total Army Personnel Command as a future readiness officer and captains assignments officer. He attended the Army Command and General Staff Course and then served as the executive officer, 1st Bn., 7th SF Group (Airborne). From 1994–1995, he served in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command as the chief, officer management, office of the deputy chief of staff for personnel.

He returned to the 7th SF Group, Airborne, in 1995, where he served as group operations officer, executive officer and deputy commander. From 1998–2000, Brigadier General Pagan commanded the 2nd Battalion, 1st SF Group, Airborne, at Fort Lewis, Washington. After his tour with the 1st SF Group, he was assigned to the Special Operations Command South, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, where he served as the director of operations, J3, from 2000 to 2002.

Upon completion of the U.S. Army War College in 2003, Brigadier General Pagan took command of the 5th SF Group, Airborne, in Baghdad, Iraq, Operation Iraqi Freedom. He led the 5th SF Group, Airborne, in combat as the commander of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force—Arabian Peninsula for two combat tours in 2003 and 2004.

In 2005, Brigadier General Pagan served as the special assistant to the commander of the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. In 2006, he assumed duties as the deputy director of the Operations Support Group in the Center for Special Operations in the U.S. Special Operations Command. Brigadier General Pagan served as the deputy commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command in November 2006 and in May 2007 assumed duties as deputy commander, U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, NC until July, 2008.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one bronze oak leaf, Bronze Star Medal with bronze oak leaf, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal with one silver oak leaf and one bronze oak leaf, the Army Commendation Medal with bronze oak leaf, the Army and Joint Service Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with bronze star device, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 2nd oak leaf cluster, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, the Combat Infantryman Badge, second award, the Expert Infantryman Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He earned a master's degree in management from Troy State University and a master's degree in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Brigadier General Pagan has served our nation honorably. He has dedicated his life to defending freedom, ensuring that our democratic principles remain intact and that Americans can continue to live in liberty. His patriotism, courage and leadership are unparalleled, as is his commitment to the ideals of democracy. For me it has been a privilege getting to know Brigadier General Pagan and I am honored to call him a friend. I ask that you join me in thanking Brigadier General Hector E. Pagan for his years of service to our country, and his family for supporting him throughout his military career. I wish them well in their future endeavors and will be eternally grateful for their sacrifices and commitment to our Nation's safety and freedom.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT MARTIN A. LUGO, JR.

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Martin A. Lugo, Jr., who was killed in action on August 19, 2010.

A native of Tucson, Arizona, Martin graduated from Tucson High Magnet School in 2004 and enlisted in the Army shortly thereafter. Martin, a decorated combat veteran and graduate of the U.S. Army's Ranger School, re-enlisted in February 2010. He was on his 6th combat deployment and 4th to Afghanistan, when he was killed by small arms fire in Logar Province, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Martin was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Among his many decorations, he earned the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Purple Heart. He was one of our nation's most elite, best and bravest.

We remember Martin and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the

feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Martin made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

This body and this country owe Martin and his family a debt of gratitude and it is vital that we remember him and his service to his country.

Sergeant Lugo is survived by his mother, Maria; father, Martin; and sister, Leslie.

PASSING OF JAMIE GRODSKY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer my condolences and sympathies to the family and friends of Jamie Grodsky, former counsel for the Natural Resources Committee at the time that I served as committee chair. Her funeral took place in San Francisco in May of this year, and she will also be remembered in a Memorial Service to be held on September 20 in Jack Morton Auditorium at George Washington University.

Jamie passed away on May 22, 2010. She was an extraordinary individual, who was both respected and cherished by her numerous friends and family members, as well as by her colleagues and students.

Jamie played many valuable roles in her various jobs in all three branches of the Federal Government and in academia. For five years in the 1980's she was an Analyst with the Office of Technology Assessment. In that capacity she helped write reports and analyses that helped us to understand and benefit from changes in information technology and economic competition.

From 1993 to 1995, Jamie returned to the Hill to serve as a counsel to the Natural Resources Committee. During that time, Jamie worked with me on a wide range of issues, including developing new policies for the conservation and use of the natural resources in the Western United States, and other environmental issues.

A native of California, Jamie went to work for Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN from California, as a counsel on the Judiciary Committee from 1995 to 1997. Among other issues she worked on were privacy, civil rights, judicial nominations, antitrust, intellectual property, and constitutional law.

Jamie was well educated and loved learning. She received a BA with distinction from Stanford University, where she was elected president of her class. She subsequently received an MA from U.C. Berkeley in Economic Geography, and returned to Stanford to receive her law degree where she was Articles Editor of the Stanford Law Review and received the Murie Award in Environmental Law and the Ochlmann Prize for Legal Writing.

Jamie left Capitol Hill to clerk for the Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit, the Hon. Proctor Hug, who described her as ''the most multi-talented person I have ever met.'' From there, Jamie served as Senior Advisor to the general counsel of the U.S. EPA from 1999 to 2001.

Jamie went on to become a well respected law professor, first at the University of Minnesota, and, beginning in 2006, as a Professor of Environmental Law at George Washington University where she received tenure. She was a proficient writer and was one of the Nation's preeminent experts in environmental law. Two of her recent articles were chosen as being among the top five law review articles in the Nation.

At various times, Jamie also found time to backpack around Appalachia, play guitar with the great Doc Watson; walk with Native Americans from California to Utah; serve as Educational Director of the San Francisco Oceanic Society (where she founded Sea Camp, a children's maritime educational camp); and conduct research in marine biology at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts.

There is no question that the Congress and our country are a better place because of Jamie's contributions. Jamie displayed not only tremendous knowledge, expertise and judgment, but also incredible enthusiasm and friendship to all who knew her. I know I speak for all of my colleagues on both sides of Capitol Hill, as well as Jamie's co-workers in the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch, and for her students and friends in Washington, D.C., California, Minnesota and around the Nation, when I offer my condolences and respect for a life well lived and fully enjoyed.

ADERA NICHOLE ETHERIDGE MAKES HER MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son David and his wife Casey on the birth of their second child, Adera Nichole Etheridge. Adera was born this morning, September 15, 2010 and weighed 6 pounds and 10 ounces. My wife Faye and I are excited about the birth of our seventh grandchild, and she joins me in wishing David and Casey and their son, Walker, great happiness upon this new addition to our family.

Faye and I are truly blessed by the arrival of Adera Nichole Etheridge. The birth of a new child is a joyous occasion that reminds us of the promise of a new life. And I know that Walker is excited to have a sister with whom he can play. Children remind us of the incredible miracle of life, and they keep us young-at-heart. Every day they show us a new way to view the world. I had the pleasure of hearing one of Adera's first cries this morning, and I can assure you she is going to be one strong, vivacious little girl.

God has truly blessed my family with this new addition. My family and I are looking forward to spending a lot time with Ms. Adera and introducing her to our friends and neighbors in North Carolina's Second Congressional District.

FIGHTING MEDICARE FRAUD

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise as Chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee with my colleague and Ranking Member WALLY HERGER (R–CA) to introduce the Strengthening Medicare Anti-Fraud Measures Act.

This bipartisan legislation is a direct byproduct of a joint hearing held by the Ways and Means Health and Oversight Subcommittees earlier this year. The hearing was on efforts to reduce fraud, waste and abuse in Medicare.

We heard testimony at this hearing from two panels of witnesses. The first panel consisted of Members of Congress pursuing legislative initiatives to reduce Medicare fraud, waste and abuse. The second panel was made up of government witnesses: Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services (OIG), The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Government Accountability Office.

Numerous witnesses raised concerns about limitations to the authority of the Office of the Inspector General to minimize Medicare fraud. From this discussion it became clear to Ranking Member HERGER and myself that we should change the law to provide the Inspector General with the additional tools requested to better protect Medicare.

This is a simple bill with only two provisions. It expands the OIG's permissive authority to ban executives whose companies have been convicted of Medicare fraud from the program. Second, it expands the OIG's permissive authority to exclude affiliates of corporations convicted of fraud, including parent companies hiding behind convicted corporate shells.

The first change is important because it will enable the OIG to protect Medicare from executives who circumvent exclusion by moving to another company. Under current law, executives whose companies are convicted of fraud can be excluded from Medicare. However, if the executive has left the company by the time of conviction, he or she cannot be barred from Federal health care programs. These executives are able to move from one company to another and continue to defraud Medicare, seniors, and taxpayers.

The second change provides the OIG with stronger tools to address corporations that have engaged in fraud. Companies that engage in fraud often set up shell companies to insulate themselves from liability. Criminal settlement negotiations can result in the conviction of these shell organizations with no real operational impact on the parent company. Without discretionary authority to exclude parent companies from the program, the OIG is missing a tool in its arsenal that could allow the government to exclude or obtain stronger prospective remedies in settlements.

We held a hearing, we learned of a need, and we are joining across party lines to introduce this legislation. Reducing fraud, waste and abuse in government programs is a bipartisan priority. We urge our colleagues to cosponsor this bill and quickly enact these new anti-fraud tools to protect Medicare beneficiaries and all of America's taxpayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF VICTOR A. ''VIC'' POZZI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victor A. ''Vic'' Pozzi as the Town of Windsor, California honors him for 45 years of community service on October 22, 2010.

Mr. Pozzi has served as a director of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Department, which later became the Windsor Fire Protection District, for 45 years. He was a volunteer fire fighter for 41 of those years. Over those years, he has responded to approximately 220,000 calls for service.

He was the consummate fire fighter and received Windsor's Firefighter of the Year Award multiple times. He was further honored when the award given annually to the department's most reliable firefighter was named the ''Vic Pozzi Award.''

Mr. Pozzi began his fire service career in neighboring Sonoma Valley, where he was born and raised. He joined the Shell Vista Fire Department in Sonoma Valley in 1956 and served with that unit until 1963 when he moved to Windsor. He was given a gold shield when he left Shell Vista and is still an honorary member of that department.

In addition to his fire fighting duties, Mr. Pozzi has been a member of the Farm Bureau for more than 60 years. He grew up on a dairy farm and transferred his farming interests to his property in Windsor, where he still keeps a dairy herd, ducks, geese, emus, Brahma bulls, sheep and a llama.

Madam Speaker, Vic Pozzi is a true ambassador for Windsor, for firefighters, for farmers and for everyone who believes that a good citizen is one who participates and gives back to his or her community. It is appropriate that we honor him at this time.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICO'S REVOLUTION AND 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mexico's bicentennial celebration in honor of the 200th anniversary of its independence and the 100th anniversary of its revolution. Today, I wish to commemorate Mexico's celebrations along with the people of the 5th district.

Mexico's Independence Day celebrates the successful war for sovereignty from Spain. Influenced by America's war of independence—Miguel Hidalgo, one of Mexico's most revered heroes—changed the course of Mexico's history with the Cry of Dolores, the call to his people to revolt against centuries of oppression from the Spanish Crown. Heroes such as Ignacio Allende and Jose Maria Morelos joined Hidalgo in the movement. Although Mexico did not become fully independent until 1821, today marks the anniversary of Sept. 15, 1810, the beginning of the struggle that led to the birth of modern Mexico.

Mexico's bicentennial festivities also honor the 100th anniversary of Mexico's Revolution. The Revolution started in 1910 in response to the social and economic injustices of the autocracy in Mexico. Leaders such as Francisco Madero, Francisco ''Pancho'' Villa and Emiliano Zapata led the lengthy and arduous fight for democracy. The end of the revolution led to a new constitution and Mexico's values of liberty, equality and justice were restored.

My hometown of Chicago has the second largest Mexican population of any city in the United States. To honor two of Mexico's most historic events, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley proclaimed 2010 The Year of Mexico. The city of Chicago will be participating in three annual Mexican Independence Day parades: the famous 26th Street celebration, as well as others in the Pilsen neighborhood and downtown Chicago.

Madam Speaker, Mexico's anniversaries not only keep the memories of Mexico's liberators alive, these celebrations also honor Mexico's pride and patriotism. On this day, I am proud to join the people of my district and those of Mexican descent in celebrating Mexico's bicentennial.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am submitting, pursuant to House Resolution 1493, changes in law that could help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; promoting efficiency and reform of government; and controlling spending within Government programs for which the Committee on Science and Technology has primary authorizing authority. The specific measures listed below are pending before Congress. If enacted, these measures would reduce government waste, promote efficiency, and help to control spending within Government programs.

COORDINATION AND NON-DUPLICATION

One of the recurring legislative themes for the Science and Technology Committee during the 111th Congress has been coordination and non-duplication. In tough budgetary times, it is vital that precious Federal research dollars not be spent on duplicative programs. Unfortunately, the coordinating activities necessary to prevent duplicative research efforts have been surprisingly lacking both across the Federal government and within individual agencies. To ensure that Federal research expenditures are most effective, the Committee included coordination requirements in several bills this Congress.

The first example of this theme was the House passage of the National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2009 (H.R. 554) on February 11, 2009. The National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) is an effort to coordinate over 1.7 billion dollars in annual Federal nanotechnology research expenditures across 15 separate agencies. The 2009 bill is an update to the existing program which should strengthen the interagency coordination and oversight functions of NNI.

Interagency coordination was also the driving premise behind H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009, which passed the House on April 23, 2009. The purpose of this bill is to create a Federal initiative to coordinate the Government's efforts in research and development related to water resources. This is another field of inquiry in which multiple Federal agencies are involved, but where little effort has been expended to date to determine if these efforts are complementary or duplicative. H.R. 1145 would remedy this by bringing each of these agencies together, along with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), to develop a National Water Research and Assessment Plan to coordinate water research across the Federal Government.

The Committee's efforts to coordinate Federal Government activities also extended to the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, which passed the House on June 8, 2009. The purpose of H.R. 1709 is to establish a committee through the National Science and Technology Council with OSTP, to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education across the Federal Government. The coordinating committee would also be charged with developing and periodically updating a strategic plan for STEM education to craft a more cohesive and effective Federal effort toward STEM education.

In H.R. 2020, the Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act of 2009, the Committee updated the successful Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) program to codify and emphasize the National Coordination Office to ensure coordination of the computing and information technology research of the 13 Federal agencies performing this type of work. The bill would also require the formulation of a strategic plan to set a coordinated direction for Federal information technology research. Additionally, the bill emphasizes communication with outside communities of interest in an effort to help ensure that Federal research investments in these areas compliment, rather than duplicate, private-sector investments in these areas.

The Committee also established an Interagency Coordinating Committee in its reauthorization of the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program and the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program in H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2010. The purpose of the committee is to ensure a coordinated approach in Federal research related to the earthquake and wind programs authorized in H.R. 3820. H.R. 3820 passed the House on March 2, 2010.

Finally, the Committee broadly addressed the issue of coordination of Federal efforts in the areas of research and development and STEM education in H.R. 5116, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, which passed the House on May 28, 2010. In addition to containing identical provisions as H.R. 554, H.R. 1709, and H.R. 2020, the

COMPETES Act contained additional provisions dealing with coordination and non duplication. Under Title VI of the bill, the Undersecretary for Science at the Department of Energy was given additional authority to coordinate energy technology research, development, and demonstration activities across the Department. There are also coordination provisions relating to the management of federal scientific collections and manufacturing research and development.

NASA ACQUISITION REFORM

Over the course of the past several years, the Committee on Science and Technology has investigated deficiencies in the awarding of major NASA contracts, with a focus on the flawed awarding of the Space Communications Networks Services Contract. This contract award, worth 1.3 billion dollars, has been successfully protested to the Government Accountability Office twice, and significant concerns regarding NASA's contract award management have been raised by these protests. To address these issues, the Committee devoted Title VIII of its 2010 NASA authorization (H.R. 5781) to acquisition management. Notably, this title attempts to avoid organizational conflicts of interest in major NASA acquisitions by prohibiting contractors providing systems engineering or technical assistance to NASA from competing for the underlying management or acquisition contract. Similar provisions applicable to the Department of Defense were included in the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009. In an effort to control spiraling acquisition costs, Title VIII of H.R. 5781 also strengthens a prohibition on expenditure of funds for acquisitions which exceed a 30 percent cost growth.

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT

As a component of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, the Committee included a provision requiring the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to conduct an assessment of the governance of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. In carrying out the assessment, the Director is instructed to use criteria established pursuant to the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This novel approach is intended to require the director of NIST to use criteria generally applied in making assessments of private sector proposals on NIST's own programs. It is hoped that this critical assessment will lead to better management of the MEP program.

FUTURE AREAS OF FOCUS

The Committee on Science and Technology continues to look at ways of making the Federal scientific agencies more efficient and better managed. One area of future focus is the management of the Department of Energy's (DOE) civilian research laboratories. DOE's laboratories are currently regulated internally, and, to a large degree, to a single DOE set of standards. However, the safety, environmental, and security requirements of DOE's civilian and military laboratories vary greatly. The Committee has begun to investigate whether turning DOE's civilian laboratories over to non-DOE regulation would prove more cost effective than its current internal management structure. The Committee has also been looking at recommendations from a 2009 report by the National Academy of Public Administration to determine if DOE could implement practices aimed at better management of its human capital.

I hope these examples of the Committee's legislative work prove helpful to the Congress at large. As the Congress moves forward with future efforts toward deficit reduction and enhanced management of the Federal Government, the Committee on Science and Technology will continue to be an enthusiastic partner in these endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MERYL FRANK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Her Excellency Ambassador Meryl Frank, honoree at the Jewish Outreach Institute's 2010 Tribute Evening. For many years, Ambassador Frank has dedicated her time to serve the local community and advocate on behalf of women's rights. Her numerous achievements and accolades have earned her this prestigious recognition bestowed upon her by the Jewish Outreach Institute.

Ambassador Frank is a graduate of Livingston College, Rutgers University where she majored in history. She also earned multiple graduate degrees from Yale University in International Relations, Political Science, and Public Health in 1987 and 1988.

As Mayor of Highland Park, Ambassador Meryl Frank dedicated her life to serving her constituents. During her tenure, she was known for her commitment to ethics and good government. Under her direction, Highland Park maintained their title as New Jersey's first green community. The Borough of Highland Park continues to promote a tradition of diversity throughout the community and currently also houses one of the best public school systems in the nation. Highland Park's success is a result of Ambassador Frank's dedication to the residents and displays outstanding leadership.

Ambassador Frank touts thirty years of exceptional community service and advocacy work on behalf of women and children. Ms. Frank served at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Copenhagen, Denmark and prepared a report on the Implementation of the International Code on Breast Milk Substitutes. She has also served as Director of the Infant Care Leave Project at the Yale Bush Center in Child Development and Social Policy and President of the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress. Ms. Frank co-authored and edited The Parental Leave Crisis: Toward a National Policy, was a key advocate of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act signed into law by President Clinton, and was an author of the New Jersey Family Leave Act signed by Governor Kean. As a result of her hard work, Ms. Frank was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February 2010 after already having served as the U.S. Representative to the CSW for nearly one year. Her commitment to improving and empowering the lives of women globally has gained her acclaim as a mentor, trainer, and lecturer on women's leadership and political participation. Ambassador Frank's outstanding work has undoubtedly touched the lives of many individuals and is worthy of recognition by the Jewish Outreach Institute.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing Ambassador Meryl Frank. Her life-time devotion to helping others will continue to serve as a shining example of what steadfast commitment and determination can accomplish.

CONSOLIDATED LAND, ENERGY, AND AQUATIC RESOURCES ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3534) to provide greater efficiencies, transparency, returns, and accountability in the administration of Federal mineral and energy resources by consolidating administration of various Federal energy minerals management and leasing programs into one entity to be known as the Office of Federal Energy and Minerals Leasing of the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chair, I submit an exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Ways and Means concerning H.R. 3534.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2010.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR NICK RAHALL: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Ways and Means in your amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3534, the ''Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.''

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over ''revenue measures generally.'' Section 802 of H.R. 3534, as amended, raises revenue by imposing a fee of $2 per barrel of oil and 20 cents per million BTU of natural gas produced on Federal onshore and offshore lands. As a result, Section 802 of H.R. 3534, as amended, is within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of H.R 3534, as amended. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the understanding that this does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means and its jurisdictional prerogatives on H.R. 3534 or similar legislation.

Further, the Ways and Means Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Ways and Means for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 3534 or similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2010.

Hon. SANDER M. LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter indicating the Committee on Ways and Means' jurisdictional interests in certain provisions of the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3534, the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010.

I acknowledge your jurisdictional interests in the bill. I appreciate your willingness to forego seeking a sequential referral of the legislation and understand that this action will in no way waive your Committee's jurisdictional interests or serve as a precedent for future referrals. I also understand that you reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Ways and Means on these provisions, and would support such a request if it were made.

A copy of our respective letters regarding H.R. 3534 will be entered into the Congressional Record.

Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you and Majority Leader HOYER for introducing this resolution and for honoring the memory of those who perished in 9/11, including the nearly 300 men and women from my district.

Many of us lost family and close friends in the attacks. Their memories are kept alive through the devotion and steadfast commitment of their strong families and kind-hearted friends. 9/11 will never be forgotten, but we must continue to recognize not only all who we lost, but the bravery of so many on that tragic day.

We will never forget the tearful wishes of loved ones speaking their final goodbyes and comfort to their spouses and children, and we will never forget those who heroically ran into the buildings or stayed behind to help others.

In the brutality of those attacks, we saw the heart of the American spirit and the bravery of all Americans.

In particular, I would like to recognize the thousands of emergency service workers and volunteers in New York City who rushed to the pile to aid the rescue and recovery to save lives, with little care for their own health and safety.

To this day, these brave men and women, which include people like Martin Fullam, a 30-year veteran FDNY lieutenant from Staten Island, still suffer from medical complications from the air in the days following the attack, which was thick with toxic smoke and debris.

On each anniversary of the attacks, we hear many touching tributes to the heroism of the innocent victims of that faithful day and of course, the brave men and women who rushed to Ground Zero.

But, remembering the legacies of those who are no longer with us and fulfilling our promises to those who are still here perhaps will be the greatest tribute to all to all those affected by this tragedy—both the victims and survivors of the worst attack on U.S. soil in the history of this great country.

To all the other first responders who are struggling with 9/11-related illnesses, I say we will help you.

To reiterate this significance of this day and of the work that goes unfinished, I would like to tell the story of another young man in my district by the name of Stephen Siller.

Stephen was on his way home when he heard on his scanner news of the attack on the Trade Center and he immediately turned his car around and drove back to Manhattan through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel.

With tunnel traffic at a standstill, Stephen got out of his car, strapped on his gear and ran towards the burning towers. He eventually met up with his squad members as they rushed into the World Trade Center, where he helped save tens of thousands of office workers.

But sadly, Stephen and his entire squad were never to be seen again. Stephen's family and the people of New York City honor his memory and bravery with a 5K ''Tunnel to Towers'' run that retraces Stephen's steps. Stephen's memory also lives on in the good works the family has done by building Stephen's House and Home for orphans.

So in Stephen's honor, and in respect for the memory of the nearly 3,000 others murdered on that fateful day nine years ago, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 1610.

HONORING ELVAN AND ELEANOR NEWCOMB

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Elvan and Eleanor Newcomb for receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. They have lived a long and distinguished life, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

The Newcombs moved to California's Central Valley from Oklahoma in 1941, the year they married. Elvan started his career as a tractor dealer, salesman, partsman, and mechanic at a dealership in Madera and has expanded his management and ownership since his first job.

Elvan and Eleanor are well connected within their community. They have been involved in Warner Pacific College, Fourth Street Church of God, Madera Valley Bank, Cattlewomen's, Cow-bells, Republican Women, Madera Historical Society, and Women of the Church of God of the Central Valley. In 2007, Elvan and Eleanor were honored as Old-Timers Day's King and Queen and have been faithful and generous leaders at their church, and are committed to historic California events, such-as Mule Days in Bishop, California, where they have attended festivities for over 50 years.

Elvan and Eleanor are proud parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents of three children, five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. It is clear that they will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Elvan and Eleanor Newcomb for a life well-lived and wishing them the best of luck and health as he continues setting the standard.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HARRISON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John Harrison, a World War II Army veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. John Harrison was recognized on Tuesday, July 20. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOHN HARRISON

(By Alexander Hutchins)

John Harrison, 84, a former Army Staff Sergeant, was raised on a farm south of Perry in the midst of the depression.

''Back in those days we were just coming out of the depression, and we didn't have anything, but we had plenty to eat,'' said Harrison.

He worked throughout his youth and contributed to his family's income in tough times. This spirit of hard work and the necessity of duty would shape his life as much as his time in the Army during World War II.

Harrison spent much of his youth working on the family farm and for other farmers in the area.

''I vividly remember the summer of 1936, when we'd throw a mattress out under the shade tree in the yard and just hope and pray for a little breeze,'' Harrison said.

He trained in carpentry in high school, a skill that he would employ in a brief career after the war. He married his first wife, Betty, before joining the service, though she has since passed away.

Harrison was inducted into the Army in September of 1944, took his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and went overseas in January of 1945.

''I was on the island of Saipan until they got a convoy together, then we went to Okinawa,'' Harrison said.

When deploying to the island, the sister ship of Harrison's vessel was hit by a Kamikaze pilot. The soldier above Harrison on the rope dropped his rifle, and Harrison would sport the dent in his helmet for the rest of his time in the service.

He served with the 34th Combat Engineers, primarily building Bailey Bridges and other infrastructure, but did fire and was fired upon by Japanese forces.

''I do remember when we were moving forward we would see trucks going by carrying dead soldiers,'' Harrison said. ''[They] had new combat boots on that didn't even have

mud on them yet. We lost a lot of men there.''

''Then as soon as the war ended in Okinawa, they loaded us on LST's and they took us to Korea. We went in on the west side at a place called Inchon. They loaded us on a narrow-gage railway train, and every little hill that we'd go up, we'd have to get out and help push the train,'' Harrison said.

His unit, now the 42nd Engineering Construction Battalion, was deployed near Seoul, Korea, in late August, 1945, to help build the Temple Airfield.

''I remember the first time I went up the streets of Seoul, you could go across the Han river and look straight ahead to the capitol and it looked like a beautiful city, and from the front side of the street it did, but you'd go around the back to the alleys and maybe a cow or a pig would be sticking its head out the window,'' Harrison said.

He was in Korea until July, 1946. He earned a bronze battle star, three overseas service bars, an Asiatic/Pacific Theater ribbon, a victory medal, an army of occupation medal and a good conduct medal.

''When I came home from the service, first I worked [to] help building Quonset huts for the veterans over at Iowa State College,'' Harrison said. ''Then I went to work for Otis lumber yard, doing carpentry work. I did that until 1956, and then I went on the fire department.''

Harrison would spend 28 years with the fire department, and in 1985 he began working at the county courthouse as Director of Veteran's Affairs for 20 years. When working as a carpenter, Harrison helped build 16 new homes in Boone.

''Growing up, everyone worked, so I always did work. If I were younger I'd still work today. That was drilled into me when I was a young kid, that if you wanted something out of life you had to work for it and I still feel that way today,'' Harrison said.

Harrison has undergone knee replacement surgery, but stays active and walks each day. He has a daughter living in Boone, two sons, seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Harrison said he has no significant regrets from his time in the Army, and he appreciates accoutrements for veterans such as VA hospitals.

''Back in those days, you knew when it came your time to go into the service and you were old enough, you went. You just didn't make a fuss about it,'' he said.

Harrison said he feels remorse for soldiers from the current conflict, facing a war that is so different from the one he participated in.

''I wish all the young men and women in the service the best,'' Harrison said.

People today are fairly savvy to modern wars, he said, and modern soldiers thankfully have the option to remain in contact with family and friends without relying on censored mail, as was the case in World War II.

Harrison will board an Honor Flight next month on August 19, and will visit the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I commend John Harrison for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 2010 I was absent for two rollcall votes. If I had been here, I would have voted: ''yea'' on rollcall vote 519 and ''yea'' on rollcall vote 520.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Tuesday, September 14, 2010, I was unable to cast votes on rollcall votes 519 and 520. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes 519 and 520.

COMMENDING BRANDON ACADEMY'S DESIGNATION AS A 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Brandon Academy of Brandon, Florida, for winning the prestigious 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools award. This recognition of incredible accomplishment was bestowed on the Academy by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Brandon Academy is a private school in Hillsborough County that provides for the intellectual development of 227 pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students. It boasts one of the most well-balanced curriculums in the nation, offering exceptional instruction in math, science, writing, and the arts. Thus, the Academy equips its students with the skills they need to become upstanding, productive, and well-informed citizens. The high achievement of the Academy's student body is in no small part due to the involvement of parents in their children's education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools award is considered the highest honor an American school can obtain. Schools singled out for this national honor reflect the goals of our nation's education reforms for high standards and accountability. Specifically, the Blue Ribbon Schools program is designed to honor public and private schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

I applaud Head of School Robert Rudolph and Principal Sondra Cliggitt, as well as the teachers and students of Brandon Academy for their hard work and commitment to excellence. A good education is essential to ensuring that future generations lead more successful, fulfilling lives. They are making a true difference in the lives of so many, and building communities that improve students' learning.

IN HONOR OF FIRE CHIEF TIMOTHY A. POTTS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts on the occasion of his retirement from the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He honorably served the people of Olmsted Falls with unwavering dedication for 35 years as a paramedic, firefighter and fire chief.

Chief Potts joined the Olmsted Falls Fire Department on April 14, 1975, and two years later he graduated as a paramedic. Throughout his tenure as a firefighter and paramedic, Chief Potts' motivation to study, and then later teach, never diminished. In 1981, Chief Potts became a river rescue instructor and his expertise in this area of rescue became sought after by numerous departments across the state of Ohio. Throughout the 1980s, he travelled throughout the state to teach courses on river rescue and rope rescue.

In 1988, Chief Potts was sworn in as lieutenant and, in 1990, he began teaching all areas of pre-hospital emergency medical care to firefighters and paramedics at Southwest General Hospital. Throughout his career, Chief Potts sought to strengthen and enhance the Olmsted Falls Fire Department. He wrote grants for his department totaling nearly $1 million, and helped other fire departments secure more than $4 million in funding. In addition, Chief Potts was instrumental in designing the new Olmsted Falls Fire Department building and firehouse. He was sworn in as fire chief in June of 2004.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Fire Chief Timothy A. Potts for his focus and dedication to keeping the people who live and work in Olmsted Falls safe and secure. His work and accomplishments as chief, firefighter, paramedic and instructor reflect integrity, excellence, expertise and heart. His efforts will continue to enhance the foundation of safety and well being throughout Olmsted Falls and will provide a shining example for all who will follow in his path.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2010 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2010 recipients of the coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Presented annually by the National Ethnic Coalition (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our Nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. The medals are awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage. Since NECO's founding in 1986, more then 2,000 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor, including six American

Presidents, several United States Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Laureates, outstanding athletes, artists, clergy, and military leaders.

As we all know, citizens of the United States can trace their ancestry to many nations. The richness and diversity of American life makes us unique among the Nations of the world and is in many ways the key to why America is the most innovative country in the world. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor not only celebrate select individuals but also the pluralism and democracy that enabled our ancestors to celebrate their cultural identities while still embracing the American way of life. This medal is not about money, but about people who really seized the opportunities this great country has to offer and who used those opportunities to not only better their own lives but make a difference in the lives of those around them. By honoring these outstanding individuals, we honor all who share their origins and we acknowledge the contributions they and other groups have made to America. I commend NECO and its Board of Directors headed by my good friend, Nasser J. Kazeminy, for honoring these truly outstanding individuals for their tireless efforts to foster dialogue and build bridges between different ethnic groups, as well as promotes unity and a sense of common purpose in our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the good works of NECO, and congratulating all of the 2010 recipients of the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. I also ask unanimous consent that the names of this year's recipients be placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2010 ELLIS ISLAND MEDALS OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Ichak K. Adizes, PhD, Adrienne G. Alexanian, Richard F. Ambinder, MD, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, Anousheh Ansari, Rao S. Anumolu, Robert S. Atallah, Mohamed A. Atassi, MD, FACC, Kevork D. Atinizian, Nancy H. Bailey, Hon. Rosemary Barkett, Samira Kanaan Beckwith, Sarkis Bedevian, Dorothy L. Beeve, RN, Jerold E. Beeve, MD, Suraj P. Bhatia, Carole Black, Chief George F. Brown (Ret.), Richard R. Buery, Jr., Michael Capasso, Dominic Chianese, Hank Hyunho Choi, Yen S. Chou, Jim Lin-Chi Chu, Carl J. Clause, Eugene P. Conese, Sr., John F. Conley, Thomas J. Cook, Edward Cruz, Paul R. Davies, Chief Raymond Diaz, Edward B. Diethrich, MD, Andre C. Dimitriadis, PhD, Borko B. Djordjevic, MD, Thomas J. Donohue, David Du, David B. Falk, Lina Fang, Eric Friedberg, Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, USAF (Ret.), Rod G. Gilbert, Col. David G. Goulet, USMC, E. Bulkeley Griswold, Col. Gina M. Grosso, USAF, S. K. Gupta, Wolf Hengst, Gregory M. Hodge, PhD, Maj. Gen. Karl R. Horst, USA, Hon. Jerry MacArthur Hultin, Chief James Jephthah, Ted Johnson, James Keach, Alan Krutchkoff, Tak W. Kwan, MD, William K. Lee, MD, Robert J. Loggia, Wing K. Ma, Vahid Majidi, Fouad Malouf, James V. Malpeso, MD, MSgt. Chester L. Marcus, Jr., USA, Chief Denis McGowan, Shekhar Mitra, PhD, Mohsen Moazami, Curtis E. Moll, Yasmin Motamedi, Jeremiah A. Mullins, Agneta E. Nilsson, RADM Joseph L. Nimmich, Sr., USCG, Irene M. O'Neill, Bedros S. Oruncakciel, Hemant Patel, MD, Francis J. Pearn, Richard R. Pergolis, Timothy A. Phillips, Michael J. Piazza, Hon. Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Kappana Ramanandan, Maj. Gen. Michael S. Repass, USA, Hon. Edward J. Rollins, Stanley M. Rumbough, Jr., William J. Ryan, Kenan E. Sahin, PhD, Joseph M. Saponaro, John F. Scarpa, Jane Seymour, Faryar Shirzad, John Shu, Esq., Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, Prasad Srinivasan, MD, George R. Stevenson, Bert R. Sugar, Hon. Eugene R. Sullivan (Ret.), Jordan P. Thomas, Annie S. Totah, Suzanne von Liebig, PhD, William D. Walsh, RADM Philip A. Whitacre, USN (Ret.), Morrill Worcester, Mohammad Yahyavi, Vartkes B. Yeghiayan, Esq., Matt H. Yildizlar, Chang Bin Yim.

HONORING TWO ROCK VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the sesquicentennial of the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church in Two Rock, a small community outside Petaluma, California, of which I am a member. This small church has a special history in our community for the past 150 years.

The Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church was founded in 1860, approximately 10 years after the first settlers arrived. Fire has destroyed the church sanctuary twice, only to be rebuilt by the community. The first building dedicated in March 1863 was destroyed in October 1895. The second building was dedicated in March 1896 and destroyed in July 1949 by a controlled burn that got out of control on the nearby United States Army property, now a Coast Guard Base. The third and current church sanctuary was dedicated on February 1, 1953.

The congregation owns and operates the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church Cemetery located adjacent to the church structure. The first internments date back to 1861. Unfortunately, the fire of 1949 destroyed most of the records. A community project was organized in 1992 to identify plot locations and prepare a detailed plot map.

The members of Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church have a long history of community involvement as their mission states "a tradition of witness and service." In 1865, they helped found the Tomales Presbyterian Church which they now consider their sister church.

More recently, the church members are involved with the work of the Petaluma Food Pantry by working with a coalition of other churches to feed the hungry in our community. Their mission extends to regular contributions to the Cents-Ability Hunger Program of the Presbyterian Church (USA) which provides much needed funds both nationally and to Africa.

Congregants are also volunteers at the Two Rock Volunteer Fire Department and the Two Rock Elementary School. Many annual community events including the Abelskiver Breakfast on Mother's Day, the Harvest Festival in September, and the Turkey Dinner in November rely on the volunteers from the church to help bring people from the surrounding community together.

Churches are a place for community members to come together not just to worship but to build the community. Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church is that church to the residents of Two Rock.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the congregation of the Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church in Congress, and I ask that you join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments of the past 150 years and wishing them the best for the future.

MONA DIXON BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB YOUTH OF THE YEAR

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Romonia Dixon of Tempe, the recipient of the 2010 Boys and Girls Club of America National Youth of the Year Award.

Mona's remarkable story begins with a difficult past. For much of her life, her family did not have a home of their own and she moved from shelter to shelter to find a place to sleep at night. Sometimes the family was even split up in order to find enough spaces to sleep. Mona did not let difficult circumstances get in the way of her success, however. She worked hard in all aspects of her life; she excelled in school, she financially contributed to her family by holding a part-time job, and she was active in Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley in Tempe, AZ.

Dixon went on to graduate with a 3.92 GPA, placing her third in her class of 280. She was also captain of the basketball team and participated in the National Honor Society, Peer Leadership, Student Council and the Math Team. Dixon is currently a freshman at the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University, and is well on her way to a planned master's degree in international retail management.

We have something in common. She attended Tempe High School, my alma mater and a place I called home for 28 years as a Government teacher and, as I said, she is currently a freshman at ASU which is also my alma mater. With our similar academic paths, Congress may not be far behind for this young woman. This week, I had a chance to sit down and talk with her. I was very impressed with her commitment to her community and expect she will accomplish great things in the years to come.

With this award, she receives a number of scholarships, but the meaning of this award goes far beyond that. It would have been easy for her to take a different path, but she made decisions that would better her life and that has brought her here, today.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mona for her tremendous accomplishment and for setting an example for the young people of our nation.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS WOLFGRAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Louis Wolfgram, a Vietnam War Army and National Guard veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Louis Wolfgram was recognized on Tuesday, June 22. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: LOUIS WOLFGRAM

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Louis Wolfgram, 60, Command Sergeant Major (retired) of the Iowa National Guard, has recently returned to State Active duty on Retiree Recall after retiring on his 60th birthday June ninth.

Wolfgram was born in Sumner, Iowa to a family with nine children. His father had served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, but Wolfgram was the only child out of his eight siblings that served in the military. Wolfgram's father owned a grocery store in Sumner.

''He saw the writing on the wall that the small-town grocery was going to disappear and went into insurance,'' Wolfgram said. The family moved to Jefferson, Iowa and then Boone. In 1968 Wolfgram graduated Ryan High School.

One year later, in 1969, he was drafted.

On January 28 of 1970 Wolfgram went on Active Duty and proceeded to receive training in accounting and stock control after a stint in Fort Des Moines, Fort Lewis and Fort Lee. After being trained to do both manual and mechanical accounting (using computers he described as half the size of a table) he received two weeks leave and then deployed to Vietnam.

Wolfgram received his choice of specialty in the Army, but in exchange for his preference in duty he made a three-year commitment to the Army rather than the standard two. Wolfgram served for 18 months in Vietnam at a large supply post in a rear area of Vietnam.

''I was a logistician,'' he said. ''We pulled perimeter guard and did sweeps in the morning. I wasn't out beating the bush like the infantry guys were.''

When he returned from two years in Vietnam, Wolfgram was offered the option of serving a year at Fort Hood, a year in Germany or leaving the Army a year early. Wolfgram took the option to leave the service, but says now he regrets not joining the National Guard immediately after leaving the Army.

''I was out for about five years,'' Wolfgram said, and during this time he worked for John Deere.

In October of 1977 he joined the National Guard, where he is still serving after his retirement.

Wolfgram said some of his fondest experiences are his travels throughout the U.S. and to Norway, Japan and Korea. He has been working full-time in the National Guard since 1986.

''The floods of '93 were a real, major event, just with all the manpower the guard put out there and the situations that we put our soldiers in that could have been catastrophic,'' Wolfgram said.

He served as the Task Force Command Sergeant Major for the National Guard in Des Moines at the time of the flood and was impressed by how lucky the soldiers were in all the dangerous work they did fighting the flood.

Wolfgram said he was especially proud of the work he did with the Iowa Military Academy and the opportunities he has received through the academy to train younger soldiers in leadership roles. Wolfgram served two years as the Enlisted Senior Instructor for the Academy.

''That was a fruitful time in my career,'' he said.

Wolfgram was also assigned for 14 years in the Boone Army National Guard base as a supply and food service administrator.

''You see a lot of happy faces when guys get good chow,'' he said with a laugh.

Before his retirement, Wolfgram was serving as an enlisted advisor to the Judge Adjutant General of the Iowa Guard, advising the commander of the Iowa Guard on meeting the needs of the soldiers.

In 1990 Wolfgram earned his degree in business and accounting, partly due to the credits he earned while serving in the Guard. He said he appreciated his education and all the opportunities he received to work with his leadership skills.

''One thing I regret is not joining the guard immediately after leaving active duty, and the other is that I didn't get to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan,'' he said. ''Some people would say 'You're nuts for wanting to do that,' but it's part of what you swore in for and signed up for.''

He said it is important to remember that many soldiers do not deploy, and he is always impressed working with combat veterans of previous eras.

For the past ten years Wolfgram has worked on the military funerals honor team, work that has given him tremendous respect for the men and women who deploy overseas.

Wolfgram was most impressed with how well prepared and supported the soldiers of today are, something he is acutely aware of after his time in Vietnam. He and his wife currently care for two of their grandchildren, and he said he will enjoy taking them out boating this summer, as well as finally being able to grow a beard.

I commend Louis Wolfgram for his many years of loyalty and service to our great Nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today, I joined Congressional colleagues at a bipartisan ceremony in commemoration of the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Nine years ago, our great country experienced the tragedy of a generation. Nearly 3,000 people were taken from this world too soon when violent extremist terrorists in Al Qaeda hijacked four planes and attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Among those who died that fateful day were hundreds of brave first responders who risked everything to save others.

I join my fellow Americans today in remembrance. As our battle with Al Qaeda continues, on this day, it is our responsibility as proud Americans to honor those who have perished by recommitting ourselves to the values of our great Republic.

On 9/11, we lost thousands of men and women across ethnicities, national origins, religious perspectives, and ideologies. Our country includes the rich tapestry of the world, and our success has always depended on our willingness to embrace everyone who is willing to work hard and play by the rules.

We cannot allow cruel acts of terror to divide us. We are the United States of America, but Al Qaeda wants us to be the Divided States of America. There is no more appropriate day to demonstrate to the world that we refuse to back down from our shared civic values. Today, let's stand together, united as Americans, in somber mourning for those we've lost and in hopeful yearning for the bright future we can forge together.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MAYOR JAMES W. DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of former City of Parma Mayor, James W. Day—beloved husband of the late Caroline C. Day; devoted father of James W. Day, Jr.; father-in-law of Linda; dear grandfather of Meghan, (Kevin), Amy (Devon), James and Christopher; great-grandfather of Masie; brother of Harvey; honorable WWII Veteran, and friend and mentor to many.

James W. Day served as Mayor of Parma from 1962 to 1967. Prior to that, he served for 8 years as councilman, and was also a member of the zoning board. A veteran, he served our Nation with courage and honor in the Army during World War II. He was a 50–year member of the American Legion and was a Charter Member of the Elks Lodge—both located in Parma. Mayor Day's incredible vision and dedication to the welfare of residents came at a challenging time, when the City's population had quickly jumped from 28,000 in the fifties to more than 80,000 by the mid-sixties. To accommodate this rapid growth—and continue to provide services while maintaining a vision for the future—Mayor Day implemented many projects that continue to make the City of Parma a thriving suburb.

When several acres of land became available for sale on York Road, Mayor Day led the effort to secure the land for what would soon become the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. He is also credited with spearheading the efforts that led to the development of the Parma Justice Center, Parma Community General Hospital and the Parmatown Mall—located on Day Drive, which is named after him. Ahead of his time, Mayor Day understood the significance of preserving green space. In the 1960's, he championed the effort to save the Ridgewood Golf Course from certain closing by pressing city leaders to have the city purchase the golf course. To this day, Ridgewood Golf Course continues to operate without any funds from the City. To acknowledge his lifelong efforts to keep Parma ''green,'' the City of Parma officially designated a neighborhood city park as the ''James W. Day Park.''

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mayor James W. Day, who lived his life with great love for family, community, and country. I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends and to the Parma community. Mayor Day touched many lives with his kind heart, joy for living, vision—and he will be remembered always.

FEDERAL FURLOUGH BILL

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, one of the most unpleasant adjustments a former small businessman or former State legislator—and I am both—faces in coming to DC is the unlimited ability of the Federal Government to deficit spend. We all know that small businesses have to balance the books, or they go out of business. At least, that was true before the bailout culture took hold here in DC. And unlike the spendthrift ways prevalent in this building, State governments generally have to balance their budgets.

Currently, at least 24 States, and nearly three fourths of a million workers, are undertaking a budget-cutting maneuver that I believe we should consider at the Federal level: short term employee furloughs. These States, across the Nation, along with city and county government counterparts, recognize that occasional worker furloughs are necessary to cut budgets and hold down spending. It also has the benefit of ensuring that Federal workers are not sheltered from the realities of life in today's economy.

The Federal Government continues to grow, and continues to rack up debt. I would like to make the U.S. Government as cost conscious as the States. My legislation is a start. It will make Federal civilian employees subject to a non-consecutive two-week furlough next year, correspondingly reduce appropriations for salaries and expenses for offices of the legislative branch, and provide a 10 percent reduction in pay for Members of Congress. An exception is provided for national security or reasons relating to the public health or safety, including effective law enforcement. This bill will save the Federal Government over $5.5 billion.

Furlough Fridays are becoming a common occurrence for State and local governments. They present slight problems but they provide large solutions to the budget troubles we face. I believe that managed appropriately, with due allowance for vital and national security implications, as specified in this bill, they can do the same for the Federal Government.

HONORING COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES CAROLINA BARCO ISAKSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, Colombia and the United States America enjoy a friendship rare among nations. That friendship has been strengthened by Colombian Ambassador to the United States Carolina Barco Isakson's tireless engagement and sound stewardship over her four-year tenure. While I am sad to see her leave this post, I commend her work and legacy on behalf of U.S.-Colombia relations.

Ambassador Barco, whom I consider a close friend, has made the case for continued strong ties between our two countries. She has told the positive, but yet unfinished, narrative of Colombia coming back from the brink and building strong democratic institutions. Over the past several years, Colombia has adopted several innovative initiatives to protect human rights, address the needs of internally displaced people and investigate and prosecute crimes against humanity. Colombia has seen impressive gains in security. Long an economic dynamo in Latin America, the Government of Colombia has battled back the FARC and right-wing militias giving citizens their security back. In the process they have invested mightily in social programming, taking government services to places where they hadn't previously been provided.

Through my service in the Peace Corps in Medellin, I grew to love Colombia. Over the last several years, I have happily watched Colombia grow more stable and prosperous. Ambassador Carolina Barco recounted every detail of Colombia's remarkable turnaround to Members of Congress in vivid detail. And when that didn't work she showed the story by taking Members of Congress to Colombia.

Ambassador Barco is a lifelong public servant whose commitment to improving not just her country, but the entire world, is evident in all that she does. Prior to heading the Colombian Embassy in Washington D.C., she was Colombia's Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2002 to 2006. She has directed the City Planning Department in Bogota and advised the National Planning Department, the Office of the Mayor of Bogota and the Ministries of Development, Culture, and Environment. She has consulted with the United Nations Development Program and is a member of Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Board of Directors.

Ambassador Barco will soon return to her roots as an urban planner. She intends to stay on in Washington, D.C. to consult with the Inter-American Development Bank on greening cities.

I asked Ambassador Barco to name one thing that she achieved while Ambassador to the United States that makes her most proud. Without hesitation she noted that it was bringing Peace Corps back to Colombia. After two decades, Peace Corps will return to Colombia largely due to the heavy lifting Ambassador Barco did to bridge our countries and outreach to the appropriate government agencies.

Ambassador Barco never missed an opportunity to show her appreciation for Peace Corps. She invited former volunteers to the Colombian Embassy, where she watched in amazement as scores of former Peace Corps volunteers sang the Colombia National Anthem. She traveled to Cartagena two years ago to celebrate the return of hundreds of former Peace Corps volunteers to Colombia for a special week of service, always with the goal of formalizing a relationship between the Peace Corps and Colombia. I am proud to say that the first class of Peace Corps volunteers since 1981 is now working in Colombia, changing the lives of countless Americans and Colombians for the better.

Thank you, Ambassador Barco, for successfully bringing our countries together and keeping our alliance relevant and robust. I wish you all the best as you depart from this important ambassadorship and will look forward to collaborating with you as you continue to make a positive impact with your work.

HONORING ELLEN FEINBOLD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am from time to time asked to write to help explain why a particular organization is giving an award to a particular individual. In this case, the reverse would be in order: that is, if an organization dedicated to providing first-rate housing for older people was not to honor Ellen Feingold that would demand an explanation.

After a distinguished career as an advocate and administrator, Ellen took on the job of running Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly. And I can think of no better career move—not for Ellen, but for the thousands of people who are the beneficiaries of her enormous talent, great compassion, and inexhaustible supply of common sense.

At a time when the whole notion of an important public sector role in improving the quality of our lives, especially in cooperation with private sector activity is under attack, the great work Ellen did at JCHE becomes even more important than the work itself. That is because it stands as an example of what can be done when talented people use the resources of both the private and public sectors to achieve great results.

Ellen is entitled to take great comfort in the fact that so many thousands of people live better lives than they otherwise would have had she not done her work.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCHEON LANDING

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, we have occasion today to mark the deep and sustained friendship between our Nation and the great Republic of Korea.

Today, September 15th, marks the 60th anniversary of the daring amphibious landing at Incheon by United Nations forces under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur. British military historian Anthony Farrar-Hockley called the landing ''a stroke of genius'' because of the way it caught the North Korean enemy by surprise and put them off-balance.

As the son of a Korean War veteran, I value the history and deep sacrifices the people of both our countries have shared over the years. My father took great pride in service, appreciating the important work of the Korean War for the preservation of liberty and for the advancement of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, in Northeast Asia and the world as a whole.

Indeed, the strategic importance of the Republic of Korea as an ally of ours in that region cannot be overstated.

Our friendship with and commitment to Korea does not only rest on the experiences shared in the Korean War six decades ago. No, the United States and the Republic of

Korea remain partners dedicated to peace, freedom, democracy, and global stability.

The relationship between the United States and Korea is a comprehensive and dynamic one. We are major trading partners, with investment ties deep among our countries.

However, we have not even come close to realizing the full potential of this relationship. In 2007 our two countries signed a Free Trade Agreement that, by every estimate, will improve the lives of people in both Korea and the United States by creating jobs, reducing prices of products and services, and expanding consumer choices. This agreement when implemented will remove 95 percent of the bilateral tariffs between our countries that are currently holding back what could be tremendous growth for both sides.

Unfortunately, the agreement has not yet been brought to Congress for a vote. I hope that, in the coming months, my colleagues will recognize the economic boost that ratifying this agreement will generate.

As a co-chair of the bipartisan U.S.-Korea Free Trade Working Group, I will be working to ensure that we can meet President Obama's stated goal of being able to resolve outstanding issues by November so that we can once and for all remove this impediment to an increasingly productive economic relationship.

I look forward to a vigorous discussion of the merits of the agreement as ratification would further consolidate the longstanding friendship between the United States and Korea, an alliance forged in battle and sharpened through six decades of business, cultural, and political exchanges.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the success of the Incheon Landing on its 60th anniversary, saluting the veterans of the Korean War, and recognizing the bright future ahead for our two countries when we can finally realize the mutual benefits of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

FINDINGS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1493, I am submitting changes in law that will help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; promoting efficiency and government reform; and controlling spending in the programs within each Committee's jurisdiction.

This year saw significant deficit reduction resulting from crop insurance changes enacted by Congress in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act, FCEA, of 2008. In that legislation, the Committee included a provision directing the Administration to renegotiate the federal crop insurance program's Standard Reinsurance Agreement, which sets the financial terms and conditions for companies which participate in the program. The fruits of our effort were borne when USDA completed its renegotiation this past June, resulting in a more efficient crop insurance program and net savings, according to the Congressional Budget Office, of almost six billion dollars for deficit reduction.

This six billion dollars represents a seven percent reduction in the crop insurance program's baseline from FY 2011–20, making the Committee on Agriculture the only Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives that has accomplished deficit reduction this year through decreasing mandatory spending for programs under its jurisdiction. If other federal government spending was trimmed by a similar percent reduction and the savings dedicated to deficit reduction, we would reduce the budget deficit by almost three trillion dollars during FY 2011–20.

Federal spending to support production agriculture, according to CBO, represents less than one-half of one percent of all Federal Government spending. With these reductions, I believe agriculture has gone above and beyond any expectation with regard to finding cuts to reduce the deficit. However, this does not mean our programs are completely free of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement or inefficiency. As Chairman, I can assure you that I will continue to lead the Committee's efforts through investigations, hearings, and general oversight to find other ways to improve further the operation of the government programs under our jurisdiction.

CELEBRATING THE FITZGERALD THEATER'S CENTENNIAL SEASON AND ITS PLACEMENT IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the centennial season of the Fitzgerald Theater, located in downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota. On September 18th, 2010, Minnesota Public Radio, which owns the theater, will celebrate the 100th season of "the Fitz," as it is affectionately known, and commemorate its placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Originally called the Sam S. Schubert Theater when it opened in August 1910, this theater has long served as a cultural center for the many visitors and residents of Saint Paul. In 1910, a young Saint Paul resident named F. Scott Fitzgerald was only 14 years old and yet to author the great American novel, "The Great Gatsby."

Eighty-four years later, another great artist and resident of Saint Paul, Garrison Keillor, led the charge to rename the theater in honor of F. Scott Fitzgerald and his role in American letters. And thus, in 1994, what began as the Schubert was reborn as the Fitzgerald Theater. Now, at 100 years old, the building is the oldest surviving theater space in Saint Paul and is a cultural landmark for the state of Minnesota.

The 1,000-seat theater continues to serve and strengthen regional and national communities as Minnesota Public Radio's largest broadcast studio. The Fitzgerald Theater is also home to the nationally-broadcast radio show, A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor. More than 100 years after its opening night, the Fitzgerald Theater continues to evolve, while maintaining its commitment to compelling performances, live radio shows, and a legacy of significant literary programming.

Without any doubt, the Fitzgerald Theater has contributed a century's worth of memories, ideas, and insights to Saint Paul and the national cultural and literary community. The Fitzgerald will thrive into the 21st century, playing a critical role for future generations in bringing ideas and information in the areas of news, culture, literature, and music to a broad audience, both in Saint Paul, Minnesota and nationwide.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the centennial season of the Fitzgerald Theater and its contributions to the rich history and culture of the city of Saint Paul and the state of Minnesota.

IN MEMORY OF FRED SHAW

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the passing of my friend Fred Shaw. A stand-out student in China, Fred first came to the United States seeking an advanced degree in Civil Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He moved to the Twin Cities in 1947 to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

Fred made his first mark on the Minnesota business community in 1974 when he co-founded the Shaw-Lundquist Contracting firm, which stands presently as one of the most prominent general contractors in Minnesota and is the largest Asian-American-owned contractor in the nation. The motto of his company, "Be honest, fair, and reliable and treat people right," is a lesson in which everyone can find truth. In addition to his business endeavors, Fred played a pivotal role in the advancement of minorities in business having been a founding member of the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) of Minnesota and the Chinese American Business Association. Fred's dedication and tireless work will continue to inspire minority groups in the business community for years to come.

Furthermore, Fred will be remembered as a great supporter of international education. He and his wife Jennie established a scholarship with the University of Minnesota China Center which helps send students to China for academic study.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota has lost a true trailblazer in the promotion of minority businesses with the passing of Fred Shaw.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF JOHN THOMAS SABOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of John Thomas Sabol, devoted husband, father, grandfather, friend and United States veteran. Mr. Sabol lived life with great joy and an unwavering dedication to his family, community and country.

Mr. Sabol was born in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, the son of Slovak immigrants. Growing up he was instilled with the values of family, hard work, the Catholic faith, and pride in his heritage. Following high school, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard and served our nation from 1952 to 1955. During the Korean War, Mr. Sabol was stationed in Japan and served as a damage control man on the Coast Guard Carrier *Winnebago.* He was awarded the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Korean Service Medal.

Mr. Sabol came to Cleveland, Ohio, for a wedding and there he met the woman who would become his wife, Agnes Fertal. John and Agnes had an instant connection as both their families hailed from the same region in Slovakia. He soon moved to Cleveland and began work at the General Motors Chevy Plant in Parma, where he worked for 30 years, retiring in 1985. He married Agnes at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Cleveland, on September 29, 1956. Mr. and Mrs. Sabol celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by family and friends, in 2006. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Sabol raised three children: Jeanne, Jack (wife Tracy) and Judy.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of John Thomas Sabol. I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Sabol; through them his memories and spirit will live on.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Collinsville, Illinois, Order of the Eastern Star, Chapter 666. A celebration of this occasion will be held on September 26, 2010, at the Masonic Temple in Collinsville.

The organization was chartered on October 6, 1910, by Worthy Matron Lucy M. Holding and Worthy Patron R. Guy Kneedler. The organization still meets today in the Masonic Temple in Collinsville. The current Worthy Matron is Betty Ruhmann and the Worthy Patron is Jack Kime.

I congratulate the Collinsville Order of the Eastern Star on this special occasion and extend my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1600 which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001. I congratulate Majority Leader HOYER and Minority Leader BOEHNER for their efforts on this important resolution.

The events of September 11, 2001 were a national tragedy. Over 3,000 innocent Americans died that day at the hands of international terrorists. in New York City, Washington, DC, and a field in Pennsylvania, Americans were directly confronted with acts of aggression on a scale and scope that our nation had never before seen. Our national consciousness was forever changed on that day as we all remember the losses we suffered and the horrific images of that day.

On the ninth anniversary of those events we must reflect and remember the victims and heroes of that tragic morning. I hope everyone takes some time to remember the nearly 3,000 American lives that were cut short that day and salute the firefighters, first responders and rescue workers who sacrificed their lives saving others.

For the victims, heroes and their families, let us never forget this fateful day, and let us refocus ourselves on what makes America unique and special in the world of nations—liberty and diversity, equality and the rule of law.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

HONORING JERRY VENTURI

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of Jerry Venturi, who is receiving the 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. Jerry lived a long and distinguished life, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

Jerry Venturi passed away in 2008 at age 67 after a struggle with cancer. However, his legacy lives on in his Madera community. Jerry was a remarkable musician from his youth, a performer, a band leader, a music business owner, and a mentor for countless Madera musicians.

Jerry was well connected within his community. He was a faithful participant in St. Joachim Catholic Church and a first degree member of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal Catholic service organization. In addition, Jerry and his band performed every year in the Madera County Arts Council "Concert in the Park," where he assisted other performers set up their sound systems.

Jerry's musical legacy extended to all of the students that entered his mentorship through his store, performance and service. It is clear that Jerry's memory will continue to inspire music and community service for generations to come. Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Jerry Venturi for a life well-lived.

HONORING MR. RAWLEIGH "MIKE" THOMPSON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to commemorate Mr. Rawleigh "Mike" Thompson on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

On September 12, 1920, Mr. Thompson was born in Hineston, Louisiana. He is the only son of four siblings.

Oakhill High School recognizes Mr. Thompson as the first person to receive a diploma from their school and he proudly cites his position as Valedictorian. To attain this achievement, he overcame many obstacles, one of which was to walk and ride two different buses totaling 46 miles round trip each school day.

Mr. Thompson married Bessie Lee Jones and they were blessed with seven children. Further blessings now include nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 serving in World War II. Upon his departure from the military he worked at a sawmill and then began his career at the VA Medical Center in Pineville, Louisiana. Mr. Thompson was employed at the VA for 29 years and remarkably never missed a day of work.

As his family and friends prepare to join together to honor Mr. Thompson, he continues to exemplify a strong character of dedication, compassion and devotion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Thompson on this truly significant birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MILES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John Miles, a Korean War Army Veteran from Boone County, Iowa, and to express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to his country.

The Boone News Republican is currently running a series of articles that honors one Boone County veteran every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. John Miles was recognized on Tuesday, June 15. Below is the article in its entirety:

[From The Boone News Republican, June 15, 2010]

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOHN MILES

(By Alexander Hutchins)

"That was a cold place over there. Cold, cold, cold," John Miles, 82, said of his time in the Korean War.

Miles has lived in Boone his entire life and worked for 36 years as a railroad dispatcher. He graduated from Boone High School and the local junior college, and a history of participating in warfare was in his family. Miles had four older brothers, each of whom served in World War II and returned home safely. Miles joined the Army in 1950, and returned from the Korean War with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star to eventually married and have two sons.

"The Miles" lucked out," he joked.

When Miles enlisted in 1950, he was trained at Fort Leonardwood, in Missouri, and was assigned to the 40th division of the 160th infantry. He became a combat medic, and routinely entered the field to tend to wounded soldiers while under fire.

"The Chinese could put artillery shells in your back pocket," Miles said. No matter the enemy resistance Miles tended to the wounded, and resistance varied greatly from day to day. "When you're a medic, you go no

matter what. When guys are getting shot at, that's why you're there,'' he said.

Miles described living in bunkers while in Korea—large holes excavated in the earth that were lined with timber posts. Miles knew all the men he served with and said he always loved the camaraderie with his fellow soldiers.

''War is hell to be in, but it was a good experience,'' Miles said. ''I'd do it again if I had to.''

He said the thing he appreciated the most was the friendship he had with the men he served with, despite the frigid and deadly conditions. He spoke of one friend who never returned—a soldier who the army failed to find after a search and is still listed as missing.

After being in the country for six months, Miles was in the field tending to two wounded soldiers when a shell exploded nearby. Miles was hit with shrapnel and wounded. He was rescued from the field by jeep and then flown by helicopter to the USS Consolation hospital ship. He stayed on the ship for six months until he was able to walk again and returned home. He was awarded his Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service.

Miles returned to Boone and the railroad. Despite the hardship of the war, Miles said he eventually returned to an ordinary life.

''When I first got home, I couldn't go to a movie because I was too jittery,'' he said of films with gunfire or war movies. Later his tension abated and he was able to pursue all his social activities. Miles is an avid fan of sports who often swam at the public pool and played tennis and baseball in an adult league at the city park.

At 35, Miles married school classmate Lois Huffman, who has since passed away, and the couple had two sons, Lane and Lynn. Miles says he responds to the conflicts in the world today as anyone else probably would. ''It works out of your system,'' Miles said of the trauma he felt in the war. ''I lived a regular life when I got home. It was different for a while, but you get used to it again.''

Miles said that many veterans returning home aren't respected as they should be. He said he supports providing higher education to veterans to help them get professional jobs. ''I'm a veteran, but there are veterans who come home who aren't treated the way they should be,'' Miles said.

I commend John Miles for his many years of loyalty and service to our great nation. It is an immense honor to represent him in the United States Congress, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF DETECTIVE CHAD DOUBLE, DISTRICT CHIEF ROBERT REBTOY AND OFFICER PATRICK SPELMAN FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor America's First Responders, the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting the lives of our citizens. As we remember those who have fallen in the line of duty, I wish to also recognize the continued dedication of those who serve our communities today.

In particular, I rise to honor and recognize three committed public servants from Michigan's 9th Congressional District: Detective Chad Double of the Farmington Hills Police Department, District Chief Robert Rebtoy of the Farmington Hills Fire Department and Officer Patrick Spelman of the Farmington Public Safety Department. In their respective roles, these men have been shining examples of dedication and public service and have made a real difference in their communities and undoubtedly to the many individuals and families whose lives they have touched.

Detective Chad Double began his career with the Police Department nine years ago as a cadet and through much hard work and determination rose to the rank of Detective in the Department's Investigative Bureau, which he holds today. Detective Double has been honored many times in his young career, receiving multiple citations, commendations and awards.

Like so many of his brethren, District Chief Robert Rebtoy of the Farmington Hills Fire Department brings a lifetime of dedication to protecting public safety. Mr. Rebtoy's 42 years of service with the Department are marked by distinction, having received dozens of awards and citations for his work, including the 1985 Fire Fighter of the Year Award from his Department.

Farmington Public Safety Department Officer Patrick Spelman is yet another fine example of public service. In his short time with the Department Officer Spelman received numerous awards and commendations for his service, including recognition as the Department's 2009 Officer of the Year.

The responsibilities placed on our first responders are often the most significant and demanding, ensuring the safety and continued health of our community. Their lives are on the line every day as they bravely undertake the work of protecting our communities. It is fitting that these men be honored for their dedication on September 11, 2010 when just nine years ago, so many of their brothers and sisters were called upon to meet an unparalleled challenge. Their courage, bravery and determination, like those of these three men, are most valued virtues found in all our first responders.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring these three outstanding public servants. Detective Double, District Chief Rebtoy and Officer Spelman represent the kind of dedication and self-sacrifice emblematic of our nation's first responders whose work is so critical to the continued security and welfare of our communities.

ANDREW HUTCHINSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew Hutchinson. Andrew is 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 332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Andrew achieved the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Andrew has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Andrew provided maintenance at St. Robert's Bellarmine Church in Blue Springs, Missouri, by replacing the outside steps and repainting a shed for the church.

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

IN RECOGNITION OF SUDHIR PARIKH

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, a resident of New Jersey and honored member of the Indian American community. Dr. Parikh recently received the 2010 Padma Shri award from President Pratibha Patil of India, honoring distinguished Indians and people of Indian origin for their contributions to a wide variety of fields in public life. I applaud Dr. Parikh's achievements and dedication and recognize his work as it serves as an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Parikh is a nationally acclaimed and respected allergist and immunologist and has used his time, money, and influence to advance the goals of the Indian American and Indian communities. With the Padma Shri award, Dr. Parikh becomes the only Indian American to receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, and the Padma Shri. The Ellis Island Medal is the highest civilian honor presented to a U.S. immigrant for community and social service. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award is the highest honor the Government of India presents to non-residents.

Publisher of Parikh Worldwide Media, Inc., the largest Indian American publishing group in the United States, Dr. Parikh's priority is to use the media to empower second-generation Indians assimilating to American society. His work with the media has a dual purpose: to expose mainstream America to the accomplishments and quality of the Indian American community and to encourage young people to pursue the American Dream.

Dr. Parikh has also helped construct an influential Indian American lobbying force in Washington D.C., arranged several high-level meetings between U.S. and Indian lawmakers, and secured critical votes on multiple Indian issues. Dr. Parikh has worked closely with members of both houses of Congress and the Administration to develop a close, strategic relationship between the United States and India. Under his guidance, the Friends of India Caucus was created in the Senate. Dr. Parikh was also actively involved in the U.S.-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement. He currently serves as founding board member and Vice Chairman of the Indian American Republican Council, President of the Indian American Forum for Political Education and the board of the Federation of Indian Associations.

As a community activist, Dr. Parikh has donated to charitable organizations in both the United States and India. Most notably, he accompanied former President Bill Clinton to Gujarat in 2001 following the devastating earthquake and in 2004 launched a humanitarian program to help tsunami victims. Dr. Parikh has worked to establish trauma centers in India and supports the One Teacher School in tribal regions. Moreover, Dr. Parikh has donated considerably to the Indian Independence Day Parade, the American India Foundation, Share and Care, and the Nargis Dutt Foundation. Dr. Parikh is one of the largest benefactors of both the Vraj Temple and the Vaishnavaite Temple.

Madam Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledgement of the extraordinary contributions of Dr. Sudhir Parkikh. He is a greatly valued citizen of the state of New Jersey, and I am honored to recognize him today.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DAVE NEWMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember Dave Newman who died on September 2, 2010. Most people in the Cleveland area will remember him as Cousin Dave Wilson, the host of the long-running show ''When the Roses Bloom Again'' every Thursday night on WRUW, 91.1 FM in Cleveland, the radio station of Case Western Reserve University.

Cousin Dave has hosted the country music show since 1975 which has featured all manner of American roots music, including folk, blues, bluegrass, country & western, rockabilly, twang and many other similar genres. Cousin Dave was not only popular with college music listeners, but he also had a wide and diverse global audience which grew from the early days when WRUW operated around the campus at 10 watts, through power increases to 1000 watts and 15,000 watts, and in recent years as the station webcast at www.wruw.org. Cousin Dave, along with deejays Dan Ewry and Jim Gilliland who adopted the names Cousin Dan and Cousin Jimmie, took on the ''Wilson'' surname to honor and remember one of their early listeners and supporters, Rose Wilson, who could not find other sources in Cleveland for the beloved music of her native West Virginia. Cousin Dave changed the name of his show from ''Mather Jamboree'' to ''When the Roses Bloom Again'' after Rose Wilson died. Besides playing the music from vinyl and CDs, Cousin Dave featured live performers on an almost weekly basis with the help of his assistant James E. Guyette, also known as Mr. JG. Together, Cousin Dave and Mr. JG featured little-known performers who later developed large local, regional and national followings, such as Stacie Collins, Colette, David Childers, Charlie Christopherson, Hillbilly Idol, Al's Fast Freight, and Crossties, to name just a few.

Dave Newman, Dave was his given name, David was a nickname, was born in Dayton and moved to the Cleveland area as a child. He graduated from Warrensville Heights High School in 1962 and Kent State University with a degree in Sociology in 1968. In 1969 he began his career as a caseworker for the Cuyahoga County welfare department and went on to become a casework supervisor before he retired in 2003. In his retirement, he started working at Sokolowski's University Inn in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood until he was diagnosed with cancer in 2005. Surviving the cancer, Dave went on to serve as a liaison between the welfare department and the county Bureau of Developmental Disability, running a successful experimental program which enabled clients with disabilities to receive all the services and benefits to which they were entitled.

Dave married Denise Kassoff in 1970 and they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on June 14 of this year. Together they had 3 children, Amanda, Zachary, and Benjamin Adon, who survive him. He is also survived by his mother Mary Newman and sister Joyce Norman. Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Cousin Dave and giving our condolences to his family and his many friends in the Greater Cleveland community and beyond.

HONORING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NANTICOKE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION NO. 4

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to the 100-year anniversary of the Nanticoke City Fire Department Station No. 4.

The Station is located at 108 Espy Street in the Hanover section of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania and is home to the Hanover Hose Company, Engine No. 4 of the Nanticoke City Fire Department.

The Nanticoke City Fire Department is comprised of seven volunteer fire companies operating out of two fire stations. The Department serves a population of over 10,000 Nanticoke residents, including myself and my wife, and responds not only to fire calls but also EMS calls, motor vehicle accidents, and mutual aid calls with neighboring townships.

In 2010, they have responded to over 500 incidents throughout the community.

The Hanover Hose Company was originally organized in 1895, making it one of the oldest of the seven volunteer fire companies of the Nanticoke City Fire Department.

In 1897, the Hanover Hose Company purchased property at 108 Espy Street in Nanticoke, and donated the property to the local area government—at that time the Nanticoke Borough.

Shortly after its donation, the Borough erected an original frame structure on the property where the Company held some of its earliest meetings.

In 1910, the Borough replaced the original structure with a brick building, which celebrates its 100-year anniversary this year.

The current structure was first home to the Company's hose and chemical truck and horses until 1924. Since then, the building has housed the Company's upgraded fire equipment, including first a Reo Hose and Chemical Truck from 1924 to 1927, and its replacement, an American LaFrance triple combination truck.

Since its construction in 1910, the building has also been used as a police station, a jury room, and a library, and has hosted a countless number of community gatherings.

Currently, the building at 108 Espy Street in Nanticoke serves as one of two fire stations of the Nanticoke City Fire Department, and currently houses the Hanover Hose Company's 1974 Hahn Pumper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this local milestone. Over the past 100 years, 108 Espy Street in Nanticoke has become a symbol of community pride and service.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MR. D.J. PANDIAN, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, ENERGY AND PETROCHEMICAL DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. D.J. Pandian, Principal Secretary of Energy and Petrochemicals of the Government of Gujarat.

Mr. Pandian, who has 30 years of experience in public policy and administration, is leading a high-level business delegation from Gujarat, India to the U.S. to promote and strengthen U.S.-India trade. The Gujarat delegation is on a four-city visit to the U.S. to showcase investment opportunities.

In cooperation with the Alliance for U.S.-India Business, AUSIB, the Congressional Taskforce on U.S.-India Trade and Investment Relations welcomed the Gujarat delegation at a meeting held in the U.S. Capitol on September 15, 2010.

The taskforce and the Gujarat delegation discussed ways in which they could collaborate, particularly in the fields of healthcare, IT, renewable energy, and the oil and gas sectors. On behalf of the delegation, Mr. Pandian extended invitations to Members of Congress to attend the Vibrant Gujarat 2011 Summit to be held on January 12–13, 2011, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The Gujarat delegation received an overwhelming response of support from Members of Congress and I want to personally thank Mr. Pandian for his leadership in bringing key stakeholders together and, once more, I commend Mr. Sanjay Puri, President of AUSIB, for highlighting the importance of this delegation's visit to Washington, D.C.

Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Pandian served as the Chief Executive Officer of Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation, GSPC, and its group companies for 8 years. During his tenure, he converted the minuscule GSPC into a giant oil and gas company with presence in the entire Value Chain of Hydro Carbon Sector.

He developed extensive gas grid networks for transmission and distribution of natural gas throughout Gujarat. Through his visionary policies and program implementation skills, he

also developed city gas distribution systems in most of the districts of Gujarat with active public and private participation.

He was also instrumental in setting up a modern university, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University, to provide highly skilled technical manpower to the industries in the petroleum sector.

Mr. Pandian's work is unmatched and it is my honor to pay tribute to him.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, September 11, 2001, is a day forever etched into the memory of most Americans. On that day, over 3,000 innocent people—including 48 men and women from the state of Maryland—died during the attacks on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, and aboard Flight 93. We gather today to honor their memory and the sacrifice of the families of the victims. We also renew our commitment to honoring the sacrifice and service of the citizens who risked their lives to help the victims as well as the survivors.

While 9/11 is a day of great sadness, it is also a moment of pride. Our reaction as a nation to those events—both as they were unfolding and afterwards—reveals much about us as a people. On that day, our enemies thought they could break our will, but they underestimated our resolve and resilience. They sought to divide us, but they misjudged the breadth of our unity and the depth of our commitment to freedom.

As we look back on the 9 years since the attacks, we are reminded that the threat is not over—the United States still faces enemies who spread hate through violence. The federal government and Congress have an obligation and duty to protect our nation. We have made great progress since the attacks, but there is still much to be done.

It is on this day that we also reflect on the way Americans from all backgrounds came together as one in the face of adversity. While every American should take a moment out of his or her day to remember those who were lost, we must continue to dedicate ourselves to giving back to our communities.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to join with Latinos and Latinas in California's 35th Congressional District and all across the United States in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, which starts today. This month is a great opportunity to learn about and to recognize the history of Hispanics in our state and our country, their significant accomplishments and their important ongoing contributions.

The Hispanic community in America, which now numbers almost 50 million people, is diverse. The largest group is Mexican-Americans, many of whom tomorrow will be celebrating 200 years of Mexico's independence from Spain and later this year will commemorate the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, when the people of Mexico rose up against an oppressive dictatorship to establish a democratic government that promoted equality and human rights.

Despite the diversity among Hispanics, members of the community share common values with one another and with all other Americans: faith, family, and love of country. The Hispanic dream—the hope of a better, more prosperous future—is the American Dream.

Economically, culturally, and politically, Latinos are a vital part of our district, our state and our nation. American life has been enriched by Hispanic contributions in business, education, government, and the arts for more than 200 years.

As we celebrate the progress, success and achievements of the Hispanic community, we must also recognize the considerable challenges the community faces. Many Hispanic families and businesses have not fared well economically over the last several years as the failed economic policies of the Bush Administration led to the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Hispanics, like African Americans and other minorities, have been particularly impacted by the economic downturn, with higher rates of unemployment and predatory subprime mortgages.

Over the last year and a half, the Democratic-led Congress has been working hard to improve the lives and meet the needs of America's Hispanic families—from the economy, to small businesses, to making college more affordable, to health care, to veterans. We must do all we can to better ensure that all Latinos, like all Americans, have a meaningful opportunity to improve their lives and pursue the American Dream. I will continue to be a strong advocate for Hispanics and all of my constituents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably delayed and unable to return to the floor in time for rollcall vote 519.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 519, I would have voted ''aye'' (H. Res. 1052, Honoring the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Oklahoma for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States since September 2001).

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ARMED SERVICES RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the budget enforcement resolution for fiscal year 2011 passed by the House of Representatives on July 1, 2010, as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee I am submitting for inclusion in the Congressional Record efforts by the committee that will achieve deficit reduction through reduction in waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs authorized by this committee.

As stewards of the public funds, it is imperative that Congress support a commitment to oversight of all aspects of federal spending and to ensure that tax dollars are protected from waste, fraud and abuse and that the Federal Government is efficient in meeting the needs of our country. Members of the Armed Services Committee embrace this obligation and have taken an active role to protect America's tax dollars while ensuring our nation's defense.

Of all our efforts to ensure the best value for every taxpayer dollar, I am particularly proud of the Committee's accomplishments on defense acquisition reform during the 111th Congress. As you know, former ranking member John McHugh and I appointed a Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform in March 2009. Over the course of the subsequent 12 months, the Panel held 14 hearings examining all aspects of the defense acquisition system. The exceptional work of this panel, led by Chairman ROB ANDREWS and Ranking Member MIKE CONAWAY, led directly to passage of the IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010, which will reform much of the defense acquisition system and potentially save taxpayers billions of dollars. This is in addition to the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009, signed into law by President Obama on May 22, 2009, which has already started to save money for the American taxpayer by reforming the way the Department of Defense acquires weapon systems.

These major efforts to bring much needed reform to the defense acquisition system are in addition to all of the Committee's continual work overseeing defense budgets, programs, and spending. Also, the committee undertakes an annual national defense authorization bill that includes a number of provisions that seek to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy for defense matters.

During the first session of the 111st Congress, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, H.R. 2647, was signed into law on October 8, 2009. Public Law 111–84 contains a number of provisions that seek to root out fraud, waste and abuse within the Department of Defense (DOD), and also sought to enhance the effectiveness of our national security programs and policies. Examples of such legislative action include:

Limited low rate production of Future Combat Systems spin-out early-infantry brigade

combat equipment pending a technology readiness assessment, independent cost estimate and the testing of all systems constituting the equipment set in their production configuration (section 111).

Required a joint and common requirement for unmanned cargo-carrying capable unmanned aerial vehicles to avoid costly duplication of multiple service programs (section 142).

Limited the obligation of funds for Net-Enabled Command Capability (NECC) until the Department provided a roadmap for command and control systems. This provision contributed to the program being subsequently cancelled in the fiscal year 2011 budget submission (section 217).

Required the Secretary of Defense to issue policy guidance requiring the establishment of a third-party certification process for private security contractors to allow for greater governmental oversight and prevent fraud and abuse within such contracts (section 324).

Developed a comprehensive plan for improving inventory management practices for spare parts (section 328).

Directed the DOD to implement a new acquisition process to improve the speed and quality of developing or purchasing information technology (IT) goods and services for the Department (section 804).

Established life-cycle management and product support managers for major weapons systems to allow greater visibility of the operation and support costs for a weapon's entire life-cycle (section 805).

Clarified reporting requirements to ensure that cooperative agreements and grants are treated in the same manner as other contracts in Iraq and Afghanistan to improve interagency coordination and reduce waste and duplication of programs among federal agencies (section 813).

Eliminated a loop-hole that allowed contractors to overcharge the Department on certain contracts (section 814).

Extended the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan by one year to continue its oversight activities (section 822).

Allowed the Department to recoup award fees from companies and contractors who activities jeopardize the health and safety of government employees and service members (section 823).

Required a GAO report on the Acquisition Workforce Development Strategic Plan for the federal civilian workforce (outside of the Department of Defense) to improve the quality and training of the civilian workforce to enhance each agency's ability to tackle waste, fraud and abuse in their service contracts (section 834).

Established an entity to oversee the transition of Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIMHRS) from a single Department-developed program to multiple service integrated pay and personnel systems in order to capture the benefits of the significant financial investment that had been made in the unsuccessful development of the DIMHRS system (section 932).

Codified a requirement for the Secretary of Defense to develop an annual plan for shaping and improving DOD's civilian employee workforce to improve the quality and training of DOD civilian workforce, especially in the acquisition and audit fields (section 1108).

During the second session of the 111th Congress, the Committee continued its oversight responsibilities and additional initiatives are contained in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, which builds upon the accomplishments of the previous session. H.R. 5136 contains legislative priorities that will continue efforts to reduce waste, fraud and abuse within the Department.

Allows the Navy to budget for large capital ships over a period not to exceed three quarters of the number of years of planned ship construction. This provision would allow for more efficient use of the limited ship building funds available (section 121).

Limits the obligation of funds for the F–35 program, a $380 billion acquisition program, until specified milestones have been met by the program to help ensure the program produces a viable aircraft within cost limits. (section 141)

Directs the Secretary of Defense to create a comprehensive improvised explosive device project data base to reduce the duplicative projects that are being conducted by DOD (section 143).

Requires the Secretary of Defense to determine better ways to effectively address its research and development and procurement requirements for body armor for the individual services (section 144).

Requires separate program elements for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle Program to provide Congress better visibility over the costs and acquisition plans for the program (section 214).

Requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a cost benefit analysis of future options for developing tank-fired munitions (section 232).

Establishes a pilot program for micro-grid components and systems for the Department of Defense to achieve economies of scale for bulk purchases of effective systems (section 243).

Requires reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), DOD, State Department, and US Agency for International Development on contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The reports are intended to strengthen management of contracts, coordination of contracts among the agencies, and oversight (sections 822 and 823).

Establishes a Joint Medical Command to improve medical care and services for service members, families and retirees and could result in significant savings for the Department of Defense's Health Affairs program (section 903).

Reduces budget transfer authority to ensure that budget requests are validated. This will help to ensure that high priority programs are funded and prevent wasteful spending for lower priority programs (section 1001).

Directs the Secretary of Defense to conduct an independent review of each working capital fund within the Department of Defense to ensure better management and oversight of these funds (section 1402)

Amends the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 to make it more effective and provide for continuous monitoring of IT systems (section 1701).

Requires the Department of Defense to provide an assessment of facilities that can be retrofitted with insulation to improve energy savings (section 2833).

Report language: "Matters Relating to the Common Database for Tracking Contracts and Contractor Personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan." Highlights that agencies have been slow to implement the database, and that GAO and the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction have both stated that if the database were complete, it would be a helpful tool for performing audits, oversight, and investigations.

In addition, the House yesterday considered H.R. 6102, which amends the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, Public Law 111–84, to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Navy to enter into multiyear contracts for F/A–18E, F/A–18F–SF, and EA–18G aircraft. Passage of this bill would save the Department of the Navy an estimated $600 million in contract savings in fiscal year 2010.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee I remain committed to ensuring that the committee continues its efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and advance efforts to ensure cost-effective capabilities and to control spending within the Department of Defense. I appreciate the opportunity to share the actions taken by the Committee during the 111th Congress to achieve deficit reduction through the elimination of waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending of programs authorized by this committee.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES RELATING TO EFFICIENCY AND REFORM PURSUANT TO H. RES. 1493

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, the Financial Services Committee continues to work hard throughout the 111th Congress; fulfilling the pledge our New Direction Congress has taken, with your leadership, to restore fiscal discipline and accountability in the stewardship of the Federal budget.

I am pleased to provide an update since my letter on May 26, 2010, on what our Committee has specifically done to promote efficiency and prudent government reforms while reducing waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement with respect to government programs and agencies within our jurisdiction. As of this week, we will have held over 65 oversight hearings that achieve these objectives.

A list of recent oversight hearings that fully comply with the Rules of the House, as required by H. Res. 40 sponsored by Representative JOHN TANNER, is attached. These hearings have directly resulted in stronger transparency and protections for U.S. taxpayers, including increased returns from the TARP warrants program, vigorous oversight of the conservatorship of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the future of housing finance, and other key areas where taxpayer dollars are at stake.

As you know, this Committee played a key role in fully protecting taxpayers and rooting out waste, fraud and abuse with our work producing the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which the President signed into law on July 21, 2010, P.L. 111–203. This historic new law overhauls

and strengthens the financial regulatory system, ending the need for taxpayer-funded bailouts while better protecting consumers, investors, and taxpayers. For example, with the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the law consolidates and strengthens consumer protection duties by streamlining powers previously scattered across too many agencies.

From an oversight perspective, the Wall Street Reform Act will help curb waste, fraud, and abuse by creating a new Council of Inspectors General on Financial Oversight, which will improve coordination of financial agency Inspector's General and help them identify any gaps or weaknesses in financial regulation. Additionally, with the inclusion of a version of Representative STEVE DRIEHAUS' legislation—H.R. 3330, the Improved Oversight by Financial Inspectors General Act—the law provides Inspectors General with more flexible and reasonable reporting requirements so that vital financial agency programs, such as foreclosure mitigation and anti-terrorist finance efforts, will be properly monitored to fully protect taxpayers. The law also grants these Inspectors General with more independence and accountability, ensuring taxpayers have the best watchdogs monitoring financial regulatory activities. Finally, over 40 mandatory Government Accountability Office reports and studies were included in the law so that the implementation is closely monitored and will maximize efforts to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse throughout the reformed financial regulatory apparatus. A full list of those GAO reports is attached.

In addition, in July the House initiated and the President signed into law, P.L. 111–229, statutory authority for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to raise loan fees to help shore up the FHA Fund. The Office of Management and Budget estimates that this could save taxpayers at least $250 million a month. The House has also adopted the ''FHA Reform Act of 2010'', H.R. 5072, which gives the Department of Housing and Urban Development increased powers to impose sanctions and terminate FHA lenders which are not following program rules or otherwise increasing risk to taxpayers on FHA loans they originate. This bill is pending in the Senate.

We look forward to continue working with you and the rest of our colleagues in the 111th Congress to strengthen accountability, transparency and taxpayer protections through future oversight efforts.

Attachments.

Committee on Financial Services -- House Resolution 40 hearings
Update since 5/26/10 through 9/13/10

Date	Hearing title	Committee/Subcommittee
7/13/2010	**"After the Financial Crisis: Ongoing Challenges Facing Delphi Retirees"**	**Oversight and Investigations**
7/20/2010	**"Oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission: Evaluating Present Reforms and Future Challenges"**	**Capital Markets**
7/29/2010	**"Future of Housing Finance: The Role of Private Mortgage Insurance"**	**Capital Markets**
7/29/2010	**"Alternatives for Promoting Liquidity in the Commercial Real Estate Markets, Supporting Small Businesses and Increasing Job Growth"**	**Full Committee**
8/23/2010	**"Too Big Has Failed: Learning from Midwest Banks and Credit Unions"**	**Oversight and Investigations**
8/24/2010	**"Empowering Consumers: Can Financial Literacy Education Prevent Another Financial Crisis?"**	**Oversight and Investigations**
9/15/2010	"The Future of Housing Finance: A Progress Update on the GSEs"	Capital Markets
9/16/2010	"Legislative Proposals to Address Concerns Over the SEC's New Confidentiality Provision"	Full Committee

Bold indicates hearing has already taken place.

Mandatory Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reports and Studies Required by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

TITLE I
1. Sec. 122 Grant of authority to GAO to audit the Financial Stability Oversight Council
2. Sec. 171(b)(6) Audit of smaller institution access to capital
3. Sec. 174(a) Study of hybrid capital instruments
4. Sec. 174(b) Study of foreign bank intermediate holding company capital requirements
TITLE II
5. Sec. 202(e) Study of bankruptcy and orderly liquidation process for financial companies initial report
6. Sec. 202(f) Study of international coordination relating to bankruptcy
7. Sec. 202(g) Study of prompt corrective action implementation
8. Sec. 203(c)(5) Mandated audit of any future systemic risk determinations made under new 203(b)
TITLE IV
9. Sec. 412 Study on custody rule costs
10. Sec. 415 Study on accredited investors
11. Sec. 416 Study on SRO for private funds
TITLE V
12. Sec. 526 Study of non-admitted insurance market
TITLE VI
13. Sec. 603(b) Study of exceptions under Bank Holding Company Act
TITLE IX
14. Sec. 918 Study regarding mutual fund advertising
15. Sec. 919A Study on conflicts of interest
16. Sec. 919C Study on financial planners
17. Sec. 929Z Study on securities litigation
18. Sec. 939D study on alternative business models
19. Sec. 939E Study on creation of an independent professional analyst organization
20. Sec. 961(e) Report and certification on SEC internal supervisory controls
21. Sec. 962 Report on SEC personnel management
22. Sec. 963 Audit of SEC financial controls
23. Sec. 964 Report on oversight of National Securities Associations
24. Sec. 968 Study on SEC revolving door
25. Sec. 976 Study of increased disclosure to investors
26. Sec. 977 Study on municipal securities markets
27. Sec. 978(b) Study evaluating the GASB
28. Sec. 988 Review reports by IG of Board when National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund experiences losses under revised definition of material/non-material losses
29. Sec. 989 Study on proprietary trading
30. Sec. 989F Study of person-to-person lending
31. Sec. 989I Study on exemption for smaller issuers

TITLE X
32. Sec. 1013(d)(7) Study on financial literacy program
33. Sec. 1017(d)(5) Audit the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection
TITLE XI
34. Sec. 1102 Grant of authority to review recent Federal Reserve emergency credit facilities
35. Sec. 1104(e)(2) Mandated audit of any liquidity event determination by FDIC and Fed
36. Sec. 1109(a) Audit of Fed Reserve emergency credit facilities
37. Sec. 1109(b) Audit of Federal Reserve Bank governance
TITLE XIV
38. Sec. 1421 Report on effects of enactment of Act on various mortgage issues
39. Sec. 1476(a) Study on effectiveness and impact of various appraisal methods
40. Sec. 1476(d) Additional study on appraisal
41. Sec. 1492 Study on government efforts to combat mortgage foreclosure rescue scams
TITLE XV
42. Sec. 1502(d)(1) Reports on conflict minerals various issues
43. Sec. 1502(d)(2) Reports on conflict minerals effectiveness
44. Sec. 1505 Study on IG independence, effectiveness, expertise

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF THE GUJARAT, INDIA DELEGATION FOR STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-INDIA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I welcomed to Washington, DC, 16 business leaders from Gujarat, India in a statement that I submitted for the RECORD. Today, I rise to recognize eight additional members of the delegation including S A Dula, Advisor, Industrial Extension Bureau; Kamalakara Rao Yechuri, CFO, GMR Group; Palak Sheth, OSD, Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University; Hemang Jani, PriceWaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Jitendra Shah, Managing Director, Tip Sons Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.; Murli Ranganathan, Director, Torrent Power Ltd.; Vivek Rastogi, Associate VP, Abellon Energy; and Mr. Inderpreet Wadhwa.

As top business leaders, these individuals came to Washington to discuss key areas in which the U.S. and India can collaborate to strengthen bilateral economic relations. They and their colleagues have played an integral role in the growth of India and the State of Gujarat, and it is my privilege to recognize their contribution to strengthening the U.S.-India economic partnership.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 21

8 a.m.

Impeachment Trial Committee (Porteous)

To resume hearings to examine the Articles Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.

SH–216

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of General James F. Amos, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and the be Commandant of the Marine Corps.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine investigating infrastructure, focusing on creating jobs and growing the economy.

SD–538

Finance

To hold hearings to examine welfare reform, focusing on women and poverty.

SD–215

2:15 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 3581, to implement certain defense trade treaties, S. 1183, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to the Government of Haiti to end within 5 years the deforestation in Haiti and restore within 30 years the extent of tropical forest cover in existence in Haiti in 1990, S. 3184, to provide United States assistance for the purpose of eradicating severe forms of trafficking in children in eligible countries through the implementation of Child Protection Compacts, S. 3665, to promote the strengthening of the private sector in Pakistan, S. 3297, to update United States policy and authorities to help advance a genuine transition to democracy and to promote recovery in Zimbabwe, Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Sydney, September 5, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110–10), Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Washington and London on June 21 and 26, 2007 (Treaty Doc. 110–07), and the nominations of Alexander A. Arvizu, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, Matthew J. Bryza, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Norman L. Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Joseph A. Mussomeli, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, and Duane E. Woerth, of Nebraska, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization, all of the Department of State.

S–116, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Maria Elizabeth Raffinan, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; to be immediately followed by a business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–342

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of David B. Buckley, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

SD–124

SEPTEMBER 22

8 a.m.

Impeachment Trial Committee (Porteous)

To continue hearings to examine the Articles Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Securities and Exchange (SEC) Inspector General's Report on the Investigation of the SEC's Response to Concerns Regarding Robert Allen Stanford's Alleged Ponzi Scheme and Improving SEC Performance.

SD–538

Budget

To hold hearings to examine assessing the Federal policy response to the economic crisis.

SD–608

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine nine years after 9/11, focusing on confronting the terrorist threat to the homeland.

SD–342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, focusing on promoting security and protecting privacy in the digital age.

SD–226

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine the filibuster, focusing on legislative proposals to change Senate procedures, including S. Res. 416, amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to provide for cloture to be invoked with less than a three-fifths majority after additional debate, and S. Res. 619, expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate of each new Congress is not bound by the Rules of previous Senates.

SR–301

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation focusing on the American Legion.

345, Cannon Building

2 p.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

SD–538

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine investigating and prosecuting financial fraud after the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 3742, to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a security breach.

SR–253

SEPTEMBER 23

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans' Affairs disability compensation, focusing on presumptive disability decision-making.

SDG–50

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

SEPTEMBER 29

2 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine charges against Mikhail Khodorkovsky's Yukos Oil Company.

1539, Longworth Building

SEPTEMBER 30

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine implementation, improvement, sustainability, focusing on management matters at the Department of Homeland Security.

SD–342

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans' Affairs Information Technology (IT) program, focusing on looking ahead.

SR–418