United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 No. 125

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

All powerful Lord, You fulfill Your promises day by day and lead Your people to greatness. You are the One who asks each of us to live a life worthy of our calling.

By embracing the responsibilities of our station in life, each of us is to perform our duties with humility, meekness, and patience. By bearing with one another with understanding, we are to make every effort to preserve the unity we have been given by Your Divine Providence and seek peace at every turn of events.

Your presence, Lord, has guided us from the beginning, is with us now, and will be fully revealed in the end.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OLSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

□ 1010

PASS THE SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, during my recent high-tech manufacturing tour, I saw firsthand the success of some of New Mexico's homegrown companies. While creating jobs, local small businesses like Senspex, Applied Technology Associates, and Aspen Avionics are also providing the innovation to meet our Nation's twenty-first century challenges.

Even through the recent economic downturn, this local high-tech sector has remained strong, and even grown by hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. Yet many small businesses cannot access the credit that they need to expand and hire more workers. This is why the Congress must pass the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act. This legislation will boost small business lending through community banks and provide tax relief, and it will do it without adding a penny to the deficit.

I am doing all I can to support small businesses, which is why I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act.

TAX HIKES

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to struggle, the President's former budget director, Peter Orszag, stated that, and I quote, ''Higher taxes now would crimp consumer spending, further depressing the already inadequate demand for what firms are capable of producing at full tilt.'' In non-Washington, D.C., language, that translates to the more money the government takes from the American people, the less they have to spend and to help rebuild our economy. My Republican colleagues and I have been saying this for nearly 2 years.

Now, over 30 of my Democrat colleagues have joined us in supporting an extension of all the tax cuts across the board. They get it. It makes no sense, no sense to raise taxes, especially at this time when businesses and individuals are trying to invest what little they have to make a better future and get our economy going.

Mr. Speaker, end the uncertainty and let the American people keep their money. I urge House leadership to extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

THE BIG NEED OF SMALL BUSINESS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, it is widely understood that one of the biggest problems facing our economy now is the fact that small businesses cannot get loans. And small business owners tell me every week from across my district they are not hiring because they cannot get loans and expand.

In fact, a recent report from the Joint Economic Committee, which I chair, found that the number of small business loans peaked in the second quarter of 2008 at 27 million loans. But since then the number of loans have fallen by 18 percent.

The bill before the U.S. Senate today that passed the House will address that by expanding access to needed credit for small businesses, providing tax relief, and encouraging private investments. Our economic recovery depends on small businesses, and credit-worthy small businesses need loans. This bill is not a cure-all or a silver bullet, but it is without question an important step towards restoring and restarting the great American engine of growth.

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CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, September 17, is Constitution Day, a commemoration of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787. The role of the Federal Government, first debated by our Founding Fathers at the beginning of our new Nation, is still a topic of conversation over 200 years later.

Recently, we have seen an explosive expansion of the Federal Government, with a government takeover of health care, national interference in our schools, and government control of our auto industry. Power is being shifted from the people and the States to the Federal Government.

The Founders anticipated this dangerous growth of big government, so they drafted the 10th Amendment to the Constitution to ensure the Federal Government would only use powers granted specifically to them. As we take a moment today to remember the ratification, I hope we all remember that personal responsibility and less government intervention is a better way to promote liberty.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING DR. MARIO OBLEDO

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. I rise today to honor a great voice for our Nation's disenfranchised, a man who passed away recently, Dr. Mario Obledo. Hailed as the Godfather of the Latino Movement, he dedicated his life to serving America's minority communities.

As president of the League of United Latin American Citizens and founder of the National Coalition of Hispanic Organizations, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Dr. Obledo fought tirelessly for civil rights and justice.

Governments both here and abroad honored his accomplishments. Dr. Obledo received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honor, and the OHTLI award, the highest tribute given by Mexico to foreigners. He was an inspiration to many.

I urge my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Mario Obledo and his exceptional impact upon our country. He will be missed.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution starts out, ''We, the people.'' It's written in really large print right at the beginning of the document. The Constitution is a rock. It's the foundation. It is not some abstract concept that changes depending on the social philosophy of the elites and tyrants of the Judiciary.

The Constitution says the things it says in plain, simple language. The Constitution is an agreement between the people and the government. It sets limits on what the government can do, not the other way around. The Constitution upholds the principle that people have God-given rights. Government has no rights. Government has power. And the more power it grabs the less rights we have.

Thomas Jefferson warned, ''the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.'' A government big and powerful enough to control our lives is big and powerful enough to take away everything we have. And that's un-American. After all, the Constitution says, ''We, the people,'' not ''We, the subjects.''

And that's just the way it is.

HISTORY IS INSTRUCTIVE

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, history is instructive on almost every issue we face in this body. Today's issue is whether we should take action so that the wealthiest Americans don't have to pay an income tax rate of 39.6 percent.

So let's look back at when they were taxed at that rate during the Clinton administration. Well, what happened was exactly the opposite of what the Republican Party predicted would happen. In fact, people at that rate brought home more after-tax income than at any time in American history. Twenty-two million new jobs were created, and we had record budget surpluses. And in fact, at the end of this month we were projected to have paid off all of the debt, relieving our children and grandchildren of any of the debt that we would have otherwise burdened them with. Alan Greenspan was worried we didn't have enough debt floating out there.

But instead, when President Bush was elected, one of the very first things he did was to try to finance two wars with two deep tax cuts, none of it paid for and now we have $12 trillion of debt. Let's look at history and learn for it.

□ 1020

HONORING MAJOR EDWARD J. HUDAK, JR., CORAL GABLES POLICE DEPARTMENT, AT THE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize and honor Major Edward J. Hudak, Jr., of the Coral Gables Police Department, located in my congressional district.

Major Hudak graduates tomorrow from the FBI National Academy at Quantico. He was chosen by his chief to attend and by his class of 272 elite police executives to represent them after the 3-month training in terrorism protection and domestic crime investigation. Ed says it is quite an honor to be at the finest executive leadership course in the world.

There have only been 44,000 of these top graduates since July 29, 1935, when J. Edgar Hoover created the FBI Police Training Academy. So congratulations to Major Ed Hudak, to his wife, Alina Tejeda Hudak, and their lovely daughters, Kristina, 13, and Jennifer, 12 years of age.

Congratulations to the entire family.

SEBELIUS BULLYING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of Health and Human Services Sebelius seemed shocked to find that placing new mandates on health insurers leads to increased costs.

After press reports last week indicated that insurers are raising premiums because of ObamaCare, the Secretary wrote a letter to the health insurance association which is nothing more than bullying. The Secretary called the measures onto the carpet, insisting that there would be ''zero tolerance for misinformation and unjustified rate increases.''

Why are these rate increases unjustified? Because government bureaucrats thought that all the new rules and mandates would only lead to increases of 1 or 2 percent. Now insurers functioning in the real world are increasing premiums by up to 9 percent.

Bullying and threats aren't going to make ObamaCare work. This unprecedented expansion of government power is only making health care more expensive.

The solution is to repeal this law and replace it with real market-based reforms that take power away from unelected government bureaucrats.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4785, RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1620 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1620

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the

Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4785) to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Agriculture or his designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. FOXX. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McGOVERN. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1620.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, (Mr. LANGEVIN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. McGOVERN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 1620 provides for consideration of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Agriculture and Energy and Commerce. The rule makes in order as original text an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, and the rule also makes in order four amendments printed in part B of the Rules report and provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that too many American families are unemployed. Too many American families are having trouble paying their energy bills. Too many of our manufacturing jobs have gone overseas to China and to other countries.

Now, the Democratic Congress has brought bill after bill after bill after bill to the floor to help American families weather these tough economic times and make long-term investments in a clean economy so that the United States maintains its status in the world as a leader in innovation.

And every time, and every time we bring a bill to the floor, my friends on the other side of the aisle have overwhelmingly voted ''no.'' They have become the party of no, no to everything. Unfortunately, based on some of the statements by some of my Rules Committee colleagues last night in the Rules Committee, I think that that will be their strategy today on this Rural Star bill.

This is a good, cost-effective bill. Rural Star will create high-skilled, high-wage manufacturing and construction jobs while delivering energy savings to millions of Americans by providing access to capital and energy-efficient technologies.

In fact, the National Association of Home Builders endorsed this bill, saying that H.R. 4785 will ''save energy for American families, create jobs, and reap environmental rewards.''

Let's not forget that this bill will put people to work, keep good-paying manufacturing jobs here in the United States, and lower the utility bills of families and farms across the country. The truth is more than 92 percent of energy efficiency products are manufactured here in America.

Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker. The truth is that more than 92 percent of energy efficiency products are manufactured right here in the United States of America.

We are talking about insulation, windows, doors and water heaters. That's why this is so important. A family or a business will not only hire someone to install these energy efficiency products, but these products will be made in our backyard right here in our own country. Make it in America. That's what Democrats want. That's what we stand for.

There shouldn't be one Member of this body who opposes putting Americans to work in this fashion. And not only will H.R. 4785 result in more Americans jobs; it will lower families' and farms' utility bills. This is particularly important in rural areas where customers are facing increasing costs for electric power. Rural electric co-ops are facing a growing demand for electric power at a time when they are constrained from building new generation capacity.

The gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. INGLIS, supports this bill because of the positive impacts on rural electric co-ops, and he said so during testimony last night in the Rules Committee. I want to thank Mr. INGLIS for his support and for putting American jobs over partisanship today.

□ 1030

To my colleagues who argue that this bill will cost too much, I want to remind them that the programs in this bill involve loans, not grants. These loans must be repaid. CBO has analyzed the legislation and concluded that it does not score. The legislation is fully compliant with statutory PAYGO and House PAYGO rules.

Mr. Speaker, I hope everyone will take a close look at the important provisions in the Rural Star bill that will put Americans to work and help transition us to a stable clean energy economy of tomorrow.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put partisanship aside and support this rule and the underlying bill.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2010.

Hon. LOUISE SLAUGHTER,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE: On behalf of the 175,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I am writing to express our support for H.R. 4785—the Rural Energy Savings Program Act of 2010. We applaud your efforts to create jobs and deliver meaningful energy savings for consumers in rural communities by providing access to capital and efficiency technologies.

Without meaningful incentives to improve the energy efficiency of the 130 million existing homes and dwelling units that comprise our nation's housing stock, true energy savings will never materialize from the building sector. NAHB believes that H.R. 4785 helps address this problem in rural America by providing low interest loans to consumers to install energy efficient technologies that will save energy for American families, create jobs, and reap environmental rewards.

NAHB further supports the provisions in the legislation that will establish demonstration programs that help implement measurement and verification approaches to energy audits and investments in energy performance improvements with measurable results. NAHB believes that tracking energy savings improvements in older, less-efficient homes is important to demonstrate the voluntary efforts already underway to reduce GHG emissions from the overall building sector.

In addition to NAHB's consistent support for other energy efficiency incentives in both new and existing homes, NAHB supports H.R. 4785 as a way to further improve the nation's housing stock and provide avenues for consumers in rural communities to invest in efficiency. NAHB appreciates your thoughtful legislation.

Sincerely,

JOE STANTON,
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts for yielding time. But, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I have to rise today in opposition to this rule and the underlying bill.

Even though we have all had the opportunity to meet with our constituents in our districts over the past 6 weeks, it's clear that the ruling Democratic elite still do not seem to get it. My constituents in North Carolina want the Federal Government to stop spending, but this bill authorizes an additional $5 billion for two new government-funded energy efficiency loan programs.

Mr. Speaker, the so-called stimulus in 2009 included over 8 billion in taxpayer dollars that were supposedly meant for energy efficiency in homes. At the time, the ruling Democrats boasted that it authorized $4.7 billion for the Department of Energy to issue grants for a home weatherization program. However, though it was touted as another shovel-ready program, the Department of Energy has used less than 10 percent of those funds in the program's first year; just over 30,000 homes were weatherized instead of the hundreds of thousands promised.

If the Department of Energy can't implement the $4.7 billion program in the stimulus, why should we authorize another $5 billion loan program? We have not seen any evidence of these programs working or being implemented correctly.

Mr. Speaker, apparently the $8 billion in stimulus spending was not enough. The Democrats are now asking that we borrow another $5 billion from foreign countries and our grandchildren. The fact is we cannot afford, nor do we need, these new government programs, especially at a time when we have an unprecedented deficit and return on this spending is questionable at best.

Furthermore, this bill was not vetted by both the committees to which it was referred. And it's remarkable that our colleagues continue to bring ideas that have been rejected back to the floor. The Rules Committee Democrats have issued the self-executing rule to arbitrarily force inclusion of the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan program into the bill even though 346 Members, including 178 Democrats, already voted against it this past May. They are using blunt force to push their agenda through, ignoring the will of the American people by increasing the program's authorization level from its original $324 million to a whopping $42.5 billion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm disappointed that after having 6 weeks at home to listen to their constituents—not just Democrat constituents, not just Republican constituents, not just Independent or unaffiliated, but folks from all areas of political persuasion. Their constituents don't want them to spend more of their hard-earned money on frivolous government programs. Instead, they want us to cut spending, lower their taxes, and enable businesses to prosper so they can get back to work.

The goals of these two government programs, new programs, could be achieved by existing programs such as the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program, which controlled approximately $33.77 million for loans in fiscal 2010. Why two new programs are being created to do something an existing program can already achieve is beyond me.

Finally, I object to this rule because it is, once again, a structured rule. The ruling Democrat elites have chosen to block at least nine amendments from being offered on the floor today and instead have arbitrarily chosen to allow only four, which are the only amendments they will permit us to debate.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, after promising the most open and honest Congress in history, Speaker PELOSI has gone back on her word and against the will of the American people. When will our colleagues across the aisle learn that this House belongs to the people, not to them?

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the gentlewoman from North Carolina has a problem with American jobs, but 92 percent of the products that have been used in this weatherization process were made here in the United States of America. We are helping keep jobs and we are helping to create jobs. I'm sorry that the Party of No has a problem with that. But the Democratic Party believes that we need to make it in America and that we need to invest in American jobs, and not only keep American jobs, but add American jobs.

The gentlelady says that somehow the weatherization program in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act didn't work. Well, I disagree with her very strongly. In some States like North Carolina, weatherization got off to a slow start, but in other States like Massachusetts we were able to start quickly. This was a function of the State having weatherization programs ready to handle these new funds right away or if they had to be ramped up.

Today, over 30,000 homes each month are being weatherized across the country thanks to the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In 2009, 1,100 more houses were weatherized in Massachusetts than in North Carolina. But in April, May, and June of this year, 1,000 more houses were weatherized in North Carolina than in Massachusetts. Today, nearly the same number of houses have been weatherized both in North Carolina and in Massachusetts. So to say that this program isn't working and that it's a failure is clearly and utterly a mischaracterization.

I hope that my colleagues will look at the facts and not demagogue this issue simply for political gain. Those projects on weatherization, I will say to my colleague from North Carolina, in her State are helping to keep people in their jobs and helping to create more jobs. Why is that such a big problem to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle? Why do they have a problem with making things here in the United States of America and protecting American jobs? That is one of the best reasons to support this bill. In addition to saving utility costs for families and small businesses, it is about creating jobs in the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Massachusetts permitting me to speak on this important bill.

I could not agree with him more. I did spend a month working in Oregon to deal with people who are concerned about the economy. I had a meeting just last Friday with over 200 people, including executives, presidents of two of our local electric utilities. I have met with electrical contractors. I have met with utility contractors and with unemployed union workers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you not only is the initiative under the Recovery Act putting people to work in North Carolina and in Massachusetts; it's putting people to work in Oregon. But what is important here is building on that model to be able to extend it to more home builders, more contractors and other utilities. There is a potential here to employ 168,000 people over the course of the next 2 years.

Now, I come from a region that has invested heavily in energy efficiency. We have been able to save hundreds of millions of dollars of investment because we are getting more out of the energy we have now. The good news is the products that are energy efficient are largely made in America. And they are very labor intensive. These are installing new windows, installing weatherization, installing more efficient appliances, heating and cooling. This is saving money for years to come for families while it's putting families to work now.

An important part of this legislation is that it will empower electric cooperatives which provide energy to many in my State and across the country to help customers reduce energy use and cost.

□ 1040

This bill was amended to include the Home Star Energy Efficiency program, so it helps people in the 88 percent of the country that are not served by electrical co-ops. All Americans should have access to these low-cost home improvement loans to save energy and save money.

And it has a terrific mechanism of working with the utilities, public and private utilities, and allowing people to pay it back on a monthly basis through their energy bills, which are going to be reduced. For many people, it is not going to actually cost them anything over the course of the next 5 years and it will save them money for years and years to come, every month with that utility bill, while it puts people to work here in America now.

It is why homebuilders, contractors, and energy companies all combined to support this legislation. I am baffled that my friends on the other side of the aisle didn't hear from people at home like I heard from who want this opportunity to work in America, to save energy, and to put people back to work.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

What this bill does once again is bring up what is sort of a mini-stimulus bill. We were told when the stimulus bill was passed, unemployment wouldn't go above 8 percent. It would create jobs. It would be the great boon for the country. We now have 9.6 percent unemployment. I am a member of an electric co-op. I know very well how electric co-ops work. If the electric co-ops wanted to do this, if it was such a great deal, they would do it. We don't need the Federal Government doing this because everything that our friends have promised has failed, failed, failed. They want to continue their failed programs.

I don't have a problem with American jobs, but what this creates is not American jobs. They want to create more government jobs, which they have done, and we will talk about that in a little bit.

Now I would like to recognize my colleague from Florida, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY), who is going to talk about this immensely successful project that Republicans have started here called YouCut.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROONEY).

Mr. ROONEY. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 years, this Congress has spent the American people's taxpayer dollars at a record pace. My friends on the other side of the aisle have dug our country into a $13 trillion hole. As the old saying goes, when you're in a hole, stop digging. It is time to cut out-of-control spending and get our fiscal house in order, even if that means saying ''no'' time and time again. This is going to require real leadership, and we are going to have to make some tough decisions.

All of these decisions won't be tough, though, and today we face a no-brainer. Should we require the IRS to collect unpaid taxes from Federal employees? Absolutely. Should they lose their jobs if they don't? Of course.

This cut will reduce the deficit by $1 billion. And while all Americans should of course pay their taxes, Federal employees who receive their paychecks directly from the American people have a special obligation to pay what they owe. It is time to listen to the American people. Through the YouCut program, our constituents have cast 1.7 million votes urging us to cut wasteful spending. Republicans have brought forward proposals to cut more than $120 billion in waste from the budget. Unfortunately, the majority party has blocked all, all, of these efforts. I hope that changes today.

Mr. MCGOVERN. For the record, I want to point out to my colleagues that the manager's amendment addresses the issue of Federal employees who are delinquent on their taxes, and I quote from the manager's amendment that a loan shall not be provided to a Federal employee under this act if any of the following apply to the employee: One, that the employee has a seriously delinquent tax debt.

So, yes, everybody should pay their taxes. We all should be concerned about the debt and the deficit, but I find it a little bit astonishing that the party that took a surplus that Bill Clinton gave them and turned it into a record deficit is talking about the importance of reducing our deficit. Dick Cheney, I remember the Vice President of the United States, made the statement that deficits don't matter. I strongly disagree with him, but that was said as the Bush-Cheney administration was racking up historic debt. He said it doesn't make any difference. He was wrong. They drove this country into a ditch, and now they are complaining about the size of the tow truck to get us back on the road.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the American people are not going to be fooled. I also find it a little bit astonishing that again, while my friends are talking about the importance of focusing on the deficit, that they have embraced a tax plan that will double the projected deficit by adding $4 trillion to the deficit over the next 10 years. What they are trying to do is make sure that millionaires and above get at least $100,000 in tax breaks. That is where their priorities are.

The purpose of this bill is to not only help families lower their utility costs. The purpose of this bill is to create American jobs. And it is to buy products that are made in the United States of America. Not buy them from China, not buy them from India, not buy them from some other country, but made here in the United States.

I'm sorry that my colleague from North Carolina doesn't believe that the jobs that were created in her district as a result of the weatherization investments in the Reinvestment and Recovery Act somehow don't matter. They do. People are working and they are supporting their families. And we need to do more of that. We need to invest in the American people and the American economy.

I should also point out so there is no mistake: This is not additional spending. What this is is a loan program. This is not adding one cent to our deficit. This is a loan program where people will pay the loans back. CBO says it doesn't score. It is totally compliant with PAYGO. So this notion that somehow we are adding more spending to the deficit is just plain wrong.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. My colleagues across the aisle always want to talk about this wonderful surplus that President Clinton had. They always neglect to mention that Congress holds the purse strings and it was Republicans who were in charge of the Congress the last 6 years of Mr. Clinton's administration. They were in terrible shape the first 2 years. Republicans took over and we, Republicans, brought the economy to a surplus.

They also like to point out how bad it was when President Bush left office. They always neglect to say you were in charge, Mr. Speaker, and your party, when Mr. Bush left office. You drove the American economy into the ditch, not the Republicans.

Every bill that comes up here is to create jobs, but the American people understand, again, everything you've done has failed, from the stimulus, February a year ago, to now. You want to continue to spend money to create jobs. But government only creates government jobs, not jobs in the private sector. So I can't let my colleague get by with that.

I would like to point out that the item that our colleague from Massachusetts pointed out is such a narrow piece. We want to really do something about Federal employees paying their taxes, not just those who might apply for a loan under this program.

I would now like to yield 3 minutes to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

We have so many good Federal workers who wake up every morning and do good jobs. They go to work. They are working hard to make this country great, and we applaud them for that effort. Unfortunately, there is a small percentage of people who are not doing what they are supposed to be doing. It happens to be that nearly 100,000 Federal workers are not paying about a billion dollars a year in taxes.

The proposal that we will be able to vote on today will allow us to mandate and make sure that Federal workers who fall into this category of serious delinquent tax debt are fired if they don't pay their taxes.

□ 1050

The principle is simple: If you're on the Federal payroll, you should be paying your Federal taxes. Now, there is a provision in there that says if you're on a pathway to actually making whole and you're having your wages garnished and you're trying to get whole, then fine. We're obviously not going to fire you. Yet, according to the data from the IRS, the numbers are quite staggering—100,000 people. If you're taking those taxpayer dollars, you should be paying your taxes.

Interestingly enough, on January 20 of this year, President Obama gave a speech. He was talking about Federal contractors. I want you to listen to the words of the President, who I happen to agree with in this case; but I also want you to think, when they say ''Federal contractor,'' they should also say ''Federal worker.''

In quoting President Obama: ''It is simply wrong for companies to take taxpayer dollars and not be taxpayers themselves. We need to insist on the same sense of responsibility in Washington that so many of you strive to uphold in your own lives, in your own families, and in your own businesses.''

He went on to say: ''All across the country, there are people who meet their obligations each and every day. You do your jobs. You support your families. You pay the taxes you owe because it's a fundamental responsibility of citizenship; and yet, somehow, it has become standard practice in Washington to give contracts to companies that don't pay their taxes.''

The President is right. Everywhere that it says ''Federal contractors,'' it should also say ''Federal employees.'' This is simple. This should be bipartisan. Everybody should unite behind this because, unfortunately, there are too many people who are on the payrolls who are taking taxpayer dollars but who are not paying their fair share. They have good-quality, high-paying jobs. Please support this measure as it comes up today, and let's do the right thing.

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

Just a couple of things. I will remind the gentlewoman from North Carolina that what dug us into this ditch were tax cuts for the rich that weren't paid for, two wars that weren't paid for and a Medicare prescription drug bill that was like five times the cost we were told it was, and it wasn't paid for. So let's get the record straight on that.

I've got to say, Mr. Speaker, the hypocrisy of the Republican Party just takes my breath away when they get up here and talk about the responsibility that individuals have to pay their taxes. Where were they when we tried to crack down on companies that have opened up P.O. boxes in Bermuda or in the Cayman Islands to avoid paying U.S. taxes, and yet they operate here in the United States and get U.S. Government money? Where were they? You know, the Republicans voted 170–1 to protect tax breaks for companies shipping American jobs overseas, and 95 percent of those Republicans have signed a pledge to protect these tax rates. That's where they are. They want to protect these big corporations that escape paying U.S. taxes, but they want to go after somebody who is working in NIH as a researcher, who is trying to find a cure for cancer. Let's focus on those people. That's what they say.

Look, the point of this legislation here is jobs. It's about saving families and farms and small businesses their utility costs, and it's about creating American jobs. It's about buying things here in the United States of America.

Why is that so objectionable to the Republicans? Why are they fighting this bill that will invest in our economy, that will invest in American jobs, that will help protect American jobs, and that will be great for American jobs? Why is this so controversial? You know, why do they insist that we need to have an economy in which we buy everything from China?

What Democrats are trying to do is to steer this economy toward making it here in America, toward making these products in America and investing in American jobs. That's what this is all about.

So rather than protecting tax breaks for corporations that escape paying U.S. taxes and that get incentives to move jobs overseas, how about standing up for the American worker? How about standing up for this concept of making it in America and for creating and expanding jobs here in the United States?

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out a couple of things to my colleague from Massachusetts.

What is sending jobs overseas are things like the government takeover of health care in this country, which is creating such uncertainty and which is driving up the cost of health care for everyone, as well as the rules and regulations established by the EPA and the programs that many of our colleagues across the aisle love so much. They constantly talk about tax cuts for the rich. Well, every American got a tax cut when the tax cuts went into effect. The tax rate for the lowest-income Americans went down from 15 percent to 10 percent. Now they are proposing to allow that to go back up on January 1 and to create the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

It sounds to me like my colleague across the aisle is defending Federal employees from not paying their taxes. I find that really difficult to understand.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, rhetorically it was asked, Where was I? Where was I?

Look, I'm just a freshman here. I didn't create this mess, but I am here to help clean it up. I actually stand with some Democrats and the President in supporting the idea and the notion that, if you're a Federal contractor and if you don't pay your taxes, you should be dismissed as a contractor. In fact, you shouldn't get a contract. Let's have the guts to have that same standard for Federal employees. That's where the hypocrisy comes in. The President was very clear. I read his comments about taking care of Federal contractors. The same standard should apply to the Federal employees. To suggest that, well, we'll go ahead and grant them some special exemption, absolutely not. I think we need to hold them to a higher standard, do the same for contractors and do the same for the Federal employees. That's the right thing to do. Like I said, I didn't create this mess, but we are here to help clean it up.

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

I would say to the gentleman and to my friends on the other side of the aisle that they've all been long enough here to add to the mess, and cleaning up the mess means supporting bills like this that will create American jobs, that will protect American jobs. This is an important bill.

Again, for the life of me, I don't understand why there is controversy over a bill to invest in America, to invest in our workers, to help lower utility costs for small businesses, for individuals, for family farms. This is not adding to our deficit one penny. This is a loan program to help people weatherize, you know, their homes, and that's whether it's a mobile home, a farm or a small business. You know, over 90 percent of what is needed to do that is made in America.

Why is that a problem? Why do you have a problem with investing in programs that create American jobs? I mean, that's what this is about.

You know, again, the Republicans voted 170–1 to protect tax breaks for companies shipping American jobs overseas, and 95 percent of House Republicans have signed a pledge to protect these tax breaks. Enough of that. It is time to invest in American workers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the reason Republicans vote against these programs is because we pay attention to what happens. Government programs don't work. It's real simple. Our colleagues across the aisle simply haven't learned that.

Again, we go back to the stimulus. We were promised unemployment would not go up past 8 percent. It is almost 10 percent. Our economy is in the ditch. We are in terrible, terrible shape in this country, all because of the spending by our colleagues across the aisle and because of the belief that the government is our savior. It is not our savior.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR).

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and to the motion on ordering the previous question.

I do so because, this summer, while Members were back home in their districts, they heard the growing frustration of the American people firsthand. Hardworking Americans can see that our Nation is at a crossroads. We have a $13 trillion national debt. That works out to be $42,000 for every man, woman and child in America.

Yet what is the Democratic majority doing today? They are bringing a bill to the floor to spend another $5 billion that we don't have to continue their failed stimulus policies. All the while, the American people are saying that the rampant Federal spending in Washington has to stop. The people are speaking out through the YouCut program with over 1.7 million votes. The YouCut movement continues to encourage people of all stripes to go online and to take an active role in determining how their government spends taxpayer dollars.

□ 1100

YouCut voters have helped Republicans bring to the floor more than $120 billion in spending cuts, only to be blocked every time by the Speaker and the Democratic majority. This week's winning proposal under the YouCut program is an idea put forward by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) to require the collection of unpaid taxes from Federal employees. While all Americans have an obligation to pay the taxes they owe, Federal employees can be seen as especially obliged to pay their share of the taxes because they draw their compensation from American taxpayers.

Addressing our staggering national debt is not a partisan calling, Mr. Speaker; it is a national imperative. And I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote to bring this week's YouCut proposal to the House floor.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that what we are debating here is a bill that costs nothing, that adds nothing to our deficit, that will invest in American jobs, that will invest in American products, versus the Republican plan to add $4 trillion to our deficit. That's what this is about here.

I hear frustration from people back home all the time. What they want is they want a manufacturing strategy. They want a strategy to help expand and create more American jobs, and they want us to close tax loopholes that encourage outsourcing U.S. jobs overseas. They want us to provide hometown tax credits to help small businesses hire new employees and sell their products and innovation overseas.

They want to boost incentives to create American clean energy jobs like making state-of-the-art wind turbines and solar panels, paid for by ending corporate welfare to Big Oil. They want to strengthen rules that the U.S. and its contractors buy products made here in America, especially to build transportation and energy and communication infrastructure. They are tired of us shipping those jobs overseas and importing everything. They want to make it here in America.

They want us to force China and other countries to honor fair trade principles or lose American business. There ought to be a consequence if a country like China abrogates its obligations to a treaty or to a trade bill.

We need to give incentives to hire and retain America's returning veterans for new clean energy jobs, and we need to strengthen partnerships with businesses to retain America's workers for jobs in the future. That's what the American people want. The frustration is: Why are we importing everything from overseas? Why are you giving tax breaks to corporations that move their operations overseas or hire overseas when we have an unemployment problem here in the United States? What the American people are frustrated about is that we are losing American jobs that really, quite frankly, should be made here in America.

So I hear the frustration, but I would say the answer is not adding $4 trillion to our deficit like they want to do. The answer is in supporting programs like this that don't add a cent to our deficit but will create American jobs.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee, Mr. DREIER.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I listened to my colleague from Worcester talk about the unemployment rate, talk about the economic challenges that we're facing, and I can tell you we all are well aware of it. Part of the area I represent in southern California has a 14 percent unemployment rate. Statewide in California, we have nearly a 12.5 percent unemployment rate. People are hurting.

Let's remember, we were promised, when the proposals came forward from this administration, that we would have an unemployment rate that would not exceed 8 percent, and now, as my friend from Grandfather Community said, we have an unemployment rate that is between 9.5 and 10 percent—very, very painful for people all across this country. And what it is that we've learned is that a $1 trillion stimulus bill that had $4.7 billion in it for weatherization, when only 10 percent of those funds have been expended, is obviously not the answer to the challenge of weatherization. And so we now have another bill that is a loan program, but it's $4.25 billion and is designed, Mr. Speaker, to deal with a problem that, frankly, is not the top priority that we have out there.

My friend is absolutely right. We want to create jobs. But I think we have learned from the stimulus bill, Mr. Speaker, that the notion of spending billions and trillions of dollars is not what needs to be done to create jobs. We need to create good, private sector jobs.

And so what is it they've come forward with? They've come forward with another bill to deal with weatherization that they say will be a job creator. Well, the policies that we've seen over the past 20 months have killed jobs. The report that is coming out this morning is that the increase in the poverty rate has been nearly unprecedented. We have lots of very, very unfortunate economic indicators out there.

I am an optimist. I believe that our economy is going to recover. It is going to recover in spite of, not because of, the policies that we have put into place here in Washington, D.C., over the past few years. We will because we are Americans, because we are the United States of America. We will, as a Nation, recover, but, Mr. Speaker, what we should be doing is we should be breaking down barriers. We should be reducing the tax and regulatory burden on working Americans and job creators to ensure that we can, as early as possible, have that kind of success.

Now, this rule that we are considering right now is a further indication of the arrogance of the majority leadership. There was one Republican amendment that was germane that was submitted, and, Mr. Speaker, it was submitted by our Texas colleague, Mr. BARTON, who is the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. It was denied. Five amendments were made in order, all amendments offered by the majority.

Unfortunately, what we've seen is, time and time again, this institution, under the Democratic leadership that we have, is simply coming forward with proposals offered by Democrats, completely shutting out Republicans. Now, Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying that in a partisan way. I'm saying it because the Republicans represent nearly half the American people, and the American people are the ones who are being shut out and, unfortunately, many Democratic Members are being shut out as well.

This has tragically been the single-most closed Congress in the history of our Republic. The 221-year history of our Republic has never seen a Congress as closed as this. Mr. Speaker, I know this comes as a surprise to many, but with the exception of the appropriations process in the first 2 years of Speaker PELOSI's leadership, we have seen a grand total of one bill considered under an open amendment process in the entire 3 years. In fact, we are poised right now to, for the first time in the history of our Republic, see an entire Congress without a single open rule. Why? Because we saw the appropriations process close down in this 111th Congress as well.

The American people want us to focus on job creation and economic growth, and they also want greater transparency, disclosure, and accountability, and, Mr. Speaker, they are not getting that from this Congress. They deserve better. And if we can deliver it, I am convinced we will be able to get our economy back on track.

So I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule because we can do better. First vote ''no'' on the previous question so that we will be able to say to those Federal employees who are not paying their taxes that they shouldn't be there. We are focusing specifically on ways to cut spending. We've got an opportunity to do that. Let's vote ''no'' on the previous question and ''no'' on the rule.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 11 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from North Carolina has 10½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker used the word ''arrogance,'' and I would just say that I think it is awfully arrogant for Members of this Congress, Members of this body to stand up and vote against bills that help small businesses, that help create American jobs, that provide loans and lending abilities to small businesses. I mean, small business is the engine of our economy, and the bill that we are talking about here today will help a lot of small businesses.

We had a small business bill on the floor that we passed—unfortunately, my friends on the other side of the aisle voted against it, and I'm told that the Senate is going to be taking it up shortly—that will provide additional credit to small businesses, which is desperately needed.

□ 1110

I think many of my colleagues went home over the break and talked to a number of small businesses, and access to credit is a big issue. I think we're going to probably get it. It took a long time and a lot of fighting to get it, but my Republican friends, the Party of No on the other side of the aisle, voted against it. So if you want to talk about arrogance, I think that's arrogance.

This bill before us will not add a penny to our deficit, will provide loans that will help create energy-efficient products made here in the United States of America and will also help fund the installation of these products by American workers. This is about creating American jobs. We're going to make it in America, and we're going to create American jobs. That my friends on the other side of the aisle find that controversial or unacceptable is just astounding to me.

And when I hear that the money in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act didn't create any jobs when it comes to the issue of weatherization and energy efficiency, again, I read the statistics. The statistics don't lie. I mean, jobs were created. And many houses have been made more energy efficient, which means individuals and businesses don't have to pay as much in utility bills. And that's an important thing for a small business or a struggling family.

So this is about American jobs. It's about investing in the American people. And I would just say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, rather than voting overwhelmingly, 170–1, to protect tax breaks for companies shipping American jobs overseas, you ought to focus on ways to help keep American jobs here in the United States of America. That's what we're trying to do with this bill.

I urge all my colleagues, don't put politics above people. Don't put politics above people. Do what's right, and let's help create more jobs here in the United States of America.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

With all due respect to my colleague across the aisle, we do not put politics above people. My colleagues and I were out in our districts all during the August recess, and we listened to our constituents. We know what our constituents want. They want a different direction for this country than our friends across the aisle have been taking us, along with this administration.

It wasn't the Republicans that drove this country into the ditch. It was the Democrats through their spend, spend, spend program, debt, debt, debt program. The American people have awakened. They know what's going on, and they don't like it. We're going to do everything we can to stop this irresponsible behavior on the part of our colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. Our colleagues have talked about every bill they've brought up here in the last 18 months as being a jobs bill. But what they've done is spend, spend, spend and claiming they're creating jobs, but they have failed time after time. The results are clear.

The Democrat elites have run out of ideas about how to get the economy moving in the right direction. The American people can't afford more of the ruling Democrats' failed policies. They want new ideas for getting our economy back on track—not the same warmed-over stimulus and bailout policies that have failed to do anything but create new taxes, record deficits, and high unemployment.

Month after month Americans have been asking, ''Where are the jobs?'' The Democrats have been in total control of this country for almost 2 years, and what has President Obama offered? Nothing new but promising between now and November he will, quote, remind the American people that policies he has put in place have, quote, moved us in the right direction.

Well, good luck, Mr. President, on selling the American people that you've taken us from 5 percent unemployment to 10 percent unemployment and you want to keep going in the same direction. Those who are unemployed aren't going to agree, and those who worry about being unemployed aren't going to agree with the President. The American people do not need more empty rhetoric and politically driven spin from the White House. They need real solutions.

The only jobs this administration has created have been Federal Government jobs, adding to the overwhelming layers of bureaucracy that already exist at the Federal level. From February of 2009 to June 2010, 405,000 Federal Government jobs have been created. Since the so-called ''stimulus,'' American taxpayers have spent $44.9 billion on these new government worker salaries—and yet we continue to see record high unemployment in the private sector. All this administration and the liberal elite ruling Democrats want to do is grow government and grow bureaucracy, and this is evidenced by their backward policies.

As they try to sell their ''Recovery Summer,'' we know that more Americans are concerned about the state of the economic health. An August 24, 2010, Reuters' IPSO poll showed that the economy is a core concern for Americans, with almost three-quarters—72 percent—of Americans very concerned about jobs. It showed 62 percent of Americans now think the country is on the wrong track.

It is clear that though President Obama believes he's sailing the ship in the right direction, the American people overwhelmingly disagree. Even though the results are in and it's clear the American people don't want these policies, our friends across the aisle keep trying to shove expensive, wasteful pieces of legislation down the taxpayers' throat. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than this.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment to which our colleagues spoke earlier and extraneous material be placed in the RECORD prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am going to urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question so I can amend the rule to allow all Members of Congress the opportunity to vote on a cost-saving measure.

Recently, Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR launched YouCut, which gives people an opportunity to vote for Federal

spending they'd like to see Congress cut. Americans have cast their votes, and this week the American people want Congress to save nearly $1 billion by requiring collection of unpaid taxes from Federal employees.

In 2008, the Internal Revenue Service reported that over 90,000 Federal employees were delinquent on their Federal income taxes, owing a total of $1 billion in unpaid taxes. This includes 1,151 employees who owe $7 million at the Department of Treasury which oversees the IRS.

H.R. 4735, of which I am a cosponsor, would prevent persons who have seriously delinquent tax debts from being eligible for Federal employment. By requiring at a minimum that the IRS work with Federal agencies to withhold a portion of each employee's paycheck who is determined to have a ''seriously delinquent tax debt,'' we can ensure that Federal employees are paying their fair share of taxes. Failure to pay required taxes should result in disciplinary actions designed to ensure that the taxpayers are made whole. In addition to collecting back taxes already due, this reform will ensure future unpaid taxes are also collected.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question and ''no'' on the rule.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 8½ minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, once again I urge my colleagues not to put politics over people. These are serious, difficult economic times. We need to make policy here that invests in our people, that invests in American jobs, that helps create a climate where more American jobs can be created.

My colleague from North Carolina talks about how the Republicans somehow are not responsible for this massive, colossal deficit that we have, but I just want to remind people about the facts. The facts are that when Bill Clinton provided George Bush with this record-breaking surplus, it was a Republican Congress and a Republican President that instituted tax cuts—mostly for the wealthy—that weren't paid for; tax cuts that benefited the wealthiest of the wealthy that were not paid for.

□ 1120

It was a prescription drug bill that wasn't paid for and was much more expensive than they advertised. It was two wars that they decided not to pay for. American soldiers and their families sacrificed, but the rest of us are asked to not do anything to help sacrifice or pay for the war.

That all happened when you had a Republican Congress—they were in control of everything—and a Republican President. I mean those are the facts. I am sorry that it bothers my friends, but it's the truth.

And now they are coming up with a proposal that will add $4 trillion to our deficit. It doesn't seem to bother any of them. Well, it bothers me and it bothers the people that I represent. I think it bothers most people in this country. One of the things that I think is clear is that the American people don't want to go back to the same old policies that created this mess.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush holds the worst jobs record of any administration in 75 years, including 4.6 million American manufacturing jobs lost. House Republican leaders have said, and I quote, ''We need to go back to the exact same agenda.'' That's what they want to do. They want to go back to the same policies that created this mess.

I am going to repeat what I said before about the fact that Republicans voted 170 to 1 to protect tax breaks for companies shipping American jobs overseas. One hundred seventy to one to protect tax breaks that are shipping our jobs overseas. Ninety-five percent of House Republicans have signed a pledge to protect these tax breaks. I mean what are they thinking? One hundred percent of House Republicans voted against creating and saving 3.6 million American jobs, including advanced vehicle and clean energy manufacturing jobs. We cannot go back. We cannot go back.

You know, when we make it in America more middle class families will make it too. It's that simple. And what the underlying bill does is provide loans. It doesn't add a single cent to our deficit. It provides loans to families and to businesses and to farms to be able to do weatherization and energy efficiency. And over 90 percent of the products that are needed to do energy efficiency improvements are made in America. Not made in China; made in America. This is a good thing.

The more people take loans and the more people want to weatherize their homes and their businesses, they will save money on utility costs, and more and more American workers will get a job. Why is that so hard for my friends on the other side of the aisle to get? I mean they fight tooth and nail to protect tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires. That is their big issue. I assume that helps them politically in terms of the money given to the Republican National Committee. But it doesn't do a damn thing for American workers.

We need to start insisting that American workers come first. And that is what this bill is about. It is investing in our workforce. It is about making it here in the United States, creating jobs in the United States.

So Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote to support this bill. I would urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Ms. FOXX is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1620 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of the resolution add the following new section:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4735) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration. of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without. instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4735.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to

yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 1620, if ordered; and the motion to suspend the rules on the Senate amendments to H.R. 3562.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 186, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 526]

YEAS—226

Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—186

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Djou
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hoekstra
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Space
Stearns
Sullivan
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—20

Ackerman
Blunt
Bonner
Braley (IA)
Davis (AL)
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Fallin
Gordon (TN)
Hodes
Inglis
Marchant
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Putnam
Rush
Schwartz
Shea-Porter
Tierney
Young (FL)

□ 1152

Messrs. CASSIDY and BACHUS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 526 on H. Res. 1620, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "yea" when I should have voted "nay."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 188, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]

AYES—225

Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)

Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—188

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—19

Ackerman
Blunt
Braley (IA)
Davis (AL)
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Fallin
Hodes
Marchant
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Putnam
Rush
Schwartz
Shea-Porter
Sutton
Tierney
Visclosky
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1201

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES CHANEY, ANDREW GOODMAN, MICHAEL SCHWERNER, AND ROY K. MOORE FEDERAL BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3562) to designate the federally occupied building located at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the ''James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner Federal Building,'' on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

YEAS—409

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock

Schrader
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—23

Ackerman
Bishop (GA)
Blunt
Braley (IA)
Camp
Davis (AL)
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Fallin
Fleming
Hodes
Marchant
McClintock
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Putnam
Rush
Schwartz
Shea-Porter
Tierney
Visclosky
Watt
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1212

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 16, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 527 and 528.

Had I been present for rollcall 527, on agreeing to H. Res. 1620, providing for the consideration of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 528, on a motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3562, a measure to designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building, I would have voted "aye."

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas a reconvening of Congress between the regularly scheduled Federal election in November and the start of the next session of Congress is known as a lame-duck session of Congress;

Whereas Democrats have recently insinuated that significant legislative matters would deliberately not be addressed during the 111th Congress until after the midterm 2010 elections;

Whereas this Congress began its mortgage of the Nation's future with a ''stimulus'' package costing $1.1 trillion that failed to lower unemployment, spur economic growth, or actually address the needs of struggling American businesses and families;

Whereas this Congress continued its free-wheeling spending with an increase of $72.4 billion in nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2009 to reach a total spending level of $1.01 trillion for the first time in United States history;

Whereas this Congress approved a budget resolution in 2009 that proposed the 6 largest nominal deficits in American history and included tax increases of $423 billion during a period of sustained high unemployment;

Whereas the House of Representatives disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a national energy tax bill that would increase costs on nearly every aspect of American lives by up to $3,000 per person per year, eliminate millions of jobs, reduce workers' income, and devastate economic growth;

Whereas this Congress disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a massive government takeover of health care that will force millions of Americans from their health insurance plans, increase premiums and costs for individuals and employers, raise taxes by $569.2 billion, and fund abortions—all at a cost of $2.64 trillion over the first 10 years of full implementation;

Whereas this Congress nationalized the student loan industry with a potential cost of 30,000 private sector jobs and $50.1 billion over 10 years;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed the DISCLOSE Act, which would violate the First Amendment and hinder the free speech of citizens associations and corporations while leaving all unions exempt from many of the new requirements, in order to try to influence the outcome of the midterm 2010 elections;

Whereas in spite of the House Budget Committee Chairman's 2006 statement that ''if you can't budget, you can't govern'', the Democrat leadership has failed to introduce a budget resolution in 2010 as mandated by law, but instead self-executed a ''deeming resolution'' that increases nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2011 by $30 billion to $1.121 trillion, setting another new record for the highest level in United States history;

Whereas this Congress has failed Main Street through passage of a financial system takeover that fails to end the moral hazard of too-big-to-fail, does not address Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and creates numerous new boards, councils, and positions with unconstitutionally broad authorities that will interfere with the creation of wealth and jobs;

Whereas this Congress has wasted taxpayer funds on an unnecessary and unconstitutional auto industry bailout, a ''cash for clunkers'' program, a home remodification program (''cash for caulkers''), and countless other special interest projects while allowing the public debt to reach its highest level in United States history;

Whereas the New York Times reported on June 19, 2010, that ''[f]or all the focus on the historic federal rescue of the banking industry, it is the government's decision to seize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in September 2008 that is likely to cost taxpayers the most money. . . . Republicans want to sever ties with Fannie and Freddie once the crisis abates. The Obama administration and Congressional Democrats have insisted on postponing the argument until after the midterm elections'';

Whereas the Washington Times reported on June 22, 2010, that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer stated, ''a budget, which sets out binding one-year targets and a multiyear plan, is useless this year because Congress has shunted key questions about deficits to the independent debt commission created by President Obama, which is due to report back at the end of this year'';

Whereas the Hill reported on June 24, 2010, that Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, suggested that ''Democrats might attempt to move 'card-check' legislation this year, perhaps during a lame-duck session. . . . 'A lot of things can happen in a lame-duck session, too,' he said'';

Whereas the New York Times published an article on June 28, 2010, titled ''Lame-Duck Session Emerges as Possibility for Climate Bill Conference'' that declares, ''many expect the final energy or climate bill to be worked out during the lame-duck session between the November election and the start of the new Congress in January'';

Whereas the Hill reported on July 1, 2010, that ''Democratic leaders are likely to punt the task of renewing Bush-era tax cuts until after the election. Voters in November's midterms will thus be left without a clear idea of their future tax rates when they go to the polls'';

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported on July 13, 2010, that ''there have been signs in recent weeks that party leaders are planning an ambitious, lame-duck session to muscle through bills in December they don't want to defend before November. Retiring or defeated members of Congress would then be able to vote for sweeping legislation without any fear of voter retaliation'';

Whereas the Hill reported on July 27, 2010, that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, at the recent Netroots Nation conference of liberal bloggers, in reference to Democrats' unfinished priorities, ''We're going to have to have a lame duck session, so we're not giving up'';

Whereas the Hill reported in the same piece on July 27, 2010, that the lame-duck session will include priorities such as ''comprehensive immigration reform, climate change legislation and a whole host of other issues'';

Whereas during NBC's Meet the Press on August 8, 2010, White House advisor Carol Browner stated that Congress would ''potentially'' deal with a national energy tax bill in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Hill reported on August 20, 2010, that Rep. Mike Quigley (D–IL) said, ''I'm more hopeful about the lame duck session. I have faith that we're going to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell'';

Whereas the members of the House Republican Conference, as an alternative to passing a massive omnibus spending bill for next year during a lame-duck session, have called on members of both parties, as a starting point, to work together this month to enact legislation that cuts nonsecurity discretionary spending to 2008 levels (the last year before the wave of bailouts, stimulus spending sprees, and takeovers that have dismayed the American people) for the next year and provides much-needed certainty to American small businesses by freezing tax rates at their current levels for the next 2 years;

Whereas recent public polling shows that the American people clearly oppose the idea of dealing with major new legislation in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence notes that governments ''[derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed'';

Whereas the American people have expressed their loss of confidence through self-organized and self-funded taxpayer marches on Washington, at countless ''tea party'' events, at townhalls and speeches, and with numerous letters, emails, and phone calls to their elected representatives;

Whereas the Democrat majority has all but announced plans to use any lame-duck Congress to advance currently unattainable, partisan policies that are widely unpopular with the American people or that further increase the national debt against the will of most Americans;

Whereas reconvening the House of Representatives in a lame-duck session to address major new legislation subverts the will of the American people, lessens accountability, and does lasting damage to the dignity and integrity of this body's proceedings; and

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat majority, and largely due to the current trends of expanding governmental power and limiting individual liberty, the American people have lost confidence in their elected officials, and that faith must be restored: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives pledges not to assemble on or between November 2, 2010, and January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emergency requiring immediate action from Congress, and that the consideration of any of the following matters does not constitute an unforeseen, sudden emergency:

(1) Card check, including H.R. 1409 (111th).

(2) A national energy tax, including H.R. 2454 (111th).

(3) Any legislation that would provide more authority to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

(4) Any legislation pertaining to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

(5) Any legislation making regular appropriations for fiscal year 2011 that would be an increase over previous funding levels.

(6) Any legislation increasing any tax on any American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Georgia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H.R. 4785.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4785.

□ 1223

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4785) to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use, with Mr. SALAZAR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the bill we are considering today, H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, will greatly benefit our rural residents. The agriculture provisions in this bill build on existing U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and will reduce energy consumption and, as a result, reduce energy costs in rural America.

Rural electric cooperatives estimate that the Rural Energy Savings Program Act has the potential to create between 20,000 and 40,000 jobs per year and will make loans available to between 1.1 and 1.6 million rural households, depending on the average consumer size. It is clear that this is a win-win proposition for our rural constituents and our rural economy.

This Act furthers the Agriculture Committee's commitment to expand renewable and alternative sources of power and discover new technologies to improve the efficiency and sustainability of existing power generation across rural America.

H.R. 4785 authorizes USDA's rural utility service to make interest-free loans to eligible entities. These entities will use these funds to make low-interest loans to rural consumers allowing them to implement energy-efficient measures on their property. Using the existing Rural Utilities Service structure, with the rural electric cooperatives as the delivery system, rural consumers can more quickly obtain the benefits of energy-efficient investments and ultimately decrease their energy bills.

Rural customers are facing increasing energy costs and rural electric cooperatives, which serve 42 million member owners across the country, are facing growing demand for electric power, yet are constrained from building new generation capacity.

The upfront costs to make energy-efficient upgrades are often beyond the reach of most consumers. This is true even if the costs can be recovered over time or a tax credit or a rebate would reduce the initial price. Additionally, consumers often lack the necessary knowledge about what technologies would be the most effective.

H.R. 4785 is an opportunity to meet these challenges and enact policy that we know will reduce energy costs and consumption and improve the quality of life in our rural communities.

I would like to thank Congressman CLYBURN and Congressman PERRIELLO for their hard work and dedication to improving energy efficiency and their support for the agriculture provisions within this Act.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the agriculture provisions contained in this Act and encourage its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I must rise today in opposition to H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. As a result of the Democratic leadership's failed policies, we are now considering a bill that creates two new government funded programs to address high energy bills and energy demand. We are considering creating a program that duplicates thousands of other efficiency measures that Congress has passed and funded in the billions of dollars over the last several years.

H.R. 4785, as reported by the Agriculture Committee, would require the government, through USDA, to front nearly a billion dollars to rural electric cooperatives so that they can, in return, make what might potentially be risky loans to their customers for energy-efficiency projects in their homes. The investments made in this program would only benefit an estimated 1.5 million of the 43 million customers served by rural electric cooperatives. Energy efficiency is an important step in an overall energy plan. But creating a new government funded program is not the solution.

This issue can be addressed in the farm bill by making adjustments to current programs. The 2008 farm bill included a provision that would have allowed rural electric cooperatives to

expand clean energy production and provide affordable electricity for more of its customers.

□ 1230

However, the provision was stripped by the current Democratic leadership. As a result, rural electric cooperatives cannot access RUS lending for new base load generation. In other words, base load generation from sources such as nuclear, natural gas, and clean coal technologies are difficult, if not impossible, to finance through the program now.

Even more alarming is that this is not the bill that was reported by the Committee on Agriculture. Instead, the Democratic leadership created a bill that is five times larger and includes a program that was already stripped, already stripped, the Home Star program, on the House floor by bipartisan support. It will give the Department of Energy another program and billions more in taxpayer dollars to administer.

Why would Congress add to a failed stimulus policy? The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act alone created the $5.25 billion Weatherization Assistance Program for home energy efficiency updates, which has been, some say, a colossal failure from an implementation perspective, and very well may have wasted huge amounts of taxpayers' dollars at the hands of the Department of Energy.

The Democratic leadership is pushing energy policy that will create increased and burdensome energy costs for Americans. As a result, we are creating new government programs that increase spending to address the consequences of those policies. I urge my colleagues oppose the bill.

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 4785, a bill authored by the distinguished majority whip, Mr. JAMES CLYBURN of South Carolina. The Rural Energy Savings Program Act will not only quickly create construction and manufacturing jobs, but it will also help Americans make their homes more energy efficient.

The Agriculture Committee reported this bill favorably in July. I want to commend the chairman of the committee, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. CLYBURN for subsequently working with my committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, to actually improve the legislation. The bill includes the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program that was reported by the Energy and Commerce Committee on April 15, 2010, as part of H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act of 2010.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 5019 was approved by the committee with a bipartisan vote of 30–17. It was supported by a broad array of stakeholders, including energy efficiency advocates, manufacturers, business and industry trade associations, and small businesses. Under this bill, homeowners anywhere in the country will be able to work with their rural cooperative, utility, or other governor-designated lender to borrow money for proven energy efficiency investments in their homes. They would repay the loans over time, generally from a portion of the money they save on their energy bill, and at an interest rate of not more than 3 percent. The lenders would repay their States, and the States would repay the Federal Government after not more than 20 years.

The Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program is a natural companion to the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. As you may know, the Rural Energy Savings Act authorizes zero-interest loans to rural electric cooperatives for purposes of offering consumer loans for energy efficiency home retrofits. The Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program will authorize zero-interest loans to those portions of the country not served—I repeat that—not served by rural electric cooperatives.

I originally cosponsored this bill because it provided enormous assistance to consumers served by rural electric cooperatives across the country. My district in North Carolina is served by 10 rural electric co-ops in addition to the 20 municipal power utilities and two investor-owned utilities.

Across the country, cooperatives only serve about 12 percent of the Nation's population. So the provisions included in the substitute amendment will ensure that a homeowner will have the same access to a low interest energy efficiency loan whether or not they are served by a co-op, an investor-owned utility, or a municipality.

Under the Home Star loan program, States could borrow Federal funds to allow entities like electric utilities or other entities provide loans to consumers for residential energy efficiency measures. The Department of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, would identify the eligible energy efficiency measures.

The programs in this bill, Mr. Chairman, vary significantly from the Weatherization Assistance Program. Weatherization is a grant program used by low-income households to reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The programs in this bill are loans, and thus do not increase the deficit. They are available to anyone, regardless of income.

Some of my Republican colleagues have questioned this bill's necessity due to the significant investment made in the Weatherization program in the Recovery Act. Well, while I concede that Weatherization got off to a slow start, today over 30,000 homes each month are being weatherized across the country. In September, the Department of Energy announced that it had weatherized over 200,000 homes across the country. In June, 960 homes were weatherized in my State of North Carolina. Each of the low-income families living in those 960 homes will save an average of $437 annually on their energy bill. But that's not why we are here today. We are here to offer all Americans a chance to lower their utility bills and put their neighbors back to work.

The recession has had a significant impact on the home construction and services industry, which has experienced unemployment rates of 27 percent. Additionally, manufacturing plants that produce construction-related products have operated at 50 percent of capacity. Home energy retrofit work can provide, and it will provide, significant employment opportunities for construction workers while boosting domestic manufacturing. More than 92 percent of the energy-efficient products and materials for which the Home Star program will stimulate sales are manufactured here in the United States of America.

Home energy efficiency retrofits can also cut the Nation's energy use, saving consumers money and cutting pollution. American homes account for about 33 percent of the Nation's total electricity demand, and approximately 22 percent of all energy use in the United States. This legislation, Mr. Chairman, presents an opportunity for all of us to work together to save energy and create jobs. I urge all of our colleagues to seize this opportunity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, at this time I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished majority whip.

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

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank my friend, Chairman HOLDEN, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. Mr. Chairman, the Rural Energy Savings Program, or Rural Star, as it is popularly called, is an important piece of the Make It in America agenda. It is a program that will create jobs and help save families money on their energy bills.

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once called our 50 States ''laboratories of democracy.'' And that is certainly the case with this homegrown, American-owned idea. The rural electric co-ops in South Carolina brought this idea to my attention late last year. And I worked with them and my colleague Congressman JOHN SPRATT to craft legislation that takes the South Carolina model nationwide. I am very proud that South Carolina is providing significant leadership for our economic recovery with this innovative approach to job creation and energy savings.

The concept is very simple: low-cost home improvement loans for energy-efficient upgrades, sealing, insulation,

HVAC systems, heat pumps, and other structural improvements. Those low-cost loans are paid back on customers' electricity bills, with the energy savings covering the cost of the loan.

□ 1240

When the term of the loan expires, most people will be saving hundreds of dollars annually on their monthly utility bills.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation is first and foremost a jobs bill, and it is based on commonsense ideas that can be done in a fiscally responsible manner that will protect taxpayers and the Treasury. Let me emphasize that this is a voluntary loan program, not a grant or rebate; and the loans are paid back to the Federal Treasury.

We call this the Rural Energy Savings Program because it will save consumers energy and money. More importantly, it will put people back to work, particularly in the building and construction trades and manufacturing industries, sectors that have been hard hit by the economic downturn.

While providing energy upgrades and significant employment opportunities for building and construction workers, this legislation will boost domestic manufacturing. Retailers of energy-efficient building materials and appliances will also benefit from increased sales. Virtually all of the energy-efficient products and materials used for energy efficiency improvements are made in America.

Rural Star has the support of a broad coalition of stakeholders, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Association of Home Builders, the Retail Industry Leaders Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Rural Star will create high-skill, high-wage manufacturing and construction jobs and deliver meaningful energy savings for consumers that will put money directly into their wallets.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. Let's create jobs that are made in America so that our fellow citizens can ''Make It in America.''

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina, the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. SPRATT.

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, this bill will authorize the Rural Utilities Service to make loans to rural electric co-ops so that the co-ops, in turn, can make loans to families and small businesses for energy conservation and efficiency measures that meet Federal standards.

This process will begin with an energy audit aimed at identifying energy-saving measures. Based on this audit, the co-ops will propose improvements like insulation or high-efficiency heat pumps. Consumers will pay the co-ops for the installation through a charge on their utility bills spread over a period of 5 to 10 years. The energy savings will cover much, if not all, of the loan repayment. And after the loan is repaid, the participating consumer will continue to save, as will the economy, because of the more efficient use of energy.

There are more than 200,000 rural electric cooperative customers in my district, many of them near or below the poverty level. Many of these hard-working people would gladly invest in their homes to make them more efficient, but they cannot borrow or afford the funds necessary to install a new heat pump or place insulation in their walls and ceilings.

This is where the ingenuity of the co-ops comes in. Through a program that could be implemented nationwide, they would provide a simple but effective solution to help their customers at relatively low cost. At the same time they would create new jobs by making low-cost loans available to install high-impact energy efficiency improvements. The loans will be repaid over time on the consumer's utility bill, and ideally there will be a net reduction of utility payments even when accounting for the loan repayments. This is a win-win solution to a major problem.

I urge support for this bill. It is well crafted and it will not have an impact on the bottom line of the budget because we are talking about loans made by the Federal Government to the electric co-ops, which will be, I am sure, duly repaid.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO).

Mr. PERRIELLO. Thank you for yielding.

This is a great day, and this is a great program. This is the kind of commonsense approach people are looking for right now to help cut costs for families that are struggling and help put construction crews back to work that are desperately under demand in this economy.

Here we have a chance to help support American construction, using American-manufactured products to reduce the electric bills of rural America, including seniors on fixed incomes, including middle class families and working class families. It is the kind of common sense that has always made this country stronger and more vibrant. Here we are at a time when construction is down that we can be stepping up to renovate the building stock that we have, and we know in our rural communities our building stock is less efficient than in much of the rest of America.

So here we have a chance to make our rural communities more competitive and more livable, the utilities as partners, because the only limiting factor here is up-front capital. We know that the market can drive the rest.

So helping the utilities to provide that up-front investment, to unleash construction crews going to work to renovate homes, using American manufactured products like insulation, double-paned glass, window film—including the best window film in the world that we can make in southern Virginia in my district—that reduces electric bills.

If you are a senior on a fixed income and you have seen your electric rates go up and up, there is nothing you can take out of that budget. You don't have some party budget that you are going to give up. It's a fixed income. If we can help reduce that electric bill, that's more money for food and for transportation and for other needs that our seniors and our working families face. We can unleash what we do best, making things, building things, growing things in America and saving money for the average American who is so stretched right now.

We should not delay. We should pass this today on a bipartisan basis. We should make sure the Senate follows suit because this is the kind of common sense that can support those construction jobs we need, those manufacturing jobs we need, and that economic relief that our working and middle class families desperately need.

I urge all of my colleagues to be part of this commonsense solution and get us building and making things in America again today.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I have the greatest confidence, faith and belief in the integrity and the intention of my colleagues as they work on this bill; but, Mr. Chairman, this is adding 5 billion more dollars on top of hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars that we have spent over the course of the last year and a half-plus that we don't have.

I would simply urge my colleagues, turn this bill back, let's not add $5 billion more on to what we have already spent. Let's fulfill our constitutional responsibilities and pass our 12 appropriation bills in regular session. Let's fulfill our responsibility to our constituents and the economy they have to work in by addressing the tax issues from 2001 and 2003, and let's just go home.

There is a political storm brewing out there. This is going to be a different body in January. Let's do what we are obligated to do under the Constitution and for our constituents and go home.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, we know that rural cooperatives will need

to double generating capacity. Several reports, including one done by USDA, state it will take a 10-year capital requirement of $65.5 billion, $49.9 billion which would be for new generation, and this does not even take into consideration the $10 billion needed for transmission and the $3 billion to retrofit. So that would be a tremendous expense to consumers across rural America. Energy efficiency investment is the way we need to proceed, so I encourage adoption of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the bill before us today. I am going to ask my colleagues to vote ''no.''

We had a similar bill on the floor back in May; and in that bill we offered a motion to recommit, which passed, which struck the Home Star loan program.

□ 1250

This bill, the bill that we struck the loan program from back in May, was a $324 million authorization. This bill has come back to us at a $5 billion authorization. That is a little bit of a puzzlement. If it didn't make sense in May to start a new program for $300 million, it doesn't make sense in September to start the same program except for $5 billion. So, if for no other reason, we should vote against this bill.

The second point I want to make is that the programs in the bill are worthwhile. I know that seems to be a little bit inconsistent with what I just said, but it is not that these are bad programs. The question is can we afford them when we have a deficit that is going to be between $1.2 trillion and $1.4 trillion this year?

In another energy efficiency bill that has become law last year, we authorized, and I think we appropriated, $4.7 billion for the Department of Energy to do the same sort of programs that this bill would authorize. Today, the Department of Energy has spent about 10 percent of that, a little less than $500 million. So they have over $4 billion that has been appropriated that hasn't been spent. Now, I'm not casting stones on the Department of Energy. It probably makes sense to take your time setting up the program and making sure you get the processes and the requirements to participate in the right form. But if we have an existing program that has been appropriated and has over $4 billion surplus in it, I don't see the need for another program.

One may say, well, this is for rural America or for specific homeowners. But, to my knowledge, and I have got the Agriculture Committee here, there would be no exclusions because of the location under the program that the Department of Energy is currently implementing.

I would point out that 2 years ago the Federal debt was a little under $6 trillion. We have added almost $3 trillion to it in the last 2 years. I can't see that there is much net improvement that has happened to our economy with the expenditure of that much money, the addition of that much money to the debt.

It is not a case, Mr. Chairman, of coming to the floor and saying, This is a good program, support it. With these kinds of deficits, I think we need to think as a body, Is this a program that is absolutely essential and is it worth adding more to the public debt to pass this program? And with all due respect, while this is a good program, it is not a program that I think we should add to our children's and our grandchildren's debt. So I would urge a ''no'' vote at the appropriate time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the bill before us and urge my colleagues to vote "no."

There is a growing tide of voices in this country calling for less government, less spending, and less debt. These concerns stretch across party and region. Our national debt presents a crisis we have mistakenly ignored for far too long. But after nearly two trillion dollars have been spent on a failed economic stimulus package and programs to prop-up our financial system, we need to examine every dollar authorized with the utmost scrutiny.

If we apply just the slightest amount of examination to this bill, it becomes difficult to defend the premise on which the Rural Energy Savings Program Act rests. Take the so-called stimulus bill for instance. In early 2009, Congress authorized the Department of Energy to spend an additional $4.7 billion on its home weatherization program. Improved home energy efficiency is a great way to ensure savings for the homeowner and helps lessen our overall consumption of electricity. Programs that speed efficiency measures along should be a no-brainer. But twelve months after $4.7 billion was handed to the Department of Energy for these purposes, we found out we had little to show for it. In that time, DOE had spent only 10 percent of its new funds to upgrade around 30,000 homes around the country. This was supposed to be another "shovel-ready" stimulus project that would create thousands of jobs and improve energy efficiency in hundreds of thousands of homes. In that pursuit, the program was a complete failure.

The bill before us today basically seeks the same goals using the same byzantine structures and bureaucracies that failed us before. If we can't trust DOE to handle increased funding for an already-existing program, how can we trust DOE and the Department of Agriculture to handle billions of dollars for an entirely new program? The simple answer is we can't.

On top of the issue of government shortcomings is the question of cost. H.R. 4785 authorizes $5 billion in taxpayer money without any means of finding a way of paying for it. Again, we're ignoring the Majority's own pay-as-you-go rules. These rules, as the voters were led to believe, were created to help stop the bleeding of funds into the pool of national debt. But over the past few years, we all realize it is a grand illusion. Our country is at its greatest level of debt since the end of World War II—62 percent of GDP. We cannot keep adding a billion dollars here and a billion dollars there thinking the cost of these programs have no effect. Somewhere we must put a stop to the bleeding. And if we look at government's past performance in improving home energy efficiency and weigh the costs with the benefits, we cannot logically justify tallying $5 billion in additional red ink.

I can only conclude from the reading of this bill that my opposition was not necessary from the outset. Had this bill properly made its way through the Energy and Commerce and Agriculture Committees, we would have had a better chance at learning more of the program's advantages and disadvantages and, through committee markup, had the opportunity to make improvements that would have eliminated the debt problem and further developed the accountability measures that are absent from this legislation. As we've seen so many times in this Congress and the one before, regular order has been ignored and incomplete legislation results.

Mr. Chair, it does not always have to be this way. I support making homes more energy efficient and government efforts that properly pursue that goal. H.R. 4785 will not accomplish that task and simply creates more problems than it solves.

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I want to, first of all, thank the gentleman from Texas because he did help make this bill and the Home Star bill a better bill.

There is a question here about why we provide this money in a time of a deficit, and there is an answer to that. America faces, right now, two great challenges. One is high unemployment—we have got to put people back to work—and the other is an energy policy that is not as clean as it needs to be. It is not as sustainable as it must be, and it is not as affordable as it is essential that it be.

This legislation addresses both of those challenges by investing in energy efficiency, and this is with people making their own decisions about how best to do that in their own rural homes. We invest in our economy. Over 90 percent of the materials are manufactured in the United States of America. By slowing our wasteful use of energy, we can save homeowners hundreds of millions of dollars. That is money in their pocket that they can spend on other things good for the economy. And by, of course, reducing the amount of costly oil we import from hostile nations, we can create clean energy jobs here at home.

So this is a practical approach to address persistent high unemployment, tight family budgets, and climate change. This is a win-win-win for families, for our economy, and for our energy future.

I applaud Mr. CLYBURN and the other sponsors, Mr. SPRATT, and I urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I'll make it short and sweet. This is the same bill that was rejected under suspension back in May, with the exception that the authorization on the Home Star program has been increased by 13-fold. I suggested a ''no'' vote then. I continue to suggest a ''no'' vote and would ask for a ''no'' vote at the appropriate time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for his comments.

We continue to say that this legislation is a good bill and it is certainly deficit neutral. It has been judged that way by the Congressional Budget Office. It is a loan program. It is not a grant program. It will not add to the deficit. It will not add to the debt in any respect.

I would like to encourage my colleagues to distinguish this program from the Department of Energy program that is a weatherization program. The weatherization programs, as we all know as Members, are intended to help low-income families, and it is a grant program. This is a loan program whereby Federal dollars are given to an investor-owned utility or to a municipality or to a rural cooperative, and the money is used then, in turn, to make low-interest loans to families who qualify. It is not income based. There are qualifications for the loans, but the family income is not a qualification to qualify for the loan.

We must enable the American people to weatherize their homes. Forty percent, in some instances, of their utility bill can be attributed to the loss of heat and air within the homes. And so this program is intended to help install replacement windows and insulation and other things that will make homes more energy efficient.

It will pay for itself. It's a good bill. I ask my colleagues to support it.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

I am a cosponsor of this bill, which has been modified to include provisions of H.R. 5019, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, of which I am also a cosponsor.

The Rural Energy Savings Program Act creates two energy efficiency loan programs. The Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program, administered by the Energy Department, will provide interest-free loans to states or territories, which will then re-loan the money to consumers for energy efficiency home renovations. The Rural Star Energy Program, run by the Agriculture Department, will make loans to rural electric co-ops, enabling these organizations to provide loans to qualified consumers to make their homes and businesses become more energy efficient.

Constituents in my district have some of the highest energy costs in the country, especially residents of Hawaii's rural communities. The Rural Star Energy Program would give Kauai Island Utility Cooperative, a rural electric co-op in my district, the opportunity to help families, farms, and businesses on Kauai save money on their energy bills while reducing energy waste and carbon pollution.

In addition, the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program and the Rural Star Energy Program will help create jobs by increasing demand for energy efficiency products (many of which are made in the United States) and energy equipment retrofits.

I strongly support H.R. 4785 and urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESPA).

As a part-time farmer and a representative of a rural district, I know how crippling the cost of energy can be to farms, families and our rural citizens. As our nation moves towards finding cleaner and more efficient ways of generating energy, many people in small communities are finding that the costs of energy efficiency improvements are simply too high. The farmers I talk to know that the savings from these improvements are real, but the upfront costs are too often out of reach. That is what it so important about this bill: through the use of interest-free loans distributed by the Department of Agriculture, it will allow farmers and rural citizens to implement critical energy-efficient technology that will bring their energy costs down.

This bill authorizes USDA's Rural Utilities Service to make interest-free loans to individual or state-based groups of co-ops. These loans will then be used by the co-op to fund energy-efficient improvements for farms or residences. These projects are projected to have a 10 year or less payback period, meaning the customer will realize savings in a relatively quick time frame. The loan will be repaid on the customer's utility bill over a 10 year window.

While this is a great bill for rural America, it is also an important bill for the rest of the country. The energy upgrades mean jobs in America for Americans, in construction, installation, and manufacturing. These are good jobs that cannot be outsourced, the kind of jobs we need to put North Carolinians back to work. At the same time, Americans know that many providers of our imported energy sources like oil are unstable and a potential threat to our national security. This bill moves us forward with a policy that reduces our dependence on these risky sources of energy.

As a Representative who is committed to budget discipline, I am pleased that this bill advances these priorities at absolutely no cost to taxpayers. The co-ops will assume all risks for consumer repayments of their efficiency investments. This means that the Federal Government bears no risk in these transactions and must be repaid by the co-op. This bill moves us a step closer to energy independence without increasing our Federal deficit, and I applaud the bill's sponsor for that.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this bill. It is good for our farmers, our rural citizens and for our country.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, which also authorizes the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program. Residential housing accounts for one-third of the Nation's total electricity demand and about 22 percent of all energy use in the United States. Moreover, it is estimated that existing technologies and practices could reduce energy use—and therefore home energy costs for American families—by up to 40 percent per home. This legislation will allow electric utilities and co-ops to make low-interest loans of a few thousand dollars to consumers who wish to make energy efficient upgrades to their homes. The loans can then be repaid on the consumers' electric bill, with most of the loan costs covered by their savings in electricity.

The Rural Energy Savings and Home Star Energy Efficiency programs will help homeowners with the upfront costs of installing energy efficiency retrofits while boosting markets for U.S. manufacturers of energy efficiency products and creating new jobs for our construction workers and contractors. It is estimated that the two programs will create nearly 200,000 jobs in the construction, manufacturing, and retail sectors that have been devastated by the recent recession. At the same time, these programs will help curb our Nation's carbon emissions and reduce our unsustainable dependence on fossil fuels. This legislation is good for our economy, good for American worker and consumers, good for the environment, and good for our Nation's energy security.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Rural Energy Savings Program Act and the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program contained in today's substitute amendment. Together, these complementary initiatives will create good paying American jobs, save consumers money and enhance our nation's energy security.

The Rural Star program will enable rural electric cooperatives to borrow money from the USDA Rural Utilities Service to fund voluntary and cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades for the citizens they serve. The resulting low-interest loans would bear an interest rate of no greater than three percent and would be repaid on the participating consumers' utility bill over a ten year period of time.

The Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program is designed for those citizens not served by rural electric cooperatives. Under this companion measure, which tracks the National Home Energy Savings Revolving Fund legislation I introduced earlier this Congress, states would be able to borrow federal funds they could then make available to electric utilities and other entities capable of administering a loan program for cost-effective residential energy efficiency retrofits. As an added ''Made in America'' benefit, it is estimated that 92 percent of the products and materials that would be used in the Home Star program are manufactured in the United States.

Mr. Chair, this is common-sense, forward-looking legislation that will meaningfully advance America's clean energy future. I urge ''yes'' vote.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Chair, the House considers today H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program. I am a cosponsor of the original, bipartisan legislation that would address a critical need in rural America—energy efficiency improvements that will reduce our energy consumption and lower consumers' utility bills.

This original bill creates new loans under the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. The voluntary loans to electric cooperatives will facilitate their providing low-interest loans to consumers, to be repaid

through utility bills. Loans will allow cooperative customers to make only energy efficiency improvements that are proven to be worth the investment. After the small loans for improvements are repaid, consumers will have a lasting reduction in their bills as their energy consumption declines. The federal government will be repaid, wisely leveraging these taxpayer dollars for long-term benefits. This program is a win-win-win for consumers, the cooperatives that serve them, and taxpayers, and I strongly support this model.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today also includes the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act—a measure the House considered in May of this year and that I opposed. This bill—also known as ''Cash for Caulkers''—would authorize more than $6 billion in new federal spending for rebates to home improvements. I heard from constituents before last spring's vote that this bill will simply not work for Greater Arizona. The rebates require homeowners to have means to make the improvements in the first place, and in this economic downturn that is simply not an option for many families.

In addition, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act could cost the taxpayers more than $6 billion over the life of the program. I just spent six weeks back in Greater Arizona meeting with small businesses, working families, and local leaders. The concern I heard expressed most frequently was concern that our deficit is growing too quickly and that our national debt is mortgaging our children's future. We must stop spending and start to address our long-term fiscal imbalance, and moving forward with this bill is not going to get the job done.

I support our rural electric cooperatives, but I cannot support a bill that will add so significantly to our deficit or that will not help families struggling in these tough times.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I rise reluctantly to oppose H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

I am listed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4785, however, the legislation I added my name to in March is vastly different than the legislation we consider today. The Rural Energy Savings Program Act that I cosponsored, authorized a relatively modest $750 million over ten-year loan program to assist 1.6 million homeowners in rural America to install energy efficiency measures in their homes. By providing these loans, we would be able to reduce consumer's energy cost and increase the demand for energy efficient products, thus creating jobs for countless Americans.

Mr. Chair, during these tough economic times, we are all looking for ways to stretch our dollars. One way many consumers seek to reduce their monthly expenditures is by reducing their power bill. However, the average cost of an energy efficient upgrade is $1,500. Quite simply, in rural America, where income is 14 percent below the national average, many homeowners do not have the up-front funding necessary to install these upgrades, even though the energy savings provided by these upgrades pay for themselves over a relatively short period of time.

Additionally, I supported the original version of H.R. 4785 because it accomplished the laudable, above-described goal, without creating another inefficient government bureaucracy. Instead, the program would have used our nation's existing and well-functioning rural electric co-ops to distribute these loans to consumers.

I have a long history of supporting the rural electric co-ops, not just in this body, or during my time in the South Carolina State House, but also by paying my monthly power bill to my own rural electric co-op in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

As such it pains me to oppose this legislation. However, the original, modest goal of H.R. 4785 has been lost amid the inclusion of the $4.25 billion Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program. This portion of the bill would provide funding to states and other unspecified entities to create lending programs for homeowners to make home energy improvements.

Mr. Chair, I support energy efficiency for urban consumers, just as I do for rural consumers. However, unlike the privately owned rural electric co-ops, who have provided many years of faithful service, the Department of Energy has not proven they are capable of effectively managing such a large program.

The so-called ''Stimulus'' legislation provided $4.7 billion to the Department of Energy in order to weatherize the homes of low-income individuals. However, the Department's own Inspector General has found that one year after the Stimulus was passed into law only $368 million or 7.83 percent had been used and only 30,297 units had been weatherized.

Considering this abject failure, I simply cannot vote to provide another $4.25 billion of our taxpayer's dollars to the Department of Energy. I am not alone in my opposition to the Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program. In fact, the House voted earlier this year to remove this objectionable program from H.R. 5019 the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act by a broad bipartisan vote of 346 to 68. It is very objectionable this program has been brought back for a vote as a portion of H.R. 4785. As such, I am forced to rise in opposition to H.R. 4785 although I remain supportive of the original purpose of the legislation and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in order to lower the electricity costs of all Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I rise today to comment on H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program. As marked up by the House Committee on Agriculture, this legislation would truly help rural America. Unfortunately, the bill considered on the House floor today, is an expensive, and unfortunate alternative that could result in $4.25 billion in extra spending that has nothing to do with rural America.

The Rural Energy Savings Program would allow electric cooperatives to borrow money for the purposes of funding local energy efficiency programs. Eligible co-ops would provide money for energy efficiency upgrades to farms and rural consumers in the form of low-interest loans. In many cases, the costs to consumers would be covered by the resulting savings in their respective energy bills.

I support H.R. 4785, as originally passed by the House Agriculture Committee. This voluntary program would help electric cooperatives provide potential energy solutions to their members. I voted against the rule for H.R. 4785, which had it failed would have paved the way for members to vote on a clean bill. However, the bill before us today adds a $4.25 billion authorization for a ''Home Star'' energy program that the House has already defeated once and therefore I voted no on the overall package.

I strongly support section two of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program, and urge the House and Senate to work together to craft a bill that mirrors the work completed in the House Agriculture Committee. This Rural Energy Savings program is a sensible approach that could improve energy efficiency in rural America.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, although I support incentives to promote energy efficiency as well as the work of contractors across the country who make our homes and businesses more energy efficient, I must rise in opposition to H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

During the 6 week August recess, I heard over and over from my constituents in Northwest Georgia that the Federal Government needs to get its fiscal house in order. That is hard to accomplish when—for the first time in the modern era—Congress failed to even adopt a budget blueprint for the fiscal year. Why is it that hardworking families have to make difficult decisions on their personal budgets while Washington can't? The American people deserve better.

Mr. Chair, unfortunately, the Democratic Majority just doesn't get it. I find it hard to believe that the message they are receiving from their constituents is much different than what I am hearing. Yet, they don't seem to be listening.

At a time where we have amassed a $1.3 trillion deficit for Fiscal Year 2010 alone and we are faced with over $13 trillion in debt, we need to demonstrate fiscal restraint. Instead, H.R. 4785 seeks to spend an additional $5 billion when the American people are begging us to reduce spending.

Mr. Chair, I believe that we must take the needed steps to get federal spending under control. The Democratic Majority has clearly demonstrated that it is out of touch with the American people by passing the $862 billion ''Stimulus'' and the $1 trillion ObamaCare bill. H.R. 4785 embodies that same attitude that we must spend our way back to prosperity, when we have seen it fail time after time.

Therefore, despite my support for energy efficiency programs and the people who would benefit from this legislation, I urge all of my colleagues to listen to the American people and curb federal spending.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of House Report 111–594. The amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 4785

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. HOME STAR ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.—The term ''eligible participant'' means a homeowner who receives financial assistance from a qualified financing entity to carry out qualifying energy savings measures pursuant to this section, and who is not also a qualified consumer under section 2.

(2) QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTITY.—The term ''qualified financing entity'' means a State, political subdivision of a State, tribal government, electric utility, natural gas utility, nonprofit or community-based organization, energy service company, retailer, or any other entity that—

(A) meets the eligibility requirements of this section; and

(B) is designated by the Governor of a State in accordance with subsection (f)(1),

except that an entity that is an eligible entity under section 2 shall not be a qualified financing entity.

(3) QUALIFIED LOAN PROGRAM MECHANISM.—The term ''qualified loan program mechanism'' means a mechanism for the establishment and operation of a loan program that is—

(A) administered by a qualified financing entity; and

(B) funded in significant part—

(i) by funds provided by or overseen by a State; or

(ii) through the energy loan program of the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(4) QUALIFYING ENERGY SAVINGS MEASURE.—The term ''qualifying energy savings measure'' means a measure listed under subsection (c)(1) or (2) or stipulated in a whole-house analysis under subsection (c)(3).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish a Home Star Energy Efficiency Loan Program under which the Secretary of Energy shall offer loans at zero percent interest to States to support financial assistance provided by qualified financing entities for the installation of qualifying energy savings measures.

(c) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES AND STANDARDS.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall publish—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a master list of residential energy efficiency measures determined to be cost-effective, readily available from commercial sources, to be permanently installed in a residence, and capable of supporting measurement and verification of the energy savings that results from their adoption;

(2) additions to such a list, approved by the Secretary of Energy, of other residential energy efficiency measures that are—

(A) recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) calculated to achieve sufficient energy savings that they will achieve a simple payback within 10 years or less; and

(C) permanently installed in a residence;

(3) specifications for whole-house energy performance analyses simulating energy use before and after a retrofit utilizing measures from the master list published pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) and such other permanent structural measures as can be demonstrated, when installed and operated as intended, to improve residential energy efficiency in a manner that can be determined with confidence to be cost-effective and to recover their own cost in energy cost savings within the term of a proposed loan; and

(4) a protocol for measurement and verification of the energy savings that have resulted from any and all energy efficiency measures taken with respect to a residence and financed in whole or in part pursuant to this title.

(d) ELIGIBILITY OF QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTITIES.—To be eligible to participate in the Home Star Loan Program, a qualified financing entity shall—

(1) offer a financing product under which eligible participants may pay over time for the cost to the eligible participant (after all applicable Federal, State, local, and other rebates or incentives are applied) of installations described in subsection (b);

(2) require all financed installations to be performed by contractors in a manner that meets building code requirements and other appropriate minimum standards;

(3) establish standard underwriting criteria to determine the eligibility of Home Star Loan Program applicants, which criteria shall be consistent with—

(A) with respect to unsecured consumer loan programs, standard underwriting criteria used under the energy loan program of the Federal National Mortgage Association; or

(B) with respect to secured loans or other forms of financial assistance, commercially recognized best practices applicable to the form of financial assistance being provided (as determined by the designated entity administering the Home Star Loan Program in the State); and

(4) undertake particular efforts to make such loans available in public use microdata areas that have a poverty rate of 12 percent or more in a proportion of total loans made at least equal to the proportion the number of residents in such areas bears to the total population of the area served by that qualified financing entity.

(e) ALLOCATION.—In allocating 75 percent of the loan funds made available to States for each fiscal year under this section, the Secretary of Energy shall use the formula used to allocate funds to States to carry out State energy conservation plans established under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.), with appropriate modifications to reflect the funds to be provided in States for loans under section 2. In allocating the remaining 25 percent of the loan funds made available to States for each fiscal year under this section, the Secretary of Energy may vary the result of the formula to recognize and reward those States that make the best progress in providing loans to low-income areas pursuant to subsection (d)(4).

(f) QUALIFIED FINANCING ENTITIES.—Before making funds available to a State under this section, the Secretary of Energy shall require the Governor of the State to provide to the Secretary of Energy a letter of agreement that the State—

(1) will use the funds provided pursuant to this section solely as provided in this section;

(2) has 1 or more qualified financing entities that meet the requirements of this section;

(3) has established, or has required its designated qualified financing entities to establish, a qualified loan program mechanism that—

(A) will use a quality assurance program or another appropriate methodology to ensure energy savings;

(B) incorporates an effective repayment mechanism, which may include—

(i) on-utility-bill repayment;

(ii) tax assessment or other form of property assessment financing;

(iii) municipal service charges;

(iv) energy or energy efficiency services contracts;

(v) energy efficiency power purchase agreements;

(vi) unsecured loans applying the underwriting requirements of the energy loan program of the Federal National Mortgage Association; or

(vii) alternative contractual repayment mechanisms that have been demonstrated to have appropriate risk mitigation features;

(4) will provide, in a timely manner, all information regarding the administration of the Home Star Loan Program as the Secretary of Energy may require to permit the Secretary of Energy to meet program evaluation requirements; and

(5) will commit to the full repayment of the loaned funds to the Secretary of Energy by a date not later than 20 years from the date of the loan closing.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to States for carrying out the Home Star Loan Program may be used to support financing mechanisms offered by qualified financing entities to eligible participants, including—

(1) interest rate reductions to interest rates as low as zero percent;

(2) loan loss reserves or other forms of credit enhancement;

(3) revolving loan funds from which qualified financing entities may offer direct loans; or

(4) other debt instruments necessary—

(A) to use available funds to obtain appropriate leverage through private investment; and

(B) to support widespread deployment of energy efficiency programs.

(h) USE OF REPAID FUNDS.—In the case of a revolving loan fund described in subsection (g)(3), a qualified financing entity may use funds repaid by eligible participants under the Home Star Loan Program to provide financial assistance for additional eligible participants for installations described in subsection (b) in a manner that is consistent with this section.

(i) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—A State may permit a qualified financing entity to charge interest of 3 percent to cover the costs of loan administration and personnel and program management, or for establishing a loan loss reserve.

(j) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Energy shall report to the Congress on the implementation of this title, including the energy savings and cost savings estimated to be achieved, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and again by not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section.

(k) ASSESSMENT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—The Comptroller General shall, by not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, prepare and submit to the Congress an analysis and report determining—

(1) the actual taxpayer funds made available for the program created in this section;

(2) the actual amounts of such funds made available to eligible participants or qualified consumers in the program created in this section;

(3) the extent of measured and verified residential energy savings achieved and expected to be achieved on an ongoing basis as a function of this program;

(4) the extent to which funds were made available to support commercial or industrial energy efficiency measures under this program;

(5) the extent to which funds made available were expended for training, administration, program support by contractors, or trade association activities under this program; and

(6) the consistency and rigor of the standards for energy efficiency and for measurement and verification adopted and implemented by this program.

(l) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section $850,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, which shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 2. RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) any public or cooperative electric utility that is eligible to borrow from the Rural Utilities Service electrification program authorized under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) that serves a rural area;

(B) any current borrower of the Rural Utilities Service electrification program authorized under that Act; or

(C) any entity primarily owned or controlled by an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ''energy efficiency measure'', with respect to property served by an eligible entity, means a

fixed structural improvement and investment in a cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technology to reduce residential energy use that is either—

(A) included in the master list published under section 1(c)(1) and (2); or

(B) stipulated in a whole-house simulation conducted pursuant to section 1(c)(3).

(3) FARM EFFICIENCY MEASURE.—The term ''farm efficiency measure'' means an energy saving application that is a fixed improvement installed in or attached to a building or structure on a farm at a total loan value for that farm of $50,000 or less, that is not otherwise an energy efficiency measure, and that would achieve energy savings sufficient to repay the cost of the measure in 10 years or fewer.

(4) QUALIFIED CONSUMER.—The term ''qualified consumer'' means a consumer served by an eligible entity that has the ability to repay a loan made under subsection (d), as determined by an eligible entity, and who has not accepted any loan as an eligible participant pursuant to section 1.

(5) QUALIFIED ENTITY.—The term ''qualified entity'' means any organization that the Secretary of Agriculture determines has significant experience in providing eligible entities with—

(A) advice on energy, environmental, energy efficiency, and information research and technology;

(B) training, education, and consulting;

(C) guidance in energy and operational issues and rural community and economic development; and

(D) other relevant assistance, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(6) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' means any area other than—

(A) a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

(B) any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town described in subparagraph (A).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Rural Utility Service, shall establish the Rural Star Energy Savings Program for the purpose of making loans to eligible entities that agree to accept the loan funds authorized pursuant to this section to make loans to qualified consumers for the purpose of implementing residential energy efficiency measures or farm efficiency measures approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(c) LOANS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(1) LOANS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Agriculture shall make loans to an eligible entity that agrees that the loan funds will be used to make loans to qualified consumers as described in subsection (d) for the purpose of implementing one or more energy efficiency measures, or a farm efficiency measure in response to an application by an eligible entity.

(2) LIST, PLAN, AND MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition to receiving a loan under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall—

(i) establish a list of energy efficiency measures or farm efficiency measures expected to decrease energy use or costs of a qualified consumer from the master list published under section 1(c)(1) and (2);

(ii) establish a procedure to identify to the Secretary of Agriculture any specific farm efficiency measures for which the eligible entity seeks authority to make a loan;

(iii) prepare an implementation plan for use of the loan funds to ensure that a loan to a qualified consumer is for energy efficiency investments that will achieve savings sufficient to service the loan during the term of the loan; and

(iv) provide for appropriate measurement and verification as prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure the actual use and effectiveness of the energy efficiency loans made by the eligible entity.

(B) REVISION OF LIST OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES.—An eligible entity may update the list required under subparagraph (A)(i) to account for efficiency technologies added to the master list published under section 1(c)(1) pursuant to section 1(c)(2), or farm efficiency measures approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(C) EXISTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.—An eligible entity that, on or before the date of the enactment of this Act, has already established an energy efficiency program for qualified consumers may submit an existing list of energy efficiency measures or farm efficiency measures, implementation plans, or measurement and verification systems to satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (A) to the Secretary of Agriculture and may use such list until and unless such list is inconsistent with the measures published pursuant to section 1(c)(1) and (2).

(3) LOAN TERMS FOR LOANS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

(A) NO INTEREST.—A loan made to an eligible entity under paragraph (1) shall bear no interest.

(B) REPAYMENT.—With respect to a loan under paragraph (1)—

(i) the term shall not exceed 20 years from the date the loan is closed; and

(ii) except as provided in subparagraph (D), the repayment of each advance shall be amortized for a period not to exceed 10 years.

(C) AMOUNT OF ADVANCES.—Any advance of loan funds to an eligible entity in any single year shall not exceed 30 percent of the approved loan amount.

(D) SPECIAL ADVANCE FOR START-UP ACTIVITIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In order to assist an eligible entity in defraying initial start-up costs, the Secretary of Agriculture shall allow an eligible entity to request a special advance.

(ii) AMOUNT OF SPECIAL ADVANCE.—No eligible entity may receive a special advance under this subparagraph for an amount that is greater than 4 percent of the loan amount received by the eligible entity under paragraph (1).

(iii) REPAYMENT.—The repayment of the special advance shall be required within 10 years after the special advance is made and, at the election of the eligible entity, may be deferred to the end of the 10-year period.

(E) LIMITATION ON ADVANCES.—All advances shall be made under a loan described in paragraph (1) within the first 10 years of the term of the loan.

(d) LOANS TO QUALIFIED CONSUMERS.—

(1) TERMS OF LOANS.—Loans made by an eligible entity to qualified consumers using loan funds provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under subsection (c)—

(A) may bear interest, not to exceed three percent, to be used by the eligible entity for purposes such as establishing a loan loss reserve and to offset personnel and program costs of the eligible entity to provide the loans;

(B) shall finance only energy efficiency measures or farm efficiency measures for the purpose of decreasing energy usage or costs of a qualified consumer by an amount such that a loan term of not more than 10 years will achieve a simple payback of the amount invested;

(C) shall not be used to fund purchases of, or modifications to, personal property unless the personal property—

(i) is or becomes attached to real property as a fixture; or

(ii) is a manufactured home;

(D) shall be repaid through charges added to the electric bill for the property for, or at which energy efficiency measures are or will be implemented, except that this requirement shall not be construed to prohibit—

(i) the voluntary prepayment of a loan by the owner of the property; or

(ii) the use of any additional repayment mechanisms that are—

(I) demonstrated to have appropriate risk mitigation features, as determined by the eligible entity; or

(II) required if the qualified consumer is no longer a customer of the eligible entity; and

(E) shall require an energy audit to determine the impact of proposed energy efficiency measures on the energy costs and consumption of the qualified consumer.

(2) CONTRACTORS.—In addition to any other qualified general contractor, eligible entities may serve as general contractors.

(3) USE OF OTHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES.—Energy efficiency incentives made available under any other Act, including rebates, grants, or any other payments, may be used to reduce the amount of a loan made under this subsection to qualified consumers in order to meet the requirement of paragraph (1)(B).

(e) MEASUREMENT, VERIFICATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Agriculture—

(A) shall establish an implementation and measurement and verification advisory committee consisting of representatives of eligible entities and qualified entities;

(B) may enter into cooperative agreements with qualified entities to provide technical assistance and training to the employees of eligible entities to carry out this section; and

(C) shall establish a process to compile and maintain a directory of energy efficiency auditors that are used by eligible entities to carry out this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) The Secretary of Agriculture shall not utilize the authority provided under this subsection or subsection (j) to—

(i) develop, adopt, or implement a public labeling system that rates and compares the energy performance among qualified consumers; or

(ii) require the public disclosure of an energy performance evaluation or rating developed for any qualified consumer.

(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude—

(i) the computation, collection, or use, by the Secretary of Agriculture, eligible entity, or qualified entity for the purposes of aggregating information on the rating and comparison of the energy performance among qualified consumers with and without energy efficiency features or on energy performance evaluation or rating;

(ii) the use and publication of aggregate data (without identifying individual qualified consumers) based on information referred to in clause (i) to determine or demonstrate the performance of this program; or

(iii) the provision of information referred to in clause (i) with respect to a qualified consumer:

(I) to the State, eligible consumer, eligible entity, or qualified entity, as necessary to enable carrying out this title; or

(II) for purposes of prosecuting fraud and abuse.

(f) FAST START DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall, not later than 90 days after the enactment of this section, enter into agreements with eligible entities (or groups of eligible entities) that have established an energy efficiency program described in subsection (c)(2)(C) to establish an energy efficiency loan demonstration projects consistent with the purposes of this section that—

(1) implement approaches to energy audits and investments in energy efficiency measures or farm efficiency measures that yield measurable and predictable savings;

(2) use measurement and verification processes to determine the effectiveness of energy efficiency loans made by eligible entities;

(3) include training for employees of eligible entities, including any contractors of such entities, to implement or oversee the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(4) provide for the participation of a majority of eligible entities in a State;

(5) reduce the need for generating capacity;

(6) provide efficiency loans to—

(A) not fewer than 20,000 consumers, in the case of a single eligible entity; or

(B) not fewer than 80,000 consumers, in the case of a group of eligible entities; and

(7) serve areas where 15 percent or more of consumers reside—

(A) in manufactured homes; or

(B) in housing units that are more than 50 years old.

(g) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority provided in this section is in addition to any authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to offer loans under any other law.

(h) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the loans and other expenditures required to be made under this section are authorized to be made during each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

(i) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this section.

(2) PROCEDURE.—The promulgation of the regulations and administration of this section shall be made without regard to—

(A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act''); and

(B) the Statement of Policy of the Secretary of Agriculture effective July 24, 1971 (36 Fed. Reg. 13804), relating to notices of proposed rulemaking and public participation in rulemaking.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authority provided under section 808 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) INTERIM REGULATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2), to the extent regulations are necessary to carry out any provision of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement such regulations through the promulgation of an interim rule.

(j) AUDIT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct an audit of the program authorized by this section to ensure that the funds provided to eligible entities under this section are used in accordance with the purpose of this section.

(k) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall report to the Congress on the implementation of this Act, including the energy savings and costs savings estimated to be achieved, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and again not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(l) ASSESMENT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—The Comptroller General shall, by not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, prepare and submit to the Congress an analysis and report determining—

(1) the actual taxpayer funds made available for the program created in this section;

(2) the actual amounts of such funds made available to eligible entities for qualified consumers in the program created in this section;

(3) the extent of measured and verified energy savings achieved and expected to be achieved on an ongoing basis as a function of the program created in this section;

(4) the extent to which funds made available were expended for training, administration, and program support by eligible entities and qualified entities under the program created in this section; and

(5) the consistency and rigor of the standards for energy efficiency and for measurement and verification adopted and implemented by program created in this section.

(m) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated for purposes of this section $150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, which shall remain available until expended.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute is in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HOLDEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 111–594.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 17, strike ''and''.

Page 1, after line 17, insert the following new subparagraph:

(B) is not an entity that has an ongoing capital repayment obligation to the Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Troubled Asset Relief Program (Public Law 110–343, 122 Stat. 3765); and

Page 2, line 1, redesignate subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C).

Page 6, after line 18, insert the following new paragraph (and redesignate the subsequent paragraphs accordingly):

(2) will use the funds provided under this section to supplement and not supplant any prior or planned Federal and State funding provided to carry out energy efficiency programs, on the condition that, to the extent the Secretary finds that a State has supplanted other such programs with funding under this section, the Secretary may withhold an equivalent amount of funding from allocations for the State under this section;

Page 10, strike lines 5 through 7.

Page 10, line 8, strike ''(5)'' and insert ''(4)''.

Page 10, line 12, strike ''(6)'' and insert ''(5)''.

Page 10, line 17, after ''this section'' insert '', provided that enactment of this Act would not increase direct spending,''.

Page 18, strike lines 3 through 8 and insert the following:

(C) shall not be used to fund—

(i) the purchase of a manufactured home; or

(ii) the purchase of any other personal property unless the personal property is or becomes attached to real property as a fixture;

(D) shall not be used to fund modifications to personal property unless the personal property—

(i) is or becomes attached to real property as a fixture; or

(ii) is a manufactured home;

Page 18, line 9, strike ''(D)'' and insert ''(E)''.

Page 18, line 24, strike ''(E)'' and insert ''(F)''.

Page 20, line 8, strike ''(j)'' and insert ''(i)''.

Page 25, line 19, after ''this section'' insert '', provided that enactment of this Act would not increase direct spending,''.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.

Neither the Secretary of Energy nor the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide any funds authorized by this Act to any contractor that employs an employee to work in a consumer's home if that employee has been convicted of, or plead guilty to, a crime of child molestation, rape, or any other form of sexual assault.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) A loan shall not be provided to a Federal employee under this Act if any of the following apply to the employee:

(1) The employee has a seriously delinquent tax debt (as determined under subsection (b)).

(2) The employee received a payment under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.) but was ineligible to receive the payment under the criteria described in section 2605(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(2)).

(3) The employee has been officially disciplined for violations of subpart G of the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch for viewing, downloading, or exchanging pornography, including child pornography, on a Federal Government computer or while performing official Federal Government duties.

(b) For purposes of subsection (a)(1), a ''seriously delinquent tax debt'' means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; or

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code is requested, pending, or completed and no payment is required.

SEC. 5. WRONGFUL USE OR DIVERSION OF PROGRAM FUNDS.

The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture shall take such steps as are necessary and appropriate, including requirements for the immediate repayment of Federal assistance, to ensure that none of the funds authorized in this Act are used—

(1) in violation of law;

(2) in a manner that creates a significant threat to human health or safety;

(3) in a manner that undercuts the integrity and accountability of the program under this Act; or

(4) for purposes other than those serving the objectives of this Act.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1300

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, the manager's amendment contains the following provisions: It prohibits entities with ongoing TARP obligations from participating in the program. It mandates that funds provided by the legislation must be used to supplement and not to supplant other energy efficiency funding. It says that no report has to be filed by the comptroller general regarding the extent to which funds provided by the legislation are used to support commercial or industrial energy measures. It prohibits any additions to direct spending with respect to the legislation. It forbids funds from being used to purchase personal property, including manufactured homes; but allows funds to be used for modifications to manufactured homes.

The manager's amendment prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture from promulgating regulations regarding a

home labeling program. It also prohibits the wrongful use or diversion of program funds, as well as prohibits providing funds to any contractor who employs any person who has been convicted of, or pled guilty to, any form of sexual assault. Finally, it prohibits Federal employees from receiving loan funds if they have seriously delinquent tax debt, have received a payment in violation of LIHEAA, or have been officially disciplined for viewing, downloading, or exchanging pornography on a Federal Government computer or while performing official Federal Government duties.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 10 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. While I claim the time in opposition, I would state for the RECORD that I support my good friend from Pennsylvania's amendment. I support his efforts to import more integrity into this. What I am afraid of is a duplicative program. More importantly, I support his attempt to make sure that that the program does not affect direct spending. As my good friend has mentioned, his amendment prohibits any direct or mandatory spending. What it does not do, however, is prevent appropriators from adding to our national debt by spending discretionary dollars on the program.

While I support my friend's efforts to be truly fiscally responsible, this act should sunset if it is not deficit neutral. Again, I support Mr. HOLDEN's amendment and urge others to do the same. I would prefer language that more directly prevents direct spending, but this is what we have.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Representative BARTON.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I too rise in support of the Holden amendment. It is not as good as our motion to recommit from back in May, it is not as good as the Barton amendment that was offered to the Rules Committee, but it is strangely similar. So if flattery is the most sincere form of compliment, then I am complimented that you have taken a page out of our playbook. It is going to make our coming motion to recommit much more difficult to develop, but I can assure you that agile minds are working as we speak on that motion to recommit. But for purposes of this debate, both Mr. LUCAS and myself do support your amendment and urge its adoption.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentlemen from North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas for their support of the manager's amendment, and encourage its passage.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CUELLAR

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 111–594.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

(n) The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide assistance and technical advice to the qualified entities providing loans under this bill in conducting outreach for the purposes of increasing participation of economically distressed rural communities with unemployment rates above the national average, or rural areas that lack basic living necessities, such as water and sewer systems, electricity, and safe, sanitary housing, in the program established under this section.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support my amendment to the Rural Energy Savings Program. This amendment will direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance and advice to the entities providing loans under this act to increase participation in the areas of high unemployment. This important amendment will go a long way towards making sure those areas that have been hit the hardest are about to take advantage of this legislation.

As you know, unemployment is still a real problem for many Americans throughout the country. In my congressional district, as an example, I have two counties that are significantly above the national average for unemployment, which is about 9.4. Hidalgo County is suffering at 11.1 percent, and Starr County is at 17.3 percent.

This amendment will make sure that these communities are not left out of this good piece of legislation. Under my amendment, USDA will provide its expertise to the entities providing loans for the purposes of outreach. This amendment will increase economic activity in the areas that need it the most while providing valuable energy cost savings.

Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOLDEN, and the other folks who have been working very hard, and also the ranking members. I thank you, and stand in strong support of this piece of legislation along with my amendment. I ask Members to vote ''yes'' on my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. I claim the time in opposition, Mr. Chairman, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LUCAS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment would simply direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance and technical advice to electric cooperatives who have been approved as qualified entities in an effort to improve the outreach to the rural communities it serves with unemployment rates above the national average, as the author noted. As I understand the amendment, it does not require special treatment; rather it focuses on promotion of the program to those communities that are hit hard by the failing economy.

I think the gentleman's intentions are laudable, and given the legislative framework that the majority leadership has us working in, I do not oppose this amendment. I do, however, think there are better ways to bring cheap and efficient energy to these communities.

The prohibition on lending in the last farm bill to increase base load generation from clean coal, natural gas, and nuclear technologies is the biggest hidden tax on rural Americans that I can possibly think of, administered by the present majority leadership.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. I want to thank the ranking member for his support and again thank Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. CLYBURN, and all of the folks who have worked so hard. I ask Members to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. MCCARTHY OF NEW YORK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 111–594.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

SEC. ____. PRIORITY FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.

In providing loans to eligible participants under section 1 or qualified consumers under section 2, the lender shall give priority to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and to veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620, the gentlewoman from New

York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I want to thank Chairmen PETERSON and WAXMAN and Ranking Members LUCAS and BARTON for bringing forward this important legislation. I also thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, TIM HOLDEN.

Mr. Chairman, energy costs in this country continue to rise. For many families these costs are becoming an unbearable burden. I support this bill and believe that it will be a great help to many American families. H.R. 4785 creates the tools necessary to give homeowners control over their energy costs. The loans provided for in this bill will allow homeowners to invest in energy efficiency measures that will provide long-term savings to many, many families. It will help bring down energy costs for homeowners, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and help us transition towards a clean-energy economy.

Although all Americans are facing the reality of rising energy costs, for our active duty troops and our veterans, the challenges of skyrocketing energy costs can be even more problematic. The members of our active duty military must often balance their household and service requirements. Does this still get your point across? I believe it does.

Our veterans, both our new veterans just starting out and our older veterans living on a fixed income, also have unique challenges when it comes to their energy costs.

□ 1310

I believe it is important that we give priority in this bill to those men and women who have sacrificed and who continue to sacrifice for our country. This is what my amendment does. Let us make sure that, with all the challenges in life, our active duty members and veterans are able to worry a little less about their electricity bills.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LUCAS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In agriculture, we've learned the hard way, Mr. Chairman, that carveouts and programs generally reduce the effectiveness of the programs. It's a simple economic principle. By focusing on the beneficiary instead of the results, the marginal utility is lowered.

Now, having said that, I can think of no more deserving group than the brave men and women of our Armed Services to be prioritized in any Federal program. Yes, I support and encourage my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BUTTERFIELD

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 111–594.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I have a parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. What is the protocol when the author of an amendment is not on the floor and the amendment is called?

The CHAIR. The Chair is trying to ascertain whether the proponent will offer the amendment.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Is there a prescribed waiting period? Are we in a holding pattern around an airport or, within a minute, no-show, no-go?

The CHAIR. The Chair will respect Members' opportunities to offer amendments, and the Chair will wait momentarily until finding out whether the amendment will be offered.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to continue with the bill. If the author is not here, he has lost his opportunity to offer it. So I would ask unanimous consent to move forward in consideration of pending business of the House and to skip over the amendment.

The CHAIR. This is the last amendment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I stand to offer this amendment as a designee.

The CHAIR. The gentleman will be recognized for that purpose.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, requesting the right to object, I seek recognition to object if it is under the rules. We don't know. I have great faith in Mr. BUTTERFIELD, but I am not sure he has been authorized by Mr. INSLEE. If Mr. INSLEE is not here, I would object, with all due respect to Mr. BUTTERFIELD's substituting for him, without knowing whether Mr. INSLEE wants him to.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I am told that the gentleman from Washington is en route to the floor. I simply stood to offer the amendment to make it in order. The gentleman who offered the amendment should be here momentarily.

The CHAIR. The Chair then will wait until the gentleman arrives.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Will the Chair give that consideration to Members of the minority if we happen to be tardy and dawdling? We certainly are cognizant of the graciousness, but the House of Representatives is a busy place, and I always thought if you weren't here, you lost your spot in the lineup.

The CHAIR. Under House Resolution 1620, unanimous consent is not required for a designee to offer an amendment. The Chair is prepared to recognize the gentleman from North Carolina. The Chair has actually been very nonbiased to both sides, and intends to be fair to both sides.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I am not disparaging of the Chair's nonbiasness. I hope we will have that similar consideration.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized to offer the amendment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to proceed as the designee.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, after line 12, insert the following:

In determining which residential energy efficiency measures to include in the list published under paragraph (1) or (2), the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall consider advanced performance initiatives, such as the Passive House Standard as certified by the Passive House Institute US.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me apologize to the Chair, to the ranking member and to my colleagues for all of the confusion, but we are ready to proceed on this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I have reviewed this amendment. It appears to be in keeping with the spirit of the underlying legislation. I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I would ask the author's designee, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, if he would engage in a colloquy on this amendment.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. To the extent that I can, Mr. BARTON.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Would you define what a ''passive house'' is?

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I do not have that material in front of me, Mr. BARTON.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Okay. So we're getting a pig-in-the-poke here; is that right?

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. You certainly appreciate the disadvantage at which I find myself.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I am not totally opposed to this amendment. I don't know too much more about it than Mr. BUTTERFIELD, but I do know that this ''passive house'' concept, while it saves energy once it is in place, is more expensive to construct. It is my understanding that the concept that the amendment supports is substantially more expensive than

standard construction. That may be appropriate when people have high incomes and when the cost of construction is really of little interest; but for most of my constituents, Mr. Chairman, the initial cost is of significance.

Again, I don't think there is a tremendous downside to this amendment, but I think it should be pointed out that if the Department of Energy, which it is not under the amendment required to mandate this, did direct that it had to meet this test, you would raise construction costs substantially, and I think that is something that should be of concern.

I am going to oppose the amendment but not vigorously. I do think that the author of the amendment usually should be on the floor when the amendment is offered, and I would hope that we would take notice that the author was not. We should give kudos to Mr. BUTTERFIELD for substituting in his place.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentleman for his kind comments.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1320

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on the amendment printed in part B of House Report 111–594 on which further proceedings were postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. HOLDEN

The CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 402, noes 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 529]

AYES—402

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Emerson
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pierluisi
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sablan
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—36

Ackerman
Bilbray
Blunt
Boehner
Castor (FL)
Christensen
Delahunt
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Fallin
Fleming
Garrett (NJ)
Harman
Heller
Hodes
Johnson (GA)
Kennedy
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Putnam
Radanovich
Richardson
Rogers (MI)
Shea-Porter
Tanner
Tierney
Young (FL)

□ 1349

Mr. SMITH of Texas changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, today I was unavoidably delayed and unable to return to the floor in time for rollcall vote 529.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 529, I would have voted "aye" (the Manager's Amendment to H.R. 4785).

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO) having assumed the chair, Mr. SALAZAR, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4785) to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1620, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SHADEGG. I am, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Shadegg moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4785 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 5, insert ''with a gross annual household income of less than $250,000'' after ''homeowner''.

Page 1, line 9, insert ''A homeowner may not qualify as an eligible participant if the homeowner has been more than 6 months delinquent in child support payments.'' after ''under section 2.''.

Page 1, lines 13 and 14, strike ''or community-based''.

Page 3, line 10, insert ''primary'' after ''installed in a''.

Page 3, line 12, insert '', but which shall not include the installation or replacement of pool heaters or the installation of Energy Star televisions'' after ''their adoption''.

Page 3, line 21, insert ''primary'' after ''installed in a''.

Page 5, line 16, insert '', consistent with paragraph (3),'' after ''particular efforts''.

Page 8, line 22, through page 9, line 3, strike subsection (h) (and redesignate the subsequent subsections accordingly).

Page 9, line 14, insert ''The Secretary of Energy shall also include a detailed accounting of any waste, fraud, or abuse occurring in the administration of this Act in such reports.'' after ''of this section.''.

Page 10, line 11, strike ''and''.

Page 10, line 15, strike the period and insert ''; and''.

Page 10, after line 15, insert the following new paragraph:

(7) the extent to which any waste, fraud, or abuse occurred under this program.

At the end of the bill, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.

(a) Funds authorized by this Act shall only be made available for the purpose of carrying out qualifying energy savings measures on a primary residence.

(b) Neither the Secretary of Energy nor the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide any funds authorized by this Act to any contractor that has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any fraudulent offense.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The provisions of this Act shall be suspended and shall not apply if this Act will have a negative net effect on the national budget deficit of the United States.

Mr. SHADEGG (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

Mr. CLYBURN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation creates a $5 billion government loan program to assist people in purchasing energy efficiency devices. Anytime we spend that amount of money, we ought to be very careful about the spending of that money, especially since we face a $1.3 trillion deficit. Earlier this year, the GAO conducted an investigation which found rampant fraud and abuse in the highly touted Energy Star Program.

Sadly, many companies have become very creative in ripping off the Department of Energy and the Energy Star Program. The motion to recommit makes a number of sensible changes and restrictions to protect the taxpayers in the implementation of this legislation.

First, it urges that the GAO and the Secretary of Energy report any waste, fraud or abuse found in the program. This is simply good governance.

Second, this program, which provides government subsidized loans, makes sure that these home improvement loans are eligible only to people who deserve the largesse, the assistance, of the government. First, it says, for example, loans can be only used for primary residences. Energy Star loans subsidized by the government under this legislation could not be used for vacation homes or beach houses. The taxpayer should not be providing energy-efficient appliances at luxury homes.

Second, the motion to recommit strikes community-based organizations from potential lenders. This goes back to the problem of ACORN and the strong belief that they should not be in the position of using or having access to these funds.

Third, the MTR ensures that these retrofit loans are only available to households where the gross income is less than $250,000. It should go without saying that if the other side is proposing to increase taxes on earners in this category, we should not be opening up subsidized government loans to people who make money at that level.

Third, the motion to recommit provides that homeowners who are delinquent in their child support payments, so-called deadbeat dads, are not eligible for these subsidized loans. It's pretty simple and straightforward that when the government decides to help people in these circumstances purchase energy-efficient equipment that they can't otherwise afford, that we should not be doing that either for deadbeat dads or for the wealthiest of Americans.

It also provides that loans and loan subsidies under this legislation cannot be used for such luxuries such as swimming pool heaters or to purchase LCD TVs or fancy TVs. While these technologies may save energy, the dollars in this loan program, $5 billion, which I would argue we don't have right now, should not be used to fund luxury items.

People should not be using a subsidy from the government or a subsidized loan to buy a flat-screen TV or swimming pool heater.

Last, the MTR provides to fill in the standards in the legislation, ensuring that sketchy contractors cannot implement this program. For example, the construction cannot be done by contractors convicted of fraud.

Finally, and most importantly, the legislation provides that the programs must be deficit neutral. If either program, if either program is found to have a negative effect on the national debt, then that program is suspended.

My colleagues on the other side will find this one of the things that they call a gutting amendment, but it really isn't. It is simply put in place to say that if you don't want to pay for the bill, which we would have argued for it and which we offered amendments in Rules for, then we should not allow it to increase the Nation's deficit.

As I mentioned, we face a $1.3 trillion deficit. This simply says that before we provide subsidized government loans to people to buy energy-efficient equipment, that should not be done in a deficit situation where we are expanding the deficit and passing the cost of the program on to our children and our grandchildren.

These are simple, straightforward, good-government provisions. They make the legislation better. They enable it to do what the authors of the legislation intended it to do without adding to the financial burden on the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition but do not oppose the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

□ 1400

Mr. CLYBURN. I wish to thank my colleague and occasional sparring partner for making what I consider to be reasonable improvements to this bill.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the bipartisan, in fact, unanimous vote in favor of this legislation, I will accept the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. SHADEGG. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House in the motion to recommit, I report the bill, H.R. 4785, back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

Page 1, line 5, insert ''with a gross annual household income of less than $250,000'' after ''homeowner''.

Page 1, line 9, insert ''A homeowner may not qualify as an eligible participant if the homeowner has been more than 6 months delinquent in child support payments.'' after ''under section 2.''.

Page 1, lines 13 and 14, strike ''or community-based''.

Page 3, line 10, insert ''primary'' after ''installed in a''.

Page 3, line 12, insert '', but which shall not include the installation or replacement of pool heaters or the installation of Energy Star televisions'' after ''their adoption''.

Page 3, line 21, insert ''primary'' after ''installed in a''.

Page 5, line 16, insert '', consistent with paragraph (3),'' after ''particular efforts''.

Page 8, line 22, through page 9, line 3, strike subsection (h) (and redesignate the subsequent subsections accordingly).

Page 9, line 14, insert ''The Secretary of Energy shall also include a detailed accounting of any waste, fraud, or abuse occurring in the administration of this Act in such reports.'' after ''of this section.''.

Page 10, line 11, strike ''and''.

Page 10, line 15, strike the period and insert ''; and''.

Page 10, after line 15, insert the following new paragraph:

(7) the extent to which any waste, fraud, or abuse occurred under this program.

At the end of the bill, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.

(a) Funds authorized by this Act shall only be made available for the purpose of carrying out qualifying energy savings measures on a primary residence.

(b) Neither the Secretary of Energy nor the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide any funds authorized by this Act to any contractor that has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any fraudulent offense.

SEC. 4. SUNSET.

The provisions of this Act shall be suspended and shall not apply if this Act will have a negative net effect on the national budget deficit of the United States.

Mr. CLYBURN (during the reading). I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to suspend on House Resolution 1613.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 240, noes 172, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 530]

AYES—240

Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—172

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schauer
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—20

Ackerman
Baldwin
Blunt
Delahunt
Ellison
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Fallin
Fleming
Hodes
Kennedy
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Obey
Putnam
Ruppersberger
Shea-Porter
Tanner
Tierney
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1420

Messrs. PAUL and McCAUL changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. ANDREWS, JOHNSON of Georgia, and LANGEVIN changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that agree that the funds will

be used to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce energy use, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed a vote on final passage of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye'' in support of the bill.

Stated against:

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 30, I inadvertently voted ''aye'' but I meant to vote ''no.''

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and in Afghanistan and their families, and all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1613) expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods that began on July 22, 2010, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 2, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 531]

YEAS—396

Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Djou
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Emerson
Engel
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—2

Paul
Broun (GA)

NOT VOTING—34

Ackerman
Baird
Bishop (GA)
Blunt
Boren
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Davis (AL)
Delahunt
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Fallin
Fleming
Giffords
Gutierrez
Hodes
Kennedy
Marchant
Meek (FL)
Mollohan
Murphy, Patrick
Obey
Putnam
Radanovich
Shea-Porter
Simpson
Slaughter
Tanner
Terry
Tierney
Velázquez
Waxman
Welch
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1430

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 531.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 529, on agreeing to the Holden amendment to H.R. 4785—Rural Energy Savings Program Act, I would have voted ''aye'' on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 530, on the passage of H.R. 4785—Rural Energy Savings Program Act, I would have voted ''aye'' on the motion.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 531 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1613—Expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods that began July 22, 2010, I would have voted ''aye'' on the question.

□ 1430

SUPPORTING CONSTITUTION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 1612) expressing the support for and honoring September 17, 2010 as ''Constitution Day''.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) may be recognized on the legislative day of Wednesday, September 22, 2010, to offer the resolution that he noticed on Thursday, September 16, 2010, without further notice under clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX.

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

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Monday next, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

IT'S TIME TO END THE ONE-PARTY MONOPOLY IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, 20 million people are out of work or have given up looking for work. Contrary to history and common sense, the Democratic Party actually thinks that raising taxes is going to create jobs.

The national debt has set a new record, but congressional Democrats still want to spend more, yet they won't offer a budget this year to tell the American people how they want to spend their money. That's disrespectful of hardworking Americans.

How bad does it have to get before voters say we've had enough? America's values, America's economy, and America's greatness are threatened. It's time to end the one-party monopoly in Washington.

A TRIBUTE TO TAN ESCO

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a woman of the Northern Mariana Islands for her enduring entrepreneurial spirit—Senora Escolastica Tudela Cabrera, more popularly known as ''Tan Esco.''

Born in 1930, Tan Esco grew up in difficult times during the Japanese administration and, as a teen, witnessed the atrocities of World War II in the battle for the Northern Mariana Islands.

After the war, still just a girl, Tan Esco opened Saipan's first beauty shop. She then expanded into retail, selling clothes and shoes. She and her husband, the late Gregorio Camacho Cabrera, started a gasoline station, began manufacturing charcoal and tapioca, and opened Saipan's first ice cream shop. Tan Esco's true legacy, however, will forever be her bakery. People from all over the Marianas and from across the Pacific know and love the local Chamorro treats offered at Esco's, including bibingka, rosko, apigigi, and pan tuba.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands honor the many contributions Escolastica's Enterprises has made to our community. Perhaps her greatest contribution is Tan Esco's work ethic, her drive to succeed—a shining example to us all.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, September 17 is Constitution Day. On that day in 1787, the Constitutional Convention met for the first time in Philadelphia to sign the document. It was then sent to 13 States to ratify.

In a speech to the Senate in 1850, Henry Clay said, ''The Constitution of the United States was made not merely for the generation that then existed, but for posterity—unlimited, undefined, endless, perpetual posterity.'' He has been proven correct. The Constitution is an enduring document—the world's longest surviving written charter of government.

More than two centuries have passed and the Constitution perseveres with few changes despite the many challenges. The document bequeathed to us is the most precious gift to the United States of America—our status as free citizens.

Many countries would have stopped a minister in Florida from making threats to burn a Koran, but even he has the rights of the Constitution, no matter how much we disagree with what he threatened to do.

I have signed onto a measure honoring and supporting September 17, 2010, as Constitution Day, and I would challenge all citizens to read their Constitution on that date each year. It will help your understanding and strengthen your values.

CONSTITUTION DAY

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the United States Constitution, which has guided our great Nation for 223 years. Constitution Day serves as a reminder that our country is blessed with the fundamental freedoms and liberties that our Founding Fathers laid out for us.

The Constitution not only serves as the basis of our laws and helps shape our values as a Nation, but it also outlines the limited role that government should play in our citizens' daily lives. This is something we must remember in light of the many struggles that currently face this country.

Madam Speaker, there are those in Congress who try to circumvent the Constitution. So let today be a reminder that the original leaders of our country did not intend for America to be governed by partisan political agendas but by the wishes of the American people.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111–145)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2010.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 16, 2010*.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5297. An act to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

□ 1440

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

GROUND ZERO—MOSQUE OR MONUMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, history is the great predictor. To understand today, all you have to do is to look at last Saturday. We all remember where we were when hijacked planes hit the World Trade Center. We remember the billowing clouds of smoke blacking out the New York skyline. Those towers—once pillars of strength and freedom—became mass graves in the space of a few moments. Firefighters, police officers, innocent men women and children all died in a firestorm of hate.

Our country men and women were killed at the hands of radical Muslim extremists. People who believe their religion tells them to be violent in the name of that religion.

Now, 9 years later, it's clear that some Americans have forgotten the horror caused by these terrorists, and they expect us to forget as well. However, forgetting is not an option.

Even though we don't show the pictures anymore except on the anniversary of September 11. We don't talk about those responsible for plotting and carrying out these deadly terrorist attacks against America. We're told we can't be angry. We are expected to blindly accept the hatred for America in the name of tolerance. Under this guise of ''religious tolerance,'' we're told we must allow a mosque to be built near Ground Zero.

No one disagrees with the legal right to build a mosque, but the builder's decision is ill-advised and it's insensitive. This is a building where the landing gear from one of the hijacked planes tore through the roof.

The media scolds those of us who disagree with this building. They say to be tolerant, be respectful and accepting of other people's religions. But why is not the same expected of those individuals? Is this really about tolerance?

The day the two planes hit the World Trade Center, that piece of land in New York City took on a whole new meaning. Ground Zero is no longer just a location in New York. It is a symbol of America as powerful as the stars and stripes. It is hallowed ground of the victims who were victimized because of hate.

Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf—the man behind the Ground Zero mosque—should instead build a memorial to the victims of the radical Muslim extremists instead of a mosque. That would be sensitive. That would be compassionate.

The history books show ''victory mosques'' have been built in or near locations of Muslim conquests throughout history. In 1453, Mehmed II, the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, conquered Constantinople. One of his first acts was to convert a Christian church for more than 900 years—the Hagia Sophia—into a mosque.

Iman Rauf calls his project the Cordoba House. The first great mosque of Cordoba was built by medieval Islamic invaders. They built it on the site of a ransacked Roman Catholic cathedral in Spain. The name Cordoba—is that just a coincidence—the Cordoba mosque initiative at Ground Zero—too many in America thinks this mirrors history too closely.

One of our greatest freedoms in America is our right to worship as we please. Our Nation was founded on liberty and freedom for everyone. Do not Muslims, like most religions and cultures, believe in tolerance and respect for other religions?

Thousands of sons, daughters, fathers, and mothers at this very moment are stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. They're fighting the terrorists in the deserts and in the rough mountain terrain. Thirty-five American warriors from my congressional district area gave their lives in these two wars. They died protecting us from these same radical extremists that murder in the name of religion. It seems to me that the tolerance lesson is being preached to the wrong part of the world.

Many Christians, Jews and other non-Muslims are offended by the building of this mosque and believe it is disrespectful and dishonors those who were murdered on 9/11. If building this mosque is meant to truly promote education and understanding of the Muslim religion, I suggest the supporters take a look at history. And rather than repeat history, they should remember history.

Ground Zero is off-limits.

And that's just the way it is.

AFGHANISTAN STUDY GROUP SAYS ''ABANDON THE CURRENT STRATEGY''

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday Speaker PELOSI and the Congress recognized the anniversary of 9/11 with a moving remembrance ceremony on the steps outside the Capitol. It's critical that we never forget the cruelty of those attacks and the tragedy of so many innocent lives.

But just as importantly, we must use this occasion to examine the war that we launched in response to 9/11. Nine years later, have we achieved our original objectives? Is the continued military occupation advancing or undermining our national security interests?

You'll recall that the original purpose was to clear al Qaeda out of Afghanistan. That's been accomplished. There are barely any al Qaeda operatives left in the country, and there is little hope that they could gain a foothold there in the future. But our continued military footprint is not helping us realize any worthy goal.

In addition to putting our troops' lives in danger, it is fueling the rise and aiding the recruitment of Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan. And on a global level, Madam Speaker, it is stoking the extremism of al Qaeda and other anti-American jihadists.

But it's just not me saying that. The Afghanistan Study Group comprised of centrist experts and academics just issued a report concluding that, and I quote them as saying, ''It is time to abandon the current strategy that is not working. The continuation of an ambitious U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan,'' the group adds, ''will likely work against U.S. interests.''

Madam Speaker, the report notes that the war costs more annually than does the new health care reform bill. And yet curiously, very few of my friends on the other side of the aisle are railing about the excessive spending on Afghanistan. It appears that in their eyes, a failed war is worth the investment, but health security for millions of Americans is wasteful.

The Afghanistan Study Group offered some prescriptions and alternatives, including political reconciliation; an emphasis on regional diplomacy; and investments in Afghanistan's economic development—all of which are developments of the SMART security plan that I've been promoting for years.

But instead of heeding this advice, we're pressing forward stubbornly with failed policy. And the more it fails, the more resources we devote to it. As Robert Dreyfuss writes in The Nation, the prevailing wisdom (if you can call it that) seems to be . . . if sending 30,000 troops to the wrong place isn't getting results, sending 30,000 more to that same wrong place might help, and then when that doesn't work, why, send another 30,000 troops.''

□ 1450

Madam Speaker, conditions in Afghanistan have gotten so bad that humanitarian groups can't move freely to deliver the aid that is so badly needed. The gruesome murders of medical aid workers last month underscored the deteriorating security situation. The New York Times cites the Afghan NGO Safety Office as saying there were more than twice the number of insurgent attacks this August than August of 2009.

I don't agree with everything the Afghanistan Study Group has to say. In fact, by calling for a gradual military drawdown, I believe they are just not being bold enough. But Madam Speaker, this disastrous war has gone on long enough. It's done enough damage. It's time now to bring our troops home.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, for 10 years the House of Representatives, under the leadership of DUNCAN HUNTER and IKE SKELTON, have brought to the floor of the House in our Armed Services bill language to honor and respect the Marine Corps by changing the name of the Department of Navy to be known as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. For 10 years we sent this language over to the Senate. For 10 years the Senate rejected the House position.

This year, under the leadership of IKE SKELTON and BUCK MCKEON, the Armed Services Committee decided to bring this language to the floor as what's called a stand-alone bill. We had 425 House Members—there are only 435—425 signed this bill to recognize the Navy and Marine Corps as one fighting team. And the bill passed the House, as you know, Madam Speaker, by what's called unanimous consent.

Well, at that period of time Senator PAT ROBERTS from Kansas, a former Marine officer, put the same bill in. It's what is called a companion bill. And by the time we had passed our bill, he had 80 Senators in the U.S. Senate sign his companion bill to rename the Department of Navy to be Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, I have said many times in the last few weeks that I don't think you could get 80 Senators to agree there is a Santa Claus. But the Senators do recognize the importance of honoring the Marine Corps by letting them share in the name of the family, the family being the Navy and Marine Corps family.

It's my hope if the Senate brings this bill up next week, or the week after, or maybe during a lame duck session, that Senator ROBERTS will offer an amendment to that debate on the Senate side. And I would hope that those 80 Senators that have signed his bill will vote to honor and give this respect to the Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, a year ago this September we did a news conference, the Marine Corps League, and we had generals here, former commandants to speak on behalf of the bill. But two people I wanted to make quick reference to. One was Eddie Wright. Eddie Wright is from Texas. He is a young Marine—he is not in the Marine Corps now—but he lost both hands in Iraq. He has picks for his hands. And he said at the news conference that, ''If it had not been for a Navy corpsman, I would be dead. But he saved my life. We are one fighting team. And it should be in the name.''

Madam Speaker, I have got these posters, as I begin to close. This is the real thrust of what we are trying to do. There would be no cost to the Department of Navy if we changed its name to be Department of Navy and Marine Corps. But this is an actual condolence letter that a Marine captain who was killed for this country—the family received this condolence letter. And Madam Speaker, it says at the top the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag, extends its condolence to this Marine who died. It's almost like it's a stepchild. It's not really part of the family. All we're trying to do, Madam Speaker, is to make this one family.

Madam Speaker, I am now showing that this same family whose loved one was killed, if this bill becomes law, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, with the Navy flag and the Marine flag will send the condolence letter to the Marine family.

Madam Speaker, it's time that we do this for the Marine Corps. I want to thank my House colleagues who have helped us with this for 10 years. And I hope that the Senate will certainly support Senator ROBERTS in honoring the Marine Corps by renaming it the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, as I do every time before I close, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I will ask God to please bless the President, Mr. Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, please, God, continue to bless America.

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEULAH SHEPARD

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this is a special time that we have an opportunity to listen closely to our colleagues and to share some of the pearls of those who live in the United States with our colleagues. And it gives me great pleasure to be able to come today and to express my deepest love and affection for a wonderful woman, a woman of strength, who has gone home to rest and to receive joy.

Beulah Shepard is a very special person in the eyes of our community, Houston and Texas. And today I stand on the floor of the House to call her an American hero. Beulah Shepard passed away this last week, and so we have only our memories. But I want to say to those of you who have known someone that has touched your life, let me just simply tell you the story of my friend Beulah Shepard.

She of course was a mother, was a wife. She has children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. And of course she understood the Constitution, and believed in one vote for every human being. I had a chance to talk to her wonderful daughters, Bobbie and Dianne, and the wonderful family that she has as she lived her last years. And I will tell you our community will remember her as a political icon, someone you went to if you knew what was right, if you wanted to be part of the Houston political community.

But my husband and I know her as friends. And she greeted us as a young couple, and told us how to stay on the straight and narrow. I know her wonderful grandson, who was challenged, and how she was endeared with him. And everywhere Sister Beulah went, her grandson went with her. I loved watching him grow up.

Yes, a political icon she was. But she was more than that. As a mother she loved, as a grandmother she loved. But she believed in public service, not in just the idea of the name of politicians. She believed that if you accepted the

oath of office you must serve the public. She did so.

As a member of the United Way board, one of the first African Americans to ever serve on our Harris County United Way board, she made sure that the vulnerable were taken care of. A member of the Harris County Council of Organizations. An active and loving member of the Galilee Baptist Church, where she loved her pastor, Pastor Davis, and the first lady.

More importantly, let me tell you that she was a woman of courage and strength and inspiration. I loved her when she stood and fought. She would understand all the debate, those who are against and those who are for. But I tell you she would tell it straight. And the way she would say it is that health care is going to help those who have never had health care before. She would say to those soldiers ''thank you'' for fighting on the front lines for our freedom. And she would say to them, I am using that freedom.

Because you know, Beulah Shepard had to buy a poll tax to vote. She bought it in 1948. She came to Texas from Louisiana. She was named for her grandmother. She came from the salt of the earth. But she is an inspiration to all of us.

And I am excited today to be able to say that Beulah Shepard lived to be 87 years old and had as one of the starring moments of her life to be able to vote for President Barack Obama. And why do I say that? Because Beulah Shepard walked and fought so that there might be those who would vote who had never voted before to have the opportunity to choose someone of their choosing.

Let me tell you what she did in Commissioner Squatty Lyons' office. Yes, she worked historically for this commissioner as the first African American among some that came after in those offices. I am gratified for that, because she took care of the vulnerable, those who were afraid to come downtown, those who didn't think government would work for them. Beulah Shepard took care of them.

She will be laid to rest in these next hours. And I will simply say that we have the flag waving over this great woman's life and legacy.

□ 1500

Why do I say that, having not had her serve in the United States military? Because I know that our military represents the people of the United States and all of us have the opportunity to represent the value of the flag of this country. That value is to be able to cherish democracy, justice and to have the courage to fight for it, a loving mother who nurtured her children, a loving friend who cared for everyone, someone who brought joy.

And it was a great joy to me to spend time with her in these last few years as she was so joyful with her family members all around her. She smiled, what a beautiful smile. When we took our pictures together in the front yard and inside the house, I know that she had great joy.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is with great sympathy to the family that I offer, on behalf of the United States Congress, this tribute to Beulah Shepard. God bless you, may you rest in peace, and we love you.

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

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

CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the last action that we took in this body today was a resolution honoring the Constitution, which we celebrate tomorrow. Since we are not in session tomorrow, I wish to talk for a moment about that inspired document this evening.

It's difficult to do that, because as we talk about the Constitution, I am looking straight at the relief of George Mason, who was one of those unique characters in American history, one of three men who spent the entire time at the Constitutional Convention and then refused to sign the document.

When I was teaching school, I always insisted my students had to tell me why Mason refused to sign it, which, of course, was because it did not have the Bill of Rights. But I was always hoping, and hoping in vain, that some bright student would ask the better question, which is not why did Mason not sign, but why did all the other people who were there at the Founding Fathers convention not go along with Mason for a Bill of Rights?

It was certainly not because they were opposed to civil liberties, but because the rest of the Founding Fathers realized that they could accomplish the same goal by the structure of government, by dividing power by the three branches of government horizontally so no branch had too much power, but equally by dividing power vertically between the Federal and State level. So no level of government had too much power; you could accomplish the same goal of protection of individual freedoms.

The issue at the Constitutional Convention was that of power. As the States met and then ratified this document, the issue of power was still there. We, of course, know of course that two States, North Carolina and Rhode Island, did not ratify the document until after the country was established. But five States, Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland and South Carolina, sent specific amendments that should be added to the document.

Foremost in each of those State's amendments was the concept of sovereignty or the ability of States to make decisions. Their goal and their concepts were incorporated in the 10th Amendment to the Constitution, which put in written form the unnamed structure that the Founding Fathers had established in the Constitution.

As one of our Justices on the Supreme Court said, the Constitution protects us from our own best intentions. It divides power among sovereigns, among branches of government, precisely so that we may resist the temptation to concentrate power in one location as the expedient solution to the crisis of the day.

For a century and a half, this Nation basically honored that concept. In the last half century, though, we have stretched the idea significantly. Starting with the progressive era at the early 1900s, it was President Wilson who called this concept the separation of powers political witchcraft. He said that separating powers into hidden corners prevented us from consolidating powers to be used.

In the early 1900s, the politicians and the philosophers who believed this did not do so because they misunderstood the Constitution, but because they understood it and did not like the fact that it prevented them from doing what they said were marvelous things.

We, today, still have this issue of power before us. For the last couple of years we have debated on this floor the idea whether it is better to consolidate power in Washington with the ultimate goal of uniformity or to hold fast to the idea that States should be allowed to have alternative ideas and that our ultimate goal should be creativity.

The 10th Amendment is not just about smaller government. It's about more effective government, what works best for people and the idea that not all programs have to be evolved from Washington. They also have their idea because the 10th Amendment talks power for States and individuals. In a concept that many of us on this floor can never get, there are some problems that don't need a solution by government at all.

The issue is creativity, efficiency, and justice. The issue is can those best be resolved.

We still have this question of power that we are dealing with today, and I would hope that we would reject the revisionist idea and, instead, go along and support the Founding Fathers. For both the constitutional structure and the 10th Amendment meant that our Founding Fathers were inspired to get it right.

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

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

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

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

THE FREEDOM TO . . .

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there are more than a dozen countries in this world that restrict freedom of religion, including Iran and China. Imagine being told your religion was unacceptable and being carted off to jail for offering a Bible to someone. This is not an unusual occurrence in some countries with state-sponsored religions.

In this country, we have a few sacrosanct words known as ''First Amendment to the Constitution'' that guarantee no one will be punished for the religion that they choose to follow: ''Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.''

When a person decides to burn the Koran, the Bible, or any other sacred document in this country, he has the freedom to do so even if the overwhelming majority of us vehemently disagree with his decision. It is difficult for the citizens of some other countries to understand or to tolerate this kind of freedom. Yet it is the bedrock of our democracy.

We have the right to disagree, to ignore, to protest against or to take the matter to court for a ruling, but we do not have the right to determine what another person is to believe. Unfortunately, that kind of freedom challenges other governments and cultures.

The freedoms we hold dear seem uncontrollable to those who would dictate what people wear, worship, and support. For example, some governments think that if their citizens are educated the next thing that will happen is that they will begin to think and ask questions, and that can't be tolerated by those in power. Or they believe that only one religion is true and, therefore, no others can be taught or people might stray from the religion and the religion might falter. In the United States, we have no such fear because our Constitution gives us the confidence and the courage to tolerate diversity.

September 17 is Constitution Day and a time that we should all take to be grateful for the strength and breadth of our system of government. We should reflect on our freedoms and know that they are protected.

That date was chosen because on September 17, 1787, the Constitutional Convention met for the last time in Philadelphia to sign the document before it was sent to the 13 States to be ratified. The Founding Fathers drew upon the wisdom of the ages to give us a gift that has endured for more than two centuries, the United States Constitution.

The blueprint for our government is not a long document. You can keep a copy in your shirt pocket. I happen to have one here, Mr. Speaker. The basic document is under 5,000 words, but it covers the building blocks for our three equal branches of government: the executive, the legislative, and the judicial arms of government.

The first 10 amendments lay out the rights of every citizen. How many times have you heard the phrase, ''I know my rights.'' Well, we know them because they have been delineated for us in the Bill of Rights.

Winston Churchill famously said in a speech in the House of Commons in 1947: ''Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.''

Today I issue a challenge to the citizens to read their Constitution on September 17 each year. It will help your understanding of what and who you are in this country, and it will strengthen your values.

In a speech to the Senate in 1850, Henry Clay said: ''The Constitution of the United States was made not merely for the generation that then existed, but for posterity, unlimited, undefined, endless, perpetual posterity.''

He has been proven correct, Mr. Speaker, and let us all work to protect it and keep it that way.

□ 1510

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we celebrate the 223rd anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. As we do so, I think it is important to consider the humbling legacy bestowed by those who founded this country and the lawmakers who actually did come before us; because each day those of us who are currently holding office, we are so mired in the challenges and complexities of modern public policy, we scurry through these stately, ornate halls, often without so much as a glimpse at or a thought of the profound history that is depicted around us.

For instance, just steps away, within the interior of the majestic Capitol Dome, is the Rotunda. I spent some time there recently, Mr. Speaker, reflecting on the moments in our Nation's history that gave rise to the gift of liberty we strive to safeguard each day in this body. Inside the Rotunda is a series of paintings that offer rich glimpses into some of these moments, starting with the Landing of Columbus in 1492, the Discovery of the Mississippi by DeSoto in 1541, as well as the Baptism of Pocahontas in 1613. They all depict the opening of a new, mysterious world full of promise and things yet to come.

The painting, the Embarkation of the Pilgrims in 1620, also speaks of opportunity, the anticipation of realizing a dream of freedom. The Declaration of Independence in 1776 follows. The Surrender of General Burgoyne in 1777, and the Surrender of Lord Cornwallis in 1781, as well as George Washington Resigning His Commission in 1783 are all celebrated pieces depicting the first moments of that new Republic.

Possibly the most famous of these paintings is John Trumbull's 12-by-18-foot-large Declaration of Independence. This historical piece of art depicts the presentation of the Declaration to the Second Continental Congress. Standing at the forefront of this painting are Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin, the authors of the profound document that gave way to the birth to our Nation.

Painstaking care was given to each word in the Declaration, none of which may be more memorable than these: ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.'' You see, the Declaration built upon a theory of natural and universal rights, the consent of the governed, and a right of redress when government was in violation of those essential principles. After setting forth those standards, the Declaration continued with a litany of grievances against King George, which, Mr. Speaker, is a very interesting prospect to reread that part of the Declaration.

And then the Declaration finally concludes by saying, ''We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by the Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States . . . And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.''

Fifty-six individuals signed the Declaration, though it is possible that few knew the historical significance the document would ultimately bear. Historians suggest that the list of grievances against King George was of the highest importance to the signers, but today, like the revival of nationalism that did follow after the War of 1812, we perhaps find the greatest profundity and timeliness in the Preamble of the Declaration, and I think it bears repeating. ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, and that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.''

These words inspire reflection on our personal independence as American citizens secured through times of tumult and uncertainty.

Not long after these words were handed down, another extraordinary document expressing our rights as American citizens was given unto the people. On September 17, 1787, 39 individuals signed the United States Constitution, a document that changed the history of our nation—and the world.

The Constitution holds special meaning for this body. We placed our hands on a Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. It is because of that deep abiding commitment to the Constitution that Congress prioritized celebration of the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution many years ago, and why we now celebrate ''Citizenship and Constitution Day'' each September 17. This 223rd Citizenship and Constitution Day, let us recall the extraordinary circumstances that gave rise to our great nation, and the words of our founding documents that endure as a call of conscience to a world crying out for meaning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COVENANT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I'm here to urge our Democratic leaders to listen to the Republican Party, to listen to the Republican Party's bipartisan plan for taking immediate action on our already ailing economy.

If we let the Bush tax cuts expire, those tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003, Americans nationwide will face the largest tax hike in United States history. Indeed, that tax hike will amount to $3.8 trillion, and this at a time when unemployment hovers at around 10 percent and our national debt has hit an all-time high at $13 trillion—yes, $13 trillion with a ''T,'' an unbelievable amount of debt.

We need to freeze Federal spending. We need to cut taxes across the board, for everyone at every marginal tax rate level across the board. The state of the economy today is that 16 million people are unemployed. That equates to a 10 percent unemployment rate. Indeed, it is probably close to 17 percent. Mr. Speaker, if you count people who have just given up, who have been looking over 6 months for a job, there are none to be found, and also the number of people who are employed, yes, but underemployed, it would be close to 17 percent. So, indeed, the Republican Party and our leader says we need to freeze Federal spending, indeed, roll it back to the level of 2008, and cut taxes across the board.

And if we don't do that, Mr. Speaker, many companies that might have been in a position to expand and, therefore, put people back to work will choose not to because of the uncertainties associated with these tax hikes as well as other disastrous Democratic policies like ObamaCare. We need to come together, and we need to pass legislation immediately that cuts spending and kills all of the pending tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, we just returned to Washington, did we not, after 6 weeks in our districts, all 435 of us? I had many opportunities during that 6-week period of time to meet with my constituents face to face, eyeball to eyeball at town hall meetings. We called them America Speaking Out meetings, wanting the American people to know that at least one party wanted to hear from them, wanted to hear from Main Street, and did not want to force-feed on the American people, on our constituents, some grandiose plan that Members of Congress come up with. God knows that plans that Members of Congress have come up with over the last 4 years have certainly not helped one iota.

So I used this opportunity, my colleagues, I used this opportunity to speak to my constituents, but mainly to listen to them and to find out and write it down and bring it back to Washington to share it with my colleagues so we can make a pledge and make a commitment.

Indeed, one person, Mr. Speaker, suggested that why don't you call it this time, rather than a Contract with America that we remember from 1994, why don't you call it a Covenant with America, just like the covenant that God had with Moses and the Jewish people, something that is an absolute pledge of your sacred honor. Sacred honor, you heard my friend from Nebraska, Representative FORTENBERRY just moments ago on the floor, talk about the Constitution, sacred honor and our sacred documents.

And I think that is what the American people want. I don't think they will accept anything less. They are tired of the same old same old—excessive government spending and higher taxes that are making our country look a lot like Greece, Mr. Speaker.

So, I'm happy to have this opportunity, under the direction of my leadership, to take this time to talk to my colleagues about what we really need to do and what we really need to do in a bipartisan way.

No wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the approval ratings of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle is 11 percent. People wanted to change 2 years ago.

□ 1520

People wanted a change 2 years ago. They made a change, but, indeed, it was not quite the change that they expected.

I want to refer my colleagues to this first poster, this first slide that I have here in the way of a cartoon, and hopefully all of you Members in the back of the Chamber can see this. It is a china shop, and it shows this depiction of our President going into the china shop talking to the clerk. And the caption is, as the President is speaking, ''Now, give me one good reason why you're not hiring.'' And of course behind the President are all of these bulls, these bulls in a china shop. This bull of cap and trade, this bull of health care reform, breaking all of the china.

Mr. Speaker, to ask the question: Now, give me one good reason why you're not hiring. Well, the American people can give a lot of good reasons why they are not hiring if indeed they have any capital left with which to hire or to expand their business, to increase the square footage, to put in a new product line, and to bring in additional workers for their small business. It is not happening because of bad policy, bad policy coming from inside the Beltway, not bad policy on Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, again as I did these town hall meetings, and I guess we did six or eight of them across the 11th Congressional District of northwest Georgia, nine counties that I represent, a great district, and I guess I would not be unique among us to say I think I have the best district of all 435, but I

know we all feel that way about our districts. But the people told me, when I asked about the economy, what was concerning them the most, and we discussed the economy, and I asked, Why are we faced with a 10 percent unemployment rate? Why are 16 million people out of work, and why is it getting worse?

This is what they said: Excessive taxation; insufficient liquidity, which means they can't borrow any money. The banks are not lending. The small banks are having to set aside money to cover loan loss reserves and to abide by this mark-to-market accounting principle. People who have loans and are making payments on those loans, all of a sudden these loans are called and they have to come in and put up more collateral. And, of course, the regulators are really cracking down to the lending institutions. Poor mom and pop businesses can't borrow any more money. And if they have some money, or maybe there is someone who is unemployed who has a little nest egg who would like nothing better than to finally start that small business that they have wanted to start for years, they are finally almost forced into a situation. There are no jobs out there, so maybe they have $25,000 or $30,000 saved up and they want to start that little restaurant on the corner. They are not going to do it because of economic uncertainty, not knowing, Mr. Speaker, what is coming next that is going to hurt them rather than help them.

And the last bullet point on this particular slide, Mr. Speaker: Redtape, government mandates. OSHA. EPA. The new health care law. ObamaCare. The requirements for providing health insurance—and not just any health insurance, but one policy dictated by the Federal Government that these people understand they can't afford to abide by, so they don't start that business. So the unemployment rate, it continues and it gets worse.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, this next poster that I want to share with you has a lot of verbiage on it, and I know that it is difficult to read, so I will go through the bullet points with you. This is what it says. The latest Congressional Budget Office, CBO, that's the bipartisan accountants hired by the House of Representatives, the director of course is chosen by the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, but the bipartisan Congressional Budget Office and their economic outlook, the first bullet, this year's deficit is estimated to reach $1.3 trillion. As a share of the overall total economy of this country, the deficit is 9.1 percent, roughly three times the average of the past 40 years. Let me say that again. The deficit for this year, $1.3 trillion, is 9.1 percent of the total economy of the whole country, and that is three times what it has averaged over the last 40 years. Amazing.

The second bullet, the debt held by the public, is projected to rise to $9 trillion, or 62 percent of the economy this year, nearly twice the 40 year historical average. Total debt, including borrowing from the Social Security trust fund and other Federal funds, will rise to $13.5 trillion.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the CBO also estimates that economic growth will remain sluggish over the next few years and unemployment will remain unbearably high for years to come. The looming tax increases and health care overhaul both contribute to slower growth and fewer jobs.

Colleagues, this next poster that you see basically depicts the slide that I just read to you in regard to the budget doubling and the tripling of the debt held by the public in billions of dollars, and this does not even include the Social Security trust fund that has been raided of about $1.5 trillion that has to be paid back.

So, colleagues, as we spend the next couple of weeks here in Washington before we break and go home before these midterm elections, what do we have to do? The President is talking about, and the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, and the leader of the Senate, Senator HARRY REID, are talking about letting the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 remain in place for all taxpayers except those who have an adjusted gross income of $200,000, or $250,000 for a family.

□ 1530

These are the very people who create the jobs in this country because many in that category are small business men and women who are not C corporations; they are subchapter S, or they pay their taxes as individuals. If you let those tax rates go from 33 percent to 36 percent or in some cases go from 36 percent to 39.6 percent and you leave the corporate income tax rate at 35 percent—and I have a flyer that I will show you, colleagues, in just a few minutes comparing the corporate tax rate in this country with other industrialized countries across the globe—it's astronomically high.

So how do we expect to get out of this deep recession, this economic morass, this high unemployment rate of 16 million-plus unemployed by raising taxes on anybody? It makes absolutely no economic sense.

I would urge my colleagues to come together with us in a bipartisan way. Let's do what Leader BOEHNER has suggested, which is to leave the tax cuts in place for everybody at every marginal rate at least for the next 2 years, and let's cut spending this year to 2008 levels.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be joined by my classmate and colleague from the great State of Minnesota, the ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee, Representative JOHN KLINE. I will gladly yield to Representative KLINE.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank my colleague. I thank my colleague for his words here this evening and for his leadership on this and on so many issues.

I just found it striking, Mr. GINGREY, that what you are talking about here is not only staggering debt, as the current chart indicates, but that you are talking about taxes. I want to take just a minute to put this into context.

We have been suffering with a struggling economy. We have watched the gross domestic product decline each quarter for the last three quarters. As you know very well, we have been looking at unemployment above 9 percent for 16 consecutive months, and this is after the passage of the trillion-dollar stimulus bill that the President said would keep unemployment below 8 percent. We have been at 9 percent or more and at 9.6 percent most recently, and now there is a proposal to impose the largest tax increase in American history on January 1, which is, of course, what will happen unless Congress takes action, unless the majority party in this body brings forth legislation that will keep that from happening.

I just wanted to join with my colleague, with Leader BOEHNER, with everybody on this side of the aisle, and with a growing number of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who say let's don't do that, who say let's don't raise taxes on any American. Particularly to the point you were making earlier, let's don't raise taxes on the job creators. We are trying to create jobs. We are trying to let the private sector create jobs at the same time the majority party here is talking about imposing a crushing tax increase on the very people on whom we are relying to create those jobs.

So I just wanted to stop by to applaud your efforts here, to thank you for doing this today, and to add my voice to a growing number in this body who say let's don't do this.

Madam Speaker, let's don't do this.

Mr. President, let's don't do this.

Let's do not add to the tax burden of those who are creating the jobs in the private sector. Let's don't increase taxes on anybody in America. I think we need to say that loudly and clearly, and I have increasing hope that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will recognize that that is a terrible thing to do in this economy and that we must move quickly.

As my colleague knows very well, there is an election coming. Congress will go into recess again here in 3 weeks or maybe 4 weeks or sometime, and I don't think we should leave and go into recess until we have taken care of this issue.

Again, I thank my colleague, and I yield back my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank so much my colleague from Minnesota, Representative KLINE, for dropping by and for pointing out the things that we have been talking about.

Quite honestly—and he alluded to the fact, I think, that we are beginning to get a little bit of bipartisanship on this issue. In fact, I was hoping, Mr. Speaker, that there would be a colloquy today between Majority Leader HOYER and the minority whip, Representative ERIC CANTOR from Virginia. I wanted to hear what Mr. HOYER might have had to say about this.

I've been reading in the newspaper—and maybe some of my colleagues have seen these articles, too—that maybe the Democratic leadership, represented so much so, of course, by Majority Leader STENY HOYER and hopefully by the leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms. PELOSI, would begin to sort of go our way on this. I know a lot of Democratic rank-and-file Members, particularly those, Mr. Speaker, of the conservative wing of the Democratic Caucus—the so-called Blue Dogs—are very concerned about increasing taxes on anybody at a time such as this.

As Representative KLINE pointed out, the tax increase of letting every one of those marginal rates go back up to the pre-2001 level basically eliminates the 10 percent tax bracket, and it expands the 15 percent tax bracket. I pointed out earlier that it raises the 36 bracket to 39.6, 33 to 36, 28 to 33, and 20 to 28.

In addition to that, what is expiring is the Child Tax Credit of $1,000, which will go back to $500, Mr. Speaker. The tax on dividends, which under the current law and enacted in 2003, is 15 percent, but if we let that expire, that tax rate on dividends will go to whatever one's marginal rate is, and if you happen to be at the 39 percent tax rate, that will be the tax on dividends. Many, many of our seniors are relying on dividends—on dividends and their Social Security—as their only sources of income. To tax that at nearly 40 percent, in some cases, is just cruel. It is unconscionable.

So, again, I do thank my colleague for weighing in on this; and this current slide, my colleagues, kind of shows that. The blue line on the graph shows the Democrat projection with the stimulus spending that was enacted and passed in February of 2009. So we're talking—what?—a year and a half ago. It was $862 billion, I believe, in that stimulus program that was supposed to get our economy back on track. That money, by the way, was money borrowed—yes, borrowed, in large part, from China and Japan. We hear that concern voiced so often. Yet that's what we did. We borrowed $862 billion, a lot of it from China and Japan, to stimulate our economy.

The pledge from the administration, from President Obama and from Congress was that this is what we need. If you pass that, our pledge to the American people is this unemployment rate, which was at 7.6 percent back a year and a half ago, will not get above 8 percent. We will stop this hemorrhaging of jobs by creating all of this spending for shovel-ready projects. I don't know how much of it went to that, but it was probably less than 5 percent of the $862 billion. Here, the graph depicts it.

So in the first quarter through the third quarter of 2009, that unemployment rate, which was 7.5 to 7.6 percent, wasn't going to go any higher. This is what the projection was going out to 2013. It was that our unemployment rate, because of the stimulus package, would gradually come back down to traditional levels of 4.5 to 5 percent, which was essentially full employment.

□ 1540

But this is what happened, my colleagues. The red line is what happened, unfortunately. And here we are in the third quarter of 2010, and what is our unemployment rate? Darn close to 10 percent. In fact, a couple of quarters ago it was over 10 percent. And as I said earlier about the unemployment rate, it's really worse than 10 percent, because many people have been out there beating the pavement, wearing out that shoe leather trying to find a job for 6 or more months, and they are still unemployed. And a lot of them, unfortunately, have just given up. Many of the jobs that we saw were census workers. That work has been completed, and unfortunately they're back in the ranks of the unemployed.

My colleagues, what I've been talking about, of course, in this next slide depicts it—the Bush tax cuts and what to do with them. The first bullet, ''Democrats are poised to let the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts expire at the end of this year.'' The effect of that would be a $3.8 trillion tax increase that will affect every American who pays income taxes. Unfortunately, only about 53 percent of Americans do pay income taxes, and that's part of our problem. But how in the world could we do this to the hardworking, tax-paying people?

Go back to that first slide of the bull in the China shop. Colleagues, that's what we're talking about. You break a lot of dishes when you raise taxes $3.8 trillion over a 10-year period of time. And answer this question for me—rhetorically, of course. What tax increase ever created a job? I don't think one ever did, and I don't think one ever will.

I spoke a little earlier about the corporate tax rate. Why is our corporate tax rate higher than—I don't know the total number of countries that we have here listed along the X-axis, but it's about 20, 25—Iceland, Ireland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Turkey, Switzerland, Korea, and on and on and on? And our corporate tax rate, effective, is almost 39 percent. That's the green column. Only Japan, at 40 percent, has a higher corporate tax rate than the United States. That makes no sense. We can't compete in the global economy with taxes like that.

I had talked a little earlier about the different tax rates and what will happen if we let the tax cuts, the lower rates, expire and we go back to those rates prior to 2001. I talked about dividends going from a 15 percent rate to, in some cases, a 39.6 rate. I didn't mention capital gains, but capital gains are now at 15 percent. That will go back up to 20 percent. And we, of course, talked about ordinary income and how those tax rates will go up for every marginal level.

We mentioned the Child Tax Credit of $1,000 per child, which will go back to $500 per child. I did not mention, but it's on this slide. I didn't talk about the marriage tax penalty, which under the current law had been eliminated, but starting January 1 of 2011, that marriage tax penalty kicks back in, costing a couple an additional $595 a year. That might not sound like a lot of money to Members sitting in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, but it's a lot of money for a man and woman in their retirement twilight years on a fixed income. And, of course, I did mention that the lowest tax bracket marginal rate of 10 percent would completely be eliminated.

Well, let's get back for a few minutes to what I think we can do in a bipartisan way. This particular slide, Mr. Speaker, says it's the Republican plan. But you know what? I wish I had changed this slide before I got here on the floor this afternoon and scratched that out and put the ''Bipartisan Plan.'' Because other than the point that my people made to me at town hall meetings during the August recess about wanting us to do something about the economy, stop taxing them and regulating them to death, leave them alone, give them the opportunity to show their entrepreneurial skills, they said this, too: Why is it that you men and women in the Congress can never seem to work in a bipartisan way and do something for us, all of you? We love you, Congressman GINGREY, but you're part of the problem, too. You're all worried, it seems to us, about the next election, and you don't seem to be thinking about the next generation.

And I had to look them in the eye, eyeball to eyeball, and say, You know what? You're right. And my pledge, if I become part of the majority in 2011, is that we will work in a bipartisan way. And I hope my leadership is listening, and I hope that that will be part of their pledge.

So this poster really should scratch out the ''Republican Plan'' and put ''Bipartisan Plan.'' And I don't know why in the world we couldn't all agree on this. And we ought to do it now, not wait to see who's in control. The American people, I don't think—in many instances, they don't care who's in control as long as we're doing the right thing, as long as we are doing the right thing.

But this slide says, number one, freeze all of those tax rates for 2 years. We're in a desperate situation. Is that asking too much to not increase the tax burden on the American people and small businesses and corporate America for 2 years? And secondly, cut spending back to 2008 levels.

There is a little asterisk, colleagues, on this poster. If you can't see it, I'm going to read it for you: ''If the President is serious about job creation, there's one clear way forward, and that is for us to come together and pass legislation immediately that cuts spending and stops all of the approaching tax hikes.'' The bipartisan plan; that's what we need, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly what we need. That's what the American people are expecting of us.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going to shift gears just a little bit because it does pertain to the economy. I want to talk a little bit about illegal immigration. There is a situation in this country that has got to stop, and that is this idea that children born in this country of illegal immigrants are automatically United States citizens. Now, that's based on a misinterpretation of the 14th Amendment. I keep the Constitution with me all the time. Representative FORTENBERRY, Mr. Speaker, was talking about the Constitution, our sacred document, a little bit earlier. But the 14th Amendment was ratified to our Constitution in 1868.

□ 1550

There were no immigration laws in 1868. It had nothing to do with illegal immigrants and bestowing citizenship on a child born of illegal immigrants. No. It was all about giving rights, constitutional rights, to former slaves, just as was the 13th Amendment and the 15th Amendment.

The 15th Amendment: ''The right of citizens of the United States to vote, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.'' The 13th Amendment: ''Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.'' Slavery was abolished by the 13th Amendment. The 14th Amendment says, ''All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof.'' Illegal immigrants are not subject to the jurisdiction thereof.

And the reason I bring this up, Mr. Speaker, is because it costs about $10,000 for every childbirth in this country. When 10 percent of those births are illegal immigrant births, you're talking about close to 400,000 times $10,000, pretty soon you get to about $40 billion worth of cost, something that this country cannot afford. And that is why people are insisting that we abide by our immigration law, not enact new law but just simply abide by what has already passed.

It's something that I'm going to continue to talk about. I look forward to having a dialogue with my other colleagues that have been so active and involved in this issue, folks like Representative GUTIERREZ from the great State of Illinois, and I think we can talk and do this in a bipartisan way and come together, because people want a secure border and they want to abide by the rule of law. And they realize when they are among the 10 percent, Mr. Speaker, who are unemployed, that have been out of work for more than 6 months, and there are 16 million of them, that you can't afford to not have a secure border. You can't afford to have yet another magnet to attract more people to risk their lives trying to come into this country illegally. All of these things are interrelated. We need to be sensible about this, and we need to recognize so many of these problems.

Mr. Speaker, again as I said at the beginning of the hour, I appreciate the opportunity that my leadership has given to me to talk to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle about what we can do to restore this economy and have a recovery that is not a jobless recovery, to put people back to work. And it starts with lowering the amount of Federal spending. Can you believe that we are this year going to spend $1.3 trillion more than what we take in in revenue? And we're on the track over the next 10 years to triple our national debt? In fact, it will be by the year 2020, if we continue at this rate, over $20 trillion of debt. That is more than our gross domestic product. So let's draw a line in the sand, let's go back to 2008 spending, that's the least we can do, and let's not raise taxes on anybody.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SABLAN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KENNEDY, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, September 23.
Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, September 23.
Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 20, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9383. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting A Request For Budget Amendments For Fiscal Year 2011 proposals in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services; (H. Doc. No. 111—139); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

9384. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a supplemental update of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1106(a); (H. Doc. No. 111—143); to the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed.

9385. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a declaration of a national emergency with respect to blocking the property of certain persons with respect to North Korea, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1631; (H. Doc. No. 111—141); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

9386. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to certain terrorist attacks is to continue for one year beyond September 14, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 111—142); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

9387. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 111—145); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

9388. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 10-30, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9389. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 10-42, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9390. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 10-23, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9391. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 10-34, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9392. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting various reports in accordance with Sections 36(a) and 26(b) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9393. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Corperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 10-20, pursuant to

the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9394. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's first quarter report for calendar year 2010 as required by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9395. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the report on Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq, pursuant to Section 1508(c) of the Department of Defense Authorization Act for 2009, Pub. L. 110-417; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9396. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 10-076, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9397. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 10-064, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9398. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 10-058, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9399. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affiars, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 10-095, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9400. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's letter in accordance with Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9401. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 09-069, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9402. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 09-135, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9403. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-024, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9404. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-038, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9405. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-089, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9406. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-088, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9407. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9408. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-027, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9409. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-10-2137); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9410. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-067, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9411. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affiars, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 09-117 Certification of proposed issuance of an export license, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9412. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 10-044 Certification of proposed issuance of an export license, pursuant to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9413. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on CWC Compliance; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9414. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 47th report required by the FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental Act, pursuant to Public Law 106-246, section 3204(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9415. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to Paragraph (5)(D) of the Senate's May 1997 resolution; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9416. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a designation pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1189; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

9417. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a continuation of the national emergy regarding export control regulations, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 111—140); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

9418. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; City of Pacific Grove Feast of Lanterns Fireworks Display, Pacific Grove, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0722] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9419. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Labor Day Sky Concert, South Lake Tahoe, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0723] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9420. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0728] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9421. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pittsburg Seafood Festival Air Show, Pittsburg, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0730] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9422. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0731] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9423. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Safety Zone: Old Sauvie Island Bridge Roadway Deck Demolition Safety Zone, Multnomah Channel, Portland Oregon [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0700] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9424. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Helicopter Event within the Sector Delaware Bay Captain of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0701] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9425. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Patapsco River, Sparrows Point Steel Work Channel, Baltimore County, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0702] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9426. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Detonation of Underwater Ordnance; Northwest Harbor, San Clemente, California [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0703] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9427. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area: No-Wake Zone; Port Huron to Mackinac Sailboat Race, St. Clair River, Port Huron, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0707] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9428. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Area; Detroit APBA Gold Cup, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0708] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9429. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; French Festival Fireworks, St. Lawrence River, Cape Vincent, NY [Docket No.:

USCG-2008-0710] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9430. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Area; Tug Across the River, Detroit River, Detroit, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0712] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9431. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Area; Trenton Rotary Roar on the River, Detroit River, Trenton, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0713] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9432. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Swim Event, Boston Light Swim, Boston, Massachusetts [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0715] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9433. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations, Seattle Seafair, Lake Washington, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0733] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9434. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Missouri River, Mile 616.0 to 622.0 [COPT Upper Mississippi River-07-034] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9435. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Kaskaskia River, Mile 010.0 to 011.0 [COPT Sector Upper Mississippi River-07-022] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9436. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Casino Queen Grand Opening, Upper Mississippi River Mile Marker 179.2 to Mile Marker 180.0, St. Louis, MO [COPT Sector Upper Missisippi River-07-023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9437. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 791.0 to 792.0 [COPT Sector Upper Mississippi River-07-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9438. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Croix River, Mile 016.7 to 017.3 [COPT Sector Upper Mississippi River-08-005] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9439. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, Mile 183.4 [COPT Sector Upper Mississippi River-06-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9440. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-06-061] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9441. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Chicago Red Bull Flugtag, Lake Michigan, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2008-098) (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9442. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; St. Joseph River, St. Joseph, MI [USCG-2008-0901] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9443. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; PRA San Diego Fireworks Display; San Diego Bay, San Deigo, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0910] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9444. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; I.C.E. Special Events Fireworks Display; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0911] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9445. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Cleveland National Air Show, Cleveland, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0913] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9446. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Potomac River, Charles County, MD, and Gunston Cove, Accotink Bay and Pohick Bay, Fairfax County, VA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0916] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9447. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone, Mark Albury Memorial Regatta, Biscayne Bay, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0917] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9448. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Delta Thunder Powerboat Race, Pittsburg, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0918] received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

9449. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Equinox Creative Fireworks Display; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2008-0919] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 19, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5194. A bill to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–595). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5131. A bill to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–596). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3785. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of expanding the boundary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (Rept. 111–597). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5110. A bill to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–598). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4823. A bill to establish the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area in the Coconino National Forest, Arizona, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–599). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3914. A bill to designate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–600). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5388. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico; with an amendment (Rept. 111–601). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4195. A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–602). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4347. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–603). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4888. A bill to revise the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as it applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–604). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5494. A bill to direct the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain properties to the District of Columbia; with amendments (Rept. 111–605). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5152. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–606). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1745. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act; with an amendment (Rept. 111–607). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3199. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to State emergency medical service departments to provide for the expedited training and licensing of veterans with prior medical training, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–608). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3470. A bill to authorize funding for the creation and implementation of infant mortality pilot programs in standards metropolitan statistical areas with high rates of infant mortality, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–609). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BARTON of Texas (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

H.R. 6144. A bill to repeal certain amendments to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act with respect to lighting energy efficiency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6145. A bill to require Members of Congress to disclose delinquent tax liability, require an ethics inquiry, and garnish the wages of a Member with Federal tax liability; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GIFFORDS:

H.R. 6146. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent home loan guaranty programs for veterans regarding adjustable rate mortgages and hybrid adjustable rate mortgages; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 6147. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 6148. A bill to combat trafficking in human organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WEINER:

H.R. 6149. A bill to require disclosures to consumers by coin and precious metal bullion dealers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLEGLY (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BACA, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H.R. 6150. A bill to amend the limitation on liability for certain passenger rail accidents or incidents under section 28103 of title 49, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6151. A bill to charter an organization and establish a medal program to honor first responders in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 6152. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exemption from employer Social Security taxes with respect to previously unemployed individuals, and to extend the credit for the retention of such individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself and Mr. PITTS):

H.R. 6153. A bill to authorize appropriations of United States assistance to help eliminate conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities that do not meet minimum humane standards of health, sanitation, and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 6154. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the eligibility of certain veterans who serve in support of Operation New Dawn for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6155. A bill to expand the Pajarita Wilderness and designate the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness in Coronado National Forest, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself and Mr. LINDER):

H.R. 6156. A bill to renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas):

H. Con. Res. 318. Concurrent resolution supporting the ideals and objectives of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and related Millennium Development Goals and calling on the President to ensure the United States contributes meaningfully to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WU:

H. Res. 1627. A resolution recognizing the 110th anniversary of the Northwest Labor Press; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H. Res. 1628. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to efforts to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit to provide access to affordable healthcare for Delphi retirees and other eligible individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. HILL):

H. Res. 1629. A resolution honoring the service and accomplishments of Colonel Steve Buyer, United States Army Reserve, on the occasion of his retirement from the Army Reserve; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. HILL, Ms. BEAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. PETRI, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BOYD, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. DJOU, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PLATTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LINDER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. MARSHALL):

H. Res. 1630. A resolution expressing support for National POW/MIA Recognition Day; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. SPACE):

H. Res. 1631. A resolution calling for the protection of religious sites and artifacts from and in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus as well as for general respect for religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H. Res. 1632. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require officers and employees of the House to read the Constitution of the United States each year; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. CORRINE

BROWN of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H. Res. 1633. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''Lights On Afterschool!'', a national celebration of after-school programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H. Res. 1634. A resolution congratulating Taos Pueblo, its leaders and its people, on the 40th Anniversary of the return of their sacred Blue Lake lands; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY of New York:

H. Res. 1635. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of an annual ''National Yellow Ribbon Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. BACA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DREIER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. CHU, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HELLER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. FARR):

H. Res. 1636. A resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Hoover Dam; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. POMEROY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SPRATT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. PAULSEN):

H. Res. 1637. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2010 and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families and communities, and support programs and practices designed to prevent and end domestic violence; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 211: Mr. DJOU.
H.R. 442: Mr. PAUL and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 532: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 610: Ms. KILROY.
H.R. 673: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 678: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 789: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 868: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 878: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 886: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 917: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 968: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 980: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 988: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1024: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 1036: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1074: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
H.R. 1093: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 1126: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1205: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 1298: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 1362: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1643: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 1646: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 1792: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 1806: Ms. KILROY.
H.R. 1818: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1868: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1995: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 2060: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2085: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2089: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2149: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2254: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2262: Mr. COURTNEY and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2308: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2324: Mr. KUCINICH and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2378: Mr. PETRI, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2417: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 2443: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 2565: Mr. WALZ and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 2746: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 2855: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 2882: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3035: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 3131: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 3243: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3308: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 3320: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3380: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3431: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 3441: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3666: Mr. HOLDEN and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3668: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 3764: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3974: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4048: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 4054: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4063: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4088: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 4237: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 4269: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 4322: Mr. KRATOVIL.
H.R. 4339: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 4544: Mr. HILL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 4594: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4638: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 4650: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4676: Ms. KILROY.
H.R. 4689: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 4720: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 4746: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 4755: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4796: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4808: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HARE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. STARK, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.
H.R. 4819: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 4844: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 4846: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4923: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4999: Mr. WAMP and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 5033: Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 5040: Mr. ELLSWORTH.
H.R. 5043: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5056: Mr. HELLER.
H.R. 5081: Ms. KILROY.
H.R. 5141: Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MACK, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, and Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 5162: Mr. LEWIS of California and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 5235: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 5300: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. CHU, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 5318: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 5369: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 5400: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 5441: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 5472: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 5487: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 5524: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 5538: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 5543: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5564: Ms. CHU and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5568: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 5575: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 5628: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5718: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WATSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 5746: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. KILROY, Mr. HODES, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. CHU, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5807: Mr. HOLT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FARR, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5819: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 5882: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. MACK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 5894: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5928: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 5933: Mr. WEINER, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BACA, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 5936: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 5939: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 5948: Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 5967: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 5982: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 5984: Ms. WATSON and Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 6043: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 6072: Mr. MICA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6081: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 6087: Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 6098: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. CHU.

H.R. 6108: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 6113: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. CRITZ.

H.R. 6127: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 6139: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. MCMAHON.

H. Con. Res. 259: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MICA.

H. Con. Res. 261: Mr. SPACE.

H. Con. Res. 267: Mr. HOLDEN.

H. Con. Res. 303: Mr. POE of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 316: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H. Res. 99: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 111: Mr. MURPHY of New York.

H. Res. 252: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 349: Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 986: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H. Res. 1122: Mr. BAIRD.

H. Res. 1207: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 1217: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H. Res. 1226: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H. Res. 1264: Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 1311: Mr. TANNER.

H. Res. 1343: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H. Res. 1377: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. BACA, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WU, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. BECERRA.

H. Res. 1431: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. SHADEGG.

H. Res. 1442: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H. Res. 1452: Mr. DUNCAN and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H. Res. 1461: Mr. HALL of New York.

H. Res. 1482: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. HOLT.

H. Res. 1485: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BUYER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. SPACE.

H. Res. 1507: Ms. TSONGAS.

H. Res. 1523: Mr. ARCURI.

H. Res. 1528: Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 1529: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 1560: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 1576: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. STARK, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CAO, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WU, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. ARCURI.

H. Res. 1588: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. STUPAK.

H. Res. 1598: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Res. 1604: Mr. SIRES, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. PIERLUISI.

H. Res. 1615: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CAO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. JONES, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H. Res. 1617: Ms. BEAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HUNTER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WOLF.

H. Res. 1618: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 13, September 15, 2010, by Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN on the bill H.R. 5141, was signed by the following Members: Daniel E. Lungren, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Frank A. LoBiondo, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Steven C. Latourette, Doug Lamborn, Peter T. King, John Campbell, Cynthia M. Lummis, Leonard Lance, John Boozman, Walter B. Jones, Mike Rogers (AL), Dana Rohrabacher, Glen Thompson, Todd Russell Platts, Edward R. Royce, Harold Rogers, Tom McClintock, Gary G. Miller, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, Ken Calvert, Judy Biggert, Jerry Lewis, Darrell E. Issa, Jeff Miller, Vernon J. Ehlers, David G. Reichert, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Dave Camp, Don Young, Mary Bono Mack, Charles W. Dent, Jason Chaffetz, Blaine Luetkemeyer, Michael K. Simpson, Bill Cassidy, Lynn Jenkins, Rodney Alexander, Pete Sessions, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Parker Griffith, Denny Rehberg, Charles K. Djou, Ted Poe, JoAnn Emerson, Gus M. Bilirakis, David P. Roe, Tom Graves, Joe Wilson, Steve Austria, Geoff Davis, Jim Gerlach, Jean Schmidt, Bill Posey, Peter J. Roskam, Lynn A. Westmoreland, K. Michael Conaway, Erik Paulsen, Joseph R. Pitts, Christopher John Lee, Pete Olson, Howard Coble, Tom Latham, Connie Mack, Dan Burton, Duncan Hunter, Timothy V. Johnson, Adrian Smith, Trent Franks, Jo Bonner, Michele Bachmann, Kevin Brady, Wally Herger, F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Gregg Harper, John Abney Culberson, Randy Neugebauer, Mike Coffman, Michael T. McCaul, Jerry Moran, John L. Mica, Aaron Schock, Ron Paul, Vern Buchanan, Thomas J. Rooney, Virginia Foxx, Fred Upton, John Shimkus, Mark Steven Kirk, Jeff Fortenberry, and John Kline.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 11 by Mr. KING on the bill H.R. 4972: Jim Gerlach, Gene Taylor, and Steve Buyer.

Petition 12 by Mr. HERGER on the bill H.R. 5424: Mark Steven Kirk, David G. Reichert, Gary G. Miller, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., Parker Griffith, Trent Franks, Mike Rogers (AL), Jo Bonner, John L. Mica, and Aaron Schock.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 No. 125

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Dr. Bruce Hargrave, vice president of development for the United Methodist Theological Seminary, Moscow, Russia.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, You are the eternal sovereign of all the world and yet personal. Help our Senators to be aware of Your presence and strength. Touch them with Your Spirit and grant each of them divine wisdom.

Our country and world are beset with problems and crises and war. We acknowledge that we are not smart enough, wise enough, or even courageous enough to meet these daily challenges. We need Your direction and grace. Bestow these on each of us bountifully and abundantly.

We now yield ourselves to Your will in order that we as individuals and as a body may fulfill Your plan for each of us, our Nation, and our world.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GOODWIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the small business jobs bill. Under an agreement we reached yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HATCH will offer their respective motions to suspend the rules. Senators BAUCUS, GRASSLEY, and HATCH will control 15 minutes each, for a total of 45 minutes. At 10:45 a.m., we will vote on those motions to suspend in the order in which they are offered. Following the votes, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At noon, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5297, the small business jobs bill, as amended. If cloture is invoked, all postcloture debate time will be yielded back and we will proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The next item for business will be the Department of Defense authorization bill. I wish to reach an agreement to proceed to the measure. It appears that will be unlikely and, therefore, I may need to file cloture to attempt to end debate on the motion so we can begin the amendment process.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3790 AND S. 3791

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for a second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3790) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

A bill (S. 3791) to require Members of Congress to disclose delinquent tax liability, require an ethics inquiry, and garnish the wages of a Member with Federal tax liability.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on these two matters en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

FOOD SAFETY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have worked for this entire Congress on food safety. I have had a number of people from Nevada—about a dozen people—who have talked about their foodborne illnesses, children whose growth is stunted their entire life. One young woman spent 11 months in the hospital as a result of eating tainted spinach. All over America this is happening.

We have food safety laws that are inadequate and causing people to get sick because the food is not checked closely enough. Senators DURBIN, HARKIN, chairman of the committee, and ENZI have worked hard to get something done. I have talked with Senator MCCONNELL. He thinks something should be done. We thought we finally had it worked out. We could take care of this, but Senator COBURN has said no. He wants it paid for a different way. We spent a whole Congress on this legislation. Of course, at the last minute, he comes in, and likely we are

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

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not going to be able to get this done before we go home for the elections.

What a sad thing for our country. People are dying as a result of these problems with food. It is a shame we cannot get this done. We have almost 400 matters that have passed the House of Representatives, and we cannot deal with them here because the Republicans say no. That is not the way to do business. In years past, these things would have gone through very easily.

We should be concerned about something as important as this issue, and the focus should be—and deserves to be—on the person who is holding up this legislation. It is too bad. There are all kinds of excuses, but excuses do not do the trick. People have come to see me who have been deathly ill. All that could have been avoided. The legislation would do that. It is bipartisan in nature. It should be completed.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT OF 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5297, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Baucus/Landrieu) amendment No. 4594, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Nelson (FL)) modified amendment No. 4595 (to amendment No. 4594), to exempt certain amounts subject to other information reporting from the information reporting provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Reid (for Johanns) modified amendment No. 4596 (to amendment No. 4595), to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of $600 or more to corporations.

Reid amendment No. 4597 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 4594), to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 4598 (to amendment No. 4597), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, Theodore Roosevelt once said:

Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

Americans prize hard work. We value a day's pay earned at honest labor, and that is one reason the great recession that started in 2008 has been particularly hard on Americans. The great recession robbed 8 million Americans of one of the best prizes that life offers—their work.

That is why for 2 years now we have been working hard to create jobs. We worked to create jobs by passing the Recovery Act at the beginning of last year. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that the Recovery Act ''increased the number of full-time equivalent jobs by 2 million to 4.8 million compared with what would have occurred.''

We worked to create jobs by passing the HIRE Act in March of this year. The Treasury Department found ''an estimated 4.5 million workers who have been unemployed for 8 weeks or longer were hired by employers who are eligible for the HIRE Act payroll tax exemption.''

We have been working to create jobs with this small business bill before us. We have been working to pass this bill since June. That is right, since June. Here it is September. Finally we are going to get this bill passed—I hope.

The economists tell us that this small business jobs bill could help small businesses create as many as half a million new jobs.

This small business jobs bill would provide small businesses with access to capital. It would create incentives for investment. It would support innovation and entrepreneurship. This small business jobs bill would give small businesses $12 billion in tax cuts. It would increase small business lending. It would help small business owners get private capital to finance expansion and hire new workers. It would reward entrepreneurs for investing in new small businesses. It would help Main Street businesses compete with big companies. All these things would help small businesses to create as many as half a million more jobs.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has prepared a technical explanation of the bill which expresses the Finance Committee's legislative intent behind the tax provisions. It is available on the Joint Committee's Web site.

This small business jobs bill has been hard work. For something this common sense, it has been harder work than we thought it would be. Some folks on the other side of the aisle have thrown obstacles in the way. Some have thrown in our way pretty much everything but the kitchen sink. Today they are throwing the kitchen sink in our way as well.

Today, before we can vote on this targeted small business jobs bill, some on the other side have resorted to the last refuge of delay. They are proposing motions to suspend the rules of the Senate. They are throwing two more votes in the way.

But in case anyone is taking these last-minute antics at face value, let me set the record straight. These motions to suspend the rules are not serious legislating. These motions are not the way the Senate enacts law. We do not enact law by suspending the rules.

Rather, these motions are the way that folks score points. These motions are the way folks try to embarrass other people. These motions, quite frankly, are stunts.

If you take them at face value, these motions address two tax provisions that expired at the end of last year. They are two examples of what folks around here call tax extenders.

Here is the irony: We have been trying to extend these and other expiring tax provisions for months. Yes, literally for months. We took up the extenders bill in March, and we have been trying again and again to pass a package of all the expiring provisions pretty much all year since then.

To make it entirely clear, I will try again today. Before the vote on the motions to suspend the rules, I will ask unanimous consent to take up and pass the full set of expiring provisions. In a few minutes, I will ask unanimous consent to take up and pass a paid-for, responsible set of expiring provisions. One way or another, Congress will address these expiring provisions. We always do. We will do so again this year.

But no one should be misled. These motions to suspend the rules today are not serious legislating. They are merely two more in a series of delays thrown up in front of this bill. We should reject these delaying tactics. We should get on with passing this bill to create small business jobs.

Creating jobs is what people sent us here to do, and now is the time to do it.

Thanks to Tuesday's vote, we are finally bringing this debate to a close. It is certainly time. It is time to get this work done. It is time to help small businesses. It is time to help create up to half a million new jobs. This bill has been hard work, but this bill is work worth doing. So let's bring this debate to a close. Let's reject the transparent efforts to delay some have thrown in the way, and let's target this targeted tax relief to small businesses today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, sometime today the majority leader will file cloture on the motion to proceed to the Defense authorization bill, setting up a vote for next week on this important legislation. Under ordinary circumstances, this would be a straightforward, noncontroversial vote that could unite the two parties on a matter related to our common defense. But not this year.

This year, Democrats would rather use this bill to manufacture controversy. Worse still, in their determination to meet their own campaign promises ahead of the upcoming election, Democrats have decided to put their own political interests ahead of

the collective judgment of our military service chiefs who are still in the midst of a study about whether don't ask, don't tell can be repealed without hurting combat readiness. But this should not surprise anyone. For nearly 2 years now, Democrats have done their own thing. Americans have been asking Democrats for nearly 2 years to focus on the economy and jobs, and what they have gotten instead is one costly government-driven job after another that kills jobs and hurts the economy.

When it comes to matters of national defense, Democrats in Washington have established a clear pattern of making political decisions first and then analyzing the problem later. Whether it was the decision to close Gitmo before figuring out what to do with the terrorists who were housed there, to deny our intelligence community the ability to interrogate terrorists, an artificial timeline for withdrawal in Afghanistan or this latest decision to use a Defense authorization bill to move ahead with repeal of don't ask, don't tell before hearing back from the service chiefs, Democrats have shot first and asked questions later. In other words, they put their own ideological goals ahead of everything else.

I remind my colleagues we are fighting two wars and that our volunteer force doesn't ask for much. They ask that they be well trained, well equipped, that their families be cared for, and that we meet their selfless sacrifice with dignity and respect. This bill should be an easy one. We should be united and give our troops a responsible defense policy they need and then the Defense appropriations bill they need—without strings, without games, and save the politics for the campaign trail.

Another bill the Democrats have made needlessly political is the small business bill which we will also be voting on later today. Senator HATCH has offered an amendment that would fully extend the R&D tax credit, an amendment the Democrats blocked just before the August recess but which the President now appears to support. We will also have a chance to extend the biodiesel tax credit through the Grassley amendment. This amendment is essential to keeping producers competitive, but because of the majority's partisan tactics this credit has expired.

It is my hope our friends on the other side will now join the President and the Republicans in supporting these two important pieces of job-creating legislation. Unfortunately, the Democrats whole game plan over the last year and a half and through today is to tick as many items as possible off the liberal wish list while they still have a chance.

The American people think our friends on the other side should have spent a little more time worrying about 10 percent unemployment rather than legislative sideshows. If Senate Democrats truly want to do something for the private sector jobs in this country, they should support the bipartisan R&D tax credit of Senator HATCH and the biodiesel tax credit of Senator GRASSLEY and then work with Republicans after that on preventing the looming $1 trillion tax hike Democratic leaders have so far ignored.

It is time our friends on the other side got serious about jobs and the economy. It is time they put the liberal wish list on the shelf and focused on the priorities of the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we have a tax bill before us that is supposed to help small business because small business creates 70 percent of the new jobs. The President says that. I think we have to look at the background of the high unemployment rate, particularly why it is staying up there—maybe not why it got up there but why is it still there.

I spoke last night about a lot of uncertainty that comes because of the cap-and-trade bill, the bank regulatory reform bill, the health care reform bill, the biggest tax increase in the history of the country coming up this fall if we do not intervene and prevent the biggest tax increase, and a lot of other issues out there that tell us how uncertain it is, what Congress is going to do. That uncertainty keeps the entrepreneurs of America from opening up and creating jobs.

If you want to quantify how they are tight-fisted about the situation right now, the last figure I saw was about $2.1 trillion in cash in the treasuries of major corporations of America. They are not making any money by storing that cash, but they do not know what sort of a future this Congress is going to give them, so they are very guarded on any moves they make. Then we have things such as shutting down all the oil drilling—unemploying tens of thousands of people. Then what I am going to visit with you about is the fact we did not pass the biodiesel tax credit December 31 last year when it sunset and that industry is shut down and 20,000 jobs have been lost. It is ironic to me that we spent weeks on a bill that is before the Senate, as legitimate as it is, to create jobs in small business, when, frankly, there are a lot of negative things going on in the Congress of the United States that cause people to be laid off or, because of uncertainty, not to be hired back. I wish to speak about the biodiesel industry.

As we are faced today with a 9.6-percent unemployment rate, I have a solution that will create 20,000 jobs almost overnight. That solution is to extend the biodiesel tax credit today. This tax credit expired December 31, 2009. This democratically controlled Congress has failed to extend it, even though, on several occasions, I and other Members on this side of the aisle have taken action in that direction.

The Democratic leadership claims, as the President does, that they want more green jobs—and I am in favor of that. I am the author of the Wind Energy Tax Credit, as an example. I have been a backer of ethanol. I have been a backer of biomass and this biodiesel tax credit. So there are plenty of opportunities to show that we, on this side of the aisle, support the President wanting to create green jobs. If the President and the Democratic leadership want to do that, they have not acted to prevent the loss of green jobs in the biodiesel industry.

The biodiesel industry has lost tens of thousands of jobs as a result of this neglect. It would be nice if the Democratic leadership's rhetoric met with reality.

I have twice sought to have the biodiesel tax credit simply passed through the Senate by unanimous consent. However, both times my request was objected to by those on the other side of the aisle. Meanwhile, these biodiesel plants in Iowa and throughout the country continue to lay off workers. In fact, most of them are just plain shut down because the democratically controlled Congress has not extended the biodiesel tax credit.

I made a speech similar to this in December, when we were on the health care reform bill. I said: Can't we find some time to pass these tax extenders so we do not let them lapse—and all these question marks. That was 8 months ago, 9 months ago. But somehow we thought last December, since Congress had not been in session on Christmas Eve since 1895, we ought to be in session once in 115 years—or because we just had to pass this health care reform bill before the end of the year because it takes effect by 2014, we couldn't find a little bit of time to keep 22,000 people employed in the biodiesel industry. So we asked for those consents and we did not get them. These workers are laid off because the democratically controlled Congress has not extended this tax credit.

This is a simple and noncontroversial tax extension that will likely reinstate 20,000 more jobs nationwide and at least 2,000 within my State of Iowa. By the way, this is not controversial, and there are 71 other tax provisions that expired December 31, 2009, and I don't know that any of those are controversial. So the biodiesel industry has lost its jobs. These jobs have fallen victim to a tactic used by the Democratic leadership to hold this popular and noncontroversial tax provision hostage in an attempt to advance political objectives.

Just last February I worked out a bipartisan compromise on tax extenders—all of them—with Chairman BAUCUS to extend the expired tax provisions, including biodiesel.

However, the Senate Democratic leadership decided to put partisanship ahead of the job security for tens of thousands of biodiesel workers by destroying the compromise to which Chairman BAUCUS and I agreed. So I am here again to try to put tens of thousands of people back to work producing clean and renewable fuel that everybody in this Congress says they support, and the green jobs from these productions.

There is a difference between a biodiesel tax credit and the other tax provisions in the tax extender bill that has stalled in the Senate. The failure to extend the biodiesel tax credit before it expired has ground the industry to a halt because biodiesel is now more expensive than gasoline. Gasoline stations, knowing they cannot sell biodiesel, do not buy it, and biodiesel producers have, therefore, stopped producing biodiesel because they have nobody to sell it to. Consequently, the layoffs.

While the other tax provisions are important, most are not as time sensitive as biodiesel because they are not transactional tax incentives like the biodiesel tax credit but, instead, are based on a taxable year. Unfortunately, now it is clear the larger extenders bill has stalled for the time being. We need to pass the biodiesel tax credit separately.

The last time I sought unanimous consent, which was the second time I did it, one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle objected. The objection said something like, the biodiesel tax credit was part of a larger extenders bill they were working on.

Now that the tax extenders bill is stalled, the Senate needs to pass the biodiesel tax credit by itself. I ask my colleagues to vote yes to waive the rules and put 20,000 biodiesel workers back to work.

I move to suspend rule XXII, paragraph 2, for the purposes of proposing and considering amendment No. 4433, which is at the desk. Having said my part, I think before Senator HATCH speaks—he will speak about a very popular tax extender that needs to be extended and on which I do not know that there is one single disagreement. It is a noncontroversial provision but has still been languishing here for the last 9 months, and losing jobs as a result of it, at the very same time we are trying to create jobs through a bill that is before the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I thank my colleague from Iowa. I appreciate his leadership on the Finance Committee and the good work he has done over all of these years.

Mr. President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I move to suspend rule XXII, paragraph 2, for the purpose of proposing and considering the following motion to commit, which is at the desk with instructions to H.R. 5297. I move to commit H.R. 5297 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to the Senate with changes to include a permanent extension of the research tax credit.

This motion is a simple one. It is a motion to suspend the rules to allow for the consideration of the motion to commit the bill before us to the Finance Committee, from which both Senator GRASSLEY and I sit, with the specific instruction to add to the bill a permanent research tax credit.

It is a simple motion, but I believe it is a significant moment. The American people understand that there is a desperate need for jobs and growth, and they have heard that Washington is partisan, broken, and unable to respond to their genuine needs. Just last week they heard that President Obama proposed a permanent research credit as an additional step ''to grow the economy and help businesses spur hiring.''

Well, we can address all three with my simple motion: Make the research credit permanent, do it in a bipartisan spirit, and give job creation the jump start it badly needs. It seems like a pretty good idea to me, but the track record so far is very disappointing. Making the credit permanent is exactly what Senator BAUCUS, the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, and I proposed to do in the bill we introduced last year.

We have been introducing this same idea for many years now. Yet the Senate does not seem to be able to do anything more than extend the credit on a very temporary basis. In recent weeks, I have been trying to add a research credit extension to the small business lending bill that is before us today. Unfortunately, my efforts have been in vain because the leader has filled the amendment tree, and I have not had the opportunity to offer such an amendment to this bill.

Frankly, the way this Senate has been run, there has been very much to criticize. This is supposed to be the most important deliberative body in the world. Yet almost every bill that has any controversy to it at all, they bring it to the floor, fill up the tree, forbid the minority to have any chance to have any amendments, and in the process stultify the legislation.

It is easy to see why adding a research tax credit incentive to this bill is a high priority. Obviously, President Obama thinks it should have a high priority. He was very specific last week in making it clear that this is a step we should take to grow the economy and to help businesses spur hiring, bringing people onboard to work. Here we have a small business tax bill that has been proposed by the majority party. Yet it does not include a very important provision that has long enjoyed bipartisan support by most Members of the Senate. Now we have the President of the United States specifically calling for this provision to be enacted to grow the economy and help businesses spur hiring, for which I give him great credit.

This, too, I believe is the underlying purpose of this small business bill. What is strange is my pleadings for this provision to be added to this bill have so far fallen on deaf ears. Therefore, I have had to resort to this procedural motion to suspend the rules in order for this provision to be added to the bill.

Since the parliamentary tree is tied up and we do not even have a chance for amendments, I could not bring it up as an amendment other than this way. I would have thought this would have been unnecessary. After last week's proposal by the President, I would have expected that Members of his own party might have acted to include the research credit extension on the first possible legislative vehicle. This bill is that vehicle.

But, no, this bill is moving forward toward passage in the Senate with nary a word from the majority about the provision the President proposed last week. He said it was important. He wants it. It is something we ought to do. Above all, it would be bipartisan, one of the few things we have been able to do in a bipartisan way since this administration took over.

Perhaps most of my colleagues on the other side were on the beach and away from the television and the newspapers and did not see or know about the President's call for a permanent research credit. For those of my colleagues who might not have heard about the President's call for a permanent research credit, let me share a couple of facts that he, our President, put forward.

He said a permanent extension of the research credit is ''a win-win—encouraging job growth and investment now that will pay off with stronger economic growth in the future.'' Again, I could not agree more with the President.

President Obama also said economic growth is the single best way to bring down the deficit. There are some things our President says that make a terrific amount of sense. This is one of them because this bill before us today is supposed to be all about job creation and growing the economy. Because the President has renewed his call for a permanent extension of the very important research credit, it seems to me this motion would be unnecessary. I would have thought, as I said before, that the leadership would have taken care of adding this item to this bill.

I think most everyone will agree that this might very well be the only tax bill that even has a remote chance of passage and enactment before the election next month. Surely the majority leader does not plan to simply ignore

the President's call for passing a permanent extension of the research credit.

Well, since he either forgot to add this priority or decided to ignore the President, I am offering this motion as a way to remind him and a way to allow it to happen before this bill comes up for a final vote. I urge all of my colleagues to consider the implications of this country dropping to a second tier industrial power.

Our economy has been, both short term and long term, filled with problems. In the short run, we are not producing the number of new jobs we need. Our economy is not growing nearly as rapidly as we would all like. It is not generating nearly enough moneys or enough revenue to the Treasury. In the longer run, we are facing some severe competitiveness issues with our U.S. firms in competition with foreign firms. The Federal Government has, unfortunately, saddled them with the high taxation, more onerous regulations, and an unfriendly business climate. We have the second highest corporate taxes in the world.

In the high-technology area, along with other sectors of our economy that are even more global in nature, we have even more difficult challenges. Our international tax rules are very inhospitable to U.S.-based firms. This is one of the reasons the United States no longer dominates the list of having the largest companies in the world. In fact, in 1980, of the 50 largest companies in the world, we had 39 of them headquartered in the United States. Today we have just 16. It is because of these stupid rules that have been put in place, these stupid tax approaches that we must change if we want to do something about jobs in our society today.

One particular danger is that many of our trading partners have enacted very generous tax incentives in an attempt to lure away research and development from our country to theirs. There was a time not very long ago when the United States was considered the only real place in the world where companies wanted to conduct their research and development.

We had the best research scientists and the best facilities in the world. That time is no more. We can no longer make this boast. Many other places offer world-class facilities and scientists just as well trained and experienced as ours, many of whom have been trained right here, and we push them out of our country because we will not expand our H1B immigration rules. Talk about stupidity.

Now they also offer tax incentives to companies that are far superior to our country's tax incentives for our companies and for companies overseas. In fact, at this time we can offer no tax incentives for U.S. research and development because the credit expired last December. The research tax credit is a provision that has been in the tax law since 1981. It has been extended by Congress more than a dozen times.

This credit has wide and deep bipartisan support in this body as has been demonstrated numerous times. More importantly, however, is the fact that the research tax credit is a vital incentive to business enterprises of all sizes in this Nation.

In my home State of Utah, there are hundreds of small high-technology companies, companies and firms, that spend a high percentage of their revenue on research and development. In fact, Utah has more than 5,000 technology companies. Every State wants to attract companies such as these because their jobs are generally better paying private sector jobs than most private sector jobs.

On average, high-tech jobs pay 69 percent more. This R&D is vital to the future survival of these firms. No high-tech company can afford to ignore research that wants to be around next year or maybe even in the next quarter. The research credit is, in my thinking, the most urgent and important to our economy, our competitiveness, and to those hundreds of smaller high-technology companies in Utah.

We have before us on the Senate floor a small business bill. This bill is designed to strengthen our small businesses, which most of us acknowledge comprise the strongest component of our job creation engine in this economy to help them to do what they obviously are not doing very well at this time, and that is to grow and bring on more new workers. The tax portion of this small business lending bill is a good package that I support.

I think we do need to pass the tax provisions in the bill before us. However, it would be a grave mistake for us to think this is all we need to do to solve job-creation problems in our economy—far from it. We should be adding many provisions to this small business tax bill. These include the extension of the tax relief provisions passed in 2001 and 2003. That tax relief is important. However, since that is the subject of an intense partisan debate in the Senate right now, it does not seem possible. It seems reasonable, however, that we could all agree to add the most prominent tax provision the President is calling for—a bipartisan provision, the research and development tax credit—and make it permanent. It has wide and deep support on both sides of the aisle, here and in the House. Republicans are saying yes to the President on this. It is the members of his own party who seem to be saying no, even though I think most of them will vote for this if it has a chance to be heard and voted upon.

As Congress tries to address the job situation, we need to keep in mind that one of the best things we can do to retain and create good jobs in the United States is to incentivize research activities. One of the best ways of doing this is to ensure we have an effective tax policy to keep research here in our own country. Unfortunately, many of our trading partners now have strong tax inducements for companies to perform research overseas. Research and development jobs are high-paying, and they are very desirable jobs.

Moreover, R&D very often leads to other kinds of economic development and the creation of even more jobs. We simply cannot afford to lose our lead in research by not keeping the United States as the premier location in the world for research and development. Having a robust research credit is key to this. The President understands it is the key. I surely hope my colleagues will wake up and help make this happen before it is too late and we have to work to get back what once was ours.

My understanding is that some might go along with this, but they want to increase taxes on oil and gas. They also want to do some other very obnoxious things that would be difficult for which to get bipartisan support.

We know that business in this country is having a very difficult time right now. My understanding is that they may want to add a carried interest provision, which would probably put a lot of venture capital funds out of business and would drive a lot of people out of business and maybe into bankruptcy. We simply cannot support that. We can support—and I think we would have almost 100 percent of the votes here in the Senate—the research tax credit. I believe it would show great bipartisanship at a time when it is needed. I think it would even benefit our Democratic colleagues to work with us on this.

But there are things in this underlying bill that really are very difficult to vote for—one part of it is, in the eyes of many, a new mini-TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program. We have seen how bad the last one worked. I hate to see us go further down that path when we could, in a bipartisan way, resolve these problems.

Last spring, four of us on the Finance Committee worked out an extenders package. We worked diligently together. We agreed on how it should be done. It was bipartisan in nature. I believe my friends on the other side initially agreed to it because it would have gotten at least 95 votes in the Senate. It could have been done early enough to create a lot of jobs this year. Then all of a sudden it became a partisan exercise again.

Time after time, if the Democrats can get one Republican to go with them, they call it bipartisan. I guess one could say that, but that is really stretching the term bipartisanship, especially when I think we could have had virtually 100 percent, or at least 95 votes for the extenders package we had worked out.

It is amazing to me how difficult it is to work together around here, especially when we want to and especially when we can come up with programs and legislation to which virtually everybody in this body would agree. It is almost like an arrogance of power: We are just going to teach those Republicans that we are not going to do what

they think is good. I hesitate to say it, but I think that had we had more bipartisanship around here over the last year and a half, we would be a lot further along. This economy would be back in a much stronger way, and there would have been a lot of jobs created.

If we are just going to keep playing partisan games on these very important bills on which we should all agree, then it stultifies jobs and the economy. I think it makes this administration look bad. In the process, it creates a lot of angst and anger throughout the whole country.

We would have had this done; it would have been done early this year had it not been for partisanship, in my opinion. There are things to be partisan about. There are things on which both sides disagree vociferously. That is the way this body works. We should go after each other on these matters. But there are some things on which we can all agree.

When the President comes out and says we need a permanent research tax credit, after all of the difficulties we have had, one would think our colleagues on the other side would grab Republicans and run with it. We could get it done, as we have always done in the past. There is no certainty with the current research tax credit, or the one that expired last year. Companies cannot plan for the future because we have to reinstate this all the time. Sometimes it is late, and even if we make it retroactive, it is not as helpful as it would be. Making it permanent would be a tremendous boost to scientific companies in this country and all other companies where innovation can occur. We have seen great results from the research and development tax credit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, this is a motion to suspend rule XXII, paragraph 2, for the purpose of proposing and considering a motion to commit.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I know we will be voting soon on these issues and moving forward on the small business legislation. That is what we are really here to do today, to pass legislation that is going to help Main Street. This is a bill that is long overdue. I know once a train is leaving the station, once legislation has cleared the hurdles and is going to pass, a lot of people want to then add other things onto that legislation. Those are some of the issues being discussed here this morning. But the important thing is not to hold up legislation for small businesses one more day. Let's not delay the need that Main Street has to get access to capital to help small businesses grow our economy.

In Washington State, we have lost thousands of jobs. Yet if every small business in Washington State had the ability to hire one person as a result of getting access to capital, we would nearly wipe out our unemployment since this recession. It is critical for us not to delay this legislation any further, to move it ahead, and to make sure we are getting capital into those small businesses.

I know some of my colleagues have critiqued this legislation, saying they will not support it. I know we have had at least two Members on the other side who support this legislation moving forward. So, yes, I do call that bipartisan. I appreciate the fact that those two legislators had enough courage to say this was important to their constituents. In the August recess, they listened to small businesses, and they knew this was important to get done.

There is a lot of misinformation out there in the eleventh hour about how perhaps certain people weren't supportive of the legislation. My colleague from Oregon has a list that keeps growing every single day. It is now four or five pages of different organizations that support moving forward on this legislation. I haven't heard any of them advocating that we hold it up one more day or send it back to the committee to add more things to it. No doubt the discussion we are having about the extenders package of other policies should happen. If we get more bipartisan support, we will get those things done and we won't have them held up.

But if we go back to this basic issue we are trying to address, it is really about the implosion that happened on Wall Street that took Main Street down with it and about correcting that and moving forward today in a way that will help small business help our economy recover.

I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will look at this bill overall, look at the tax credits given to small businesses, the fact that the depreciation rates in investment in new manufacturing and equipment can help small businesses be competitive, and that they will look at the expansion of the SBA programs that were enthusiastically endorsed by lots of different organizations—by banks, by lenders, by individual businesses—because they know that program that was enhanced in January to help give more flexibility was a huge success. When it expired in June, we saw a falloff in the type of investment and job creation we need to have.

This is about a philosophy. If my colleagues think our economy is about helping those huge businesses at the top or from Wall Street and that is somehow going to trickle down, then let's just keep doing business as usual. But if Members believe this is about helping small businesses grow, which is 75 percent of job growth in America, then let's get this bill off the floor today and get this legislation passed.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today, passage of essential legislation to support job-creating business investment was relegated to callous political brinkmanship. For months, funding for the biodiesel and the research and development, R & D, tax credits have been stalled due to Republican opposition. Just in June, I voted three times to fund the credits—on the 17th, again on the 24th, and finally on the 30th. Each time, every Republican voted against the bill that contained these and other essential extensions. Then today, as we neared completion of another essential piece of legislation, the small business jobs bill, motions regarding biodiesel and R & D were presented by Senators GRASSLEY and HATCH as a way to slow down progress on the legislation at hand.

Let me be clear—we must extend these credits. R & D credits have long been viewed as lifeblood for American innovation and job creation. While less known, the biodiesel credits also provide essential economic assistance to clean energy small businesses. Without a doubt businesses suffer due to our inability to work together. A business in Erie, PA, illustrates this point. Hero BX has struggled this year to keep its production facility open without the biodiesel credit, putting 40 jobs on the line.

I want to provide Hero BX and other businesses across the Commonwealth and beyond with the tools needed to compete and survive. Senator BAUCUS has reintroduced the tax extender package, including the R & D and biodiesel credits. I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bill. This is not about allowing a victory in an election year. Passage is about providing companies the incentives to keep and create jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I think allocated time is about to expire.

My good friend, the Senator from Iowa, talked about how good it would be if we removed uncertainty from the law. The unanimous consent I am about to propound would give Senators the opportunity to remove much uncertainty. This unanimous consent request, if agreed to, would extend the biodiesel tax credit the Senator from Iowa spoke about. It would also extend the R&D tax credit the Senator from Utah talked about. This consent request would do so completely paid for. The Senator from Iowa spoke about his wanting to move the tax extenders for 8 months. The unanimous consent request I am about to propound will provide for extending all of the tax extenders.

The consent request will allow Members on the other side of the aisle to get what they say they want; that is, to remove uncertainty in the law and get these provisions passed.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4849

As I mentioned a few moments ago, I now intend to ask unanimous consent to take up and pass the full set of expiring provisions. So I ask unanimous

consent that H.R. 4849, the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Tax Act of 2010, be discharged from the Finance Committee; that the Senate proceed to the bill; that the Baucus substitute amendment extending expiring provisions that is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, as if read; and that this all occur with no further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I reserve the right to object, and I will object, because this side wants an open amendment process. We are tired of every time a bill comes to the floor in the greatest deliberative body in the world, they tie up the parliamentary tree so we can't have honest amendments.

Secondly, the approach of my dear friend and colleague, whom I have worked with all of these years on the research tax credit, is not permanent and would not make it permanent, which is what the President has asked for.

I object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The debate time has expired.

Under the previous order, amendments Nos. 4595, 4596, 4597, and 4598 are withdrawn.

MOTION TO SUSPEND

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to suspend rule XXII offered by the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

Who yields time? If no time is yielded, the time will be charged equally.

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I don't see the Senator from Iowa here. It is his amendment to suspend the rules.

Let me say once again this motion to suspend the rules of the Senate is not serious legislating. It is simply an attempt to delay the passage of the small business bill.

The biodiesel tax credit is another tax extender. We will address these expiring provisions. We will also do so in a fiscally responsible manner. This motion today is another delay to passage of the underlying small business bill which is before us at this moment. So we reject this delay and we reject this motion so we can get on with passing this bill to create small business jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have 1 minute to speak to my motion to suspend the rules to bring up this bill.

We are on a bill now on the Senate floor that is supposed to create jobs. Hopefully, this bill will create jobs. But it is kind of small compared to what this Congress could do by passing the biodiesel tax credit. It should have been passed before December 31 last year. Senator BAUCUS and I put together a bipartisan bill to do it in February. That bill was delayed by the majority leader, so we are back here again for a third time, trying to get attention to jobs. This biodiesel tax credit will immediately put 20,000 more people back to work, and 2,000 in my State of Iowa.

I hope we will suspend the rules and create jobs for sure because those jobs were there before December 31 and they will be there on September 17 if we pass this amendment.

Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 58, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Bayh	Franken	Murkowski
Bennet	Graham	Murray
Bennett	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Hagan	Pryor
Brown (MA)	Harkin	Roberts
Brownback	Hatch	Shaheen
Burr	Hutchison	Snowe
Cantwell	Inhofe	Specter
Chambliss	Isakson	Thune
Cochran	Johanns	Vitter
Collins	Klobuchar	Wicker
Conrad	Lugar	Wyden
Cornyn	McCaskill	

NAYS—58

Akaka	Feingold	Mikulski
Barrasso	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Gillibrand	Reed
Begich	Goodwin	Reid
Bingaman	Gregg	Risch
Boxer	Inouye	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johnson	Sanders
Bunning	Kaufman	Schumer
Burris	Kerry	Sessions
Cardin	Kohl	Shelby
Carper	Kyl	Stabenow
Casey	Landrieu	Tester
Coburn	Lautenberg	Udall (CO)
Corker	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Crapo	LeMieux	Voinovich
DeMint	Levin	Warner
Dodd	Lieberman	Webb
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Ensign	Menendez	
Enzi	Merkley	

NOT VOTING—1

Lincoln

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 41, the nays are 58. Two-thirds of the Senators voting not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

MOTION TO SUSPEND

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to the vote on the motion to suspend rule XXII offered by the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, last week President Obama called for a permanent research tax credit. We have always extended this tax credit. We failed last December to do it on time. Therefore, we are without it. We are without the jobs that would be created by it. I think it was a terrific move by the President to come out for a permanent research tax credit, and we ought to swiftly move to add it to this particular bill.

The only way I can do that, because of the tying up of the tree—which is happening all too often around here—is by a motion to suspend the rules.

This bill is a bill to create jobs. At least that is what it is supposed to be. But the research tax credit would do the most to instantaneously create jobs, and these are high-paying jobs. The only way we can get it is to vote for this motion to suspend. If we do, I think we would have 95 votes—a bipartisan vote—for this particular amendment.

I urge my colleagues to support the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Madam President, I deeply appreciate the remarks of my good friend from Utah. The fact is, any motion to suspend the rules in this context is not fair and, without being disparaging, it is not serious legislating. This is an attempt to throw another roadblock to delay passage of the small business bill.

In addition, the extenders bill, which I tried to get up by UC, would extend the R&D tax credit. We will find our way there later this year. We cannot suspend the rules at this point to delay passage of the small business bill. Rather, let's not accept this motion so we can get on to passing the small business bill and take up the R&D tax credit later on this year. We will definitely take it up. It will be passed later this year.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DORGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Crapo	Lincoln
Barrasso	DeMint	Lugar
Bayh	Ensign	McCain
Bennet	Enzi	McCaskill
Bennett	Franken	McConnell
Bond	Graham	Murkowski
Boxer	Grassley	Murray
Brown (MA)	Gregg	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Hagan	Risch
Bunning	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Hutchison	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Snowe
Coburn	Isakson	Specter
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Collins	Klobuchar	Vitter
Corker	Kyl	Warner
Cornyn	LeMieux	Wicker

NAYS—48

Akaka	Begich	Brown (OH)
Baucus	Bingaman	Burris
Cantwell	Johnson	Reed
Cardin	Kaufman	Reid
Carper	Kerry	Rockefeller
Casey	Kohl	Sanders
Conrad	Landrieu	Schumer
Dodd	Lautenberg	Shaheen
Dorgan	Leahy	Stabenow
Durbin	Levin	Tester
Feingold	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Feinstein	Menendez	Udall (NM)
Gillibrand	Merkley	Voinovich
Goodwin	Mikulski	Webb
Harkin	Nelson (FL)	Whitehouse
Inouye	Pryor	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48. Two-thirds of the Senators present and voting not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The clerk will now read the Budget Committee letter.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation for H.R. 5297, as amended by amendment No. 4594.

Total Budgetary Effects of H.R. 5297 for the 5-year Statutory PAYGO Scorecard: net increase in the deficit of $2.009 billion;

Total Budgetary Effects of H.R. 5297 for the 10-year Statutory PAYGO Scorecard: net increase in the deficit of $2.253 billion.

Also submitted for the RECORD is a table prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, which provides additional information on the budgetary effects of this Act, as follows:

CBO ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR SENATE AMENDMENT 4594 IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 5297, THE SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT OF 2010

	By fiscal year in millions of dollars—												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010–2015	2010–2020
NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (−) IN THE ON-BUDGET DEFICIT													
Total On-Budget Changes	0	83,938	−11,175	−13,920	−11,272	−44,124	8,275	−5,049	−3,543	−2,669	−2,499	3,445	−2,035
Less:													
Current-Policy Adjustment for Tax Provisions [a]	0	2,789	1,845	−1,529	−966	−702	−543	−343	−194	−94	−44	1,436	218
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	81,149	−13,020	−12,391	−10,306	−43,422	8,818	−4,706	−3,349	−2,575	−2,455	2,009	−2,253

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding. Assumed enactment date October 1, 2010.

[a] Section 7 of the Statutory-Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 provides for current-policy adjustments related to increases in the limitations on expensing depreciable business assets for small businesses under section 179(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The effects are all changes in revenues.

Sources: Congressional Budget Office and the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation.

AMENDMENT NO. 4594

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The substitute amendment is agreed to.

The time until noon is equally divided.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. The Chair has announced that the time between now and noon will be equally divided?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the case.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded, and I ask unanimous consent for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I know we are getting ready to vote on a very important piece of legislation—the Small Business Job Creation Act—that we have actually been working on now for a year and a half. It is hard to believe that a year and a half has gone by, but it has, despite the extraordinary work that has been done on this bill from the Democratic leadership, from a handful of Republican Senators who stepped up to make this a possibility, and from the administration and Treasury and literally hundreds of organizations that have brought this vote to the floor today. I wish it could have been 6 months ago. I wish it could have been 8 months ago. Every day, every week we have waited to pass this bill has been another tough week for small businesses throughout our country. But this week is a good week for them. They have a bill that they can be proud of, that I believe we can be proud of, and it is overdue that we pass this bill today.

I know Members understand the significance of the three major parts of the bill: $12 billion in directed tax cuts; an infusion of resources and strength to the core small business programs in the SBA that we know are effective in stimulating loans to Main Street, that create the jobs that will put this recession in the rearview mirror; and we know the third part of this bill is a very significant and new strategic lending partnership we are establishing with healthy community banks, the 7,000 community banks in every neighborhood—in rural areas, in suburban areas, in all of our States, and in almost every single one of those communities in those States.

I thank Chairman BAUCUS particularly for his help and Senator REID particularly for his help. I thank Senator BOXER and Senator CANTWELL and Senator MERKLEY. But I also thank Senator LEVIN, Senator WARNER, Senator STABENOW, many members of my Small Business Committee, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MURRAY, Senator SCHUMER, Senator LINCOLN, Senator HAGAN, Senator CARDIN, Senator BURRIS, and many others—Senator SHERROD BROWN has been down to the floor time and time again.

I also thank two colleagues particularly from the other side of the aisle, Senator VOINOVICH and Senator LEMIEUX, who listened to their Florida bankers, who listened to their Ohio bankers, who listened to their small businesses in Florida and Ohio and said that this is the kind of bill we need—tax cuts, strengthening of SBA programs, and a smart strategic lending program.

I thank Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Gene Sperling and Don Graves, and of course I thank the staff of the Small Business Committee and my staff in particular who did so much work.

In addition, I thank the National Small Business Association, Independent Community Bankers, the American Bankers Association, the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders, and the hundreds of organizations that helped push and pull this Senate to this vote today.

In the last minute I have, I wish to submit two things for the RECORD that I think need clearing up and amplification. One is a letter from the Chief Economist of the SBA that answers directly a criticism that was published in the Washington Post yesterday about the ''myth'' that small business is not the business that grows jobs in America. The economist was misquoted. This is a letter for the RECORD specifically outlining that. I think it is worth review today.

Second, and more important, a banker from California—and I thank Senator BOXER. I met with a banker from California and from Florida. I am from Louisiana, but they wanted to see me, I wanted to see them, and I met with them. Got a standing ovation. I am very proud, of course, because they said to me: Senator, this may be one of the most significant bills to help get

our banks where we need to be to start lending.

I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
OFFICE OF ADVOCACY,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2010.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR LANDRIEU: I am writing to clarify and apologize for my statements about small business to Ruth Marcus in her September 15, 2010, Washington Post article.

When I stated, ''It's not true'' . . . ''It's half the story'' in relation to small businesses being the major source of net job creation, I misspoke. I meant to state, ''While true, it's only half the story.'' Meaning that while we know that small businesses are the major job creator, there are different types of small businesses, and that is where the story is.

Oddly enough, the fact that small businesses are the major job creator has been corroborated by all three papers mentioned in the article; even though all used different time periods, different methodology and different data.

The article discusses an academic debate that is playing out with John Haltiwanger, a University of Maryland Professor, in one camp and myself in the other. The topic is, ''What group within the small business sector is driving new job creations.'' John believes it is start-ups and young small businesses; while I believe it is the relatively few small firms with fast growth. In many senses we are both correct.

So the debate is not, who creates more jobs, small or large firms. We know the answer; small firms create the majority of net new jobs, as shown from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics data. They show firms with fewer than 500 employees accounted for 65 percent of the net new jobs in the private-sector over the last seventeen years.

My study on high growth firms finds a similar figure when looking at all three time periods and firms with volatile employment changes (meaning using a net concept of fast growers and fast decliners).

Unfortunately, I was quoted as stating, ''it would appear that both small and large firms contribute about equally to employment growth.'' While a further examination of my study would show that this comment only refers to high-growth firms, not the entirety of all firms. When one includes all firms, the results show that small firms create two-thirds of the net new jobs.

I have spent my career developing the field of small business economics. I take pride in what I have been able to accomplish, but regret the damage I may have caused by the way in which I conveyed the information to Ms. Marcus. Attached is a copy of my study High Impact Firms: Gazelles Revisited. I am happy to supply any further assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

ZOLTAN ACS, PH.D.,
Chief Economist.

From: Richard M. Sanborn [mailto:rsanborn—sccombank.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 11:40 PM
To: Gillers, David (SBC)
Cc: David H. Bartram
Subject: Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010—HR 5297

MR. GILLERS, I want to thank you for taking the time this evening to call in reference to my comments to Senator Landrieu at the California Bankers/Florida Bankers meeting. My whole team and I are extremely grateful to the Senator for championing the Act through the Senate as it will have a profound impact on our institution.

Once passed and signed into law, the Act will allow us to apply for (and hopefully receive) an approximate $1.8 million investment by the US Treasury through the Small Business Lending Fund component of the Act. We can leverage that Capital investment approximately 10 X, resulting in our ability to lend to small businesses and grow our loan portfolio an additional $18 million. While $18 million in new loans to small businesses does not seem like much, as we are primarily focused on lending to small businesses through the SBA's 7(a) lending program, to achieve $18 million in loan grow, we could originate approximately $180 million in new SBA loans to small businesses . . . which is a lot for a small bank like ours (we're only a $130 million asset bank). Of course that assumes we originate all $180 million with a 90% SBA guarantee and sell 100% of that guaranteed portion.

Originating $180 million in new SBA small business means that we can provide needed capital to approximately 275 businesses, based on our current average SBA loan size of $650 thousand. If we apply the SBA's overall average loan size of $220 thousand, we could help over 800 small businesses get much needed capital.

This will be a great program, if passed, and will help the small businesses in the markets we serve. Again, please thank the Senator for her help with this important measure.

Sincerely,

RICK SANBORN.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Seacoast is a small bank. It only has $130 million in assets. According to this banker's testimony to me yesterday, he is going to take this bill and all of its provisions, and he believes he can leverage $180 million in SBA loans to small businesses. Based on their record and based on the average SBA loan size of $650,000, this one bank in southern California believes it can make 275 business loans.

If this one small bank in South Carolina can take this bill and its provisions and leverage it to 275 good-quality loans in South Carolina, there is hope on the way. This is a real step to putting this recession behind us. I thank the Democratic leadership for making it a possibility. I hope next time a bill like this is brought to the floor of the Senate, it will not take so long; we will not have to jump over the barriers and barricades that were put in front of this bill. So I hope Members on the other side of the aisle will lower those barriers next time because our small businesses cannot wait.

TIER 1 CAPITAL

Madam President, as one of the two lead sponsors of the Small Business Lending Fund, I am deeply convinced of the ability of this program to provide small businesses with the credit they need to grow and create jobs. As you know, the purpose of this fund is to provide community banks with Tier 1 capital to increase their lending to small businesses, along with incentives for doing so. With up to $30 billion in capital, community banks that participate in the Small Business Lending Fund will be able to support many multiples of that amount in new lending. To allow that to occur, it has always been our intent and our understanding that the bank regulators should treat these investments as Tier 1 capital, in a manner consistent with that accorded to other capital securities issued to Treasury by eligible institutions and in consideration of the strong public interest in promoting lending to small businesses.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I thank Senator LANDRIEU for her leadership on this issue. I agree that the intention of this legislation from the very start has always been that investments made through the Small Business Lending Fund should be treated as Tier 1 capital in a manner consistent with that accorded to other capital securities issued to Treasury by eligible institutions. This treatment will allow these institutions to use Treasury funds to expand small business lending as intended.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator. With access to Tier 1 capital, I believe that the community banks that participate in this program will be able to provide small businesses with the credit they need to grow and hire.

DEDUCTION FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Mr. BINGAMAN. Madam President, I would like to ask the chairman of the Finance Committee a question on the application of a provision in the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010.

Section 2042 of the bill will allow self-employed persons to deduct the cost of health coverage for themselves, their spouses, and their children who have not reached age 27 by the end of the year for purposes of determining their liability for self-employment taxes. Is it correct that the provision is not intended to affect the determination of earned income for other purposes? For example, earned income for purposes of determining the maximum amount of health insurance premiums a self-employed person may deduct for income tax purposes is not affected by this provision.

Mr. BAUCUS. The Senator from New Mexico is correct. Since the 108th Congress, he has introduced legislation to correct this inequity in the Tax Code. I would like to congratulate and thank the Senator from New Mexico for his leadership in championing this provision.

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, the Senate is on the verge of passing the Small Business Jobs Act which has been many months in the making and has been debated on the Senate floor for numerous weeks. I commend Senators REID, BAUCUS, and LANDRIEU for their tenaciousness in pursuing this legislation. It is essential we help small businesses attain the investment and capital necessary to create jobs and grow our economy.

Small business growth is critical to restoring our economy. Over the past 15 years, small businesses have created two-thirds of all new jobs. Unfortunately, small businesses have been hit

hard by the recession—losing more than 6 million jobs since December 2007. The Small Business Jobs Act provides the long overdue assistance to small businesses that will help create as many as 500,000 new jobs.

To assist small business owners and their employees, the Small Business Jobs Act will create jobs through a combination of much-needed tax credits, enhancements to Small Business Administration, SBA, lending programs, and the development of new community bank lending facilities.

I am very pleased this legislation will extend the successful loan enhancement provisions that Senator SCHUMER and I successfully included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The bill extends the provisions in the economic stimulus to increase the SBA guarantee rate to 90 percent and reduces fees on small business 7(a) and 504 loans obtained through the SBA. These provisions have supported more than $30 billion in lending to small businesses across the country and helped create or retain more than 710,000 jobs. SBA lending in Massachusetts has nearly doubled in the past year as a result of this program.

As the former chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have been a long time advocate of small businesses and appreciate the role they play in our economy. The Small Business Jobs Act includes provisions that I have worked on for several years.

The loan increases included in the bill build upon my legislation from last Congress. With 7(a) loan limits increased from $2 million to $5 million and 504 loans from $1.5 million to $5.5 million, small businesses will be better able to expand and meet their financial needs for sustainability and growth.

The Small Business Jobs Acts expands upon the small business capital gains provision included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The bill temporarily increases the small business capital gains exclusion from 75 percent to 100 percent and eliminates the AMT preference.

Back in 1993, I worked with Senator Bumpers to enact legislation to exclude half of capital gains from the sale of small business stock that is held for 5 years. The bill before us expands on this provision.

I have also worked with Senator ENSIGN on a provision included in this legislation that would remove cell phones and other similar devises from the definition of listed property so their cost can be deducted or depreciated like other business property, without onerous recordkeeping requirements.

In 1989, Congress passed a law which added cell phones to the definition of listed property under the Internal Revenue Code. Back in 1989, cell phone technology was an expensive technology worthy of detailed log sheets. Only a few top executives had cell phones. At that time, it was difficult to envision cell phones that could be placed in a pocket or handbag. Congress was skeptical about the daily business use of cell phones.

With technology changing rapidly and many people owning a cell phone and a blackberry, a strict substantiation requirement to determine personal use is burdensome, inefficient, and administratively impracticable given their frequent use in a fast-paced global environment. The Tax Code should keep pace with technological advances. There is no longer a reason that cell phones and mobile communication devices should be treated differently than office phones or computers.

Investing in small businesses is essential to turning around the economy. Not only will investment in small business spur job creation, it will lead to new technological breakthroughs. This bill is long overdue and I am pleased that it is close to becoming a reality. I urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation for our economy.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for the passage of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. I am pleased that we got cloture on this legislation earlier this week, so we can get a final vote on the bill before the Senate completes its work for the week.

Things are more challenging now for our Nation than at any time during my life. Americans are worried about our Nation's future and their own personal well-being, and this uncertainty reveals itself in the answers to two questions I often ask when I speak to people. The two questions I ask are, one, do you have a better standard of living than your parents had? To which I always hear yes. And two, do you believe your children will have a better standard of living than the one you have? To which I almost always hear no.

To recover from this recession, we need to restore the faith of the American people in their future. We need to convince them that the glass is half full, and not half empty. And until we stabilize and repair our broken economy, and restore the flow of credit to businesses and individuals, the uncertainty and pessimism will remain.

This small business bill gives us one opportunity to address our economic challenges. The small business bill will improve the environment for small businesses by, among other things, including a number of small business tax breaks, expanding Small Business Administration loan programs, providing tax incentives for new small business investment, and expanding small business access to credit.

The bill will increase the guarantee of SBA's most popular loan program, which provides credit for small businesses that cannot otherwise obtain favorable loan terms, and it would provide higher maximum loan amounts for investments in major fixed assets, such as land, buildings, equipment, and machinery. It would also provide a variety of export assistance tools to help our small businesses expand their reach into world markets and compete better in the global economy. These include a new grant program, counseling and education, redirecting SBA personnel, and improving export financing programs. Finally, this bill will extend tax incentives, such as section 179 expensing and bonus depreciation, which will generate new investment.

I have heard from many Ohio businesses regarding this small business bill, especially manufacturing businesses, which are the backbone of Ohio's economy. These small business owners have asked me to work with my colleagues and finish work on this legislation. A number of manufacturing organizations, which represent small businesses in Ohio and around the country, have written to me in support of the bill, including the Ohio Manufacturers Association, the Precision Machined Products Association, PMPA, the Precision Metalforming Association, PMA, the National Tooling and Machining Association, NTMA, and the Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association. They share many of the same concerns; they are worried about their member companies' ability to obtain credit and keep afloat long enough to get out of this recession.

Many small businesses have been unable to obtain credit from their traditional lenders, which has led to less spending and more layoffs. For example, I was told that a Cleveland-based PMPA manufacturer that has been in business for over 50 years, and whose owner has served on the board of directors of several major banks, could not find sufficient credit in the United States. As a result, the company had to seek offshore lending, which it eventually found in Germany. I have heard similar stories from a number of small business owners. They complain that they cannot get loans or their lines of credit are being reduced or withdrawn despite their company's creditworthiness.

These groups, which represent thousands of small businesses and their employees, have sent me letters in support of this legislation, and I will ask that these letters be printed in the RECORD. I wanted to share one comment from a longtime friend of mine, James B. McGregor, Sr., vice chairman of McGregor Metalworking Companies in Springfield, OH, who said that this bill would ''help to jumpstart manufacturing in America by improving the credit market for small businesses.'' Jim is the owner of a family-owned manufacturing company, and he knows as well as anyone how tough things are out there for manufacturers.

In addition to small manufacturers, others organizations also support this small business bill. Many community banks say it would allow them more latitude to lend to small businesses. The Independent Community Bankers Association, which represents 5,000 of the Nation's 8,000 community banks,

said in a letter to the two Senate leaders that of all the provisions in this bill, the Small Business Lending Fund, SBLF, ''holds the most promise for small business creation in the near term. Failure to even consider the SBLF in the Senate would be a missed opportunity that our struggling economy cannot afford . . . [i]t would provide another option for community banks to leverage capital and expand credit to small business.''

The American Bankers Association, ABA, has expressed support for the bill because it would allow ''community banks to find new sources of capital . . . [and] provides an option for banks to . . . continue meeting the needs of their communities.'' The ABA also supports the bill because it would enhance SBA loan programs, which it says is ''critically important and will help lenders provide loans so that small businesses can create jobs in their communities.''

Other business organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Financial Services Roundtable support the bill because they know it contains important tax provisions, strengthens existing SBA programs, and helps our economy.

So, my support for the small business legislation is based upon the many calls of support I heard from Ohio's small and medium manufacturers, most of whom are still struggling to recover from this recession. At the same time, these manufacturers are experiencing the fiercest competition I have seen in my lifetime.

My support of Ohio's manufacturers is not new, and my support of this bill is a part of my longstanding concern for and support of Ohio's manufacturing companies. As Governor of Ohio, I am proud that we gave high priority to manufacturing and that it grew for the first time in many years during my administration. We instituted several incentives for manufacturing, including a job-creation tax credit, a manufacturing and equipment investment tax credit, and the technology investment tax credit. As Governor, I went on nine business, trade, and investment missions, with the intention of helping open new markets for Ohio products, and I am hopeful that the export promotion efforts in this legislation will help Ohio's manufacturers take advantage of selling in the global market.

When I came to the Senate, I continued to support manufacturing, making it a key priority of my legislative efforts. For example, during President Bush's first term, I worked with the administration, when it filed the section 201 action, to support the U.S. steel industry at a time when imports were coming in at an increasing rate and threatening the industry's existence. And after a painful period of adjustment, the steel industry came back. I am afraid of what might have been the fate of this important industry had President Bush not taken action. I am also proud that I was the chief advocate to the President and Secretary of Commerce Don Evans of the need for an Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing as well as a plan to support manufacturing. From 2006 to 2008, I worked closely with Senator BAYH, who is also from a manufacturing State, to pass legislation to improve our Nation's intellectual property theft enforcement efforts. These efforts were rewarded when the PRO-IP Act became law in October 2008. Our efforts to pass this legislation may have surprised some who view IP theft as something related to knockoff purses and software, but IP theft has such a damaging effect on our manufacturers, we both viewed this as an important way to help our manufacturers compete on a level playing field in the global economy.

Most recently, I have worked to protect manufacturing from onerous cap-and-trade legislation that would have a devastating effect on manufacturing, while doing little to improve emissions from countries such as China and India. I have also worked on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize the surface transportation act. This is another must-pass bill that would provide certainty to a number of industries and would help our manufacturers recover from this recession. I have spoken to the President about the need to pass a highway bill, and I was encouraged that he has promised to take a leading role in getting it done.

I know that my Republican colleagues have concerns with the lending facility and what it means for the role of government in the private sector. I have heard their concerns, but based on the feedback I have heard, mostly from Ohio's small businesses, I reached the conclusion that this $30 billion Small Business Lending Fund will help banks that serve local communities to expand their lending at a time when credit to small businesses has tightened for a variety of reasons. These are the community banks that make the small but necessary loans to restaurants, small manufacturers, home improvement contractors and the like to keep their businesses afloat and hopefully begin to expand as the economy recovers. In addition, the program is voluntary for these banks, and the lending fund is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to save money. In other words, the lending fund will not add to the budget deficit or the national debt, and it will not increase taxes. So this fund amounts to a relatively modest, voluntary, revenue-neutral financial tool for small community banks helping to restore the flow of credit small businesses desperately need.

Finally, for those who are trying to make this a partisan bill, I will say there is enough blame to go around. The Democrats in Congress delayed passing this bill for many weeks. They denied Republicans the opportunity to amend the bill for many weeks, while we held political votes on a number of issues. The President then went on to politicize the bill, ignoring legitimate complaints about the lack of amendments from my side of the aisle. It is worth remembering the Senate moved to the bill on June 29, then abandoned it repeatedly to vote on unemployment benefits multiple times, financial regulation, supplemental appropriations, executive nominations, the DISCLOSE Act, and the teacher bailout, which took us into the August recess. Then when discussions about Republican amendments were finally starting to receive serious consideration, these amendments were countered by Democratic amendments, leading to an amendment tit for tat, which is too often the case.

But while I am disappointed that my colleagues were unable to offer amendments to this bill, which is one of the traditions of the Senate, I felt we could no longer wait to pass this legislation. We needed to do something now to help the economy get going, and hopefully we will get back to the Senate tradition of offering amendments and having votes. Finally, I am pleased that there was a vote on at least one Republican amendment, the amendment offered by Senator JOHANNS, which would repeal an extremely burdensome reporting requirement for small businesses included in the health care reform bill. While I am disappointed that it failed and small businesses continued to be threatened by this burden, I am hopeful that this amendment process has brought enough attention to the problem and it can be fixed before the end of this year.

Finally, Mr. President, I will continue to work to pass a robust highway reauthorization bill this year, which I strongly believe would help improve our economy, and once again, I ask President Obama and Majority Leader REID, to work with the relevant committees to complete work on a multiyear, paid for, reauthorization of the highway bill before the 111th Congress adjourns.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letters to which I referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRECISION METALFORMING ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL TOOLING & MACHINING ASSOCIATION,

July 23, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE V. VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: On behalf of One Voice, the joint effort between the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA), and our nearly 3,000 metalworking member companies, thank you for your continued efforts to support small businesses manufacturing in America. Your vote on the Small Business Loan Fund Amendment was critical to helping support small businesses access timely and sufficient credit and to domestic manufacturing growth.

Many small and medium-sized manufacturers continue to face challenges accessing timely and sufficient credit for day-to-day

operations, investing in capital equipment and raw materials, increasing worker hours, and hiring more employees. The lack of availability of credit has led to decreased spending, increased layoffs, and depleted collateral in many industries, including metalworking. In the current environment, many lenders are steering clear of perceived ''at risk'' industries such as manufacturers who are temporarily impaired. This legislation will improve the lending environment and will help America's small manufacturers strengthen their businesses and continue to lead our nation's economic recovery.

Thank you again for your long history of supporting America's manufacturers. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on issues critical to strengthening manufacturing in America.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. GASKIN,
PMA President.
ROBERT AKERS,
NTMA Chief Operating Officer.

PRECISION MACHINED PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION,
July 23, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE V. VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: On behalf of the Precision Machined Products Association (PMPA) and the roughly 100,000 employees nationwide in our industry, thank you for your vote on the Small Business Loan Fund to ensure that small businesses gain access to timely and sufficient credit, an issue of increasing importance as manufacturers seek new business and the economy improves.

As you know, the economic downturn hit our vital industry particularly hard, as it did countless manufacturers in Ohio. However, as the economy begins to recover, many small manufacturers continue to face challenges accessing adequate and timely credit to buy the raw materials and increase work hours to meet improving demand. Lack of capital is stunting economic growth and the Loan Fund program is an important component of improving the situation and spurring the economy.

As we work to recover and strengthen manufacturing in America, access to sufficient and timely credit is a critical component. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to help strengthen small business manufacturing in America.

Cordially,

ROBERT C. KIENER,
PMPA Director of Government Affairs & Communications.

PRECISION MACHINED PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION,
Brecksville, OH, Sept. 10, 2010

Hon. GEORGE V. VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: On behalf of the Precision Machined Products Association (PMPA) and the roughly 100,000 employees nationwide in our industry, thank you for your support of the Small Business Jobs Act, particularly your efforts to help small businesses gain access to timely and sufficient credit. Improving the lending environment for small manufacturers is essential to jumpstarting the nation's economy.

As you know, the economic downturn hit our vital industry particularly hard, as it did countless manufacturers in Ohio. As the economy begins to recover, many small manufacturers continue to face challenges accessing adequate and timely credit to buy the raw materials and increase work hours to meet improving demand. Lack of capital is stunting economic growth and this bill is an important component of improving the situation and spurring job growth.

As an Ohio-based association with thousands of employees in the Buckeye State, thank you for your years of leadership on behalf of manufacturers. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff in the coming months as we move forward to strengthen manufacturing in America.

Sincerely,

MIKE DUFFIN,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL TOOLING AND MACHINING ASSOCIATION,
Ft. Washington, MD, Sept. 10, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: On behalf of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and our 150 member companies in the State of Ohio, thank you for your support of the Small Business Jobs Act to improve the lending environment for small businesses. Our members are small and medium-sized, mostly family-owned businesses who rely on timely and adequate lines of credit to purchase raw materials and make significant investment in their operations.

As you know, the vast majority of small businesses turn to their local community banks for lines of credit. However, due to numerous market conditions and regulatory restrictions, lenders have reduced or revoked credit lines even for profitable companies in Ohio seeking to purchase equipment and hire workers to meet increased demand and new job orders. Tool and die makers in particular are expected by their customers to invest significant capital up front when manufacturing a product and are often not paid for several months and at times for over a year. The nature of this industry requires an adequate and stable credit market and this legislation is an important step to jumpstarting American manufacturers.

Thank you for your support of this legislation and your continued leadership in Washington on behalf of small and medium-sized manufacturers. We especially appreciate the dedication and time your staff has committed over the years supporting the needs of over 16,000 manufacturing companies in Ohio.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. AKERS, JR.,
Chief Operating Officer.

PRECISION METALFORMING ASSOCIATION,
Independence, OH, Sept. 10, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: On behalf of the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) based in Independence, Ohio, and our more than 100 member companies in the State, thank you for your years of leadership in Columbus and Washington supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers. Your efforts to help pass the Small Business Jobs Act is critical to jumpstarting the economy. Our members continue to report challenges accessing timely and sufficient credit to help run day-to-day operations, invest in their facilities and hire new employees. Your support of this bill will improve the credit environment for small manufacturers and expand growth.

Ohio manufacturers are the backbone of our economy, employing more than 600,000 people in our state. Many of these companies report they are ready to expand and take on new business but the tight capital markets restrict their ability to increase production and purchase raw materials. One year ago, 72 percent of respondents to our industry survey expected to encounter challenges with credit when the economy improves—their predictions have come true.

Senator, as you recently said, ''We don't have time anymore. This country is really hurting.'' Nowhere is this more true than in Ohio. You and your staff have tirelessly worked to strengthen manufacturing in America and your support of this legislation to improve the lending environment for our businesses is critical.

Thank you again and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E. GASKIN,
President.

PRECISION METALFORMING ASSOCIATION,
Sept. 10, 2010.

MANUFACTURERS APPLAUD SENATOR VOINOVICH FOR HIS SUPPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS JOBS ACT

The Ohio-based National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) and Precision Metalforming Association (PMA) applauded Senator George Voinovich's (R–OH) announcement that he would vote to support the Senate moving forward to consider the Small Business Jobs Act, a bill that would help small and medium sized manufacturers access credit needed to help finance their day-to-day operations, invest in expansion of domestic operations and ensure that a disruption in the critical supply chain does not occur.

The bill, already passed by the House, creates a $30 billion lending pool that community bankers can use for small businesses, and $12 billion in tax incentives. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill next week.

''Senator Voinovich's support of this bill continues his long history of standing with small and medium sized manufacturers in this country,'' said PMA member James B. McGregor, Sr. vice chairman of McGregor Metalworking Companies in Springfield, OH. ''We greatly appreciate his support in helping to jumpstart manufacturing in America by improving the credit market for small businesses.''

McGregor, who also serves on the Manufacturing Council, a forum established by the U.S. Department of Commerce to ensure regular communication between the federal government and the manufacturing sector, added: ''While a slew of proposals to boost manufacturing have been announced in the past couple of weeks by both political parties, most of these proposals are months, if not years, away from Congressional action. By improving access to credit, the Small Business Jobs Act can help small and medium sized manufacturers now. We urge the Senate to pass this bill as soon as possible.''

For additional information or to arrange an interview with a PMA or NTMA manufacturer, please contact Caitlin Andrews at 202–828–7637 or caitlin.andrews@bgllp.com

About NTMA: NTMA is the national association representing the precision custom manufacturing industry, which employs more than 440,000 skilled workers in the United States. Its mission is to help members of the U.S. precision custom manufacturing industry achieve business success in a global economy through advocacy, advice, networking, information, programs and services. Many NTMA members are privately owned small businesses, yet the industry generates sales in excess of $40 billion a year. NTMA's nearly 1,600 member companies design and manufacture special tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, gages, special machines and

precision-machined parts. Some firms specialize in experimental research and development work.

About PMA: About PMA: PMA is the full-service trade association representing the $113-billion metalforming industry of North America—the industry that creates precision metal products using stamping, fabricating, spinning, slide forming and roll forming technologies, and other value-added processes. Its nearly 1,000 member companies also include suppliers of equipment, materials and services to the industry. PMA leads innovative member companies toward superior competitiveness and profitability through advocacy, networking, statistics, the PMA Educational Foundation, FABTECH and METALFORM tradeshows, and MetalForming magazine.

MOTOR & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, Sept. 14, 2010.

Hon. GEORGE V. VOINOVICH,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR VOINOVICH: The Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), along with its affiliated associations, Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association (HDMA), and Original Equipment Suppliers Association (OESA), applaud and thank you for your leadership in ending the stalemate in the Senate on the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act (H.R. 5297).

A vibrant parts manufacturing industry is critical not only to the state of Ohio, but to the entire nation. This bill is critical to help smaller manufacturers, including parts suppliers, access the credit they need to reinvest in and grow their businesses. MEMA strongly supports H.R. 5297 and believes that both the creation of a Small Business Lending Fund to assist banks in increasing small business capital investment lending as well as the establishment of a State Small Business Credit Initiative that allocates federal funds for states to partner with financial institutions will directly and immediately help small manufacturers.

Again, thank you for your willingness to step in and help move this important bill forward for Senate passage. We are very grateful for your leadership and political courage.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. MCKENNA,
President and CEO.

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, it has been nearly 2½ months since the majority leader first brought small business jobs legislation to the floor, and now this bill will pass the Senate through a constrained process under which the majority has continually stunted our ability to offer amendments, dictating to our side which amendments they considered worthy—something I find abhorrent and antithetical to this institution. And I might add, before the votes we held Tuesday on the Johanns and Nelson amendments on the 1099 issue, we had voted on just one amendment during consideration of this bill—an amendment to reinstate an ill-conceived and divisive lending fund into the bill. And with the failed votes on the 1099 issue, we inexplicably and regrettably punted on a chance to help millions of small businesses save the time, cost, and effort of sending billions of new information reporting forms to the IRS and to other businesses.

As ranking member of the Senate Small Business Committee, I have come to the floor several times during recent months to express my regret over the procedural twists and turns that have gotten us to this point. Clearly, we have had ample opportunity to consider and pass meaningful small business jobs legislation. Yet time after time other priorities have taken precedence. Most recently, it was the August recess that took us away from Washington for 5 weeks while small businesses continued to call for help. They didn't get an August recess. They didn't have the luxury of putting things on hold while the economic situation failed to improve. As I said in July on the Senate floor, it seems as if we have forgotten how to talk to one another here, how to work together and forge a bipartisan and sensible solution to a problem that plagues our economy.

A prime example of this is the recent votes we took to repeal the onerous and imprudent mandate in the health care legislation regarding the filing of 1099 forms by millions of businesses. It will require that, starting in 2012, every business in America must report to the IRS on business purchases that exceed a threshold of only $600 per vendor or supplier. This mandate would include purchases of supplies and equipment, as well as purchases of services ranging from cell phone coverage to window washing to utilities.

This new mandate was imposed in the health reform law, yet it has nothing to do with health insurance reform. It makes the Federal Government a more intrusive and burdensome presence in every aspect of American business—which is the very last thing American business needs during these tumultuous economic times. What small firms are clamoring for is certainty. They look to the Federal Government to help foster an entrepreneurial environment under which they can do what they do best—create new jobs—and not saddle them with an incessant and unnecessary paperwork burden like this new 1099 filing requirement. This new system of 1099s has absolutely nothing to do with a direct tax liability in a given year. Instead, this reporting regime will allow the IRS to track business purchases that exceed $600. Businesses typically have an intense focus on carefully tracking their sales to customers with marketing professionals. Rather than tracking sales to customers, this new government mandate will force a change in business focus to a detailed accounting of purchases from suppliers.

While controlling costs is clearly a vital component of business profitability, this new government mandate on cost accounting and reporting to the IRS is an inordinate shift of priorities that will harm competitiveness and profitability because it will shift focus and resources away from customers. We had bipartisan support to eliminate this provision, and yet we couldn't agree to repeal this provision because 52 Democrats opposed Senator JOHANNS amendment. How out of touch and disconnected can the majority be? American business owners are desperate for relief from taxes and regulation, and we can't even agree to help them. Instead, we are going to impede their ability to thrive and grow.

Indeed, for the small businesses that attempt to comply with this tax reporting mandate, this paperwork burden will be imposed with a crushing effect. New tracking systems will have to be implemented for purchases in order to ensure that aggregated purchases exceeding $600 are reported to the IRS. In fact, according to a National Federation of Independent Business, or NFIB, small business survey, at $74 an hour, tax paperwork is the most expensive paperwork burden placed on small businesses by the Federal Government. The Small Business Administration has found that the cost of tax compliance is already 67 percent higher in small firms than in large firms. And because this new 1099 reporting burden would be so ubiquitous for firms attempting to be compliant—by requiring new processes of making business purchases and tracking of business purchases—this compliance cost statistic is likely to become woefully outdated as costs soar ever higher. Mr. President, we ought to be reducing the small business regulatory compliance burden, not augmenting it.

So, once again, here we are, and the only amendment that the majority has seen prudent to approve reinstates an ill-conceived Treasury lending fund that has been widely recognized as ''TARP Jr.,'' while we fail to vote in favor of an amendment introduced by Senator JOHANNS that could have helped small businesses.

Simply put, we will rely on small businesses to lead us out of the present economic morass. According to the Small Business Administration, or SBA, small firms have created 64 percent of net new jobs over the past 15 years. And since they represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms and employ slightly more than half of all private sector employees, it is more than evident that our overall economy's health is based on the well-being of our Nation's almost 30 million small businesses. With our Nation's unemployment rate hovering near 10 percent since last August—over a whole year ago—and standing at a regrettable 9.6 percent today, it will require nearly unprecedented economic growth to reverse this trend.

We have 14.9 million Americans on the unemployment rolls, searching for opportunities in what often seems to them a hopeless situation. According to the most recent ADP Employment Report, we learned that private-sector companies actually shed 10,000 jobs in August—news which the firm noted ''. . . confirms a pause in the recovery,

already evident in other economic data.'' From February through July, ''. . . the average monthly gain in employment was 37,000 with no evidence of acceleration.'' By any measure, these job creation figures are lackluster and insufficient.

Yet if we are to spur a full-fledged recovery that recoups the jobs we have lost since the start of the recession in December 2007, the NFIB's latest Economic Trends survey notes that ''. . . to restore 2007 employment levels and unemployment rates by 2013, we need a net 400,000 new jobs every month for 3 years''—which, given the numbers coming from both the Department of Labor and ADP, would be next to impossible. We have hit the mark of 400,000 jobs in 1 month only once this year—in May—and that was due to the hiring of 411,000 census workers. Indeed, the private sector only grew by 41,000 jobs that month.

Furthermore, with respect to our economic growth, the Bureau of Economic Analysis late last month revised its estimate of GDP growth downward to an astonishingly low 1.6 percent for the second quarter of 2010, from an earlier prediction of 2.4 percent.

Let's be clear. This kind of growth is insufficient to reduce unemployment and bolster our economic future, and it certainly will not instill the level of confidence that small business owners require in decisions to take risks and invest in their businesses. In fact, just before the July 4th recess, I met with the president of the Boston Federal Reserve, Eric Rosengren. And as he noted, the ''growth'' the economy has shown thus far is for the most part in inventory—and this is not actually ''real growth.'' Right now, our government is the only real growth industry in this country, and that is not a recipe for future prosperity and the kind of innovation that has always placed America on the vanguard in an exceptionally competitive global marketplace.

So what will be required? In the Federal Reserve's analysis, roughly a 6-percent growth in GDP will be necessary just to equalize the job losses we have suffered by the end of 2012. That rate would be almost the same level of growth we experienced during the recovery from the 1982 recession and approximately double the growth following the 1991 and 2001 recessions. Indeed, even to attain a 5-percent unemployment rate by the end of 2015, it would require annual growth of 4.2 percent. The last time we witnessed sustained annual GDP growth near that level was the late 1990s, peaking at 4.8 percent growth in 1999. So we have our work cut out for us.

Yet, while small businesses are looking to Washington for some certainty in the tax and regulatory policies they deal with on a daily basis, there has been a stark disconnect between Washington and the entire rest of the country. This vast chasm is vividly discernible in the NFIB's July Small Business Economic Trends report, which describes small businesses' optimism as being at an ''unprecedented'' low. The report went on to state that ''the U.S. economy faces hurricane force headwinds and the government is at the center of the storm, making an economic recovery very difficult.''

The NFIB's June survey noted that the optimism index remained in ''recession'' territory, and even with some signs of life in our economy, ''Washington, D.C. . . . seem[s] determined to undermine any economic forward momentum for small business owners.'' That report further stated that ''Congress continues to pass and propose legislation that increases the cost of running a business and create huge uncertainty about future costs.'' And the U.S. Chamber of Commerce added its own dire analysis of Washington's actions in an open letter in mid-July, asserting that, ''By straying from the proven principles of American free enterprise, policymakers are needlessly prolonging the economic agony of the recession for millions of Americans and their families.'' These candid assessments of how small business owners view the actions of this Congress and this administration must unquestionably be heeded if we are to ever regain the trust of the American people. As I said earlier, the majority is detached from reality.

So clearly there is a demonstrable necessity for a broad jobs package that will get our Nation's small businesses back on track and spark the idling engines of our economy. The substitute amendment that has been laid down contains a solid foundation for investing in jobs that includes many of the provisions I have championed over the last year and a half and that formed the core of my Small Business Job Creation Act, S. 3103. This includes crucial measures to bolster Small Business Administration, or SBA, lending, increase the number of small companies that export to foreign markets, and provide immediate tax relief to our Nation's true job creators. In fact, the Small Business Committee has approved many of these provisions unanimously, and the President of the United States has called for them to be included a jobs package.

One of the critical starting points of this legislation is taking steps to stem the endemic credit crisis our Nation's business community is still facing. This bill will address this stifling credit crunch that is placing a perilous chokehold on our economy across the country so that we can do something viable and bold to confront such a universally-acknowledged problem.

We can begin to turn around this deplorable trend by boosting the SBA's capacity for facilitating access to credit. This bill includes key lending provisions from a measure I introduced with Small Business Committee Chair Landrieu, which was reported out of our committee by a vote of 17 to 1, to increase the maximum limits for SBA 7(a) and 504 loans from $2 million to $5 million; raise the maximum microloan limit from $35,000 to $50,000; and allow for the refinancing of conventional small business loans through the SBA 504 program. These loans are critical to small businesses that utilize this capital in starting their firms and investing in equipment and expansion. It should be evident to everyone in this Chamber why 81 business organizations have endorsed these provisions.

I would note that enhancing SBA loans has already paid tremendous dividends. In the stimulus, we included initiatives to increase SBA maximum 7(a) loan guarantees from 80 percent to 90 percent and to reduce certain 7(a) and 504 lender and borrower fees. But, regrettably, these provisions have lapsed, and these initiatives, which are credited with increasing loan volumes by a remarkable 90 percent nationwide and 236 percent in Maine, have, to my dismay, come to a close. At a time when unemployment hovers at unsustainable levels and consumer confidence hangs in abeyance, nothing could be more counterintuitive than to allow these provisions to remain moribund. In fact, we have seen the dramatic results to SBA lending since the expiration of these critical enhancements. In August alone, the SBA approved only $1.097 billion in SBA 7(a) guaranteed loans, a 43-percent decrease from the $1.9 billion in 7(a) loans it approved in May, the last month of the fee relief and higher guarantees.

That is why I introduced an amendment to this bill along with Senators GRASSLEY, ENZI, ISAKSON, and COLLINS, to resuscitate these highly effective programs—and I am pleased that the majority leader has included a modification of our amendment in the most recent substitute. This language would provide $505 million to reinstate SBA fee reductions and the elevated guarantee on SBA 7(a) loans through the end of 2010.

Additionally, we must provide tax incentives to the small business community in order to foster job creation. We know from survey after survey that small business owners consider taxes to be one of the biggest impediments to the growth of their firms. Indeed, in the National Small Business Association's 2009 Year-End Economic Report, 38 percent of respondents to their survey noted Federal taxes as one of the three most significant challenges to the future growth and survival of their businesses—a category trumped only by the ongoing economic uncertainty pervading our Nation. To help mitigate this uncertainty, the tax portion of this bill that Chairman BAUCUS and ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, helped negotiate includes three critical components: cash flow, investment incentives, and fairness.

The lifeblood of a small business is its cash flow, and so this bill contains several provisions that will improve the cash flow status of a company. The provision that is most remarkable will

also address a fundamental injustice of the TAX CODE: permitting the self-employed, like realtors, a full deduction for the first time ever for health insurance premiums against not only income taxes but also against payroll taxes. At a rate of 15.3 percent, for many small business owners the self-employment tax, or SECA tax, imposed on the health benefits of the business owner is an expensive injustice that only adds to the already exorbitant cost of health insurance. Regrettably, the health reform bill that was jammed through Congress earlier this year fell far short for small businesses. So allowing the full deduction for health insurance for the self-employed is critical for affordability.

This substitute will also allow for general business credits to be carried back 5 years and taken against the alternative minimum tax, or AMT. When Congress implements policies through the TAX CODE, we expect businesses to utilize these incentives. Unfortunately, during a downward business cycle as we have been in for 2 full years, businesses do not have income tax liability that can be offset with a credit. The 5-year carryback of credits will allow business owners to reach back to prior years when they had taxable income and offset prior tax liability with these credits to get an immediate cash infusion. They can use this cash as they choose, but, as we have seen with net operating loss relief, they use these funds for anything from meeting payroll to investing in new equipment. This same principle applies with respect to the provision that allows credits to be used against the alternative minimum tax.

And with regard to investing in new equipment, more businesses will be incentivized to make equipment purchases or upgrade their physical spaces. Real property has never been included in ''expensing,'' and this would allow ''Main Street'' businesses such as retail, restaurants, and dentist offices, to renovate and make other improvements to their buildings in 2010 and 2011 and immediately deduct those costs. In this legislation, we also increase the expensing limitation to $500,000 for equipment. This is double the amount previously permitted. However the bill would also bifurcate that amount so that up to $250,000 of expenses for real property can be expensed and the business can still purchase up to $250,000 of equipment.

One final tax provision I would like to discuss concerns investment in small business. Senator KERRY and I have long championed allowing for the complete exclusion on capital gains attributable to small business stock held for 5 years. The President touted this effort in his State of the Union Address. I hope this will help jumpstart critical investment in our Nation's small businesses.

Furthermore, this bill would take critical steps to inject some fairness into the Federal contracting process for small businesses. And it also includes $50 million in funding for small business development centers, which provide critical technical assistance and counseling to small businesses at over 1,000 locations nationwide. The SBDC program has a proven track record of job creation. According to an annual report by Dr. James Chrisman at Mississippi State University, between 2007 and 2008, employment levels of SBDC clients increased 10 percent more than for U.S. businesses in general. As a result of the additional funding included in this package, Dr. Chrisman estimates that over 20,000 new jobs would be created, while tens of thousands more will be saved.

Just as there is much we can do right away domestically, our legislation will also take action to help our small businesses compete globally. Given that fewer than 1 percent of U.S. small businesses export, it is all the more vital that we take advantage of this untapped market and help those enterprises sell their goods and services to the 95 percent of the world's customers who live outside our borders. In his State of the Union Address, President Obama made clear that we must double our exports over the next 5 years, and small businesses are a critical component of the administration's strategy and our national competitiveness.

For this reason, this bill includes small business exporting provisions from legislation I introduced with Chair LANDRIEU. The provisions in this bill—larger SBA export loan limits, expanded export technical assistance, and enhanced assistance for trade promotion—have bipartisan support, they were reported unanimously by our committee last December, and they have administration support and have also been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. These provisions could create roughly 46,000 new American jobs in the year after enactment and 200,000 jobs over the next 5 years.

Another theme that I frequently hear from small businesses is that the regulatory environment promoted by Washington is too complex and often detrimental to their ability to expand operations and create jobs. As such, this legislation strengthens the Regulatory Flexibility Act by requiring agencies to respond to the SBA Chief Counsel of Advocacy's comments in the final rules that they promulgate. This will help to ensure that the potentially devastating impacts to small business job creation are fully considered during the Federal rulemaking process. It also seeks more independence for the Office of Advocacy by mandating a separate line item in the administration's annual budget. These provisions are strongly supported by a variety of groups, including the National Federation of Independent Business, the U.S. Chamber, and the National Small Business Association.

Yet, despite all of these provisions—many of which I helped craft and many of which have broad, bipartisan support—regrettably, I cannot support this bill as it stands because of the reckless and wrongheaded $30 billion lending fund contained in the legislation. I have spoken at length about this on the Senate floor before, but let me remind my colleagues—once again—what we are voting on with this lending fund.

First, regardless of what proponents of the lending fund will say, it is essentially an extension of the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP, which just terminated with the enactment of financial regulatory reform legislation. This is not simply my analysis. In a May 17, 2010, letter that Mr. Barofsky, the special inspector general of TARP, wrote to the Members of the House of Representatives, he states that ''. . . in terms of its basic design, its participants, its application process, and, perhaps its funding source from an oversight perspective, the SBLF [Lending Fund] would essentially be an extension of TARP's CPP [Capital Purchase Program] program. . . .'' So if the experts tell us that it looks like TARP—well, let's not kid ourselves—regardless of how the proponents want to spin this, it is still TARP.

Additionally, there are unintended consequences that may result from Treasury's Small Business Lending Fund which certainly raise a red flag for me. It is possible that instead of promoting quality loans, the proposal could encourage unnecessarily risky behavior by banks. The Treasury Department proposes to lend funds to banks, at a 5-percent interest rate, which can then be reduced to as low as 1 percent if the institutions in turn increase their small business lending. However, if the banks fail to increase their small business lending, the interest rate they pay could rise to a more punitive 7 percent. This could lead to the ''moral hazard'' of banks making risky loans to avoid paying higher interest rates.

Finally, I have serious concerns about the cost of the program. The lending fund provision that is in the Reid substitute remains virtually identical, for scoring purposes, to how it was in the House-passed small business bill, H.R. 5297. That score is based on a cash—based estimate. Under a cash-based estimate, the Congressional Budget Office, or CBO, listed the official score for the lending fund as raising $1.1 billion over 10 years.

Although CBO was bound to score the provision under a cash-based estimate, the office also highlights in that same score—and I quote—''Estimates prepared on a 'fair-value' basis include the cost of the risk that the government has assumed; as a result, they provide a more comprehensive measure of the cost of the financial commitments than estimates done on a FCRA basis or on a cash basis. CBO estimates that the cost of the SBLF [Lending Fund] on such a fair-value basis (that is, reflecting market risk) would be $6.2 billion.'' That is right, CBO is warning that although it is bound to score the

provision using a cash-based estimate, a more comprehensive scoring method reveals a potential $6.2 billion loss to taxpayers. I raised this issue on the floor during the debate on the lending fund, but my opponents have simply ignored this concern. Certainly, this should have been taken into full consideration when evaluating the potential costs and benefits of the program and its effect on our increasing budget deficit.

Finally, I note that this past Tuesday, the Washington Post ran an article demonstrating that, while larger banks are generally associated with TARP, ''. . . it's a collection of smaller banks that continued to plague the Treasury Department's bank bailout program.'' In fact, the article cited that ''the latest report from the agency shows that more than 120 institutions—nearly all of them small banks—have missed their scheduled quarterly dividend payments.'' So I do not understand why the majority wants to create a new program for small banks that has the same characteristics of TARP, when many of those banks are already participating in TARP and have been delinquent on their payments.

So I am truly disappointed that we have arrived at this point. This bill could have been better. We could have considered amendments from the outset, and we could have moved on this bill months ago. I know that I have been calling for sensible legislation to help small businesses since January. Yet, regrettably, for the reasons I have discussed, I cannot support it.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant executive clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010.

Mary L. Landrieu, Max Baucus, Dianne Feinstein, Patty Murray, Charles E. Schumer, Christopher J. Dodd, Al Franken, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Byron L. Dorgan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Kent Conrad, Roland W. Burris, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act of 2010, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 61, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Akaka	Goodwin	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Inouye	Reed
Bennet	Johnson	Reid
Bingaman	Kaufman	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kerry	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Klobuchar	Schumer
Burris	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Specter
Cardin	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	LeMieux	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Levin	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lieberman	Voinovich
Dorgan	Lincoln	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Webb
Feingold	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Cornyn	Kyl
Barrasso	Crapo	Lugar
Bennett	DeMint	McCain
Bond	Ensign	McConnell
Brown (MA)	Enzi	Murkowski
Brownback	Graham	Risch
Bunning	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Gregg	Sessions
Chambliss	Hatch	Shelby
Coburn	Hutchison	Snowe
Cochran	Inhofe	Thune
Collins	Isakson	Wicker
Corker	Johanns	

NOT VOTING—1

Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 61, the nays are 38. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Postcloture time is yielded back.

The clerk will read the bill for the third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I wanted to announce what the schedule will be in the next few days. I have been working with the Republican leader to try to make this as convenient for everyone and still cover as much as we can in the short period of time we have. The next vote, which will happen in a minute or two, will be the last vote this week.

On Monday, September 20, as has been previously announced, there will be no votes. The next rollcall vote will be at 2:15 on Tuesday, September 21, which will be cloture on the motion to proceed to the DOD authorization bill. I will have a conversation about that when this vote is completed as to how I propose to proceed to that matter.

I ask for the yeas and nays on the passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Leg.]

YEAS—61

Akaka	Goodwin	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Inouye	Reed
Bennet	Johnson	Reid
Bingaman	Kaufman	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kerry	Sanders
Brown (OH)	Klobuchar	Schumer
Burris	Kohl	Shaheen
Cantwell	Landrieu	Specter
Cardin	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	LeMieux	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Levin	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lieberman	Voinovich
Dorgan	Lincoln	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Webb
Feingold	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wyden
Franken	Mikulski	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—38

Alexander	Cornyn	Kyl
Barrasso	Crapo	Lugar
Bennett	DeMint	McCain
Bond	Ensign	McConnell
Brown (MA)	Enzi	Murkowski
Brownback	Graham	Risch
Bunning	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Gregg	Sessions
Chambliss	Hatch	Shelby
Coburn	Hutchison	Snowe
Cochran	Inhofe	Thune
Collins	Isakson	Wicker
Corker	Johanns	

NOT VOTING—1

Vitter

The bill (H.R. 5297), as amended, was passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am shortly going to move to the Defense authorization bill. I hope we can avoid a cloture vote on it. But from what I have been able to determine, that will not be possible. I have had a number of conversations with Democratic Senators and Republican Senators. I have explained to them that if we are permitted to move to the bill, either by consent or cloture on the motion to proceed, there are a number of amendments that I think need to be considered on it initially. I have stated what those would be more than likely.

In my conversations with my Republican friends, they have indicated that they want, likely, more than just a motion to strike the don't ask, don't tell that is in the base of the bill. I said that is fine. The main thing I want—and I think it is fair in the waning

hours of this session before the election—is that we would have the text of whatever the amendment might be and also a time agreement because everybody is aware that someone could get on an amendment and talk forever. I am trying to be as reasonable as possible.

These decisions don't have to be made today, but I would like to do it before Tuesday because I am going to have to make decisions Tuesday on what we are going to do on this bill. The main thing I have explained to Democrats—and they know this—and I say to my Republican colleagues, the work we do on this bill prior to the election is not the end of this bill. This bill normally takes some time. We can't finish it in a week. I understand more work needs to be done. Senator LEVIN has things in the bill he would like to correct with an amendment or agreement. It is my understanding there is more that the minority doesn't like in this bill than just the don't ask, don't tell provision.

I understand, in addition to issues I have talked about in the last couple days, there are many other important matters that both sides of the aisle wish to address. I am willing to work with Republicans on a process that will permit the Senate to consider these matters and complete the bill as soon as possible, which likely will be after the recess.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I move now to proceed to Calendar No. 414, S. 3454, the Defense authorization bill, and I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the motion.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object, and I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no objection in order at this time. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will state the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 414, S. 3454, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Tom Udall, Jack Reed, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jon Tester, Al Franken, Richard J. Durbin, Byron L. Dorgan, Jeanne Shaheen, Frank R. Lautenberg, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Roland W. Burris, Jim Webb, Daniel K. Akaka, Bill Nelson.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I proceed with more procedural matters related to the motion I just made, I am anxious to hear from my friend, the ranking member of the committee. We are not trying to cut him off in expressing his views.

I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture occur at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday, September 21; that on that date, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed following a period of morning business, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators LEVIN and MCCAIN or their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, if I understood the majority leader's words, in a rather unusual departure from anything I have ever seen in the Senate, if he receives sufficient votes to proceed to the bill, he would take up certain amendments that are on his agenda, and then, in lameduck session, we might consider other amendments.

Coincidentally, the amendments the majority leader would agree to would be two of them that are totally unrelated to national defense. One is the DREAM Act and the other is secret holds, as I understand it. Then other amendments of importance, which are relevant, which those of us on this side of the aisle have, which are important, maybe we would take them up, under certain circumstances, in a lameduck session.

Mr. REID. May I respond to my friend.

Mr. MCCAIN. Yes.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend from Arizona, I haven't decided for sure. We talked about some of the things I would do with our amendments. I have been very clear with every Republican Senator I have spoken to that, of course, the motion to strike, we would get to that as soon as we can. If Senators had other amendments related to the don't ask, don't tell provision, which has been somewhat controversial, and some people on the other side don't like that—if there are other amendments related to that, we would be happy to do that before we leave for the elections. Then we would have to see what else we can work out on this prior to going home for the elections. But recognize—and I think it is clear—that we are not going to be able to complete this bill before we go home.

Mr. MCCAIN. So, again, I say to the majority leader, you are going to ask Members on this side to proceed to the bill without us knowing what amendments you are going to allow and those amendments that may be considered in a lameduck session. It is well known that the DREAM Act is also one of the amendments the Senator from Nevada, the majority leader, has said will be part of the prelameduck session, which happens to be preelection, which happens not to have a thing to do with our Nation's defense. Other amendments that may be directly related to national defense will not be allowed by the majority leader, which is his right, to fill up the tree, as he did last year after we spent a week on the hate crimes bill, which had nothing to do with our Nation's defense. I ask the majority leader to draw a conclusion or surmise that perhaps this has everything to do with elections and nothing to do with national defense.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from Arizona has been in Congress the exact same period of time I have been here. We were in the House together, and we came to the Senate together. I am confident he knows the rules of the Senate. It has been very unusual in this Congress that we have had to file so many times a motion to proceed to get on a bill. This is a bill that relates to the defense of our country. On any piece of legislation, it seems like a strange Senate process when you have to know what amendments are going to be offered by both sides before you move to the bill. That is why we are here and why we are Senators, to deal with legislation. I thought I was going over and above what I needed to do by telling the Republican leader some of the amendments I thought we would deal with prior to the election.

With my friend continually saying that the DREAM Act has nothing to do with the defense of this country, we have hundreds of thousands of people of Hispanic origin who are serving in the U.S. military as we speak. The DREAM Act is very simple. It says if you have been in this country for 5 years and you came before age 16, you should be able to go to a State school. You get no Pell grant benefits whatsoever. If you have been in school for a couple years, you can get a green card, no citizenship, or if a young man or woman of Hispanic origin decides they want to join the U.S. military, they would have the right to do that, and after having served 2 years in the uniform of our country, they would be able to get a green card. That is all the DREAM Act does. I think it has a lot to do with the defense of this Nation. We need these young men and women to join our military. We want them to.

I also say that the reason I thought there was a concern about this legislation from the minority side was they didn't like the don't ask, don't tell provision. So I was trying to be as cooperative as possible and say amendments relating to that—let's do them. I talked to one Republican Senator, and even though I didn't agree with her amendment, I thought it was appropriate that she had the ability to offer that.

I am not trying to end all discussion on this bill. I hope we can finish it. As the Senator from Arizona knows, we are very limited in the time we have before the election, and because we came here together, we are both going to have an election on November 2.

I am going to have to excuse myself. I will be happy to respond to questions but I have a caucus that starts at 1 o'clock. If my colleague has some questions, I will be glad to respond; otherwise, I will have to excuse myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I will not take up the time of the majority leader—I have a statement I will present at this time—except to say again that this is a transparent attempt to win an election. That is what this is all about. Why would we want to put the DREAM Act first before the election? Why not after we come back? Why not take up the secret holds after we come back? And, of course, the don't ask, don't tell issue is one of significant importance to the American people.

Last year, after spending a week on hate crimes—which, again, had nothing to do with this Nation's defense—the majority leader, with the agreement of the committee chairman, filed cloture and cut off debate and discussion of amendments that many of us felt were important.

I have been around this body for a number of years. I have never seen such politicization of our Nation's security as we are seeing in this process we are following. This politicization that has taken place over the last 2 years is very unfortunate. For as long as I have been privileged to be a Member of this body, the Senate has done a good job of keeping the National Defense Authorization Act out of partisan political fights that have little or nothing to do with the U.S. military, the brave men and women serving in it, and our national defense programs more broadly. There has even been a healthy degree of bipartisan cooperation to prevent items that are unrelated to our national defense from crowding out time for debate and amendments germane to our national security priorities. Sure, we have had fights over this legislation in the past, and at times they have been pretty heated. But they were debates overwhelmingly focused on national defense. And whatever our differences we had through that process, we came together at the end of the day to keep this legislation focused on our national defense and all who ensure it.

What troubles me is how far off course we have gotten over the past 2 years. Under this majority leader and this chairman, we have witnessed the unfortunate and growing politicization of the National Defense Authorization Act. Time to offer and debate important defense-related amendments to this bill on the floor is being limited or cut off so that the majority leader can push through highly political legislation that has little or nothing to do with national defense—legislation that would never be referred to the Armed Services Committee if it were introduced independently.

The Hate Crimes Act would never have been referred to the Senate Armed Services Committee. The DREAM Act would never have been referred to the Senate Armed Services Committee.

This is turning legislation related to our national defense and military preparedness into a vehicle to force a partisan agenda through the Senate, often on a party-line vote. And their desperation, because they see the November 2 elections coming up, is palpable. What is worse, the majority leader is pushing this controversial agenda under the cover of supporting our troops, knowing that the National Defense Authorization Act is a must-pass bill and whatever else is in it will inevitably become law as a result.

Last year it was legislation on hate crimes. I am not saying this is not an important issue or an issue that the Senate should not have taken up and debated in due time. But hate crimes legislation has nothing to do with our national defense. Of course, the majority and the committee chairman will always get creative on how to interpret ''national defense.'' But the plain fact is, if hate crimes legislation were introduced independently, it would be referred to the Judiciary Committee, not the Armed Services Committee. Yet the majority leader and the committee chairman put that legislation onto the Defense Authorization Act last year, promptly eliminating the ability to offer amendments. Then the Senate spent a week locked in debate over legislation that had nothing to do with national defense—precious time that should have been spent discussing legislation that actually pertained to our military priorities.

Things are only getting worse this year. We learned on Monday that before we go home for this election cycle, there will be no debate at all on the Defense authorization bill, except for what we are told—the majority leader just said he has not decided—but we are told there will be no debate at all on the Defense authorization bill except for three amendments handpicked by the majority leader for narrow political reasons 2 months before an election.

One of those amendments will be on banning the use of so-called secret holds. Another will be, we are told, on the DREAM Act which allows the children of immigrants who entered the country illegally to become U.S. citizens.

Again, I am not saying the Senate should not consider these pieces of legislation, but neither of them would be taken up independently in the Armed Services Committee because they have nothing to do with national defense. The majority leader has no business putting these two amendments on the National Defense Authorization Act—and certainly not two of only three amendments that will even get voted on—at a time when our military is engaged in two wars overseas and when numerous defense issues demand the Senate's time.

That leads us to an amendment to strike the provision in the bill that would repeal the don't ask, don't tell law as the only other issue the Senate will be able to debate and vote on. Unlike the other issues I have mentioned, a repeal of don't ask, don't tell, while controversial, is related to the National Defense Authorization Act. It is an issue that belongs in the Armed Services Committee. The problem is the truncated process and partisan manner in which the majority is forcing through a de facto repeal of a longstanding law that may have significant ramifications for our military force during a time of two wars, all to fulfill a campaign promise made by President Obama in 2008, barely 2 months before the election.

I want to make one thing very clear: I do not oppose or support the repeal of don't ask, don't tell at this time. I do oppose taking legislative action prior to the completion of a real and thorough review of the law. A complete survey to evaluate the impact of repeal on the men and women serving in our military should be concluded before moving forward. When the Senate does consider taking legislative action, that action should be based on the survey of our men and women in uniform, and their leaders.

Unfortunately and inexplicably, the majority is following an opposite approach. It is pushing for a vote on the don't ask, don't tell law before the Defense Department has concluded its survey of the opinions of our force on an important matter that will directly affect them and their families. The majority is doing this in complete disregard of the views of our men and women in uniform, as well as our four service chiefs—the heads of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines—who are responsible for the battlefield effectiveness of their services. All four of the military leaders wrote letters encouraging Congress to wait until the completion of the survey of the force before taking any legislative action on don't ask, don't tell. Their opinions have been disregarded thus far, and it seems that the chairman and the majority leader do not care about their views either.

The majority will say this amendment does not actually repeal don't ask, don't tell; it merely authorizes its repeal pending a certification from the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that a repeal would not harm military effectiveness. Just those three officials—not the four service chiefs or Congress, for that matter. This is a legislative gimmick and a distinction without a difference.

In reality, the majority is sending a signal to our men and women in uniform that we will not wait to hear their views or give them any due consideration once the Pentagon survey is finished. Instead, the Senate will turn its responsibility to legislate on this important matter over to three officials who have already publicly stated their support for repealing don't ask, don't tell. It is a blatant message of disrespect to our men and women in uniform that Congress is unwilling to even wait to hear what the force has to

say on this important matter before pushing ahead with a controversial political vote less than 2 months before an election.

That is why I am opposed to debating and amending the National Defense Authorization Act at this time. I feel very strongly that we should wait—actually wait—and not take any action on this controversial issue until we hear from our troops on what they think the impact of repeal would be. Then the Senate should take time to consider their views before deciding what we think is the best course of action. The only rationale for doing this now is a transparently partisan and political one.

After limited debate on only three amendments, two of which are not related to our national defense, the majority leader will then apparently push for a final vote on this legislation—or delay until the lameduck session—that also contains a controversial provision permitting abortions in military facilities, an irresponsible cut to the Iraqi security forces, and $2.8 billion in porkbarrel earmarks that the President did not request and the military says it does not need. There will be no chance to debate these or other defense-related issues.

The effect of all of this is that the majority leader is turning legislation on our national defense into a political football. Debate is limited and unrelated. Politically controversial amendments are crowding out our limited time to debate actual military and defense-related legislation. This is a corruption of the principles and procedures of the Senate if there ever was one, and it disrespects the longstanding traditions of the Senate. It is only making it more likely that the National Defense Authorization Act will one day go the way of so many other authorizations bills, which is to say nowhere.

This kind of transparent politicization of our national defense should anger every Member of this body—Democrats and Republicans. The men and women of our Armed Forces deserve better, and we should demand better.

I regret to see that the long-respected and revered Senate Armed Services Committee has evolved into a forum for a social agenda of the liberal left of the Senate. I will do everything in my power, if we regain the majority, to see that the Senate Armed Services Committee returns to the tradition of addressing only those issues that are totally related to the defense of this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURRIS). The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I will be very brief and save most of the debate for next week, but I do want to respond to a few of the statements my friend from Arizona made.

First of all, in terms of hate crimes amendments, last year when we adopted this, it was not the first time we adopted it on the Defense authorization bill. We at least considered and adopted, in some cases, hate crimes amendments in the fiscal year 2001 authorization bill, the fiscal year 2005 authorization bill, and the fiscal year 2008 authorization bill. I did not hear my friend at that time make suggestions that somehow the committee had lost its way in terms of bipartisanship.

We have not lost our way. The Senate is a body which has a right to offer amendments which are not germane or relevant to the bill in front of us. This is not the first time that someone wants to offer these amendments. It will not be the last time. For it to produce the charge that somehow or another the committee is no longer a bipartisan committee, it seems to me, is unfair, it is inappropriate, and I reject it.

The Senate has considered amendments on the Defense authorization bill in the last 20 years, not just on hate crimes, over and over again—long before I became chairman, by the way—but we have debated amendments on the Defense authorization bill on indecency standards, minimum wage, managed health plans, welfare reform, and the death penalty for drug-related killings. Those are just a few. I didn't hear anybody make the kind of charge at that time that somehow or other—because the Senate rules were being utilized to bring to the floor of the Senate an amendment which wasn't directly related to the bill in front of us—the committee itself had engaged in some kind of a partisan effort.

The rules of the Senate allow the majority leader to do what he did, and majority leaders have done that in the past. The rules of the Senate allow Senators other than majority leaders to offer amendments which are not relevant to the bill, and Republicans and Democrats have done that before on bill after bill after bill and on Defense bill after Defense bill after Defense bill. I think four times hate crimes has been offered, and I believe adopted, in this body on the Defense bill, but it didn't unleash or produce the kind of charge we have just heard.

The majority leader, a few moments ago, said there is not going to be an effort to limit the consideration of just three amendments, if cloture is invoked. In fact, he is hopeful, and so am I, that numbers of amendments—many amendments—can be considered before the recess. I would like to finish the bill before the recess, if we could. I would like to get time agreements. As a matter of fact, before this last recess, I asked unanimous consent that we move to this bill. I didn't put conditions on it, I just asked unanimous consent that we move to the bill, and I couldn't even get consent to do that.

What is unheard of around here, as far as I know, is what is going on repeatedly now in the Senate—objections, filibusters, and threats of filibusters to move a bill to debate. This threat of a filibuster isn't a filibuster on the bill; it is a threat to filibuster our debating a bill and offering amendments on the bill. That is what is happening. Denying the Senate the opportunity to legislate on a Defense authorization bill is what is being proposed; that we not even be allowed to move to the bill until certain conditions of certain Senators are met.

There is going to be a lot of time to debate this cloture motion—and I will save most of that debate for Monday—but I do think it is inaccurate to suggest that suddenly there is an effort being made to offer a nonrelevant amendment to a bill in the Senate. Many of our bills have been subjected to nonrelevant amendments because the rules allow it. As the manager of this bill, I always try to figure out a way through that thicket. It is never easy. I have managed enough bills to know it is never easy to get through that thicket the rules provide for—that nonrelevant amendments are permitted. But it is not accurate to suggest, as my friend from Arizona has, that somehow or other last year, for the first time, we adopted a nonrelevant amendment when we adopted hate crimes because we adopted that very amendment on this very bill two or three times before that.

That doesn't even get to the point of all these other amendments which have been adopted, not just on the Defense authorization bill but on other bills which do not relate to the bill on the floor, and I just gave a few examples. Many of those amendments came from the Republican side. But to start suggesting that somehow or other what is happening is unique or novel, it seems to me, is not accurate and does not contribute to handling in a bipartisan manner—and in this I think I share the hope of the Senator from Arizona—the security of this Nation; that it should continue to be, as it always has been, and God willing always will be, a bipartisan matter handled in a bipartisan way by the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, just a short time ago, the Senator from Arizona, my colleague, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, came to the floor and made an issue about the way we are proceeding on the Defense authorization bill. Senator MCCAIN, who is the ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, with Chairman CARL LEVIN, objected to several amendments which will be considered under this bill. One in particular is an amendment, a bill which I first introduced in its earliest form in the Senate almost 10 years ago. It is known as the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act is a legislative effort to solve a serious problem, and the problem is this: There are many young people who were brought to America by their undocumented parents. They came at the age of a few months old, 2 years, 3 years, 10 years of age, 12 years of age. There was no family vote on whether they were coming to America; they were packed up and brought. Some came over legally and then became illegal because their visas were not extended. Some entered the country illegally. In every instance, these were children who were brought with their parents.

These children have grown up in America. They have gone to our schools. They have participated in community activities. They have now reached an age where they are finishing high school, many of them, and they believe they are Americans. It may be the only language they speak, the language of America, and they do not know of another country that they were told by their parents they once lived in.

What is to happen with these children? Under the laws of America, they are here illegally. The simple, direct answer is, they should be deported. But we know that justice calls out for a different approach, a better and fairer approach. To hold children responsible or culpable for any wrongdoing by their parents is something we do not do in any area of the law.

If I am arrested speeding down the interstate and have my grandson in the backseat, they are not going to arrest him for speeding. They will charge me with a crime, but they will not charge him. In this instance, the children in the backseat on this ride to America are being held as criminals.

They have virtually no future, no status, no country, and it is a desperate situation for many of them. Some of them are the best and brightest kids in America. They are the valedictorians of the class, the class presidents, they are the kids who get admitted to the good colleges and universities and want a good life in this country.

But they are stopped everywhere they turn. They cannot qualify for any Federal aid for education because they are not citizens and not here legally. They certainly cannot even enlist in the military, if they chose to, because under our laws, undocumented cannot enlist.

So what is to become of them? I introduced the DREAM Act to say let's at least give them a chance. Here is what the DREAM Act says: If you came to America under the age of 15, if you have been here 5 years, graduate from high school, no criminal record of serious offenses, good moral character, and you go on, in the next 6 years of your life after high school to enlist in our military or to complete 2 years of college, we will give you a chance. We will give you a chance.

Six years after high school, we will give you a chance to petition our government for legal status in America. That is it. What I have been told by many is that this is not only a good and just option for a lot of very young and talented people, but it also has other positive benefits.

Yesterday in my office was a young man named Eric Balderas. I brought his picture to the floor the other day. I met him for the first time yesterday. Eric Balderas is a sophomore at Harvard University. He was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. His mother and father were illegal immigrants to the United States.

He grew up in San Antonio and was accepted at Harvard University. That says a lot. After he was there for a short period of time, he decided he liked science. It turned out he was pretty good at it. As a sophomore, he has set his goal now. He wants to be a cancer researcher. He wants to stay the course, finish his masters, and even go on to an advanced degree so he can do research to find a cure for cancer.

Can we afford to let Eric go? Can we afford as a nation to send him back to Mexico, a place which he knows of but does not count as his home? Can we afford to turn our back on him? I do not think so. I think this is a valuable asset for the future of America. Eric's life should not be wasted. It should be invested in our future.

But there is also an option under the DREAM Act beyond the completion of 2 years of college for those who would enlist in our armed services. Senator MCCAIN came to the floor and he has traditionally supported the DREAM Act. But he raised a question as to whether it had a place in the Defense authorization bill.

I would urge my colleague from Arizona to consider the obvious. The Defense authorization bill is an appropriate vehicle for the DREAM Act because tens of thousands of highly qualified, well-educated young people would enlist in the Armed Forces if the DREAM Act becomes law.

The Army says high school graduation is the best single predictor of sticktoitiveness, the kind that is required to succeed in the military. That is required in the DREAM Act. You must graduate high school before you can qualify.

In recent years, the Army has been forced to accept more applicants who are high school dropouts, have low scores on military aptitude tests, and even some with criminal backgrounds to meet recruiting quotas. In contrast, now, the DREAM Act recruits would be well-qualified high school graduates of good moral character.

Many DREAM Act beneficiaries come from a community that is predisposed toward military service. The RAND Corporation found that Hispanic youth are more likely than other groups to express a positive attitude toward the military, and Hispanics consistently have higher retention and faster promotion speeds than their White counterparts. The Defense Department, in its fiscal year 2010–2012 strategic plan included the DREAM Act as a means of meeting the strategic goal of shaping and maintaining a mission-ready, all-volunteer force.

In 2007, Bill Carr, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, said the DREAM Act is ''very appealing,'' in his words, because it would apply to the cream of the crop of students and be good for readiness.

In 2006, then-Secretary of Defense David Chu, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said: There are an estimated 50 to 65,000 undocumented alien young adults who entered the United States at an early age and graduate from high school every year. Many of these young people may wish to join the military and have the attributes needed: education, aptitude, fitness, and moral qualifications. The DREAM Act would provide these young people the opportunity of serving the United States in uniform.

This was said by the Under Secretary of Defense under President Bush. It is bipartisan and it should be. Military experts also support the DREAM Act. LTC Margaret Stock, professor at West Point, said: Passage of the DREAM Act would be highly beneficial to the U.S. military. The DREAM Act promises to enlarge dramatically the pool of highly qualified recruits for the U.S. Armed Forces.

The DREAM Act includes many important restrictions to prevent abuse. DREAM Act students would not be eligible for Pell grants and would be subject to tough criminal penalties for fraud and would have limited ability to sponsor any family members for legal status. The DREAM Act has broad bipartisan support, 40 cosponsors. In the 110th Congress it received 52 votes, a majority of the Senate, which under most circumstances is a winning vote, but in the Senate we require 60 for controversial issues which many Republicans might oppose.

In this case, though, with 52 votes, 11 Republicans joined us in voting yes. According to a recent poll by Opinion Research Corporation, 70 percent of likely voters favor the DREAM Act, including 60 percent of the Republicans.

I say this to Senator MCCAIN. I understand his point about amendments to the Defense authorization bill. I will not get into that particular point. I mean, he can argue that out with Senator LEVIN and Senator REID and they can come to the best conclusion. They tend to work together pretty well under normal circumstances. But to argue the DREAM Act has nothing to do with the defense of this country is to overlook the obvious, a point that has been made repeatedly by the leaders in the Pentagon and Department of Defense; that to give these young people a chance to volunteer to serve our Nation and to risk their lives for our safety and security is good for the military and gives them a chance for a life—a chance for a life.

How can we do this to these kids who came to this country with their parents and who know no other nation? One of these young students said to me along the way: Senator, I dream in English. That is something we ought to remember. For these children, America is the only home they have ever known, the only home they ever want to know.

All they are asking for is a chance. There is a larger issue about comprehensive immigration reform. We need it. I support it. I have worked with Senator MCCAIN on it in years gone by, and we need to return to it. But for this particular group of young people in America, I beg my colleagues, give them a chance. Give these young people a chance.

They are counting on us, counting on us to come through. I do wish to say that this DREAM Act is going to be considered, I hope, next week. If we are successful on the motion to proceed, then we will move forward from there and probably debate it next week. We will need Republican support to pass it, and there should be. It should be a bipartisan bill. In the past, many Republicans have stepped up, understanding this is the right thing to do.

When I speak to some of my Republican colleagues today, there are myriad explanations of why they are not going to vote for it or may not vote for it: Oh, we need comprehensive reform. Maybe this is not the right bill to consider it on. After 10 years, I want to tell you, I do not know how I can continue to face these young people. I do not know how many any of my colleagues can without an effort, without trying.

I urge all my colleagues, over the weekend as they consider this important and historic vote, try to reach out and meet some of these young people. They will make converts of you in an instant. They are the future of America. They are going to be our military leaders and our engineers and our doctors, our lawyers and our accountants, even our Senators and our Congressmen. Giving them a chance to give back to this country is not too much to ask.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise again to honor our Nation's great Federal employees and, in particular, to celebrate this year's Service to America Medal winners. These are the employees we recognized in the 111st Congress.

Last night, winners of eight awards were announced by the Partnership for Public Service, a wonderful leading nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. One year ago, when I rose from this desk to pay tribute to the 2009 winners, I spoke about the values Federal employees embody: citizenship, hard work, a willingness to take risks, perseverance, intellect, and humility. All nine of this year's awardees exemplify these qualities.

One important value all of this year's winners share is concern for others. Whether rescuing Haitian orphans from a deadly earthquake, fighting against trafficking of minors, or helping Native Americans get access to Social Security benefits, this year's medalists have dedicated their careers and their talents to helping others. They do it for less pay—yes, less pay—and often longer hours than at jobs they could have taken in the private sector. If they receive a large compensation, it is in the form of the satisfaction that their lives are serving a meaningful purpose in service to their Nation.

This year's Federal Employee of the Year Medal was awarded to a Citizenship and Immigration Services officer who helped expedite the adoption of more than 1,100—that is 1,100—orphans in the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake in January. Pius Bannis was the only American immigration official in the country working on adoption in the first weeks following the quake. He got right to work organizing temporary daycare in our Embassy and ensuring the provision of emergency supplies to Haitian orphanages, including diapers, food, water, and clean clothes.

Pius, in the midst of this Herculean effort, also had to cope with the loss of Embassy staff and their family members.

A naturalized immigrant to the United States himself, he knows firsthand the complexities of the immigration process, which makes him an outstanding CIS officer.

A resource conservation expert at the Environmental Protection Agency, Saskia van Gendt won this year's Call to Service Medal for her work on fostering green building technologies. Millions of tons of materials used in construction are disposed of each year in landfills—a third of our Nation's total solid waste. At the EPA, Saskia has created an innovative program to help spur a green revolution in construction materials. In 2007, she developed the Lifecycle Building Challenge. This annual competition engages architects, students, and builders to develop new designs that reduce the impact of buildings on the environment. Since 2008, Saskia has been working with the StopWaste grant program to encourage businesses to adopt environmentally friendly equipment. The Call to Service Medal that she won recognizes those who have achieved early in their federal careers. Saskia is just 28 years old.

Honoring those who have spent many years in Federal Government, the Career Achievement Medal was won this year by Susan Solomon, a senior scientist in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. In her nearly 30 years as a government employee, Susan has been at the forefront of pioneering research into the hole in the Earth's ozone layer. Her research was critical in determining how certain consumer and industrial gases were affecting the ozone, which helped spur the landmark 1987 Montreal Protocol. Last year, Susan led a groundbreaking study that showed how the effects of carbon pollution, such as altered temperatures and changes in sea level, can linger for over a thousand years.

This year's Citizens Services Medal was awarded to a pair of officials also from Colorado. Shane Kelley and Eva Ristow work in the Denver office of the Social Security Administration. They won for their work to expand access to Social Security benefits for those living in impoverished and rural areas using an online two-way video service. For years, the SSA has had difficulties reaching those living in remote areas of the West, in particular Native Americans living on reservations. As a result, many do not know they are eligible to receive Social Security benefits that could drastically improve their families' standard of living. Shane and Eva developed an innovative Internet-based video teleconferencing system to help connect these rural communities to Social Security representatives in Denver. For those whose annual incomes can be as low as $3,000, this new connection to the SSA—thanks to Shane and Eva—has had a gigantic impact.

As Deputy Director of Intelligence and Security and Chief of Innovative Technology for the Navy's Joint Interagency Task Force South, Sandra Brooks won this year's Homeland Security Medal. Drug smugglers are constantly seeking new ways to evade our border security and customs checks. Sandy is one of the highly dedicated Federal employees working to keep one step ahead of them. Her role is to analyze information from a stream of sources and make sure it is shared quickly with the military, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies in the field. Sandy's efforts have directly led to the capture of over 20 submersible vehicles used to bring illegal drugs into our country. Her work is breaking down barriers that in the past have prevented security agencies from sharing information.

This year's Justice and Law Enforcement Medal was won by Jamie Konstas at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. An intelligence analyst, Jamie helped

create a national online database used in investigations into the trafficking of minors for sex. Before this database was created, local law enforcement officials had few resources to track child victims or information on suspects after they had crossed state lines. Jamie's role is to spot connections and cross-reference clues to break cases wide open. Her tireless efforts have led to the prosecution of over 500 child predators.

The winner of this year's National Security and International Affairs Medal led a U.S. Army team at Fort Detrick, MD, that developed a new kind of medical kit to help troops wounded by roadside bombs. In Iraq and Afghanistan, improvised explosive devices—or ''IEDs''—have been used to target our soldiers and have caused many casualties. Teri Glass and her team created a unique medical evaluation kit that has allowed medics in the field to transport wounded troops more safely and efficiently to hospitals. This has significantly raised the survival rate for soldiers wounded by IEDs. The kit Teri and her team developed can convert a range of non-ambulance vehicles into medical evacuation vehicles in less than a minute, using a foldable litter, a rear-facing attendant seat, and a lift system. When not in use, all of it collapses into a portable container the size of a suitcase and can fit in the back of a vehicle. Commanders in the field have credited this device as saving the lives of countless servicemembers.

Last, but certainly not least, the Science and Environment Medal for 2010 was awarded to the Department of Energy's Jeffrey Baker. As the Director of the Office of Laboratory Operations at the Department's field office in Golden, CO, Jeffrey has been the driving force behind the design and construction of the largest net-zero energy office building in the world. This means that the building generates as much or more energy than it consumes. Planning for the Research Support Facility began in the 1990s, when Jeffrey had a vision for a building that would not only house the Department's laboratories but also serve as an example of energy-efficiency. He oversaw the design process and construction, and the building was completed on time and on budget. Today, the General Services Administration is planning to replicate Jeffrey's approach for new federal buildings across the Nation.

All nine of these men and women are excellent examples of what government does right. They deserve our thanks and recognition. So do the 23 other finalists, as well as the thousands upon thousands of Federal employees who achieved great things this year as well.

I was proud to serve on this year's Service to America Medals Selection Committee—a blue ribbon panel that included my colleagues Senator CARPER and Senator VOINOVICH as well as leaders from across the nonprofit and business sectors and members of the House of Representatives.

I hope all of my colleagues—and all Americans—will join me in congratulating the 2010 Service to America medalists and thanking them for their hard work on our behalf.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN CELEBRATION OF ''CHANGE THE EQUATION''

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate President Obama for announcing today the launch of Change the Equation, a CEO-led effort to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education or STEM. I rise to celebrate this incredible effort.

I have spoken many times on the floor, to outside organizations, and to a number of my colleagues individually about my passion for this issue. STEM education is a topic of personal importance to me, especially because I am the Senate's only formerly working engineer.

I truly believe, now more than ever, whether it is energy independence, global health, homeland security, or infrastructure challenges, STEM professionals will be at the forefront of the most significant issues of our time. That is not hyperbole; I believe that. STEM-educated graduates will hold the jobs of the future.

In fact, according to a study by Georgetown University's Center for Education and the Workforce, by 2018, STEM occupations are projected to provide 2.8 million new hires. This includes over 500,000 engineering-related jobs. When I hear people talk about how we are going to create jobs and talk about the macroeconomic effects and microeconomic effects, eventually you have to have jobs. You have to have people who are ready to take those jobs. That is the only way we are going to make it through this economy. In the next 20 years, as the Georgetown study has said, there will be 2.8 million more good jobs to keep us competitive in the United States with overseas.

That is why I am so pleased that the business community has responded to President Obama's educate and innovate campaign to improve the performance and participation of American students in all the STEM fields. Launched last fall, the campaign aimed to create partnerships between Federal agencies, companies, foundations, professional societies, and other STEM-related organizations to help American students rise to the top of the pack in math and science achievements.

In response to the President's call to action, astronaut Sally Ride, former Intel CEO Craig Barrett, Time Warner Cable CEO Glenn Britt, Xerox CEO Ursula Burns, Eastman Kodak CEO Antonio Perez, along with support from the Gates Foundation and Carnegie Corporation joined to form Change the Equation. With a membership of more than 100 companies, this nonprofit, nonpartisan, CEO-led initiative will replicate successful privately funded programs in 100 high needs schools and communities.

Change the Equation will be working toward three goals: One, improve STEM teaching at all grade levels; two, to inspire student appreciation and excitement for STEM, particularly for women and underrepresented minorities; and three, to achieve a sustained commitment to improving STEM education across the United States of America. I am so pleased because these are some of the same goals I have advocated for during my time in the Senate.

Many Change the Equation members, nonprofits, and foundations have already created new public-private partnerships and made commitments to meet these goals. Public-private partnerships—that is what we need, and this is a great example.

For example, Lockheed Martin, the Military Child Education Coalition, and the National Math and Science Initiative will expand access to advanced placement classes in STEM subjects to public schools serving military families. What can be better than that? Talk about mixing everything together and coming out with something great.

HP is launching a U.S.-wide employee volunteering initiative with Donors Choose and National Lab Day. Other programs will improve professional development for STEM teachers, expand summer science camps for girls, and allow more students to engage in robotics competitions, to name a few.

If you have not seen a robotics competition, see one. It is incredible to see what these young people can do to make robotics. They can do something technologically difficult but have so much fun doing it.

All told, with the commitment made today by Change the Equation, the Educate to Innovate campaign has resulted in over $700 million in financial and in-kind support for STEM education. This is an incredible accomplishment and just the kind of public-private collaboration we need to bolster STEM education.

Yesterday I submitted a resolution commending the efforts of the entertainment industry to encourage interest in STEM, something with which our Presiding Officer is very familiar. Many in that industry have heeded President Obama's call to join the educate and innovate campaign. The key to this is to make people feel it is cool to be an engineer, a mathematician, or

scientist. What better way than to have leaders in entertainment encourage this kind of activity? It is a wonderful program.

Today, I could not be more pleased that so many of our Nation's CEOs have also paid attention to this call to action and joined together to form Change the Equation. This is wonderful news. Support for STEM education is essential—essential, essential, essential—for our economic growth and recovery. It is the future of our workplace. The American people deserve no less.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE IMBALANCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, yesterday, I filed a report on a trip which I made to China, Vietnam, and Taiwan, but I did not have an opportunity to come to the Senate floor to discuss it. I do so today on a number of the highlights of the trip.

In Beijing, we met with the head of the banking department, who is identified in the filed report, to talk about a number of subjects, the centerpiece of which was currency manipulation. We reviewed the tremendous trade imbalance between the United States and China, much of which is occasioned by manipulating their currency.

Legislation has been introduced and is pending in the Congress, which I have cosponsored, but it has not gone anyplace. There has been comment made by the Secretary of the Treasury and the President himself about currency manipulation, but it has not done very much to correct a very bad situation. The Chinese have suggested officially that they would be willing to make some modifications, but what they have done so far has been very little.

In the conversation with the head Chinese banking official, he didn't give any ground, really. I also discussed with him the issues of subsidies and dumping, which have been rampant, taking away thousands of jobs in the United States. That was the subject of more extended discussion with the No. 2 Chinese official in their equivalent of our Department of Commerce, identified in the written report which I filed yesterday. We have seen some of our successful actions before the International Trade Commission. For example, last year we had a matter involving tires where the International Trade Commission found in favor of the petitioners and imposed duties. We were successful in a case involving tubular pipe. Earlier this week, I was the lead witness—as I had been on the tubular case and on the tire case—on seamless steel before the International Trade Commission.

What we have seen with the Chinese practices on subsidies and dumping is a flagrant violation of international trade law. Before the International Trade Commission and I believe on the floor of the Senate, I have characterized it as international banditry. That is clearly tough talk, but I think it is accurate when there are repeated violations of international law.

When I discussed these issues with the No. 2 Chinese official in the Department of Commerce, again there was very little give—talking points, sticking with them. When I talked about subsidies, he brought up our practices on farm subsidies. I pointed out the total differences which were involved in those matters.

From China, we traveled to Hanoi and there met with a number of officials. There was a very interesting meeting with a historian who was identified in the report filed yesterday. It was fascinating to talk to somebody on the perspective of what the history of Vietnam is. He pointed out that in a few weeks, Hanoi will celebrate its 1,000th anniversary as a city. We pride ourselves on the settlement in Philadelphia—especially Philadelphia but Boston and other American cities. In tenure, it pales into insignificance when you talk about a city which has been in existence for 1,000 years.

When I talked to him about Chinese trade practices, he said: Well, they are very difficult. I talked to him about what China is doing in the China Sea, which has been a subject of international notoriety when our Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, made comments that those were matters of importance to the United States. What China is doing there is going into the island areas where you have islands long held by Taiwan or by the Philippines or by Vietnam and others, rich in minerals, and asserting control and really acting like the bully they are in that issue, as well as on trade matters.

I was fascinated to hear the historian recount 13 invasions by China against Vietnam. Although it is not exactly the same, I wondered and speculated about U.S. action in Vietnam, going into Vietnam to protect Vietnam from the incursion of the Chinese Communists. Vietnam seems to have done very well for itself for centuries. In a context where China has tried to invade them, they have been able to protect themselves.

From Vietnam, we traveled to Taiwan and there met with the President of Taiwan and had a very extensive discussion about their economy and their trade practices. I was interested to note that the People's Republic of China, the mainland, and the Republic of China, Taiwan, have signed a trade agreement. They do it through corporations, but they are obviously backed by the state. It appears to me that is almost tantamount to tacit recognition, when mainland China negotiates with Taiwan in that context. When I discussed it with the officials, they all said: No, no, it is not tacit recognition; the People's Republic of China still maintains that there is one China. But some 20 countries have recognized Taiwan as an independent government, and they are moving ahead and have some 15 treaties between the 2 countries. They are working it through on what appears to be a fairly extensive normalization of relations.

Although the President of Taiwan was very interested in having the arms sold by the United States, I pressed him on whether it was realistic, really a measure that they could defend themselves, or whether it was symbolic. I did that in the discussions with other officials in Taiwan.

It appears to me that we might consider revising our policy on the sale of arms to Taiwan where we have an irritant to mainland China that doesn't really accomplish very much. We recently have sold Taiwan some $4.6 billion worth, which is very substantial, but if the People's Republic of China, mainland China, decided to invade Taiwan, the defenses they have and their request for additional fighter planes, which has not been granted—all of that would not be sufficient to stem the tide.

While in Taipei, Taiwan, we visited the 101 building, 101 stories. It was completed a few years ago, and at that time, it was the tallest building in the world. It has since been supplanted. It was quite an experience to be 101 stories above the ground, visiting the towers. As is known, when a building is that tall, it sways. But they have three enormous balls—I do not have the precise measurement but perhaps 50 feet in diameter. One of the balls is at the apex of the building, right at the top, with huge springs, so that when the building sways, the ball and the springs keep it in an upright position. I have been in some tall buildings in the United States and felt the sway, but this is remarkable. We were told there are three enormous balls in the building.

I wish to supplement the written statement filed yesterday with a supplement, an addendum to the written statement. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT ON FOREIGN TRAVEL

CHINA

(Meeting with Wang Chao, Vice Minister of Commerce, Aug. 9, 2010)

In my meeting with Wang Chao, Vice Minister of Commerce, he provided a history and snapshot of the Chinese economy. He indicated that since 1979, China has tried to foster positive commerce and economic growth. At the time of the revolution, China's economy ranked 15th. Today it is 2nd. However, the Minister pointed out that China's GDP per capita still ranks in the 100s and therefore is still a developing economy. Many regions in China, especially rural areas, lag behind the industrialized cities.

I pressed him on what is viewed as unfair economic practices. The Minister replied that China will continue to reform its economy and integrate with the international economy. The balance of trade between the US and China was 2.5 billion in 1979. Last year it registered over 300 billion. Today, 58,000 US companies have a presence in China representing a total of $63 billion in investment. I encouraged Mr. Wang to implement policies that would increase China's investment in the US which stands at 3.3 billion.

I shared the history and plight of the steel industry in the United States and how practices such as dumping have caused significant unemployment. The Vice Minister countered with complaints about US agriculture subsidies, the plight of Chinese farmers, the United States' refusal to recognize China as a market economy and its unwillingness to ease export controls on non-defense high-tech products.

VIETNAM

(Meeting with Duong Trung Quoc, Historian and Assembly Member, Aug. 12, 2010)

On Thursday, August 12, I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Duong Trung Quoc, a member of the National Assembly and a noted historian. Mr. Duong is one of the few members of the Assembly who is not a member of the communist party. He provided me with a history of the region with a special focus on Vietnamese-Chinese relations. Mr. Duong informed me that China had invaded Vietnam on 13 occasions. He noted that October 2010 will mark the 1,000 year celebration of Hanoi. I told Mr. Duong that on the way to our meeting, I had the opportunity to visit the Ly Thai To statue. Mr. Duong provided some background on the founder of the Ly dynasty and the two decades during which he ruled. Interestingly, Ly Thai To launched a pre-emptive strike on China in an effort to prevent and invasion.

The conversation turned to China's regional and global ambitions and its hegemonic statements and actions in Southeast Asia. I asked if China was attempting to dominate the entire region. Mr. Duong said that China's policy is to get more power and that they have difficulty acknowledging other countries and rights in the region.

I asked about the claims of various countries over islands in the South China Sea. Mr. Duong said that China's goal is to have them all as their territory. He told me that all Vietnam wants is to enjoy its sovereignty and rights and territory consistent with international law.

I asked Mr. Duong about what could be done to resolve the conflict on the Korean Peninsula. He responded that China could do much more to resolve the matter, but that they use the conflict as a tool in its bilateral relationship with the United States.

I asked how Mr. Duong has survived as a politician while remaining outside the communist party. He informed me that the government does not pressure him and that he has been able to operate freely. He further stated that of the 85 million residents in Vietnam, only 5 million are members of the communist party. However, 95 percent of the members in parliament are members of the communist party. He stressed a need to have more non-party members in the Assembly. I asked if moving Vietnam towards a market economy could have a positive impact in growing non-party participation. He indicated it could be a step towards forming a two party or multi-party system but that it could take a very long time.

TAIWAN

(Working Lunch, Dr. Lyushun Shen, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aug. 15, 2010)

The Deputy Foreign Minister provided a unique background in that he had lived in Philadelphia and was stationed in the Midwest while serving with Taiwan's foreign ministry. The forum provided an opportunity to candidly discuss issues of importance in our bilateral relationship as well as those impacting the region.

We discussed the impact of Taiwan 101—the second tallest building in the world—and what prestige that has brought to Taipei. We discussed Taiwan's economy and the impact of the economic downturn.

I asked the Minister what could be done about North Korea. He indicated that the multilateral discussions should continue to resolve the conflict. On the issues confronting the cross-strait relations, the Minister was optimistic about the future. He provided a background on what steps and agreements have been made between Taipei and Beijing with an emphasis on the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement struck between both sides. This agreement will remove barriers on trade and provide enhanced access for imports and exports. I asked if this continued economic integration will provide a framework for both sides to move peacefully in the future. The Minister was optimistic it would be coupled with the vibrant social integration between the people of Taiwan and mainland China.

TAIWAN

(Meeting with Wang Jin-pyng, President of the Legislative Yuan, Aug. 16, 2010)

At 9:30 am on August 16, I was hosted at the Legislative Yuan by Wang Jin-pyng. I noticed a small protest outside the building and the President commented that demonstrations occur every day much like Washington, D.C.

I asked about the impact of the trade agreement between the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China. Wan Jin-pyng informed me that the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) was being discussed at the Yuan during my visit and that legislators were reviewing the text which is set to take effect in July 2011. He indicated that there were already fourteen agreements between Taipei and Beijing.

I asked if this agreement signifies a certain recognition of the island by Beijing and that perhaps China was moving from non-recognition to non-denial. I was told that Beijing's goal is still full reunification. The head of the Yuan stated that the Republic of China, which is commonly referred to as Taiwan, is recognized by more than twenty countries but that mutual recognition is still far away.

I asked if Taiwan had steel interests, dumped and subsidies like mainland China and what, if any, trade disputes were outstanding. He indicated that napkin towels have been dumped by China which forced Taiwan to levy a heavy duty. He also indicated that Taiwan provided money in its budget for industries to transition as the ECFA may force some industries to go out of business.

The conversation shifted to China's hegemonic actions in the region. Many entities in the region, including China and Taiwan lay claim to islands in the South China Sea. A concern I heard repeated during my travels is China's power grab on territory and seas which could yield them rights to oil and gas. The Taiwanese stated that any outstanding disputes should be resolved peacefully between all interested parties.

When I asked about what could be done on the North Korean issue, Wang Jin-pyng stated that Taiwan does not have the capacity to deal with North Korea but that bilateral talks should be resumed between the North and South. He indicated that China could play an enhanced role and provide much needed economic assistance to North Korea as an incentive. He stated that the US-South Korean joint military exercises are good because they put pressure on North Korea and demonstrate resolve. He further stated that the issue of succession in North Korea is a driving force which may impact posture and actions but that the economic situation in the North is so bad that we should continue to supply humanitarian aid. Wang Jin-pyng believes that economic normalization in exchange for security is the key to resolving the issue.

I asked about the importance of F–16 sales to Taiwan and their real benefit in any cross-strait conflict. I was informed that the sales are both substantive and symbolic in showing backing for Taiwan and aiding in any future cross-strait negotiations and talks. Further, Taiwan has a duty to its people to provide defense of the island.

Mr. SPECTER. In the absence of any other Senator on the floor, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to share some thoughts about the surprising decisions that were noted in some of the media that the majority leader, certainly with the support of the administration, plans to introduce a very significant, very controversial, unacceptable amnesty amendment to the Defense authorization bill. The proposal is called the DREAM Act.

A lot of people think this is legislation that we need to deal with, and some have supported it over the years. It has been coming up for quite a number of years and never passed. So what do we have now? We have a scheme to bring it up, not having had it go through the committee process. The bill was introduced March 2009. I assume that is what Majority Leader REID plans to bring up, but we have not been given the amendment language. So they have got this DREAM Act proposal. They want to add it to the Defense bill, and put it on a bill that is so important they think the Congress will pass it anyway. Pass it as part of the Defense bill. We are weighing down the Defense bill—I am on the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees where both of these matters have come up. They want to weigh down this armed services bill with controversial legislation that ought not to be on it, to jeopardize it and put us in a position where a lot of good people who otherwise want to support the bill will not be able to do so, No. 1.

No. 2, let's talk about the DREAM Act. The American people have every right to be unhappy with this Congress. They have every right to be unhappy with the President of the United States. This Congress and this President have not shown any inclination to end the massive lawlessness that is occurring at our borders. We have learned

that. We went through this debate several years ago. I was engaged in it deeply, spent a lot of time and effort on it, and the message the American people sent to us, when they shut down the switchboards in this Senate by so many phone calls, was border security first. We have got to end the lawlessness. So when you take a policy that says you are going to reward people who have entered our country illegally with a guaranteed pathway to citizenship, and with billions of dollars in financial aid or benefits they would not otherwise be entitled to, what message are we sending? We are sending a message, as we have too often sent year after year after year, that we are not committed to a lawful process of immigration in our country.

Let me say, a lot of people some years ago thought that we could never get to a legal system of immigration. And we can. We have made some progress. We have built a fence—not all that was supposed to be built, but the fencing has helped. We have done some things that have helped, but we are not there yet. I believe there is a national consensus out there—polling data shows it. My conversation with my people in my State and around the country in airports and so forth indicates that what we have to do is end the massive illegality and then we can begin to talk about people who have been in our country a long time. I am not saying that is something that should never be talked about and dealt with. But in 1986, this country said, well, we have got a lot of people here illegally. What we have got to do is to make them all legalized and that will end the problem, see. Everybody will be legal then. We do not have a real problem anymore. We promise we will enforce the law in the future.

Well, the amnesty took place immediately and the ending of illegality did not occur. In fact, illegality increased dramatically. Why? Because the message that went out, not the words that were said by politicians on the floor of the Senate, but the real message that went out around the world was, Americans do not care if you get in the country illegally and if you can stay there for a while, you are going to get amnesty too.

It is the same people today who are making the same argument. It cannot sustain scrutiny. It cannot sustain any critical analysis. It will not work. It is a failed policy.

Look at the DREAM Act. It would eliminate the statute passed a little over 10 years ago in 1996 that said, if you are in the country illegally, you should not be given in-State tuition. A really big deal. Oh, it is mean spirited. If you are in the country illegally, I am not sure what you should be entitled to, but certainly not discounted tuition or Pell grants, or student loans.

The first thing you do when you want to end illegality on immigration policy is stop subsidizing it, for heaven's sake. Stop subsidizing it. What kind of mixed message is it when you have people in the country illegally and you give them special benefits, including Social Security and other benefits too?

They will be given a green card that has certain conditions. But, in fact, basically, I would say if you do not commit a felony, you are put on a guaranteed path to citizenship. Well, oh, you have to go to school or get a GED or be enrolled in a community college. What happens when you do these kind of things? I mean, there are people here who have nephews and nieces, children not in this country. They read that we passed such a bill as this. Why would they not think, well, I need to see if I can get my relatives in, my grandchild or whoever, in this country illegally.

They are not allowed to come in. Everybody else has to wait in line, maybe hire lawyers to make sure they can get their entry into the country legally. I will bring in my niece, my nephew, and they will qualify for this act in a few years. Why would that not increase the amount of people who would come into the country illegally? It certainly would do so. We have discussed these issues before.

This is a bogus policy. And after a few years, you are placed on a path to become a full citizen of the United States, ahead of millions of people who waited in line dutifully to get their citizenship. It is a reward for illegality. You can spin it any way you want to. We discussed this for years in this body. It will not stand scrutiny. It is not good policy.

I understand some of my colleagues are saying this is somehow relevant to the Defense bill, because there is an option to serve in the military for two years that will put you on a path to citizenship. Well, there are programs already for people who join the military to enhance their ability to get citizenship.

But this bill is plainly legislation that has been kicked around here for a decade, at least, and it has never been brought up as a Defense bill. It has always been brought up as an immigration bill, which it plainly is. So now to come in and try to say it is somehow connected because of this minute possibility, that 5 percent, probably at most, would demonstrate their educational advantage through the military is a stretch. I want to repeat: What is happening here? This administration, it has been reported, is having internal analyses done to determine how amnesty can be given without congressional action.

They have announced recently that people apprehended in our country illegally will not be deported unless they have committed a felony, presumably DUI or larceny, misdemeanor theft. So as long as you do not plead guilty to a drug felony, that will not lead to deportation.

That is the kind of action that eviscerates enforcement. We do not need to be having that kind of policy in our country. We had the spectacle, shortly after President Obama was elected, when a hard-working, honest ICE agent conducted a raid at a company in Bellingham, Washington and found a whole bunch of people there illegally working, and it caused an uproar.

Secretary Napolitano said, I am going to get to the bottom of it. Was she getting to the bottom of this company that hired a bunch of illegal aliens? No. She was going to get to the bottom of how it was that a law enforcement officer actually had the gumption or the initiative to go out and try to enforce the law in this country. They announced a policy based on campaign promises they had made during the campaign that they were not going to do that anymore. And, presumably, I am not aware of any that have been conducted since. They have people from immigration advocacy groups running to the administration in high concern—you promised us you would not enforce this kind of law.

What do the American people think about this? They are not happy. People should not be happy about it. We are a nation of laws. We need to end the lawlessness. I was a Federal prosecutor for 15 years. I know something about how this has played out, and I have looked at it closely over the last decade. It was not something I chose to be involved with. We almost had to raise a question and begin to examine it.

What I have discovered is, the potential is there, it is within our grasp, to be able to end this massive lawlessness and create a lawful system.

At that point, we will be able to involve the American people and then ask how should we treat people who might have come here young and have been here quite a number of years? How should they be treated? But to do anything that creates a guaranteed path to citizenship for people who are here illegally now will only undermine the progress we have made in enforcement in recent years. People can wish things were different. But in my analysis, we simply have to follow through on the law of the land, to end the lawlessness. We may need to pass legislation to help, and we will. But we also have to have the will of the Commander in Chief, the chief law enforcement officer, the President of the United States. We have to have the support of the majority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the majority party in the Senate. They have to be committed to ending lawlessness. Are they or are they not? They will say they are. But I would say this DREAM Act gimmick, this manipulation to stick it on the Defense bill is a clear statement that they are not committed to it.

In fact, what they are committed to is a political plan to assuage some campaign promises made last time and to provide another method of legalizing those who have entered the country illegally. That is not right.

What are we going to do? Let's get busy. Let's end the lawlessness now.

We can do this in a few years. It is not going to break the bank. I have been there and looked at it and studied it. If we followed up on the gains we have made, we would make even more and be in a position to wrestle with these kinds of issues.

My concern is the following: First, it ought not to be on the Defense bill. It ought to come through in the regular order and in the light of day so people can have hearings and testimony, and citizens who are concerned about it on either side can have their view and their say. Secondly, we don't have the money. Estimates I have seen have indicated that this bill, amazingly, could cost the Treasury of the United States $19.2 billion just for the first 2 years. Where are we getting that money from? We are already in record deficits, having almost doubled the debt, and will triple the debt in 8 more years. We are going to add another $19 billion to subsidize illegal activity? In addition to that, Social Security entitlement benefits, welfare, Pell grants, student loans, all those would be added to the cost also.

Are there any funds to investigate whether someone is qualified? It may be that the average American hearing this debate says: These people came here at age 3. They should qualify for in-state tuition, even if they illegally came here. But those qualifications, coming here at that age, is not the requirement, first. No. 2, they only have to prove they have been in the country for 5 years. How do they prove it? They produce false documents. This is commonly done. How do they prove they came here at age 14, age 12? They may or may not have documents.

Do you think the FBI is going to take a document submitted to the immigration people to justify qualifications under the DREAM Act? Does anybody think the FBI is going to investigate to see if these are forged documents? Nobody is going to check this out; they don't have time. There is no money in the legislation to do so, no requirement that I can see to do so.

I know illegal immigration causes significant social and emotional problems throughout society. Some would say the way to remedy it is to not let anybody suffer any consequences as a result of violating the laws of the United States. Just don't enforce the laws. Reward the people who came in here illegally. Don't do anything about it.

Of course, on the surface that is untenable. But when you come up with a plan that simply says if you are in our country illegally, you don't qualify for in-state tuition, or you don't get subsidized student loans if you came into the country illegally, this is seen as harsh and mean spirited and should not occur. But great governments have to decide how they are going to conduct their business, and they have to decide whether we are going to end this lawlessness and have a lawful system of immigration.

This country, by the American people, has made up its mind. They have told the Congress what they want. But the arrogance, the total disrespect of the decent, honorable plea from the American people to end the lawlessness and create a system we can be proud of is surprising to me. I would think the Congress, after all we have been through, would have understood that the plea of the American people is not mean spirited. It is not unfair. It is quite legitimate and decent. We believe in immigration. We want immigrants to come to the country. We believe they should apply. We believe people who qualify should come here before people who do not qualify. That is what America is all about. That kind of legal system is one of the things that attracts people all over the world to come here. It should not be undermined.

If we do the right thing, we will reject this amendment. Hopefully, it will not even be brought up. Please, I hope it is not brought up. It is just going to cause a lot of frustration and tension on the Defense bill that ought to be focused on the men and women in harm's way and how to help them do their job better and more safely. I hope it does not come up. But if it does, it needs to be voted down. We need to tell the President, tell his Secretary of Homeland Security and his ICE department, tell Members of Congress we are tired of fooling around. Let's get busy and complete the job and create a lawful system of immigration of which we can be proud.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT STEVEN DELUZIO

Mr. DODD. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mark the passing and honor the service of Army National Guard soldier SGT Steven DeLuzio of South Glastonbury, CT.

Sergeant DeLuzio died August 22 during a fierce small arms attack while serving with the Vermont National Guard in Paktika, Afghanistan. He had only 19 days left before he was due home to his family and loved ones.

Sergeant DeLuzio graduated from Glastonbury High School, where he was a born leader and active in school activities. He served as freshman class secretary and is best known for leading the Glastonbury hockey team to a State championship his senior year as cocaptain. Feeling a call to serve after the events of 9/11 he signed up to serve with the Vermont National Guard in 2004, just like his older brother, Scott. He served one tour of duty in Iraq in 2006 and was deployed to Afghanistan in March of this year.

In his too short time, Sergeant DeLuzio proved himself as a selfless and heroic soldier. Many in the small town of South Glastonbury speak of Steven as always putting family and country first. His father, Mark DeLuzio, told the local paper that ''Steven is a hero and the greatest son.'' Due to his heroic actions on the day of his death, Steven was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

As a tribute to such an extraordinary young man hundreds of mourners attended funeral services for Steven this past weekend at St. Patrick's church in South Glastonbury. His brother, Scott, who is currently serving in Afghanistan as well, said that Steven was ''a best friend. He was more than just a brother. He was all you can ask for in a friend.''

Steven DeLuzio was a man of dauntless courage and bravery. His service and his sacrifice are a credit to his parents, Mark and Diane. I know how proud they, along with the rest of their community, are of him, and I hope they know that we grieve alongside them. They, along with Steven's fiancée, Leeza Gutt, are in our hearts.

Our freedom is won and our country endures because of the selfless sacrifice of heroic young men and women such as SGT Steven DeLuzio. All of us in Connecticut and across America mourn this tragic loss, and none of us will ever forget the debt of gratitude we owe to him and his family.

LEGACY OF AGENT ORANGE

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, during the Vietnam war more than 20 million gallons of herbicide known as Agent Orange, much of it containing the highly toxic chemical dioxin, were stored, mixed, handled, and sprayed by U.S. airplanes over millions of acres of forest and farmland in Vietnam. Since then, dioxin has been linked by the U.S. Institutes of Medicine to various cancers and other debilitating diseases, as well as birth defects. The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences classify it as a human carcinogen.

Millions of Vietnamese citizens and U.S. military personnel were exposed,

in one way or another, to Agent Orange, and its effects have been a subject of controversy for more than three decades. Today, the U.S. Veterans Administration recognizes 12 diseases and 1 birth defect related to herbicide exposure and recently added 3 more diseases as eligible for compensation from the Federal Government.

Thanks to the efforts of U.S. veterans who suffered from the effects of dioxin, their needs have been recognized and are finally being addressed. But in Vietnam, where the government lacks the resources to either clean up the residual dioxin contamination or to adequately assist those who have suffered health problems, the legacy of Agent Orange remains a difficult and emotional subject for U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

On the one hand, the Government of Vietnam for years blamed Agent Orange for seemingly any case of birth defect in the country, no matter how farfetched. On the other hand, the U.S. Government consistently denied causation between Agent Orange and birth defects in Vietnam and refused to accept any responsibility for the alleged harm. For years, the issue remained a contentious one for our countries.

Then about a decade ago, thanks to an initiative funded by the Ford Foundation and with the participation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, research was done that went a long way toward dispelling the myths about the extent of contamination, as well as identifying where the most serious threats remain. Some 28 ''hot spots'' of varying degrees of dioxin contamination were located where Agent Orange had been stored or handled, often resulting in extensive spills and leakage into the soil or groundwater, from where it moved up the food chain. The sites with the worst contamination are the Da Nang, Bien Hoa, and Phu Cat airports. For example, in the area of the Da Nang Airport, dioxin levels in soil, sediment, and fish were documented as 300 to 400 times higher than what is considered safe. And the contamination is passed genetically from one generation to the next.

In 2006, the same year that a Joint Advisory Committee of U.S. and Vietnamese Government agencies was established to discuss ways to address this problem, the Department of State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, which I chair, provided $3 million for ''environmental remediation of dioxin-contaminated sites and related health activities in Vietnam'' for fiscal year 2007. An additional $3 million was provided for fiscal year 2009 and the same amount again for fiscal year 2010. The 2010 Supplemental Appropriations Act includes $12 million for these purposes, and S. 3676, the Senate version of the fiscal year 2011 Department of State and Foreign Operations bill, which was reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 29, 2010, includes another $15 million. Chairman FALEOMAVAEGA of the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment has held two hearings on the issue, and in July, Senators HARKIN and SANDERS traveled to Vietnam and visited the Da Nang site.

The Government of Vietnam also provides tens of millions of dollars for small monthly payments to persons with disabilities believed to have been caused by Agent Orange, as well as some funds for dioxin cleanup. The Ford Foundation has provided $14 million for activities in Vietnam related to Agent Orange. These include dioxin containment at the Da Nang Airport, services and opportunities for people with disabilities in eight particularly affected provinces, and to support the work of the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin, a binational committee of scientists, educators, and policy analysts. Other U.S. philanthropic organizations, including the Gates Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, as well as several governments and United Nations agencies, have also contributed, while U.S. nongovernmental organizations have implemented programs to deliver services to affected people. American companies have also been exploring greater business partnerships with Vietnam and contributing to education and other efforts. The Dialogue Group's Plan of Action calls for a 10-year effort that would combine continuing U.S. and Vietnamese Government support with support from nonprofits and corporations that have business relationships in Vietnam. These would all be helpful steps.

My own interest in addressing the legacy of Agent Orange evolved from the use of the Leahy War Victims Fund in Vietnam to assist persons with disabilities, primarily victims of landmines and other unexploded ordnance left over from the war, and my efforts to address the problem of civilian casualties and to assist innocent victims of the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Since 1988, through the U.S. Agency for International Development and implementing partners, including the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, the U.S. Government has provided tens of millions of dollars through the Leahy fund for medical, rehabilitation and vocational assistance, training, and equipment. However, no one knows how many of the beneficiaries of these programs may have been disabled as a result of exposure to Agent Orange, and large areas of the country still lack services for people with disabilities.

In 2007, it was Bobby Muller, the former president of Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, who had been instrumental, indeed indispensible, in promoting postwar reconciliation and the eventual normalization of relations with Vietnam, who suggested to me that the U.S. Government needed to do something about Agent Orange. Vietnam and the United States were making progress on so many fronts, from locating the remains of MIAs to cooperation on HIV/AIDS and expanding tourism and trade, that it made no sense for the issue of dioxin contamination to remain a sore point. I agreed that we should try to turn this contentious issue into one on which both countries could work together.

Since then, while it has taken far longer than I would have liked to develop a plan for utilizing the funds, the administration is now at the point of identifying the most cost-effective remediation technique for Da Nang, and, as I have noted, we are fortunate that in the meantime other donors have joined this effort.

We also need to look forward. In Senate Report 111–237 accompanying S. 3676, the Appropriations Committee directs USAID, in consultation with the Department of State, the Government of Vietnam, and other interested parties, to develop a multiyear plan for Agent Orange activities in Vietnam. This plan, which should reflect input from interested parties with a history of working on this issue such as the Ford Foundation and the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin, should identify the key activities for the environmental remediation and health/disability components of this effort, indicate how U.S. funding will be coordinated with and complimentary to the contributions of other donors and how nongovernmental organizations, including nonprofits and businesses, can play constructive roles. It should set clear goals, benchmarks for measuring progress, and estimated costs associated with these activities. In doing so, we will not only chart our way forward, we will demonstrate to the Government of Vietnam and its people that we intend to continue to play a central role in this effort.

To that end, I want to emphasize the importance of the health component. While the soil and sediment remediation is critical and has received the most attention, it would be hard to overstate the importance the Vietnamese give to addressing the needs of people who have been harmed. While it may not be possible to definitively diagnose Agent Orange as the cause of a person's disability, the plan should include surveys or other steps to locate people who suffer from disabilities that may have been caused by dioxin, so they can be helped. An expanded involvement by nonprofit organizations, businesses, and philanthropies remains key to this humanitarian effort, and there is no longer any reason for hesitancy on the part of U.S. companies in Vietnam in supporting such work.

After a tragic war that left deep scars in both Vietnam and the United States, we have become partners on a wide range of issues. We still have our differences, particularly concerning human rights, but we want to make progress in whatever ways we can. The legacy of Agent Orange, for years an issue that divided us, is now one that is bringing us together.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I rise today as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging to talk about retirement security in America. In recent years, workers have seen their savings take a hit, with many wondering whether they will ever be able to retire. The current retirement income deficit—in other words, the gap between what Americans will need in retirement and what they will actually have—is $6.6 trillion, according to the nonpartisan Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Now more than ever, we need to strengthen our Nation's pension and 401(k) systems so that Americans can protect the retirement savings they work a lifetime to earn.

In doing so, we must recognize that today's retirement savings vehicles look a lot different than they did a generation ago. Our current system increasingly places the responsibility for saving on the individual, meaning that people have to make retirement decisions on their own because many employers are not doing it for them. That is why the Aging Committee is working to give people more guidance, more tools, and more protection.

Many Americans are increasingly relying on 401(k)-type defined contribution savings plans to fund their retirement. Having a 401(k) requires an individual to make several proactive decisions, including the decision to save, how much to save, how to invest their savings, whether to take loans out, and how to make their savings last through retirement. The committee's focus has been on helping participants make better decisions. After all, a person should not have to be a financial planning expert in order to plan for a secure retirement.

We are discovering that the best system would have certain automatic features, such as automatic enrollment with escalating contribution rates and target date funds that adjust automatically, combined with options to opt out for those who want to create their own portfolio. We are pushing for more retirement coverage through ideas like better target date funds that are designed in the best interests of participants.

We are collaborating with the Department of Labor on many of these issues and also introducing our own bills in some cases. Senator TOM HARKIN and I introduced a bill to require the disclosure of 401(k) fees to participants. A small difference in fees, compounded over a lifetime, can make a huge difference in overall savings. I commend the Labor Department for recently issuing regulations that will bring greater transparency and disclosure of 401(k) fees and make it easier for employers to ensure that their plans' fees are reasonable, and I look forward to reviewing the Department's participant fee disclosure regulations when they are issued this fall. Senators BINGAMAN, ISAKSON, and I have introduced the Lifetime Income Disclosure Act, which would have 401(k) statements translate the balance into a potential stream of retirement income. This will help participants save and plan for an adequate retirement. I am also working with my colleagues to ensure that oversight of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the entity that insures the pensions of more than 44 million workers and retirees, is strengthened.

Of course, we cannot talk about retirement security without talking about Social Security. The Aging Committee recently released a report that lays all the options on the table for making it secure over the long term. We also must make sure that those who rely on it the most are protected. Finally, one of the most important ways to have a secure retirement is to work longer. We are focused on the removal of barriers to working past retirement age for those who choose to do so. Our efforts will keep people in the labor force and encourage employers to offer the benefits and flexibility many are looking for later in life.

In closing, I would like to applaud the many advocacy groups that are striving to create a universal, secure, and adequate pension system. Their efforts to bring necessary attention to the important issue of retirement security are appreciated. Together we will continue our work to improve retirement security for all Americans.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak out in support of Retirement USA's ''Wake Up, Washington!'' Month and to wake up my colleagues to the looming retirement crisis in this country. The public has already woken up. A recent survey found that 92 percent of adults aged 44 to 75 believe there is a retirement crisis in America. Now it is time for Congress to address this crisis before it is too late.

We are already seeing the beginnings of the retirement crisis. Just look at all of the older Americans forced to delay retirement or go back into the workforce because of the economic downturn. If we do not change course, it is going to get much worse.

Next year, the first baby boomers will turn 65, and it is clear that many are not prepared for retirement. According to the Employee Benefit Research Institute, nearly one-half of them are at risk of not having sufficient retirement resources to pay for basic retirement expenditures and uninsured healthcare costs.

The picture is not any better for the rest of American workers. Thirty-one percent of workers do not have any retirement savings at all, and 43 percent of workers have less than $10,000. If those numbers are not sobering enough, the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College calculated America's retirement income deficit for Retirement USA. They estimate that the gap between what people need for retirement and what they actually have is $6.6 trillion. That is a scary number.

There simply is no question that retirement is getting less and less secure in this country. In the past, people relied on the ''three-legged stool'' of retirement security—private pensions, personal savings, and Social Security—but that stool has gotten awfully wobbly. Over 40 percent of workers lack access to any employer-sponsored retirement plan at all, the rising cost of living and stagnant wages are making it tougher for people to save, and our Social Security system is under attack.

It used to be that many workers could rely on defined benefit pensions. Those plans are one of the best ways to ensure that workers have a secure retirement because they provide a predictable, guaranteed source of income that workers can count on for the duration of their lives. But, unfortunately, the traditional defined benefit pension is an endangered species. The number of employers offering these plans has fallen drastically over the past three decades. Now, less than 20 percent of workers in the private sector have the security of a defined benefit pension.

The vast majority of employees with any retirement plan at all just have a 401(k), but those plans do not provide real retirement security. They leave workers exposed to the constant risk that the plans' investments will perform poorly. Look at what has happened to people's 401(k)s over the past few years. Billions of dollars of retirement savings have just evaporated, and lots of workers—especially people getting close to retirement—saw any chance they had of retiring vanish overnight. 401(k)s also do not provide workers with guaranteed lifetime income like traditional pension plans. That means that workers and their families are forced to bear the risk that they will outlive their retirement savings.

Plus, in these troubled economic times, families are facing unprecedented challenges and saving for retirement just is not an option for many. Wages have been stagnant for years, yet the cost of living keeps going up. People are working harder and longer than ever before, but they still cannot seem to meet the costs of basic everyday needs, like education, transportation, and housing, let alone save enough to support them in their old age.

For many Americans, the only retirement security they have is Social Security, but that, too, is under siege. There are those that want to privatize the system, cut back benefits, and raise the retirement age. They say that everyone should just work longer and that retirement is a ''luxury.'' Clearly, those people do not swing a hammer for a living. They do not toil in our corn fields or work on our oil rigs. For Americans who work in these physically demanding jobs, working longer simply is not an option. A lifetime of hard work takes its toll, and at some point, a person just cannot do it anymore.

We are facing a future where no one other than the rich will have the opportunity for a safe and secure retirement. People that work hard for their entire lives will find themselves teetering on the brink of poverty, unable to pay the basic costs of living. That is going to have drastic consequences for families and our country as a whole.

It is time for our Nation to face the retirement crisis head on, and for our lawmakers to take aggressive action to protect future generations. We can start by working on some fixes for the current system. We need to shore up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, protect Social Security, and address the problems facing the Nation's corporate and multiemployer pension plans. We should also consider improvements to 401(k) plans like improved disclosures and lifetime income solutions. But all of those things are just short-term fixes.

We need to go further. We need to work toward comprehensive reform of our retirement system. Americans who have worked hard and played by the rules deserve a secure retirement. They deserve to be able to enjoy their golden years, to spend time with their families, and to rest after a lifetime of hard work. We need to help people to work toward a secure retirement by expanding access to retirement plans, making it easier for workers to save, and finding ways to make sure they do not have to worry about outliving their savings.

The retirement crisis is just too big to ignore, so as chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I am making retirement security a priority. The committee will be holding a series of hearings to explore the difficult issues surrounding retirement security, and I am hopeful that, together with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we will be able to come up with creative solutions to our Nation's retirement challenges.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON TEAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to recognize the great work and remarkable accomplishments of Arlington High School's Envirothon team for winning the North American Canon Envirothon Competition, which tests high school students' knowledge about natural resource management.

Competing in the Envirothon was a challenging task for the students of Arlington High School, located in Riverside, CA. Students spent many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their families and friends. However, I know that families across Riverside are now celebrating the accomplishments of their home team.

Members of Arlington High's winning Envirothon team include Kristen Treat, Cory Davis, Alexis Wood, Elijah Kenan, Elizabeth Murry, Ashley Pham, and faculty advisers Sheri Harris, and Dianne Stephens. They solved environmental problems in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the 2010 special topic ''Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning.''

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating California's Arlington High School Envirothon team for becoming the North American Canon Envirothon Competition winners.•

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS PATTEN STAFFORD

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I pay tribute to retired U.S. Air Force LTG Thomas Patten Stafford, a former National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut and the first U.S. general officer to travel into space, being one of only 24 people to fly to the Moon. A command pilot in both the Air Force and NASA, General Stafford gave a lifetime of service to the Nation in space exploration, logging multiple flights into space to further our understanding and capabilities in space exploration. As one of the pioneers of our country's space program, General Stafford established protocols, procedures, and even a few records, that are still present in today's contemporary space programs and operations. He has been a national treasure and an unsung hero, willingly taking on the challenges associated with our innate fascination with what lay beyond our terrestrial home.

General Stafford graduated with honors from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He attended pilot training at Connally Air Force Base, Waco, TX, in 1953 and after completing advanced interceptor training was assigned to his first tactical duty station at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, SD, as a pilot with the 54th Flight Interceptor Squadron with the mission of planning for and executing the air defense of the United States. It was in 1955 that General Stafford received an overseas assignment to Hahn Air Base, Germany, where he joined the 496th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at the tip of the spear as part of the United States defense of Europe during the Cold War. At the time, the 496th flew F–86D model aircraft, known as the ''Sabre Dog.'' It was a transonic jet, all-weather interceptor designed to intercept Soviet attack and bomber aircraft. It was during this time that General Stafford developed and honed his flying abilities and understanding of flight operations and performance testing, which would prove vital to his influence over our Nation's space program and guarantee many successes in those endeavors.

In 1962, General Stafford was selected among the second group of astronauts to participate in Projects Gemini and Apollo, the two fabled national space programs that epitomize our country's tremendous quest for space exploration. In December 1965, General Stafford piloted Gemini VI, the first rendezvous in space, thus developing and proving techniques for space rendezvous that would be critical for future operations. In June 1966, he commanded Gemini IX and demonstrated a rendezvous technique that would be used in the Apollo missions to the Moon. And because of this expertise, he headed the mission planning analysis and software development responsibilities for the astronaut group for Project Apollo.

The most pivotal piece to this was his development and implementation of the techniques a pilot would use to manually fly the Saturn booster into orbit and the descent and ascent to and from the Moon's surface. All of this culminated with his command of the Apollo 10 mission in May 1969, when General Stafford personally performed the first lunar module rendezvous around the Moon and the entire lunar landing mission except for the actual landing.

It was with this expertise that General Stafford assumed the role of Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations at the NASA Manned Space Flight Center, where he was responsible for the planning and implementation of programs for the astronaut group and all aircraft operations. General Stafford's time with NASA culminated with his fourth space flight as the Apollo commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission in 1975. This was a joint space flight with the Soviet Union that culminated in the historic first meeting in space between American Astronauts and Soviet Cosmonauts.

General Stafford was the first member of his Naval Academy Class of 1952 to pin on the first, second and third stars of a general officer. He flew six rendezvous in space, logged over 507 hours in space flight and wore the Air Force Command Pilot Astronaut Wings. In his life time he has flown over 127 different types of aircraft and helicopters and four different types of spacecraft. And in his later years in the Air Force, General Stafford was personally involved in the development of two of our most critical Air Force stealth aircraft: the F–117A Stealth Fighter and the B–2 Stealth Bomber.

Though General Stafford retired from the Air Force in 1979, his efforts in our country's space program continued. In his post retirement period, General Stafford continued to influence our efforts in space, chairing independent think tank teams focused on developing a 30 year roadmap for both Presidents Bush and Clinton for returning and inhabiting the Moon and extending our exploration efforts to Mars. And he currently sits as the Chairman of the NASA Advisory Council Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness and the cochairman

of the Stafford-Covey Space Shuttle Return to Flight Task Group.

General Stafford is a true American hero; an amazing testament to the spirit and the selflessness of the American public servant. There are very few that have obtained the level of historic influence as he has, leaving behind a true legacy for all of us to follow. General Stafford celebrates his 80th birthday this Friday, September 17, 2010. There is a lot to be said for 80 years of life that have seen some two-thirds of that spent in the service to our Nation. I, for one, take my hat off to a great national icon and applaud him for what he has done for this great nation. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Stafford and his family for their lifelong commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation and I wish him a happy 80th birthday with many more to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2006—PM 66

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2010.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 16, 2010*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2039. An act to clarify the applicability of the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of the legislative branch, to prohibit the application of any of the exceptions to the requirements of such Act to products bearing an official Congressional insignia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3116. An act to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from procuring certain items directly related to the national security unless the items are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3519. An act to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4862. An act to permit Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization.

H.R. 5282. An act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5366. An act to require the proposal for debarment from contracting with the Federal Government of persons violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977.

H.R. 5651. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the ''Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse''.

H.R. 5706. An act to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the ''Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building.''

H.R. 5773. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as the Social Security Administration Operations Building, as the ''Robert M. Ball Federal Building''.

H.R. 5873. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office''.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2868. An act to provide increased access to the General Services Administration's Schedules Program by the American Red Cross and State and local governments.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3656. An act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to improve the reporting on sales of livestock and dairy products, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2039. An act to clarify the applicability of the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of the legislative branch, to prohibit the application of any of the exceptions to the requirements of such Act to products bearing a Congressional seal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3116. An act to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from procuring certain items directly related to the national security unless the items are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3519. An act to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4862. An act to permit Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5282. An act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5366. An act to require the proposal for debarment from contracting with the Federal Government of persons violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5651. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the ''Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5706. An act to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the ''Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5773. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as

the Social Security Administration Operations Building, as the ''Robert M. Ball Federal Building''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5873. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3790. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that persons having seriously delinquent tax debts shall be ineligible for Federal employment.

S. 3791. A bill to require Members of Congress to disclose delinquent tax liability, require an ethics inquiry, and garnish the wages of a Member with Federal tax liability.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3793. A bill to extend expiring provisions and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–7340. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V–8, V–14, V–38, V–47, V–279, and V–422 in the Vicinity of Findlay, Ohio'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2010–0709)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7341. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS–B) Out Performance Requirements to Support Air Traffic Control (ATC) Service; OMB Approval of Information Collection'' ((RIN2120–AI92)(Docket No. FAA–2007–29305)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7342. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inclusion of Reference to Manual Requirements'' ((RIN2120–AJ44)(Docket No. FAA–2006–25877)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7343. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of the Pacific High and Low Offshore Airspace Areas; California'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2010–0187)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7344. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Colored Federal Airway B–38; Alaska'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2010–0365)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7345. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Establishment of Restricted Areas and Other Special Use Airspace, Razorback Range Airspace Complex, AR'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2009–1050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7346. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment and Establishment of Restricted Areas and Other Special Use Airspace, Avon Park Air Force Range, FL'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1261)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7347. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Restricted Area R–3405; Sullivan, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2007–28633)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7348. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Maneuvering Speed Limitation Statement'' ((RIN2120–AJ21)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0810)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7349. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Re-Registration and Renewal of Aircraft Registration; OMB Approval of Information Collection'' ((RIN2120–AI89)(Docket No. FAA–2008–0118)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7350. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dowty Propellers R408/6–123–F/17 Model Propellers'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0776)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7351. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures; Amendment 3'' (RIN0648–AW65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7352. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Emergency Rule Extension'' (RIN0648–AY52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7353. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Emergency Fisheries Closures in the Southeast Region Due to the Deepwater Horizon MC252 Oil Spill; Publication of Coordinates'' (RIN0648–AY90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7354. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Pipeline Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pipeline Safety: Periodic Updates of Regulatory References to Technical Standards and Miscellaneous Edits'' (RIN2137–AE41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7355. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Standard; Final Listing of 2011 Light Duty Truck Lines Subject to the Requirements of This Standard and Exempted Vehicle Lines for Model Year 2011'' (RIN2127–AK68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7356. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule of Fees Authorized by 49 U.S.C. 30141'' (RIN2127–AK70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7357. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Side Impact Protection; Fuel System Integrity; Electric-Powered Vehicles: Electrolyte Spillage and Electrical Shock Protection'' (RIN2127–AK48) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7358. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Theft Protection and Rollaway Prevention'' (RIN2127–AK38) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7359. A communication from the Program Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Electric-Powered Vehicles; Electrolyte Spillage and Electrical Shock Protection'' (RIN2127–AK05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 2, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7360. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of funds from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to the Emergency Fund, which is administered by the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7361. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Blythe, California)'' (MB Docket No. 08–151) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7362. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (DeBeque, Colorado)'' (MB Docket No. 10–22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7363. A communication from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Office of the Secretary of Transportation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs'' (RIN2105–AD95) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7364. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Notification and Reporting of Aircraft Accidents or Incidents and Overdue Aircraft, and Preservation of Aircraft Wreckage, Mail, Cargo, and Records'' (49 CFR Part 830) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7365. A communication from the Senior Regulation Analyst, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''List of Nonconforming Vehicles Decided to be Eligible for Importation'' (Docket No. NHTSA–2008–0134) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7366. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Direct Final Rulemaking Procedures'' (RIN2126–AB23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7367. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Certification Requirements as Part of the Commercial Driver's License (CDL); Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments'' (RIN2126–AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7368. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Updated Statements of Legal Authority for the Export Administration Regulations'' (RIN0694–AF00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 1, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7369. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Wassenaar Arrangement 2009 Plenary Agreements Implementation: Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Part I, 6, 7, and 9 of the Commerce Control List, Definitions Reports'' (RIN0694–AE91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7370. A communication from the Chief of Recovery and Delisting Branch, Endangered Species Program, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of the Utah (Desert) Valvata Snail (Valvata utahensis) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife'' (RIN1018–AW16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 17, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7371. A communication from the Under Secretary of Commerce (Oceans and Atmosphere), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization during 2008 and 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7372. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of funds from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to the Emergency Fund, which is administered by the United States Coast Guard; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–7373. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services—2010 Update'' (STB Ex Parte No. 542) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3980. A bill to provide for identifying and eliminating redundant reporting requirements and developing meaningful performance metrics for homeland security preparedness grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111—291).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 2739. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the establishment of the Puget Sound Program Office, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111—292).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4715. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111—293).

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3799. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111—294).

By Mr. INOUYE, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3800. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111—295).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 3717. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide for certain disclosures under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Joseph H. Hogsett, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Michael J. Moore, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Beverly Joyce Harvard, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

James Edward Clark, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Kenneth James Runde, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Michael Robert Bladel, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 3793. A bill to extend expiring provisions and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3794. A bill to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to include organizations whose membership comprises substantially veterans as recipient organizations for the donation of Federal surplus personal property through State agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. BAYH, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 3795. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax gap, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 3796. A bill to establish community health improvement councils and State health improvement technical assistance center grants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3797. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the achievement of quality universal basic education in all developing countries as an objective of United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 3798. A bill to authorize appropriations of United States assistance to help eliminate conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities that do not meet minimum human standards of health, sanitation, and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 3799. An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. INOUYE:

S. 3800. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3801. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. LEMIEUX):

S. Res. 626. A resolution acknowledging and congratulating Miami Dade College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of service to the students and residents of the State of Florida; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 627. A resolution designating September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. Res. 628. A resolution recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the National Book Festival; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. Res. 629. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 424

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 941

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 941, a bill to reform the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, modernize firearm laws and regulations, protect the community from criminals, and for other purposes.

S. 1275

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1275, a bill to establish a National Foundation on Physical Fitness and Sports to carry out activities to support and supplement the mission of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

S. 1536

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1536, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reduce the amount of Federal highway funding available to States that do not enact a law prohibiting an individual from writing, sending, or reading text messages while operating a motor vehicle.

S. 1695

At the request of Mr. BURRIS, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1695, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to reinstate Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to reduce the rape kit backlog and for other purposes.

S. 2782

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2782, a bill to provide personal jurisdiction in causes of action against contractors of the United States performing contracts abroad with respect to members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees of the United States, and United States citizen employees of companies performing work for the United States in connection with contractor activities, and for other purposes.

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3184

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3184, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 3479

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3479, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish and implement a birth defects prevention, risk reduction, and public awareness program.

S. 3562

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3562, a bill to rename the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, as the Homestead National Historical Park.

S. 3665

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3665, a bill to promote the strengthening of the private sector in Pakistan.

S. 3673

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3673, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal certain limitations on tax health care benefits.

S. 3709

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3709, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3767

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3767, a bill to establish appropriate criminal penalties for certain knowing violations relating to food that is misbranded or adulterated.

S. 3786

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications.

S. CON. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 39, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that stable and affordable housing is an essential component of an effective strategy for the prevention, treatment, and care of human immunodeficiency virus, and that the United States should make a commitment to providing adequate funding for the development of housing as a response to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic.

S. CON. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 63, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

S. RES. 619

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 619, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Senate of each new Congress is not bound by the Rules of previous Senates.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3794. A bill to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to include organizations whose membership comprises substantially veterans as recipient organizations for the donation of Federal surplus personal property through State agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to add military veterans to the list of groups eligible to receive excess property donations from the Federal Government. The sacrifices that members of our armed forces make every day for us and our country cannot be overstated, and I welcome any opportunity to recognize their services. While this bill is a small token, it is another effort to give back to our military veterans. I encourage the Senate to act swiftly and pass this bill.

The FOR VETS Act will enable military veterans to receive surplus goods donations through the Federal Government's property distribution program. The types of property donated through this program include computers, trucks, snowmobiles, home appliances, and electronics. These are items that would be of good use to our military veterans, and which they should have the opportunity to claim.

The administrator of General Services oversees this property distribution program, which currently donates property to medical institutions, providers of assistance to the homeless, universities, and child care facilities, among others. Given the surplus of available goods, military veterans' groups are simply being added into this pool of recipients for goods that might otherwise go unused.

I am pleased to be joined by the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Ranking Member, Senator COLLINS, in sponsoring this legislation. This is a bipartisan effort, as legislation to support our veterans should always be, and I hope Congress will come together to promptly send this legislation to the President to be signed into law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3794

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Formerly Owned Resources for Veterans to Express Thanks for Service Act of 2010'' or ''FOR VETS Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. RECIPIENTS OF CERTAIN FEDERAL SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Section 549(c)(3)(B) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(x) an organization whose membership comprises substantially veterans (as defined under section 101 of title 38).''.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 3798. A bill to authorize appropriations of United States assistance to help eliminate conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities that do not meet minimum human standards of health, sanitation, and safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am very pleased to join today with the Senator from Kansas, Senator BROWNBACK, in introducing a piece of legislation that has already attracted broad support from across the social and political spectrum.

This bill, titled the Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010, seeks to address a much neglected, global human rights problem—the inhumane treatment of people in foreign prisons and other detention facilities.

On any given day, millions of people are languishing in foreign prisons, many awaiting trial not yet having been formally charged or proven guilty of anything, deprived of their freedom for years longer than they could have been sentenced to prison if convicted. Others convicted of crimes, often after woefully unfair trials, including for nothing more than peacefully expressing political or religious beliefs or defending human rights. Regardless of their status they have one thing in common. They are deprived of the most basic rights and necessities—safe water, adequate food, essential medical care, personal safety, and dignity.

Anyone who has been inside one of these facilities, or seen photographs or the press reports of what they are like, understands that I am talking about the mistreatment of human beings in ways that are reminiscent of the Dark Ages.

A few examples are all that are needed to illustrate the point. In Haiti's National Penitentiary before the January 12th earthquake, more than 4,000 prisoners were confined in a space built for less than 900. Many did not have room to lie down and had to sleep standing up. Sanitation was practically non-existent. Deadly contagious diseases were rampant. The overwhelming majority of inmates had never been formally charged, never seen a lawyer or a judge. The earthquake damaged the prison and the prison guards fled, leaving the inmates to fend for themselves without food or water. They managed to get out, but the squalid facility is quickly filling up again. Today I am told the conditions there are worse than ever.

A recent newspaper article described how in Benin, in West Africa, maggots digest the bodies of dead prisoners. The skin of prisoners is ragged from the extraction of fly larvae, a scourge that is symptomatic of the deplorable conditions. Many inmates suffer from tuberculosis, scabies, parasites, lung infections or other illnesses. The prison in

Abomey, located in southern Benin, was built in 1904 to house a maximum of 150 prisoners. These days, more than 1,000 are reportedly confined there.

It is common in prisons from Central America to Central Africa to Central Asia for inmates to be severely malnourished and to go for months without being able to wash. Many prisoners depend for survival on food brought to them by their relatives. In many countries individuals awaiting trial, young and old, are housed together with convicted, violent criminals.

Prisoners and other detainees in many countries are also routinely victimized by poorly trained, abusive guards, who are virtually unsupervised and unaccountable to any higher authority. Sexual abuse of men, women and children is common.

A government commission in Cameroon reported that an average of five prisoners die per month in a prison there, simply from lack of proper medical care. Inmates in many countries suffer from HIV/AIDS and other illnesses, in prisons with no medical records, where doctors do not enter. Prisoners intentionally cut or otherwise harm themselves in the hope of receiving medical attention for life-threatening illnesses. If and when they are released, they infect the local population.

A recent New York Times article described how in Zambia prisoners are punished by being stripped naked and held in solitary confinement in small, windowless cells, sometimes for days on end, in ankle-to-calf-high water contaminated with their own excrement. It is like something out of The Count of Monte Cristo, only worse because it is happening in the 21st Century.

But the article went on to describe how the Zambian Prison Service completed its own internal audit, appointed a new medical director and allowed human rights workers access to its facilities.

The bill Senator BROWNBACK and I are introducing seeks to provide incentives for those kinds of improvements. Our bill would do the following:

First, it calls attention to this long ignored problem. Most people know little if anything about what goes on inside foreign prisons, and many would prefer not to know.

Second, it sets forth minimum standards for the elimination of inhumane conditions in foreign prisons and other detention facilities, such as human waste facilities that are sanitary and accessible, and adequate ventilation, food, and safe drinking water.

Third, it requires the Secretary of State to report annually on those countries that receive United States assistance that do not meet minimum standards for the elimination of inhumane conditions but are making significant efforts to comply, and those that are not making such efforts.

Fourth, it encourages the Secretary and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to assist countries that are making significant efforts to eliminate inhumane conditions. And for those that are not, it requires the Secretary to enter into negotiations with such governments to eliminate inhumane conditions. It authorizes the Secretary and the Administrator to restructure, reprogram, or reduce assistance, or to furnish or deny U.S. visas to the officials of the government of such a country, if doing so would help achieve that goal.

The bill also provides for training of Foreign Service Officers, and creates a new full time equivalent Deputy Assistant Secretary position at the Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to monitor foreign prison conditions, which has long been needed.

Finally, it authorizes the expenditure of funds to implement the bill.

Once enacted, the Foreign Prison Conditions Improvement Act of 2010 will help foreign governments ensure that prisoners in their countries are treated as any people deprived of their freedom should be—as human beings, with dignity, in safety, and provided the basic necessities of life.

In countries around the world, the United States is helping to reform justice systems and strengthen the rule of law. No justice system can claim to deliver justice if prisoners and other detainees are treated like animals, or worse. By helping to change attitudes, and showing how with relatively little money, conditions in a prison can be dramatically improved, we can help advance the cause of justice more broadly.

Millions of people around the world still look to the United States as a defender of justice. This bill will further that goal, and it reflects the best instincts of the American people.

This bill has already been endorsed by a wide range of groups, including the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, International Justice Mission, Open Society Policy Center, Penal Reform International, Prison Fellowship, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, National American Religious Liberty Association, United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Disciples Justice Action Network, and the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bandáís of the United States.

An identical bill is being introduced today in the House of Representatives by Representatives WILLIAM DELAHUNT and JOSEPH PITTS, so this is a bipartisan, bicameral effort.

I want to thank Senator BROWNBACK, and his staff, who have been extremely helpful in the drafting and introduction of this bill. At a time when some people seem to get satisfaction from calling Washington broken, this is a tangible example of how two Senators, of different parties, whose political views often differ, can work together in furtherance of a just cause.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 3801. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proposing a needed adjustment to current eligibility requirements for children who receive health care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

CHAMPVA, established in 1973 within VA, provides health care services to dependents and survivors of certain veterans. CHAMPVA enrollment has grown steadily over the years and, as of fiscal year 2009, covers nearly 336,300 unique beneficiaries. Servicemembers continue to deploy and return home from Afghanistan and Iraq, and CHAMPVA plays a vital role in caring for veterans' loved ones.

Under the current law, a dependent child loses eligibility for CHAMPVA upon turning 18 years old, unless the child is enrolled in school on a full time basis. Also, after losing full-time status at school, or upon turning 23 years old, an eligible child of a veteran would lose eligibility.

With the passage earlier this year of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Public Law 111–148, many veterans' families have expressed concern regarding their own children's health care coverage. The PPACA contains a provision that extends health insurance coverage to dependent children until age 26. I believe it is only fair to afford children who are CHAMPVA beneficiaries the same eligibility as dependent children whose parents have private sector coverage. Though this Congress is in its final month, we need to open the discussion on this issue now so that, if we must wait until next year to act, we can do so quickly.

My hope in introducing this legislation is to ensure that CHAMPVA recipients, without regard to their type of coverage, student status, or other limitation, are eligible for health care coverage under their parent's plan in the same way as their peers. I urge my colleagues to support this necessary modification.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3801

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE OF MAXIMUM AGE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL CARE UNDER CHAMPVA PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE.—Subsection (c) of section 1781 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(c)(1) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (iii) of section 101(4)(A) of this title and except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of this section, a child who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a) shall remain eligible for benefits under this section until the child's 26th birthday, regardless of the child's marital status.

''(2) Before January 1, 2014, paragraph (1) shall not apply to a child who is eligible to enroll in an eligible employer-sponsored plan (as defined in section 5000A(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

''(3) This subsection shall not be construed to limit eligibility for coverage of a child described in section 101(4)(A)(ii) of this title.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Such subsection, as so amended, shall apply with respect to medical care provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 626—ACKNOWLEDGING AND CONGRATULATING MIAMI DADE COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. LEMIEUX) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 626

Whereas Miami Dade College opened its doors in 1960 as an institution of higher education for the residents of Miami-Dade County, Florida;

Whereas Miami Dade College became the first integrated junior college in the State of Florida, leading the way for other institutions to adopt policies of offering a higher education to persons of all races and ethnicities;

Whereas Miami Dade College has 1 of the most diverse student populations in the United States, with students from 178 countries, speaking 86 languages;

Whereas Miami Dade College has the largest enrollment of any institution of higher education in the United States, welcoming nearly 170,000 students annually;

Whereas Miami Dade College offers more than 300 major areas of study, providing educational and workforce opportunities for students seeking associate and bachelor degrees, as well as short-term certifications in critical areas of study;

Whereas Miami Dade College provides an affordable, comprehensive higher education to individuals of all incomes and backgrounds;

Whereas 52 percent of the students attending Miami Dade College are the first in their families to attend college;

Whereas 55 percent of the students attending Miami Dade College receive Pell Grants;

Whereas Miami Dade College ranks first in the United States in the amount of Pell Grant funds awarded to public institutions of higher education;

Whereas Miami Dade College is 1 of only 40 community colleges nationwide to be named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll;

Whereas Miami Dade College is a leader in cultural programming;

Whereas the Miami International Book Fair, which is sponsored by Miami Dade College, is the largest literary event in the United States;

Whereas the Miami International Film Festival, which is sponsored by Miami Dade College, is world-renowned;

Whereas Miami Dade College is the home of the Freedom Tower, a National Historic Landmark;

Whereas Miami Dade College adheres to the guiding principle of the College to change lives through the opportunity of education; and

Whereas 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Miami Dade College: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate acknowledges and congratulates Miami Dade College on the occasion of its 50th anniversary of academic excellence and service to the residents of the State of Florida.

SENATE RESOLUTION 627—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 16, 2010, AS ''THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY''

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 627

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued to the American Legion a Federal charter as a wartime veterans service organization;

Whereas the American Legion remains active in communities at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas members of the American Legion (commonly referred to as ''Legionnaires'') provide millions of hours of volunteer service to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and State homes for veterans throughout the United States;

Whereas the American Legion continues to sponsor activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars to programs focused on youth in the United States, including the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance provides grants to veterans with children experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains second to none in steadfast support of strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable and principled foreign relations agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion wrote the original draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), commonly referred to as the ''G. I. Bill of Rights'';

Whereas the American Legion continues to support employment programs and opportunities for veterans; and

Whereas Legionnaires believe that a veteran's service to the United States continues long after the veteran is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 628

Whereas the National Book Festival is a great national treasure that fosters the joy of reading;

Whereas the first National Book Festival held on September 8, 2001, was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush;

Whereas the first National Book Festival, held on the grounds of the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol, was such a success that it has become an annual event;

Whereas the National Book Festival has grown in popularity, in recent years bringing over 130,000 book lovers to the National Mall;

Whereas, each year, the National Book Festival has featured more than 70 award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers;

Whereas the National Book Festival invites readers from around the United States to celebrate books, reading, and creativity;

Whereas the National Book Festival convenes the ''Pavilion of the States'' which includes representatives from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States who discuss and distribute materials about their respective reading and literacy promotion programs;

Whereas this year the Festival has reached a milestone for both the Library of Congress and the Nation; and

Whereas the 10th National Book Festival will be held on September 25, 2010, on the National Mall, and supported by Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and emphasizes the important historic and ongoing role of the National Book Festival; and

(2) encourages the celebration of ''A Decade of Words and Wonder'' on Saturday, September, 25, 2010.

SENATE RESOLUTION 629—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the

following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 629

Whereas, from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at almost 47,800,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 5 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in public schools in the United States is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans is nearly $1,000,000,000,000, and there are more than 2,300,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and greatly contributing to the economic sector, especially retail trade, wholesale trade, food services, and construction;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 28,000 Hispanics currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 7, 2010, 561 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2009, there were approximately 1,332,033 Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas 41 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court, 1 seat in the Senate, 28 seats in the House of Representatives, and 2 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that appreciate the cultural contributions of Latinos to American life.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4618. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4618. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 633. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT OF REDUCTION OF SBP SURVIVOR ANNUITIES BY DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450, by striking subsection (c).

(B) In section 1451(c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such subchapter is further amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450—

(i) by striking subsection (e);

(ii) by striking subsection (k); and

(iii) by striking subsection (m).

(B) In section 1451(g)(1), by striking subparagraph (C).

(C) In section 1452—

(i) in subsection (f)(2), by striking ''does not apply—'' and all that follows and inserting ''does not apply in the case of a deduction made through administrative error.''; and

(ii) by striking subsection (g).

(D) In section 1455(c), by striking '', 1450(k)(2),''.

(b) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—No benefits may be paid to any person for any period before the effective date provided under subsection (f) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITION ON RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY REFUNDED TO SBP RECIPIENTS.—A surviving spouse who is or has been in receipt of an annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, that is in effect before the effective date provided under subsection (f) and that is adjusted by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) and who has received a refund of retired pay under section 1450(e) of title 10, United States Code, shall not be required to repay such refund to the United States.

(d) REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR OPTIONAL ANNUITY FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Section 1448(d) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary concerned'' and inserting ''The Secretary concerned''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—'' and all that follows through ''In the case of a member described in paragraph (1),'' and inserting ''DEPENDENT CHILDREN ANNUITY WHEN NO ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE.—In the case of a member described in paragraph (1),''; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B).

(e) RESTORATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE SPOUSES.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall restore annuity eligibility to any eligible surviving spouse who, in consultation with the Secretary, previously elected to transfer payment of such annuity to a surviving child or children under the provisions of section 1448(d)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the effective date provided under subsection (f). Such eligibility shall be restored whether or not payment to such child or children subsequently was terminated due to loss of dependent status or death. For the purposes of this subsection, an eligible spouse includes a spouse who was previously eligible for payment of such annuity and is not remarried, or remarried after having attained age 55, or whose second or subsequent marriage has been terminated by death, divorce or annulment.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The sections and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the later of—

(1) the first day of the first month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the first day of the fiscal year that begins in the calendar year in which this Act is enacted.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Treasury Department's Report on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 3 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 10 a.m. in

SD–226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Deepwater Drilling Moratorium: A Review of the Obama Administration's Economic Impact Analysis on U.S. Small Businesses.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 16, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Executive Calendar Nos. 628, 740, 741, 742, 743, 929, 931, 961, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 1006, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, and 1082; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and I now ask that the Senate proceed to Calendar Nos. 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087 and 1088, and that the nominations be confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT D. REISCHAUER

Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I want to explain why I will vote no on the nomination of Robert D. Reischauer to serve as a public trustee of the Social Security and Medicare Programs.

Although he has a Ph.D. in economics and extensive experience with Federal budgetary matters as former head of the Congressional Budget Office, Dr. Reischauer claimed that he did not understand his basic responsibility under Federal law to report income on his tax returns from 2004 to 2008. He only paid back taxes on rental property in Canada when he brought his failure to the attention of the White House during the vetting process.

On his Finance Committee questionnaire, which he signed under penalty of perjury, he claimed this was an ''oversight'' he did not discover until 2009. But in discussions with bipartisan committee staff, he appeared to tell a different story and said it was a deliberate choice he made at the time he filled out his tax returns. In the same meeting, he said he was sorry that he told the White House.

And while he said that he had offsetting expenses that would have canceled out his tax liability and produced a loss, Dr. Reischauer kept no receipts or records of those expenses, saying that he paid off workers in cash.

It appears that Dr. Reischauer was not truthful or careful about his Federal responsiblity to report income. Someone who has not earned the public trust is not qualified to be a public trustee, and that is why I oppose his confirmation.

I ask that the RECORD reflect my vote against Dr. Reischauer's confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on confirmation en bloc of Calendar Nos. 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, and 1088.

The nominations were considered and confirmed en bloc, as follows:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Jill Long Thompson, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2014.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Marilyn A. Brown, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2012.

William B. Sansom, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

Neil G. McBride, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2013.

Barbara Short Haskew, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Joshua Gotbaum, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Carl Wieman, of Colorado, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Dennis J. Toner, of Delaware, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for the remainder of the term expiring December 8, 2012.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Elisabeth Ann Hagen, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Sara Louise Faivre-Davis, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Lowell Lee Junkins, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Myles J. Watts, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Catherine E. Woteki, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

J. Patricia Wilson Smoot, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Robert M. Orr, of Florida, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Richard M. Lobo, of Florida, to be Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau, Broadcasting Board of Governors.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

Mimi E. Alemayehou, of the District of Columbia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mark Feierstein, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Nisha Desai Biswal, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Michael C. Camunez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

Charles P. Blahous III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUNDS

Charles P. Blahous III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

Charles P. Blahous III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote and lay that motion on the table; and I ask unanimous consent that no further motions be in order, that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

AMENDING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6102, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6102) to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2010 to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Navy to enter into multiyear contracts for F/A–18E, F/A–18F, and EA–18G aircraft.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the bill H.R. 6102 is an important bill. Based on authority provided in two acts, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010, the Navy and contractor team negotiated a multiyear contract for purchasing F/A–18E/F and E–18G aircraft.

The Secretary of Defense approved the Navy's request to sign such a contract. The Secretary also provided the necessary certifications required by title 10, United States Code. The independent cost estimators within the Department of Defense, the office of Cost Analysis and Program Evaluation, or CAPE, agreed with the Navy's estimate that the multiyear contract would save an estimated $590 million. Unfortunately, the Navy and the contractor team were unable to conclude negotiations by the deadlines set forth in the two acts authorizing and appropriating funds for the multiyear contract.

We should not let these savings slip through our fingers just because the Navy and contractors were not as prompt as the Congress envisioned when we passed the two acts last year. This bill would allow the Navy and the taxpayer to achieve those savings by authorizing the Navy to sign a multiyear contract for the F/A–18E/F and E–18G program despite having missed those deadlines.

I urge that the Senate pass this bill immediately.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6102) was ordered to be read the third time, was read the third time, and passed.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DAY

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 627, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 627) designating September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise in support of legislation with Senator LINCOLN, Senator COLLINS, and Senator CHAMBLISS, which would officially recognize The American Legion and its vital role in communities across the Nation, by designating September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day.''

Nothing describes the role of The American Legion more beautifully than the preamble to its constitution which is recited by its members at the beginning of every official meeting. ''For God and Country, we associated ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the Master of Might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.''

I think we all would agree that these are extremely lofty goals for any organization, but amazingly for over 90 years The American Legion has worked towards these objectives—not for themselves, but for America.

Most people are surprised to learn that The American Legion was actually founded in Paris, France. World War I veterans remembered the challenges facing wartime veterans from previous generations and vowed not to let their fellow comrades face the same hardships, especially those with service-connected disabilities. They wanted employment opportunities for returning combat veterans. They were concerned about the survivors of combat veterans who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country. And most importantly, they wanted medical care provided to the wounded and ill returning service members.

Now, as it did at its founding, The American Legion remains focused on supporting veterans, military service members, and their families. Since December 2008, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy merchandise for Wounded Warriors in military medical centers around the country. Through the ''Heroes to Hometowns'' program The American Legion helps local communities prepare ''welcome home'' events when wounded warriors are finally released from military or veterans' affairs medical centers. Since the first gulf war, The American Legion has maintained its Family Support Network which assists deployed service members and their families, especially members of the National Guard and Reserves. Some requests are for financial assistance, but other requests are simply for household chores, such as lawn work or car maintenance, that would normally be done by the soldier, sailor, airmen, or marine, were they not deployed. No request is too large or too small.

Many Legionnaires can be found in public schools on Veterans' Day or Memorial Day talking about their military service during periods of armed conflict to make sure the next generation of Americans understands the sacrifices and hardships of previous generations of wartime veterans. Legionnaires also teach students about the proper display and care of the flag of the United States.

The American Legion works closely with the American Red Cross—the largest organization of blood donors and a working partner in disaster assistance. Many American Legion Posts serve as Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency work centers in areas hit by natural disasters. Members of more than 14,000 American Legion Posts donate nearly 100,000 pints of blood to the American Red Cross each year.

The American Legion is also proud of its membership's spirit of volunteerism. Each year, Legionnaires volunteer about 1 million hours of services in VA and military medical facilities, State veterans' homes, and other such community volunteer opportunities.

And one of the most solemn of functions performed by The American Legion is providing burial details for fallen comrades of every generation. The American Legion Color Guards, Buglers and Rifle Squads perform thousands of burials in veterans' and private cemeteries around the Nation.

As all of us in this Chamber know, The American Legion remains today an active and vigorous advocate for service members, veterans, and their families here on Capitol Hill. Among its greatest legislative achievements was the enactment of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, the GI Bill of Rights. The initial draft of the GI Bill was written by Legionnaires at the Mayflower Hotel here in Washington, DC. Many consider the GI bill to be one of the greatest pieces of legislation ever enacted.

Congress presented The American Legion its Federal charter on September 16, 1919. Therefore, I think it only fitting that we proclaim September 16, 2010, ''The American Legion Day.'' I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this well-earned measure, demonstrating our respect and esteem for this outstanding organization.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 627) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 627

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued to the American Legion a Federal charter as a wartime veterans service organization;

Whereas the American Legion remains active in communities at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas members of the American Legion (commonly referred to as ''Legionnaires'') provide millions of hours of volunteer service to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and State homes for veterans throughout the United States;

Whereas the American Legion continues to sponsor activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars to programs focused on youth in the United States, including the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance provides grants to veterans with children experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains second to none in steadfast support of strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable and principled foreign relations agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion wrote the original draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), commonly referred to as the ''G. I. Bill of Rights'';

Whereas the American Legion continues to support employment programs and opportunities for veterans; and

Whereas Legionnaires believe that a veteran's service to the United States continues long after the veteran is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day''.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 628, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 628) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the National Book Festival.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 628) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 628

Whereas the National Book Festival is a great national treasure that fosters the joy of reading;

Whereas the first National Book Festival held on September 8, 2001, was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush;

Whereas the first National Book Festival, held on the grounds of the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol, was such a success that it has become an annual event;

Whereas the National Book Festival has grown in popularity, in recent years bringing over 130,000 book lovers to the National Mall;

Whereas, each year, the National Book Festival has featured more than 70 award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers;

Whereas the National Book Festival invites readers from around the United States to celebrate books, reading, and creativity;

Whereas the National Book Festival convenes the ''Pavilion of the States'' which includes representatives from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States who discuss and distribute materials about their respective reading and literacy promotion programs;

Whereas this year the Festival has reached a milestone for both the Library of Congress and the Nation; and

Whereas the 10th National Book Festival will be held on September 25, 2010, on the National Mall, and supported by Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and emphasizes the important historic and ongoing role of the National Book Festival; and

(2) encourages the celebration of ''A Decade of Words and Wonder'' on Saturday, September, 25, 2010.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 629, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 629) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. America has always celebrated its diverse heritage with pride. It has always honored those who have contributed and made this Nation great.

Irish Americans, Italian Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans—all Americans—have come to this Nation and added to the rich and colorful patchwork quilt of American democracy.

This resolution recognizes Hispanic Americans for the contributions they have made to the rich fabric of America. It designates the next 30 days as Hispanic Heritage Month and in so doing celebrates the long history of Latinos in the United States and the extraordinary contribution they have made to this Nation throughout our history. That history is clear—written boldly but sometimes little known. But this is our history in America, and it is America's history.

Latinos have proudly served this Nation, helped build it and defend it, and continue to serve today.

We have been contributing to and have been part of the American tapestry for hundreds of years. Hispanics fought for freedom alongside the patriots in the American Revolution.

Increasingly, we find references to those who came before us—Bernardo de Galvez, a Spanish army officer—the Governor of Louisiana from 1775 to 1785—who played a role in blocking British advances against George Washington in the American Revolution. And Jorge Farragut, a Spanish ship captain who came to America and fought for the colonies against the British.

He was the father of the Civil War hero ADM David Farragut, known for his famous rallying cry, ''Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead.''

I would imagine that few who walk past Farragut Square in Washington—not far from this Chamber—realize that Admiral Farragut was of Hispanic origin.

Latinos fought and died on both sides of the Civil War and have participated in every war since. There were at least 10,000 Mexican Americans fighting for the Union during the Civil War and a number of others fighting for the Confederacy.

In one of the folkloric tales of the Civil War, there was the story of Loretta Velasquez who was born in Cuba and claimed that she disguised herself as a male lieutenant and fought against Union forces at several battles, including Bull Run, and later claimed to have worked as a spy for the Confederacy.

Even in the Spanish-American War, a dozen Latinos were among Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

In World War I, an Army pilot, David Cantu Barkley of Laredo, TX, of Mexican decent volunteered to penetrate German lines in France. With a comrade, he drew maps of German positions and supplies.

Barkley drowned on the return trip, but his partner survived and carried back the logistical information. Praised by General Pershing, Barkley won the Medal of Honor. Among the heroes of World War II was marine PFC Guy ''Gabby'' Gabaldon who won the Navy Cross for capturing more than a thousand enemy soldiers in the South Pacific during the summer of 1944.

The honor and patriotism of these brave soldiers cannot be overstated.

The story of Alejandro Ruiz, an Army private who fought in Okinawa, epitomizes their commitment to this Nation and the tragedy some of them endured.

Private Ruiz's Medal of Honor citation noted his ''conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty.

. . . When an enemy soldier charged him his rifle jammed. Undaunted Private Ruiz whirled on his opponent and clubbed him down . . .

. . . Leaping from one opening to another, he sent burst after burst into the pillbox, killing 12 of the enemy and completely destroying the position . . .

. . . Private Ruiz's heroic conduct in the face of overwhelming odds, saved the lives of many of his comrades and eliminated an obstacle that long would have checked his unit's advance.''

Private Ruiz wrote in a letter: ''I never questioned my duty because I believe that as Americans we have a responsibility to serve our country and preserve our way of life and freedoms. All I can say is I did what I had to do.''

Private Ruiz served this Nation with honor. Madam President, 14,000 Hispanic soldiers served in Korea and more than 300 died; 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam war, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in those years—even though, at the time, Latinos comprised only 4.5 percent of the population.

As we speak, 28,000 Latinos currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq; 561 casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic casualties.

In fact, there are almost 1.5 million Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces in this country today who also served with honor.

And of the Hispanics who have served in uniform, 41 of them have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, including David Cantu Barkley and Private Ruiz.

This month we celebrate the contribution of all Latinos to the history of this Nation.

We celebrate the contribution of the many community leaders and local heroes in our neighborhoods, our cities, and towns, and in every State in America.

All across this Nation, the Latino population is growing. We are now the largest minority group in the country—contributing to the community, the economy, and the political debate.

Today, Hispanics hold 29 seats in the U.S. Congress, 2 in the Cabinet, and 1 on the Supreme Court.

We are no longer on the outside looking in. We are at the table on every major issue before Congress—every major issue before the courts.

I stand here, a United States Senator, a lawyer, a Hispanic American who took his seat on the floor of this Chamber not long ago and proudly cast my vote for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

That was a historic moment for me, a historic moment for the Hispanic American community, one we will never forget, but I can say with some measure of confidence, I believe it is only the beginning.

This month let us celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage but let us proudly celebrate and proclaim the history of Hispanics in America going back to the Revolution, and then let us recognize the role a new generation of young Latinos will play in making this, the 21st century, another American century.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join with me in celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to this Nation.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 629) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 629

Whereas, from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at almost 47,800,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 5 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in public schools in the United States is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans is nearly $1,000,000,000,000, and there are more than 2,300,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and greatly contributing to the economic sector, especially retail trade, wholesale trade, food services, and construction;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 28,000 Hispanics currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 7, 2010, 561 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2009, there were approximately 1,332,033 Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas 41 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court, 1 seat in the Senate, 28 seats in the House of Representatives, and 2 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that appreciate the cultural contributions of Latinos to American life.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3793

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I understand that S. 3793, introduced earlier today by Senator BAUCUS, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3793) to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning

business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3454, the Department of Defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, there will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session of the Senate. The next vote is scheduled to occur at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Defense authorization bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:13 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 20, 2010, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE ALBERT KROL, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHARLES M. OBERLY III, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE COLM F. CONNOLLY, RESIGNED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. DANIEL J. DIRE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. RONALD E. DZIEDZICKI

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT L. GAUER

To be major

JOHN C. BATKA
JENNIFER L. BAU
DAVID M. BIKO
1BRIAN T. CALLAHAN
PATRICK J. CONTINO
TARA E. COOK
OSCAR H. CORREDOR
MICHELLE D. DIMOFF
1BRENT J. HUDDLESTON
SCOTT R. JOHNSON
ONTARIO D. LAU
BRIAN LAYTON
PAMELA J. LEEJOHNSON
MORCENE MCVAY
KRISTELL L. MICHAEL
MITZI J. PALAZZOLO
BENJAMIN ROMICK
AMY A. RYN
LUKE E. STALL
ANDRE J. SULLIVAN
ANDREW J. THORESON
JARED A. TOMAN
AMANZE O. UGOJI
LUCRETIA L. VAUGHN
JEFFREY D. WATSON
RYAN C. WAYLAND
AUDREA D. WILLIAMS
RICHARD C. WOLONICK
RAJENDRA C. YANDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

ARLENE D. ADAMS
DARWIN L. ALBERTO
SIMONA C. ALLEN
MICHAEL R. E. BARRY
SHAWN M. BRANSKY
MICHAEL E. BRUHN
KENNETH E. BURKETT
KEVIN K. BYNUM
STEPHEN J. CASIMIR
EDWARD M. CASSIN
JOSEPH R. DELL
RICHARD K. ELMORE
CHRISTOPHER J. ESTRIDGE
SHARIEF M. FAHMY
GREGORY S. FELTENBERGER
HEIDI SPALT HASTINGS
IDONA E. HENRY
JEREMY N. HOOPER
MERLYN JENKINS
ROBERT A. JENNESS
MIN YEN JUNG
RICHARD A. KELLER
ANDREW C. LATTIMORE
ANTONIO D. LOVE
WINSTON L. MASSEY
DAVID E. MCCLINTOCK II
RUSSELL E. NAIL, JR.
ROBERT D. PELTZER
DAVID J. PHILLIPS
PERRY STANSBURY
MICHAEL J. STONE
ANGELA M. THOMPSON
CHARLES J. TWEDT
MARTIN G. VALLES
CHRISTOPHER A. VAUGHN
BRADLEY D. WEAST
DUANE R. WEBSTER
VICTOR D. WEEDEN, JR.
KENNETH W. WHITLOCK
AMY S. WOOSLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MARIANNE E. ALANIZ
DWAYNE A. BACA
ROBERT D. BARRIENTOS
ANGELA S. BARRONS
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS BENDER
JONATHAN A. BERGMANN
BRUCE L. BLACKMAN
DANIEL R. BOWEN
KEVIN M. BOZZI
ALEJANDRO BRECEDA
QUINETTE ALEXANDER BROWN
CHRISTOPHER M. CABANA
LISA D. CARR
MICHAEL A. CLEMENT
CATHLEEN F. CONNOLLY
STEVEN B. DADD
TIMOTHY M. DEATER
MICHELLE L. DESROCHERS
GABRIEL R. DINOFRIO
ERIC L. DOGGETT
WADE S. EVANS
RYAN A. GABEL
STELLA E. V. GARCIA
GLEN N. GILSON
CHRISTOPHER G. GONZALES
MICHAEL T. HAMILTON
KATE HARLEY
LIANA LUCAS HERNANDEZ
EDYTA J. HILYARD
DENISE M. HOLLOWAY
BRYAN KA JERNIGAN
PERRY J. JOHNS
ERIC W. KERR
MICHAEL D. KING
KELLY S. LESNICK
THOMAS A. LIPSCOMB
DANA JOSEPHINE LONGO
JENNIFER LAURIE MARTINEZ
ANDREW J. MATTERN
JENNIFER A. MCCOY
MICHAEL PATRICK METZ
DWANA K. METZGER
TIMOTHY A. MORRIS
TONYA M. MOSER
ROBERT J. ORLANDO
MARK W. OVERLIE
CHRISTOPHER M. PALUMBO
KEVIN S. RAMSEY
DON T. ROUSSEAUX
ROBERT B. RUSSIN
BRANDI L. SALDEEN
JAMES S. SANDVIG
JEFFREY B. SCHULER
PAMELA K. SMALLWOOD
TERI L. SMITH
CARMAL A. TERRELL
DANIEL S. TURNER
THADDEUS D. TURNER
JAMES D. ULRICH
RAYNOLD E. VINCENT, JR.
CHRISTOPHER W. WEEKS
DAVID L. WHITNEY
MARK L. WIMLEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

THOMAS E. KOERTGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

EDWARD B. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

TIMOTHY S. ALLISON-AIPA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

VICKIE M. JESTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

BERNARD H. HOFMANN
GREGORY SEAN F. MCDOUGAL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHARLES L. CLARK

To be major

OKSANA BOYECHKO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

ALLEN L. FEIN

To be major

ROSTYLAV R. SZWAJKUN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ROBERT KIRK
TIMOTHY M. SNAVELY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

PAULA OLIVER

To be major

LAURA M. CHO
MICHAEL A. KELLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

AMANDA J. CONLEY
KIMBERLY A. OKEEFE
JEFFREY E. POUNDING
RONNIE L. RIDNER
DONALD L. ROLPH
THOMAS F. SPENCER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

JEFFREY D. ALLEN
MICHAEL T. BENTLEY
GEORGE F. KRANSKE
JAMES A. SEVERSON

To be major

ANDREW M. ADAMS
DAVID F. KHAN

RYAN C. NOMURA
MATTHEW A. PINTUR
TIMOTHY REYNOLDS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U. S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

DIXIE J. BURNER
AMANDA C. CHRISTY
DAREN C. HARRISON
KARYN A. HAVAS
ANDREA L. HENDERSON
CHRISTIAN C. HOFER
MATTHEW M. JOHNSON
KEITH A. KOISTINEN
JARED MADDEN
SHANNON T. MARKO
ERIN K. MORRIS
GLEESON MURPHY
JEREMIAH L. NELSON
VICKY J. PAYNE
JODI K. SANGSTER
ANGELA M. SCHMILLEN
BRIAN W. SMITH
MARY E. SPRANGEL
KELLY M. STILL
ELIZABETH A. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MICHELL L. AUCK
MARK A. AZEL
EDWARD B. BALDWIN III
SEAN P. BANNISTER
MICHAEL V. BEAN
TROY L. BIDEZ
MICHAEL A. BLACK
ANTHONY J. BOHL
DEWAYNE BRAMLETT
MARJORIE A. BURNISTON
AVERY J. CARNEY
SCOTT D. CAROW
MONICA L. CASMAER
NICOLE K. CHARBONNEAU
JON B. CHRISTENSEN
LOUIS D. COULY, JR.
DAVID A. COX
WILLIAM C. CRANSTON
AARON J. CRONIN
MICHAEL S. CROWELL
RYAN A. CURTIS
JAIME H. DAVILA
CHARLES D. DAY
MARGIE J. DECK
JUSTIN T. DECKER
GERALD D. DEPOLD
BETHANY A. DESCHAMPS
WALTER D. ENGLE
TERRANCE T. FEE
DOUGLAS S. FOSTER
JOHN P. FRASURE
EWA N. GARNER
CHRISTOPHER J. GEORGIANA
TERRI L. GURROLA
JOHN E. HENDRICKS, JR.
CHRISTINE A. IVERSON
AARON G. KIDD
TODD P. KIELMAN
JOHN W. KNIGHT III
BRIAN M. KRUSTCHINSKY
SCOTT M. KULLA
KIMBERLY A. LATHAM
EUARDO F. LIMONTA
KEITH A. LUND
GREGORY D. MCCRUM
JOSEPH M. MILLER
MATTHEW S. MILLER
STEWART L. MILLER
DANIE T. MONTANO
RICHARD MORAVEC
JASON F. NAYLOR
DWAYNE A. NELSON
JESSIE NORTON
JESSICA A. ORTH
DANIEL I. RHON
JOHN B. ROBINSON
JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ
SHARON L. ROSSER
JONATHAN L. SAXE
NATHAN M. SETKA
DALE S. SHARP
MARTHA A. SMITH
MICHAEL P. SMITH
ANDY H. SONG
ERIN J. STIBRAL
JON E. STUBBLEFIELD
WADE A. SWATSWORTH
DERIK H. SWEE
CLEVE B. SYLVESTER
BART M. TERRITO
RICHARD H. TODD
BRANDON C. WAMPLER
LANCE M. WARE
CONNIE R. WELCH
JEROME J. WENNINGER, JR.
LARRY A. WYATT
DAVID A. ZELLER, JR.
D010491

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

LANEICE L. ABDELSHAKUR
FRANCIS K. AGYAPONG
DIANA C. ANDERSON
ALBERT ARREDONDO, JR.
JOHN G. AVERY
JULIE A. BANTA
MARK S. BARROWS
JOSEPH S. BELTZ
MARGARET S. BERRYMAN
TRISHA A. BIELSKI
ANN D. BIGGER
DEANDRA D. BRILL
KRISTINE P. BROGER
CHARLES A. BROOMELL
MARIA I. BRUTON
DEVIN Y. BRYANT
CYNTHIA BUCHANAN
ROBERT G. BURDINE, JR.
JAMES T. CAMPBELL, JR.
ROBERT M. CARTER
BENJAMIN G. CARTWRIGHT
DAVID S. CASE
JOHN S. CHEATWOOD
JO A. CLARK
THOMAS B. CLARK
KARLA R. CLARKE
JACQUELYN M. CLINE
RONALD D. COLE
JOSHUA B. COMPTON
DENISE L. COOPER
CHRIS R. DALY
RANDY L. DAVIS
RAMONA I. DECKER
CHARLES W. DENSEVICH
LAKISHA S. DIXON
ROBERT W. DUNCAN
WADE G. DUNLAP
KAKA ECHERE
MASHANDRA D. ELAM
LAKISHA N. FLAGG
SATIVA M. FRANKLIN
SHAWN P. GALLAGHER
RICHELLE L. GOODIN
ANITA E. GOULD
WINIFRED M. GRADY
RACHEL C. GREVE
GARY W. GULICKSON
ERNEST K. HAFNER
JADE M. HAMEL
KNOX M. HARRIOTT
BENITA L. HARRIS
TRAVIS M. HAWKSLEY
FELISIA M. HIBBLER
JEFFREY S. HILLIS
ANDREW J. HOVER
MYRNA B. HOWSON
NEIL S. HURD
KYONG S. HYATT
KYNDRA A. JACKSON
LAURA JEFFREY
AARON R. JOHNSTON
HUI S. JONES
LORRY KELLEY
VALERIE L. KENNEY
UN C. KIM
LAURA C. KRAEMER
LINDA M. LANDIS
ANN H. LATURNO
THOMAS E. LAVER
DEVON J. LEHMAN
RALPH L. LUELLEN III
EDWARD W. MACAULEY
JACOB H. MACGREGOR
JASON K. MARQUART
CARRASCO O. MARTINEZ
BARBARA A. MCCOTTRY
AMY M. MCINTOSH
ANDREA L. MCRAE
HEIDI E. MILLER
JACKY A. MILLER
ALEXANDER K. MISIEWICZ
MEGAN C. MOAKLER
DANIELLE L. MOLINAR
NORMAN E. MORRIS
NANCY R. MOSINSKI
WILLIAM O. MURRAY
ANTOINETTE C. MYLES
MICHAEL J. NEILL
EVAN S. NONAKA
LINDA F. NUNNPRIDGEN
ELIZABETH M. NUTTER
MONICA OFFENBACHERLOONEY
TIMOTHY W. ORCUTT
ADRIANA C. ORTIZCOFFIE
LUCIA J. PARK
VALENTINO I. PARRIS
MARJORIE A. PARTRIDGE
LEONARDO P. PASCUAL, JR.
ELAINE E. PASZKOWSKI
SUSAN K. PIERSON
UTE C. POEPSEL
TRACI L. PRAYNER
MICAEL REUTER
CINDY L. ROBERTS
LUIS R. RODRIGUEZ
ANGELA L. ROSARIO
MATTHEW W. RUEMMLER
JACQUELINE M. RUSHTON
KAREN S. SCHMALENBERGER
DAWN M. SCHMIDT
ROBIN L. SHELTON
ASHLEY E. SHUPE
ANTHONY P. SMITH
SHENIN D. SPARKS
CHRISTINA M. STEIMLE
KARL A. STEWART
KYLE T. SUNADA
DAVID A. TAIT
MESHELLE A. TAYLOR
JEFFREY S. TEBBS
TOMMY L. THOMPSON
KELLEY C. TOGIOLA
DOLORES P. TONEY
LAURA D. VANDERMARTIN
APRIL S. VELASQUEZ
CAROLYN H. WATSON
LISA P. WHITE
OMAR S. WHITE
TIMOTHY R. WHOOLERY
LYDIA WILKERSON
JULIE B. WILLIAMS
VERNICE F. WILLIAMS
JOHN E. WILSON, JR.
KYONG I. WINKLER
JENNIFER E. WISSEMANN
DAN M. WOOD
ANTOINETTE W. WOOTEN
RAYMOND L. WRIGHT
SASHI A. ZICKEFOOSE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

JOSEPH H. AFANADOR
ALICIA L. ALEXANDER
MICHAEL A. ALLUMS II
FERDY A. AMEH
PAULA R. AMUNDSON
KRISTI M. ANDREWS
TONIA D. ASHTON
KATHY L. BABIN
JOSHUA C. BAKER
STEVEN M. BARR
JEFFREY I. BASS
JOSHUA D. BAST
SAMANTHA M. BENESH
TIMOTHY K. BERTUCCO
RYAN S. BIBLE
LOGAN M. BLANK
LISA M. BOHLER
ANTHONY A. BOROWSKI
ANTHONY L. BRADWAY
NOLAN C. BRANDT
LANDON R. BRETHOUWER
ANITA J. BRITT
CHRISTINA M. BUCHNER
JIMMIE J. BUTCHER
WILLIAM H. CALLAHAN
TIA W. CAPHART
KATHLEEN M. CHUNG
NIKEYA D. CLARKSON
ESTILL R. COLLINS, JR.
HENRY C. COX
WILLIAM H. DAVIS
JAMES H. DAY
JASON T. DEBOER
ERIK F. DEFREITAS
GEORGE M. DEGUZMAN
JESSE DELGADO
LISA M. DENNIS
GRACE L. DEWARS
KEVIN M. DOHERTY
CHARLES L. DOUGLAS
SCOTT B. DRIVER
DEANNA DURAN
LATAYA E. DUREN
KENNETH W. EMERSON
CHRISTOPHER L. EVANS
JAMES W. FABIA
PEGGY Y. FANCHER
SCOTT M. FARLEY
ROBERT P. FEDERIGAN
JENNIFER A. FILIATREAU
NICOLE R. FRENCH
TODD R. FURBACHER
ROGER I. GARRETT, SR.
MATTHEW C. GEIMAN
KRISTINE T. GILLETTE
MICHELLE L. GLENN
LAURIE L. GODIN
CHRISTOPHER M. GREENE
RYAN GRIPPIN
MELISSA GUE
CHRISTOPHER J. GUENTHNER
JOSHUA J. HANDORF
ALIDA M. HANNAH
JAYME K. HANSEN
MICHAEL HARTENSTINE
JASON J. HAUK
WALTER L. HAWKINS
RONALD A. HENELY
DAVID V. HINDMAN
HEATH D. HOLT
BRYAN J. HUNSAKER
LEIF O. IBSEN
DALMAR A. JACKSON
ERICA L. JEFFERSON
DAVID W. JOHNSON
JACOB D. JOHNSON
RACQUEL O. JUNIO
EDWIN KAMAU
WILLIAM K. KEENER
GERALD G. KELLAR
ADAM D. KELLER
LEIF V. LALONE
PAUL D. LANG

CHARLOTTE A. LANTERI
DONG Y. LEE
RANDOLPH A. LEONPIEVE
KEVIN R. LESTER
PAMELA D. LEWIS
KYLE W. LINDHOLM
AARON LOZANO
GORDON J. LYONS
ALYSON M. MALONE
ALEXANDER L. MANGINDIN
ANTHONY J. MARINOS
LUIS A. MARTINEZ
TERRY H. MATZ
JERRY A. MAYERS
DONALD L. MAZZA
JOHN MBUE
VICTORIA M. MCCARTHY
DANIEL MCHUGH
DONALD J. MCNEIL
GABRIEL L. MEDLEY
MICHELLE G. MEDWICK
MARIO R. MESA
DENISE M. MILHORN
SHANE V. MILLER
JULIE A. MITCHELL
ANGELA M. MOBBS
CHARLES A. MOORE
JASON P. MORAN
SCOTT D. MRAS
CHRISTIAN NELSON
PETER V. NUNN
OSCAR A. OCHOA
CAMPOS R. ORTIZ
SHERYL E. PEDERSEN
FRANK A. PETRASSI
MATTHEW PIERCE
TONY PIERSON
DUKE D. POORE
EDWARD O. PRICE
BENJAMIN QI
EDGARDO RAMIREZ
RICHARD RAMOS
ERIC D. RHODES
JENNIE E. RICHEY
JASON L. RIHA
MARY I. RIVERACOLON
LUIS A. ROCHA
TAMEKA L. ROGERS
TANNER J. ROY
STACY RUSHING
GREGORY A. RUSHTON
ERIK N. RUSSELL
ALEX C. SANDERS
KEITH H. SCHMIDT
STEPHEN T. SCHMIDT
DAVID P. SENSIBA
ALEX SHILMAN
NAOMI L. SKINNER
KYLE A. SMITH
LARRY N. SMITH
NICHOLAS R. SONG
MOISES SOTO
ANTHONY J. SPEARS
KIMBERLY A. SPECK
STEPHEN R. SPULICK
MARTHA A. STANY
ALAN H. STOREY, JR.
SETH O. SWARTZ
MICHAEL TAYE
JOHN W. TAYLOR
LINDSAY A. TEPLESKY
FRED B. TERRADO, JR.
CHARLES M. TESSMAN, SR.
FELICIA L. THOMAS
NICOLE A. THOMAS
REYNALDO M. TORRES
KRISTINE TOWNSEND
BRIAN C. TRIPP
WALTER J. UNRUH
JERRY D. VANVACTOR
JANET N. VAUGHN
ANGELA L. VENEY
CHAD D. VERMILLION
HILDEHARDO F. VIADO, JR.
SCOTT L. VIAL
RORY K. WALLEY
CHRISTOPHER J. WASHACK
LASHONIA R. WHITE
KELLY W. WILHELMS
JEFFREY A. WYATT
JASON R. YELLMAN
RU Z. ZHAO
D006694
D010299

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

VICTOR JOHN CATULLO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be commander

WILLIAM A. MIX

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW L. HEARP
JOHN H. STEELY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

RONALD K. BACH
TODD A. ZVORAK

To be commander

JOHN F. DEZZANI
JOSEPH J. MCINERNEY

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER S. FRONK
WALDEMAR A. KILIAN
ELISABET PRIETO
ANTHONY R. RANESES
ANNA A. ROSS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, September 16, 2010:

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

JILL LONG THOMPSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 21, 2014.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

MARILYN A. BROWN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2012.

WILLIAM B. SANSOM, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2014.

NEIL G. MCBRIDE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2013.

BARBARA SHORT HASKEW, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2014.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

JOSHUA GOTBAUM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CARL WIEMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

DENNIS J. TONER, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2012.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ELISABETH ANN HAGEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

SARA LOUISE FAIVRE-DAVIS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION.

LOWELL LEE JUNKINS, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION.

MYLES J. WATTS, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERAL AGRICULTURAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CATHERINE E. WOTEKI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

FRANCISCO J. SANCHEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ROBERT M. ORR, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

RICHARD M. LOBO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BUREAU, BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

MIMI E. ALEMAYEHOU, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MARK FEIERSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

NISHA DESAI BISWAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MICHAEL C. CAMUNEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUNDS

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD—AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUNDS

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

CHARLES P. BLAHOUS, III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ROBERT D. REISCHAUER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF CHARLES W. MEYERS, SR.

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles W. Meyers, Sr., a much beloved San Francisco community leader and public servant, who passed away on September 12. Charlie enthusiastically gave his energy in service of the city and the country he loved. He will be remembered for his big heart, generous spirit, and the unwavering devotion of his friendship.

A proud native son of San Francisco, Charlie discovered his passion for public service early in life. After enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving in World War II, he was elected to the State Assembly as a 28 year old—making him one of the youngest members of the legislature at the time.

As an Assemblyman for the next 22 years, Charlie vigorously sought to improve employer-employee relations. He is an author of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, which still stands as the state law regulating employee relations in the public sector.

Charlie's involvement in San Francisco life, however, went far beyond his work in the state legislature. He was a valued member and active supporter of many organizations, including the San Francisco Forum, Knights of Columbus, Disabled American Veterans, and the United Irish Cultural Center. In 2007, he was honored for his work in public service by his alma mater, the University of San Francisco.

San Franciscans have lost a beloved friend. I hope it is a comfort to his beloved wife Alene, his children Charlene Hansen, Chip Meyers, and Gerri Brown, and his many grandchildren that many San Franciscans join them in mourning his passing.

HONORING AMERICAN TROOPS WHO DIED ON D–DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 1251, which recognizes and honors the United States troops who fought and died on D-day at the Battle of Normandy.

On June 6, 1944, the Western Allies landed in Northern France and opened up a major military offensive against the Nazi German forces. After 5 years of worldwide warfare, the Normandy invasion proved to be a critical turning point in pushing the United States and its allied forces to victory. D-day remains one of the greatest beach landings in world history, involving nearly 3 million troops crossing the English Channel from England to Normandy in occupied France. The collective cost to the United States was terribly high, including more than 29,000 killed and 106,000 wounded and missing.

As a Member of Congress and the daughter of a World War II veteran, I believe I have a duty to honor the men and women who courageously served our country and gave their lives at the Battle of Normandy. Earlier this summer, I had the privilege of visiting the Battle of Normandy Memorial Museum during a congressional delegation and was able to get an up-close look at the strength and resilience of the Americans who served in the United States armed forces during the invasion of Normandy.

Our country owes all veterans of this conflict a great debt for their service.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. RONALD TAYLOR

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Ronald Taylor, a devoted father, grandfather, mentor, friend, entrepreneur, and United States Veteran, whose joyous life continues to be focused on family, faith, and service to community.

Born in Wichita, Kansas on February 10, 1930, Mr. Taylor was the only child of parents Russell and Mildred Taylor. He moved frequently with his family until settling in Cleveland, Ohio. His parents taught him the importance of hard work, family and faith. They guided him toward a solid education and supported all of his athletic endeavors. While attending Central High School in Cleveland, Mr. Taylor excelled in athletics and broke Jesse Owens' high jump record. Mr. Taylor's record still stands today. He continues to use the experiences of his youth to teach and guide his own children and grandchildren.

Mr. Taylor blazed a path of independence and achievement. He attained the level of Eagle Scout, only the second African American in Ohio to do so at the time. While attending Miami University of Ohio, he was a member of the U.S. Air Force ROTC. He was drafted into the U.S. Army, and served honorably during WWII. He later continued his studies and became an attorney and real estate broker. He owned several successful law, tax and real estate businesses in Chicago, Cleveland and Las Vegas. He continues to run a successful law practice, Ron Taylor & Associates, in Oak Park, Illinois.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ronald Taylor, who continues to serve as a leader and the foundation of his family. Mr. Taylor will join this Labor Day weekend with his children, Kevin, Rennie, Reginald, Leah, Michael, Ron Taylor, Jr., Ron II, Ronnetta, and Robin; his grandchildren; and his extended family to celebrate faith, family and tradition. Mr. Taylor continues to be a source of strength and inspiration to his family and friends, and I wish him and the entire Taylor family continued blessings of peace and joy.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL GOLDING

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Phil Golding, 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. Phil Golding was recognized on Tuesday, August 24. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: PHIL GOLDING

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Not all military experiences are life-changing tales, fraught with peril and excitement.

For former Boone County resident Phil Golding, his experiences in the military were rather mundane.

He was never shot at, ''to my knowledge,'' he said. He never received, nor wanted, a Purple Heart. A Boone resident for nearly 50 years, Golding, however, recalls his times in the United States Army with fond memories, with his three most volatile army jobs being battery clerk, gas truck driver and ammo truck driver.

Golding was inducted into the U.S. Army at Camp Dodge from Glidden, Iowa, in Carroll County, assigned to active duty on July 3, 1943, ''policing the camp grounds for cigarette butts'' prior to the crowds of visitors swarming into the area.

''I was given a G.I. haircut, clothes and equipment, then sent to a tank destroyer facility at Camp Hood, Texas, for four months of infantry basic training before spending 4½ months on campus at the University of Illinois in the Army Specialized Training Program ostensibly to be an engineer,'' Golding recalled. ''This changed when the war in Africa, Italy and Europe called for fresh blood.''

Golding, along with hundreds of other ''non-essentials,'' as he referred to himself, were transported by troop train to the Eighth Armored Division at Camp Polk, La.

Before long, they would be replacing armored units in combat zones, but first there were inspections.

''We spent the hot summer of 1944 being inspected to death before the Germans got a shot at us,'' Golding said. ''We boarded a troop ship in early fall. Somewhere, mid-Atlantic, a couple hundred of us below deck playing cards, writing home or reading, when something big banged hard against the bulkhead only a few feet away! We never knew what, but one officer didn't wait to panic, he went bananas, bounding up the stairway shouting, 'Don't panic . . . let me outta here! Let me outta here!' ''

It was a couple months later when the group ate their Thanksgiving turkey in what Golding referred to as ''Jolly ol' England.'' After next celebrating Christmas with an English family, they finally received their equipment on New Years Day: tanks, trucks, 105 mm howitzers, and more.

The soldiers were rushed across the channel to Europe, but the Battle of the Bulge was over by then, so the troops were held behind the front lines, in reserve, freezing in France for six long, cold weeks.

Golding recalls an incident next that happened in a muddy orchard.

''We then pulled our trucks, heavy with ammo, into a pretty Dutch orchard, just before the frost left, leaving our trucks axle-deep in sod, eight-wheelers spinning, wench cables straining and shear pins shearing,'' he said. ''After the tank-retriever drug us out one by one, the poor Dutchman's grove looked like a plowed field. Even the road past his farm looked plowed, ready to plant.''

He also recalls a spectacular site during his time overseas serving in the Army.

''Watching the bombers go east, then back west, with bomb bays open and parachute cords trailing was thrilling—we knew our paratroopers were on the other side of the river, waiting for us to cross the Rhine River on a pontoon bridge,'' Golding said. ''The day after on the far side of the river was a different thrill when our captain circled our trucks on a hill, visible for miles, and we took a few German artillery rounds. Not much happened where we were, I hurried dressing and moved from the 200 rounds of steel cased white phosphorus 105 mm artillery shells in our truck, which was my bed the night before.''

The end of World War II was a strange sight for Golding. He recalls that he was near the Elbe River when he awoke to the scene.

''I got up one morning and wandered out the back side of our barracks and there was a whole battalion with rifles stacked and lining up at a chow truck for breakfast, it took me a minute to realize this was a German battalion getting fed, with rifles stacked, apparently unconcerned that they were in the backyard of a bunch of American G.I.s, who also seemed unconcerned,'' he said. ''More curious than concerned.''

And so, the war ended, and Golding returned home to Boone, happy for his military experience, and happy for his safe return, albeit with a few more entertaining stories than when he left.

''Compared to most, my experiences in the U.S. Army were mundane, thank the Lord,'' Golding said.

I commend Phil Golding 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 50 YEARS OF COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION AT EXELON NUCLEAR'S DRESDEN GENERATING STATION

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the completed construction of Exelon Nuclear's Dresden Unit 1 facility, celebrating 50 years of safe, reliable, nuclear generated electricity at the Dresden site. Employees and guests will be celebrating this achievement on Wednesday, September 22, 2010.

On August 1, 1960, Dresden Unit 1 entered commercial operation and became the nation's first full-scale, privately financed commercial nuclear power plant. This feat alone marks a great accomplishment in human technological advancement, but also an incredible contribution towards the advancement of our society and the growth of surrounding communities.

Construction of Dresden Unit 1 began in June of 1957 on a site at the mouth of the Illinois River near Morris, just 60 miles southwest of Chicago, and began generating electricity on April 15, 1960. Dresden Unit 1's success was followed by the completion of Dresden Units 2 and 3 in 1970 and 1971, respectively. Although Unit 1 has since been placed in dormancy, Units 2 and 3 continue to generate electricity for our local communities.

Madam Speaker, I also rise to commemorate the approximate 950 employees of the Dresden generation facility, and congratulate all employees, past and present, for their hard work and contributions towards making our communities and our country a better place to live and for showing the world of the benefits of clean and efficient nuclear energy.

With Dresden's annual contributions to the local United Way, its sponsorship of the Grundy County Corn Festival fireworks display and other donations and sponsorships to community organizations and events, the Dresden Generating Station is a shining example of social responsibility and investing in the local community.

As the 11th Congressional District is also home to Dresden's sister-plants, Braidwood and LaSalle, I am proud to represent this facility in the United States Congress and I give thanks for all of Dresden's past successes and wish it the best in the future.

RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNUAL LA PLAZA'S FIESTA

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th Annual La Plaza Fiesta Indianapolis, which is held in Indiana's 7th district. La Plaza's Fiesta serves as a celebration and representation of the Hispanic culture and its contribution to the fabric of this nation.

Since 1980, La Plaza's Fiesta has been the premiere Latino cultural celebration in Indiana. It is an outdoor event held during National Hispanic Heritage Month to educate and share the Latino culture through diverse mediums including art, music, dance, food and cultural activities. La Plaza's Fiesta also celebrates the Hispanic community's contributions in business, education, government and the arts.

Year after year, La Plaza's Fiesta provides an opportunity to enrich the lives of all Americans by providing an opportunity to explore the rich and unique Hispanic heritage and traditions. La Plaza's Fiesta is a great avenue for people from all walks of life to learn that our unique cultures and histories unify—not divide us. We all have life experiences that can help each other and our next generations, regardless of our gender, ethnicity or race.

I want to congratulate La Plaza's Fiesta Indianapolis on their 30th anniversary. In your long history, you have enriched the lives of those who attend this event, the City of Indianapolis and our Latino community. It is an honor to represent a district as culturally diverse as Indianapolis, and our great city is privileged to host this event

A TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANNETTE POLLY WILLIAMS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, a dear former colleague and mentor to new legislators and a great stateswoman, Rep. Annette Polly Williams. She is the longest serving woman in the history of the Wisconsin State Legislature. Rep. Williams is retiring from public office after 30 years of outstanding service to her constituents.

Affectionately known as Polly, she was born in the Mississippi Delta region of Belzoni, Mississippi and moved to Milwaukee when she was 10 years old. She is a product of the public school system and fellow graduate of North Division High School. Rep. Williams is committed to ensuring that all children receive access to a good education. Out of her passion to and commitment for education, she became the author/mother of the nation's first true Educational Parental Choice Legislation.

Rep. Williams has made her mark in other areas. She founded the Black Women's Network, the Milwaukee Parental Assistance Center; the Black Leadership Organization. Further, she was the co-founder of the African American Alliance providing political leadership to Milwaukee's African American community; founding member of the Wisconsin African American Women's Center; and served as the co-host for the ''Tuesday Morning Breakfast Club'' on a local radio station for many years.

Polly is a treasure to our community and will continue her service to those in need. Whether it is someone who has lost a loved one, experienced a natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina or local flooding, Polly will be there providing compassion and support.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in a salute to Rep. Annette Polly Williams. We wish her well in a retirement that is full of new challenges.

HONORING SAMUEL TABLER FOR USDA SERVICE IN IRAQ

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Samuel Tabler for his service, sacrifice and commitment to establishing stability and

security in Iraq. Tabler taught Iraqis the agriculture lessons he learned from his own experiences working for the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Agricultural Research Service.

Tabler served in the Babil Province region of Iraq from 2009 to 2010. While in Iraq, he worked with the Babil Beekeepers Association and oversaw the construction of a honey processing and breeding facility. Tabler also worked to develop and introduce new technologies to area farmers that increased agricultural productivity.

By empowering Iraqis with knowledge and best practices to improve their agriculture industry Tabler has helped create opportunities for development and long-term economic viability in Iraq. Tabler's devotion to helping others in need is a great example of selfless Arkansas values. I am so proud of his accomplishments and the opportunities he helped create for Iraqi citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE GREATER PALM BEACH AREA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter of the American Red Cross on receiving the Outstanding Chapter Award from the International Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center for the work of chapter volunteers in their community outreach programs. This is the top honor awarded by the International Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center, a national clearinghouse for persons seeking the fates of loved ones missing since the Holocaust and its aftermath.

The Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter has been delivering lifesaving services for over ninety years, providing relief to victims of disasters at home and abroad, teaching lifesaving skills, and supporting military members and families. This chapter, which covers most of the 23rd Congressional district, serves the counties of Glades, Hendry, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach, and reaches a population of 1.5 million residents. The Red Cross has operated this specialized tracing service for the past 19 years.

I commend the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter's leadership, staff and volunteers for their commitment to engage the community and diligently manage the influx of new requests to the Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Center. The Tracing Service offers to search for information about missing and deceased family members through personal services that are comprehensive, confidential and free of charge. The Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter has engaged the local Jewish communities, agencies and volunteers through notable educational outreach programs.

The Outstanding Chapter Award will be presented to volunteer leaders from the Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter of the American Red Cross at a special luncheon celebrating the Tracing Center's 20th anniversary in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 27, 2010, featuring keynote speaker Gail McGovern, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross provides an exemplary paradigm for providing support and answers to Holocaust survivors and their families. The Tracing Center is seventy percent successful in its tracing cases, having reunited 1,500 families and provided documents such as birth certificates and concentration camp records to others.

Madam Speaker, I am especially pleased with this Chapter's award because, in a sense, it brings my involvement with the Tracing Service full circle. Years ago I, along with several of my colleagues, was a strong advocate for opening the Tracing Service's archives to the public and worked with the German government and the International Committee of the Red Cross to do so. In opening the archive in 2007, Germany and the ICRC provided an invaluable service to humanity. The Greater Palm Beach Area Chapter award demonstrates the extent to which thousands of Holocaust survivors and their families in South Florida have benefited from this service.

Madam Speaker, the Center for Information on Holocaust Restitution estimates that five to ten survivors die each day. The urgency of affected family members initiating tracing services cannot be overstated. My local Red Cross has shown true dedication in assisting families in telling the stories of those who perished in the Holocaust, in discovering names and dates that have long been thought to be lost, and in giving families the necessary information so that they may pass on legacies and the truth. The Tracing Center's motto says it best: ''Every Answer is a Gift.''

Again, congratulations to the Greater Palm Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross on gaining national recognition for their enduring commitment to Holocaust survivors, their families, and the memory of those who were lost.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, this week the House pauses to remember those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on our nation some nine years ago. My district suffered casualties that day, including Cranbury, New Jersey businessman Todd Beamer. Todd's words, ''Let's Roll'', were the prelude to the first act in striking back against the terrorist who had hijacked Flight 93. His sacrifice and that of the other passengers and crew aboard Flight 93 undoubtedly save many lives that terrible day. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Lisa, and his children, David, Drew, and Morgan Kay, and to all the other families who lost loved ones on that day.

Nine years later, the memory of that terrible day remains fresh for those who lost someone dear to them. At the memorial service in Middletown in my district, we recalled the names of the fallen, including Stephen Cangialosi, Kathleen Hunt, Robert Parks, Edward Desimone, and Brendan and Roseanne Lang—just some of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. My thoughts also turned to Richard Guadagno, formerly of Trenton and the manager of the Humbolt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, who perished on Flight 93. We owe debt of gratitude to the families of the victims for pressing for an investigation into how the attacks happened and how to prevent future tragedies. Kristin Breitweiser, Nikki Stern, Ginny Bauer, and other affected families from across the country demonstrated the power of citizen action. We will never forget these people, nor the courage and dedication of those they left behind and who continue to remind of us of the need to honor their memory and their sacrifice.

I've spent many of my years in Congress since the 9/11 attacks working to prevent a repeat of that tragedy. We are safer today in many ways than before 9/11, but there is still much for us to do. The best way we can honor those Americans who lost their lives on that day is to continue working to make our country safer still. Osama bin Laden and his band of murderers inflicted great physical harm on our country and our citizens, but neither he nor terrorists like him will never be able to break our spirit or cause us to walk away from our friends around the world.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARNEGIE WEST LIBRARY OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Carnegie West Library, a cornerstone of the Cleveland Public Library system, located in the heart of Cleveland's historic Ohio City neighborhood.

Named after American visionary and leader in the advancement of libraries, Andrew Carnegie, the ornate building was designed by internationally renowned architect Edward Tilton. Built by artisans, craftsman and stone experts, the restored exterior of the building is graced with the beauty of terracotta, red brick, limestone, intricate floral motifs and medallions. The interior is highlighted with original painted murals that reflect scenes from classic children's literature.

Throughout the past century, the programs and services have expanded, yet the mission of the library has remained the same: to provide a creative environment where imagination is inspired and where learning flourishes. The Carnegie West Library offers numerous programs and services to patrons of all ages—including computer classes, film festivals and workshops. Additionally, the Library has a legacy of strong neighborhood bonds and community outreach. The Carnegie West Library provides free lunches and reading clubs for children after school and during the summer months.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the founding members, dedicated staff, volunteers and every patron of the Carnegie West Library. For an entire century, this library has inspired and enriched the minds and hearts of tens of thousands of visitors of all ages. Their vision ''to be the learning place for a diverse community, inspiring people of all ages with the love of books and reading, advancing the pursuit of

knowledge, and enhancing the quality of life for all who use the library'' continues to enrich our community—and is a critical part of the educational and social advancement of our entire society.

TRIBUTE TO GALEN WILEY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Galen Wiley, 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. Galen Wiley was recognized on Tuesday, July 27. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: GALEN WILEY

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Galen Wiley, 93, nurtured a passion for flight in his time in the Army Air Corps. It would help shape the rest of his life and give him a pursuit that would eventually include an airport bearing his name.

Wiley grew up on a farm near Jordan, Iowa and attended school in a building that is no longer standing. Wiley's father died when he was eleven, facilitating the family's move to Boone. Wiley has spent the rest of his life in the community.

Wiley was a paperboy in his youth. He graduated from Boone High School and worked as a salesman in the J.C. Penny's and J.C. Peterson stores, where he was employed when he was inducted into the army.

Wiley entered the Army Air Corp and was originally placed in mechanic school. He soon opted for an officer training program, however, and took whole-heartedly to the training. Wiley was sent to England to fly a B–17 bomber, and he flew bombing runs over France, Holland, and Germany during his time in the service. Wiley's B–17 once suffered an equipment failure while flying over Holland, but he managed to land the plane with the left landing gear jammed. It was a harrowing experience, but the crew would survive and celebrate Wiley's achievement. ''I came out okay on it,'' Wiley said with a smile.

Wiley once flew a mission on which he saw the plane of a fellow Boone pilot, David Mondt.

Wiley flew many of his missions with English pilots, and went into London several times during the war. ''We flew an awful lot, day after day,'' Wiley said of routine life in the Air Corps. The King of England and (at that time) Princess Elizabeth once visited the air base where Wiley was stationed.

Upon returning from the war in 1946, Wiley and his wife Marian were wed. Wiley was hired as a treasurer at city hall and soon promoted to a city clerk. He also joined the National Guard, and greatly enjoyed the chance to fly again. Wiley split much of his attention between his job with the city and the airport, and drafted the original paperwork to create the airport after the war. For many years Wiley served on the airport commission, even after his retirement from city hall, until resigning on his 90th birthday. On his 91st birthday, the airport commission renamed the airport 'Galen Wiley Field' in honor of Wiley's dedication to the airport through the years. He has also been presented with a display of his service medals that friends from the airport crafted for him.

Wiley served in the National Guard for 31 years after the war, and was able to fly on some weekends as part of his guard duty. He still enjoys going to the airport to watch the planes take off and land, maintaining his passion for flight.

Wiley's son Bill died in a car accident when he was 23, but the family has persevered. Shirley Wiley, Galen's daughter and a retired nurse, lives in Boone to this day and assisted with this article.

Wiley still stays in contact with the other three surviving members of his crew. Two of his crewmates live in California and one lives in Texas. The men still call and stay in touch, and have met up for reunions in the past.

I commend Galen Wiley 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 THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SPECIALIST JUSTIN B. SHOECRAFT

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to solemnly remember and honor the life and dedicated service of Specialist Justin B. Shoecraft, a native son of Elkhart, Indiana, and a proud member of the United States Army. SPC Shoecraft died on August 24, 2010 in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan of wounds sustained when his Stryker vehicle was hit by a roadside improvised explosive device in Kakarak, Afghanistan.

Justin graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School in 2001 and worked for the United Parcel Service for seven years before enlisting in the United States Army. He was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment out of Vilseck, Germany. His regiment had assumed control of Tarin Kowt in July of 2010. Justin was five weeks into his first deployment when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit.

Justin was posthumously promoted to the rank of Specialist. His awards include the Bronze Star medal (posthumous), the Purple Heart Medal (posthumous), the Army Good Conduct Medal (posthumous), the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge (posthumous), the Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Expert Rifle Bar, and the Overseas Service Bar.

Justin loved working on old cars and motorcycles, and was a fan of stock car racing. He had always wanted to drive tanks for the Army. He will be remembered by his friends, family, and fellow soldiers for his generosity, work ethic, and sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, Jessica, whom he married the day before he left for basic training, his parents, Carroll ''Blue'' and Donna, his grandfathers, Walt and Floyd, his grandmother, Helen, his brother Michael and sister Sherry, extended family and many friends. He will be missed by all.

It is my solemn duty, and humble privilege, to honor the life, service, and memory of Specialist Justin B. Shoecraft, which stand as a testament to the great honor possessed, and sacrifices made, by our men and women in the armed forces, and by their families. We mourn his passing and offer solemn gratitude for his service and sacrifice.

HONORING LYNN T. GREER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, Lynn T. Greer started his career with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1975 working briefly as a Substitute Teacher and Youth Program Coordinator, and then for the Governor's Office of Budget and Administration in Philadelphia. His tenure with the Department of Transportation began in 1979 where he worked in the CETA Program and Equal Opportunity Development in the District, eventually moving on to an Assistant County Maintenance Manager Trainee position in the Delaware County Maintenance Organization.

In 1983, Lynn transferred to the Montgomery County Maintenance Organization where he supervised night operations on the Schuylkill Expressway for several years as a Highway Foreman.

In 1986, Lynn became an Assistant County Maintenance Manager with the Philadelphia County Maintenance Organization, where he served the Department for twenty years in that capacity, which included External Focus Manager for Agility. In 2006, Lynn became the County Maintenance Manager for Philadelphia, where he has served for the past four years.

Lynn holds a Master's Degree in Sports Administration from Temple University, a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Virginia State University, where he was on the ''Dean's List,'' and an Associate Degree in Computer Programming from Camden County College, receiving the ''Secretary's Award for Excellence''.

Lynn is looking forward to spending his well-earned retirement spending time with his family, being involved as an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, coaching basketball in the greater Philadelphia area, playing tennis as a member of the Philadelphia Tennis Team, for which he has competed nationally, and of course, traveling.

Lynn's lovely family includes his wife of 33 years, Alma, son, Lynn II, daughter Kelli, and grandson, Lynn III.

HONORING DON AND DIM SAMBUESO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Don and Dim Sambueso for receiving the 2010 Lifetime

Achievement Award. They have lived long and distinguished lives, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

The Sambueso brothers were born in Madera, California in 1940. At the age of 15, the brothers went to work for the family business. They have stayed with that business since then, taking from a simple slaughtering company to a business that handles catering, barbequing and has a full service meat counter.

Don and Dim are well connected within their community. They have been involved with the Young Men's Institute, St. Joachim's School Sports Banquet, Madera Elks, 4–H and Holy Family Table.

Don and Dim are both proud husbands, parents and grandparents. Don and his wife Sharon have three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Dim and his wife Julie have two children and two grandchildren. It is clear that they will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Don and Dim Sambueso for lives well-lived and in wishing them the best of luck and health as they continue setting the standard.

HONORING SECOND LIEUTENANT MARK NOZISKA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Nebraskan who will be laid to rest tomorrow—a brave soldier who paid the ultimate price defending our freedoms and liberties.

2LT Mark Noziska, 24, a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry was taken from us by a roadside bomb while on patrol in Afghanistan.

Mark joined the Army after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He was a true friend to those who knew him—a man full of life and someone who always had a smile. He loved his country and felt it was his duty to protect those dearest to him.

In a way, it is fitting we pay our respects to Mark on a day we observe the signing of our Constitution. The ideals and freedoms which we so often take for granted have been protected by young men such as Mark and his brothers and sisters in arms for generations. The words which define our country—written so long ago—are his legacy for us all.

My heart and prayers are with Mark's family during this difficult time. Words cannot express the depth of their loss—nor can they convey the debt our country owes this brave man. We can do no less than live up to his ideals.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1610.

We must never forget the events of September 11, 2001, the victims, the responders, or the survivors.

September 11 was a horrifyingly destructive day of national tragedy. Innocent men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and nationalities were killed that day by narrow minded, hateful men bent on a worldview of ignorance and oppression.

In that darkest hour, however, were revealed some of the brightest lights of the American community.

Our firefighters, police and other first responders bravely sacrificed their lives in an effort to save as many people as possible.

Individuals from communities around the country raced to New York and Washington, DC to provide whatever help they could.

And men and women from every state stepped up to defend the nation and joined the Armed Forces.

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11 our country came together with one voice to fight against the ideology of hatred embraced by the terrorists that attacked us.

We continue to fight around the world to oppose the advocates of terror and advance for all people the rights that our founders first articulated: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2010 HISPANIC HERITAGE HONOREE, MANUEL ACTA, MANAGER OF THE CLEVELAND INDIANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Hispanic Heritage honoree of 2010, Manuel "Manny" Acta, Manager of the Cleveland Indians and keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies at Cleveland's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration.

Manuel Elias Acta was born on January 11, 1969 in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic. His career in Major League Baseball began at the young age of 17 when he was signed by the Houston Astros as a first baseman. Also a talented outfielder, he played with the Astros organization for six years and then began his coaching career. Before signing to manage the Cleveland Indians in 2009, he was manager of the Washington Nationals. He also managed the Tigris del Licy of the Dominican Winter League, leading them to victory in the 2003 Caribbean Series. He has also worked for the New York Mets and the Montreal Expos as third base coach.

Beyond his successful career in professional baseball, the foundation of his life continues to be his family, faith and community. A devoted husband and father to two daughters, Mr. Acta and his wife Cindy continue to volunteer their time and efforts in reaching out to the children of our Cleveland community and to the people of his Dominican homeland. Mr. and Mrs. Acta founded the ImpACTA kids Foundation, which provides children with opportunities to achieve their dreams through college scholarships and outreach programs. ImpACTA has also funded and organized the development of an athletic/education facility for youth in Consuelo, Dominican Republic.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the 2010 Hispanic Heritage honoree, Manuel "Manny" Acta. Mr. Acta's integrity, professionalism and willingness to help others in need, especially our children, continues to make a positive impact within the lives of children from Cleveland, Ohio to Consuelo, Dominican Republic.

TRIBUTE TO KENNY BARNES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kenny Barnes, 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. Kenny Barnes was recognized on Tuesday, August 3. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: KENNY BARNES

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Joseph Kenneth "Kenny" Barnes, 85, was born in Boone and flew 51 missions over a period of three months. His children have kidded him, calling him 'the general,' and he lives today in a house that he built 51 years ago.

Barnes was born in Boone in 1925, the second son of Elmer and Nellie Barnes. In a history of Barnes' life written by his wife, Helen, he recalls "My childhood in the depression years was like many others—we were poor, but always had food and shelter and a loving family with two sisters, Wilma and Joanne, and two brothers, Charles and Jimmy, a father who was an engineer on the railroad and a mother who took care of the family, making sure we kept clean, nourished, did our chores and all went to church on Sunday."

Barnes had a paper route delivering the Des Moines Register, using the money to buy some of his own clothing. Barnes' father served in World War I, and during Barnes' childhood the second World War was fast approaching. When he went to collect his papers for delivery on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941, his circulation manager, Sam Lyon, predicted the young men would be involved in the upcoming war before it concluded as the news played out over the radio in the shop.

Barnes completed his high school requirements in January of 1943 and was drafted before the graduation ceremony took place in the fall. Barnes took basic training in Salt Lake City and was placed in the Army Air Corps. With no slots open for flight school, Barnes was trained as a gunner and attended armament school.

Barnes was trained to fly in a B–24 Liberator bomber, and when his crew of ten was formed and received its B–24, they christened it Paperdoll. While flying between Florida, Trinidad, Brazil, Africa and Italy, the crew crossed the equator and became members of the "Hyper Terrestrial Order of Equator Hoppers," for which Barnes has retained his certificate.

The crew was based in Foggia, Italy, and had to delay their landing until bombers returning from a mission had landed.

"It was a rude awakening as we taxied down the airstrip to see a plane with the

nose turret shot off, and the wounded and dead airmen arranged on the ground covered in sheets. Hard sight for a 19–year-old airman to absorb,'' Barnes said in Helen's written history.

Barnes' first mission was May 18, 1944, where his squadron was assigned to bomb a Romanian oil refinery. Barnes weighed only 125 pounds, and as the smallest member of the crew he was assigned to the ball turret on this and subsequent missions. Barnes would fly on four missions over the Ploesti oil refineries, as it produced a major amount of the fuel for the German military. Barnes said they were the toughest missions, as the refineries were heavily defended with ''flak so thick you could walk on it'' and enemy fighters menacing the bombers.

''I was pretty young. I'm 18 and I'm flying combat at 19,'' Barnes said.

Barnes flew regularly as he was able to fit into the cramped space of the ball turret, and due to this he racked up over 50 missions. According to Helen's written history: ''On July 28, 1944, a Ploesti raid, we sent out 27 airplanes from our 756th Bomb Squadron and lost 14. My plane was badly shot up—elevators and ailerons gone and no control over the plane, just flying on automatic pilot. We all bailed out and fortunately it was over 'friendly' territory. The plane was lost, but the crew all survived. The emergency parachute jump earned me entrance into 'The Caterpillar Club,' awarded by Irving Air Chute Co.''

Barnes said he thanked the Lord for bringing him through his missions unscathed and he prayed for the safety of the crew.

The Liberator would often have difficulty taking off due to its payload of 2,000–pound bombs. The aircraft would often skim the treetops on takeoff. It was cold in the plane due to the cruising altitude of 28,000 feet.

''More than once we came home on two engines,'' Barnes said. ''On one occasion, with the brake system disabled, chutes were attached to the fuselage and deployed to slow down the landing speed.''

Barnes' crew lost only one member, but as he was flying on a separate plane as part of a split crew, Barnes watched the other craft fall from the sky without any of the crew escaping.

''The army was good discipline, and it made a man out of me. I didn't have time to get a job or get into trouble,'' Barnes said in an interview with the BN-R.

Barnes said he has thought of the toll of the war he fought in, as well as the wars of today, and how war has never stopped being a tragedy.

Barnes received a Good Conduct medal, and Air medal with two clusters, and Army Air Force Pres. Unit with gold frame and two clusters, an Army Air medal with two clusters and a European Air Force MidEast medal with six Bronze Stars. Upon completing 51 missions on August 7, 1944, Barnes was scheduled to return to the U.S. for reassignment. After a two-week voyage back to the U.S. by a Navy ship, Barnes was moved about the country for about a year teaching mostly Aircraft Recognition. He was honorably discharged on September 10, 1945 and returned to Boone. Barnes enlisted in the National Guard upon returning home, and his military career ended with a medical discharge due to allergies three years later.

Barnes used the GI Bill to study pre-engineering at Boone Junior College. He received his degree in 1948 and was recruited by Iowa Electric Power Co. where he worked as an electrician and meter man until his retirement in 1984. Barnes has always been interested in technology and repaired television sets in his home from 1967 until the present.

Barnes will be aboard the Honor Flight to Washington D.C. on August 19.

I commend Kenny Barnes 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.

TRIBUTE TO RALPH SMEED

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the liberty movement lost one of its' true champions on September 7, 2010 when Ralph Smeed passed away from pancreatic cancer. ''Making Statism Unpopular,'' was not just the title of Ralph's website but the focus of all his efforts as a political activist, columnist, think tank leader, and supporter of numerous pro-liberty organizations and causes. Without Ralph's efforts, the movement to make statism unpopular would not be nearly as strong as it is today. I am honored that I was among the hundreds of freedom-lovers who were able to call Ralph a friend.

Ralph was born in Caldwell, Idaho in 1921. His family was in the ranching and meatpacking business. His first experience with what he referred to as the ''mindless government bureaucracy'' occurred when he attempted to register for military service after Pearl Harbor and was informed that he could not volunteer, he had to wait till he was drafted!

Following his military service, Ralph entered into the family business, becoming the manager in 1949. As a small businessman, Ralph had even more experiences with ''mindless government bureaucracy,'' and useless government rules and regulations. Ralph's first hand experiences and his study of the freedom philosophy lead him to become active in efforts to try to change the direction of the country.

Ralph's interest in, and knowledge of, the freedom philosophy was enhanced by his association with the Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), the nation's first free-market educational institution. Ralph attended a FEE seminar in 1965, where he met Leonard Read, the founder and President of FEE. Ralph was an enthusiastic supporter of FEE's mission to popularize the ideas of liberty and he worked closely with FEE, eventually serving as a member of FEE's Board of Trustees. Just recently, Ralph was involved in a special reprinting of Leonard Read's classic essay ''I, Pencil.''

One of the traits that made Ralph a great leader was that whenever he saw a task that needed to be done, or any opportunity to advance liberty that no one else in the freedom movement was taking advantage of; he would simply roll up his sleeves and do it himself. For example, in the early 1970s, there were not that many opinion writers providing an analysis of the events of the day from a pro-liberty perspective. Seeing this void, Ralph launched a successful career as a columnist in 1974. Years before it become commonplace to find free-market think tanks operating at the state and local level, Ralph started a public policy and education foundation, the Center for the Study of Market Alternatives. When the growth of the Internet opened up new opportunities to promote the freedom message, Ralph not only supported the efforts of free-market institutions to establish a web presence, he established his own site.

Ralph served as a friend and mentor to many in the freedom movement. For example, he copublished a newsletter with Steve Symms, who went on to serve in Congress and the Senate. Ralph remained a close friend and adviser to Steve through his political career. The late Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hague and former U.S. Representative and current Idaho Governor Butch Otter also benefited from Ralph's friendship and counsel. In recent years, Ralph has been recognized as the philosophical godfather of the Idaho Tea Party movement. Fortunately, Ralph's influence over the freedom movement will continue thanks to the Internet and a collection of his essays that soon will be published.

As a writer, scholar, and activist for liberty, Ralph fought many ideological and political battles. Yet even Ralph's fiercest ideological opponents never had a bad word to say about him. This is because Ralph was something one rarely comes across in politics: a genuinely nice guy. Ralph had perhaps one of the best senses of humor of anyone I have ever known, and while he was quick to criticize anyone, regardless of position, power, or longstanding friendship, who was taking a course Ralph saw as detrimental to liberty, he never resorted to personal attacks.

Madam Speaker, as I reflect on the impact Ralph Smeed had on the freedom movement, I cannot help but feel sorry for those freedom lovers who will never have the benefit of Ralph's friendship, wise counsel, and wickedly delightful sense of humor. I can only hope that all of us who knew Ralph as a friend will honor his memory by taking advantage of every available opportunity to continue Ralph's work of ''Making Statism Unpopular.''

HONORING THE CELEBRATION OF SAN JOSE JAPANTOWN'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 120th Anniversary of San Jose's Japantown, located at the heart of my Congressional district and only a few short blocks from my district office.

At one time, there were 43 different Japantowns in California. Today, only 3 distinct and recognizable ones remain. San Jose's Japantown has escaped the fate of most of California's Japantowns and continues to thrive. It has grown beyond a strictly Japanese-American enclave into a community that has embraced Hawaiian, Cuban, Mexican and numerous other groups. Our Japantown is thriving due in large part to its openness to other cultures and the welcoming nature of Silicon Valley, San Jose in particular.

San Jose's Japantown was originally formed around the existing ''Heinlenville'' Chinatown settlement. During the Second World War the Japanese-American population was forcibly removed from Japantown and interned in camps. After the war many Japanese Americans resettled in the area after returning from internment camps in World War II.

The expansion and growth of Silicon Valley spread the Japanese-American community far and wide, but the culture and vitality of this community remains. The California State Legislature has paid special attention to the area, officially designating it a historical Japantown.

Japantown is the site of the newly rebuilt Japanese American Museum of San Jose, the famous San Jose Taiko ensemble, the world renowned Shuei-do Manju Shop, confectioners, the Nichi Bei Bussan Japanese goods store, handmade tofu at San Jose Tofu and a variety of restaurants, professional services, and community organizations, such as the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center and the Japanese American Citizens League, and smaller retail shops. Japantown is also home to a number of non-Japanese businesses, including Mexican, Hawaiian, Cuban and Korean restaurants.

Among the numerous houses of worship in Japantown, two churches founded by Japanese Americans well over a century ago continue to thrive in the community, Wesley United Methodist Church and San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

San Jose Japantown's most unique and charming feature is the harmony between generations-old businesses and new ventures. A spirit of cooperation pervades the neighborhood, and merchants who might compete in business share a sense of friendship that leads them to strive for the betterment of the community.

A critical part of the Japantown community is the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose which partners with the City of San Jose to look after cultural preseveration in the area. Each year brings many festivals, major ones include Obon, every July, Nikkei Matsuri, every spring, Aki Matsuri, every fall, and a newer festival: The Spirit of Japantown Festival (also in the fall). Japantown also features many street venues such as a year-round Certified Farmers Market run by the Japantown Business Association and events open to the public at the Art Object Gallery.

It is my honor to congratulate the Japantown community on its 120th anniversary. I am sure the partnerships and collaborations within and around Japantown will lead to many more years of prosperity and success.

CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, Constitution Day was Senator Byrd's Day.

Having just finished drafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin was stopped in the street as he left Independence Hall in Philadelphia where delegates from thirteen former colonies had been meeting the summer of 1787. "Dr. Franklin, what form of government have you given us?" a concerned citizen asked. "A republic, Madam," said Franklin; quickly adding, "If you can keep it."

Throughout Robert C. Byrd's life he was a proud keeper and guardian of two sets of laws, one laid down in our Bible (the King James Version), the other rooted in our federal Constitution.

Senator Byrd was a largely self-taught man. He cherished learning, a process he continued throughout his life, and he made sure that countless Americans would get an annual lesson, a civic reminder about our Constitution each September 17th. Senator Byrd authored the law that now requires all institutions receiving federal funding to celebrate the venerable document in a meaningful and instructive way.

Dr. Ray Smock, director of the Byrd Center, the repository for Senator Byrd's papers and a center for the study of Congress in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, recently shared some insights with me in advance of our celebration of the Constitution this September 17th, which serve to remind us that Senator Byrd's values are as timeless as his work for West Virginia was tireless.

At the Byrd Center, among the collection of thousands of pages of Senator Byrd's work, rests the Bible he held when he was sworn in as President Pro Tem of the Senate on Jan. 3rd, 1989. That Bible, like others that were in his possession, was heavily underlined on almost every page. Sometimes he would write in the margin: "Memorize This." He wrote two quotations on the inside front cover of this particular Bible:

"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set." Proverbs 22:28

And, "We speak much about what matters little; we speak little about what matters much." We are not sure of the source of this quotation, but the fact the Senator placed it here, shows us how important it was to him.

When you think about it, even a little bit, both quotations are relevant to Constitution Day. Certainly, to the Senator, one of the great ancient landmarks had to have been the U.S. Constitution. No one defended it better or more eloquently than Senator Byrd.

In the hard times we find ourselves right now, there are some prognosticators who argue that the Constitution needs to be overhauled. A recent article in Harper's magazine even suggested that the Senate is an anachronism and should be abolished.

Senator Byrd spent a lifetime defending the wisdom of our Founding Fathers and the government they created. He understood from his Bible and his Constitution that mankind was not perfect. And no government conceived by man is going to be perfect either. But he believed in the genius of the Constitution, which has served us well for more than two centuries.

He loved the Federalist Essays, and read them thoroughly from cover to cover, memorizing key passages. These 85 essays on the nature of the American government penned by James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton were collectively the single best source Senator Byrd used to form his understanding of the intent of the Founders when they penned the Constitution. He quoted the Federalist papers frequently.

Among his favorite passages was in Federalist 51, in which James Madison wrote:

> But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.

The other quotation in the Senator's Bible, "We speak much about what matters little, we speak little about what matters much" gets to the heart of a lot that is wrong with our public discourse these days. The 24/7 news machine, the Internet, and talk radio, devote vast amounts of time speaking about what matters little, and not enough talking about the things that matter most. We all feel that government could work better. The question is in how to make that happen. We must not surrender to bumper-sticker politics that entice one to believe that solutions to great challenges are simple and quick.

The legacy of Senator Byrd's life suggests that we all need to be more responsible in making government work. Citizens and those who are elected need to put aside the extremes of partisanship to effectively address the complex needs of the country.

Senator Byrd was in awe of the Founders for their ability to set aside their partisanship and work to build a nation. He admired the Framers of the Constitution for their understanding of history and of human nature. While he could play partisan politics with the best of them and while he was loyal and dedicated to West Virginia, he never forgot that his role as a Senator was to look out for the whole nation, not just one party, or one place. It is certain that he would agree that our Constitution does not need changing so much as our moral compass needs adjusting.

Let us "remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set," and let us all follow Senator Byrd's example of keeping our perspective on the things that matter much, and not get lost wasting our time on those that matter little. Senator Byrd is gone now, but our job to work to keep this Republic is an ongoing duty, one that each generation must take up so our Union can endure, and prosper.

I will be visiting Boone County to celebrate our Constitution and the invaluable lessons Senator Byrd left with us. Constitution Day was dear to Senator Byrd's heart because it was a day of reflection on the very thing that does matter much to the future of this nation.

To learn more about the Byrd Center, its collection and programs, please visit its Web site at: *www.byrdcenter.org.* Ray Smock is Director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV, and is a former Historian of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT J. WINCHESTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE U.S. ARMY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fellow Army veteran, Mr. Robert J. Winchester, who has served his Nation, the U.S. Army, and the military intelligence community with unwavering commitment and professionalism. This Friday, September 17th, his friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers will gather to recognize 26 years of exceptional service to the Army.

Mr. Winchester began his distinguished public service career in 1969 as an Army intelligence analyst stationed in Vietnam. Honorably discharged as a staff sergeant in 1971,

he went on to attend law school and continued his military service as a JAG officer in the Army Reserves.

Later, Mr. Winchester joined the Central Intelligence Agency, where he was recognized for his significant contributions across an array of issues in his capacity as legal counsel. During his time at the Agency, Mr. Winchester dedicated much time re-establishing a relationship between the Agency and Congress, as well as coordinating legal initiatives to protect covered Intelligence Community personnel and to provide death benefits to the families of CIA personnel killed in the line of duty.

His talent for cultivating relationships across the Intelligence Community and on Capitol Hill led Mr. Winchester back to the Army family in 1984, when he served as Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs to then-Secretary of the Army Jack Marsh. Later he transitioned to the Army Office of Legislative Liaison and was responsible for managing the Army's intelligence programs and policies.

Most notably, throughout his 26 year tenure as a Senior Executive Service officer at Legislative Liaison, Mr. Winchester has fostered many important partnerships between the Intelligence Community and Congress. His tireless dedication to advancing the Army's intelligence mission and supporting the warfighter has earned him a great deal of respect and a great many friends on the Hill.

As he retires, Mr. Winchester will receive the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal and the Army's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service to commemorate his accomplishments and exceptional public service career. More important, though, than these accolades, is the legacy that he leaves behind.

Bob Winchester is one-of-a-kind. The Army will have a hard time finding someone to fill the hole he leaves; but I know that his contributions will endure and his achievements will continue to serve as a solid foundation for the Army and its intelligence mission. The Nation is safer and the Army stronger as a result of his service. For that, I thank him, and I wish him great happiness in his retirement.

HONORING LIFE AND MEMORY OF RICHARD KUSS

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. AUSTRIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional district and the citizens of Springfield, Ohio to honor the life and memory of Richard Kuss.

Dick was well known in our community as a generous philanthropist, family man and entrepreneur. Born in Springfield, Ohio on January 4, 1923 he lived a full and inspiring life, having graduated from Wittenberg University in 1945 and attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business. He served his country in World War II under the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant JG in the Navy Supply Corps.

In 1946, he joined the Bonded Oil Company and became president in 1967, retiring in 1983. Under his leadership the Bonded Oil Company became one of the top independent oil companies in the industry. Later he served as the first president of Emro Marketing, now Speedway SuperAmerica LLC.

He and his wife, Barbara, Deer, Kuss, together raised three sons and a daughter and were deeply involved their community. Dick remained active with his alma mater where he served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, and president of the alumni association for Wittenberg University. In 2003, the university dedicated the Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center in memory of his wife.

He was an active participant in many local and national organizations, including the local and state Freemasons, who awarded him with the Grand Lodge Rufus Putnam Award. As a 65-year member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Dick served as an Elder, Trustee and Deacon.

Dick Kuss, 87, was a business and community leader who took a personal interest in serving and improving the lives of those around him. His dedication to his family and the City of Springfield will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING ANNIVERSARY OF LAW CREATING REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS)

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 1595, I join Chairman LEVIN and my colleagues from both sides of the aisle in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Real Estate Investment Trust Act of 1960, which authorized the creation of real estate investment trusts, REITS.

Prior to September 14, 1960, investment in commercial real estate was largely reserved to big financial institutions and wealthy individuals. But thanks to the Real Estate Investment Trust Act, average American investors for the first time gained access to this distinct asset class. Over the past fifty years, REITS have helped Americans diversify their investment portfolios, earn dividend-based income, and enhance overall investment returns.

For REITS' contribution to capital formation in the real estate sector and retirement security for millions of Americans, it is fitting that we take a moment to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the landmark legislation that created them today.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH PFRIMMER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Keith Pfrimmer, a Navy 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. Keith Pfrimmer was recognized on Tuesday, August 10. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: KEITH PFRIMMER

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Keith Pfrimmer, 79, served as a radar technician on the USS *Frontier* from July 1951 to July 1955. Over the course of four years, he would travel to Japan, the seas of Asia, the West Coast and Japan.

The *Frontier* was a destroyer tender, providing support to the 7th fleet. Pfrimmer was assigned to the ship and sailed with it after it had been recommissioned. He served in O Division, or the Operations Division.

''When we were under way I'd stand radar watches, which helped a great deal in the maneuvers of the ship,'' Pfrimmer said. ''The ship didn't see any action. It wasn't that kind of ship.''

Pfrimmer's brother had served in the Navy in World War II, and had helped Pfrimmer decide on the Navy as his service. The ship carried a two-star admiral and would occasionally dock chained up to Destroyers in the fleet to service and resupply them.

''It [the ship] wasn't in a danger zone, other than we were in Korean waters,'' Pfrimmer said.

''If we went into dry dock, we had to completely unload all ammo and that type of thing. When we'd come out of dry dock, we'd go to the same place and reload ammo. The ammo was mostly for supplies; we wouldn't use it,'' Pfrimmer said.

During the first cruise to Japan that Pfrimmer served, the *Frontier* had to veer out to sea to avoid a typhoon. The anchor had to he severed in the storm and the ship returned to California and the state of Washington for repairs.

''We were in Korean waters when we went to Kobe, Japan,'' Pfrimmer said.

The *Frontier* serviced 146 ships on its third cruise and held an open house to the public in 1954 back in the U.S. Servicing ships and providing repairs for Destroyers that sailed in Korean waters during the war was the most common task on board.

Pfrimmer said his experiences in the Navy made him more punctual and gave him a better sense of responsibility.

''I chose the Navy and I got to do just what I wanted to do when I joined. I got to see a lot of places,'' Pfrimmer said. ''It was a good experience, though I was away from home.'' He said he also appreciates the benefits he gets through the VA.

''I've got a lot of respect for the Navy,'' Pfrimmer said. ''I think the technology is a lot different now. I bet I wouldn't even recognize radar today.''

He is still interested in the Navy and researches naval history.

I commend Keith Pfrimmer 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 HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORCA HOUSE, INC.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the founders, staff, volunteers and clients of ORCA House, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio, which celebrates 60 years of healing, hope and renewal for thousands of individuals and their families seeking to break free from the chains of drug and alcohol addiction.

Established in 1950, ORCA House was founded by a small group of individuals who came together with a shared vision of providing help and hope to those who had neither. Basil F. Bailey, John L. Bailey, Johnnie Marshall, Ruth Hawkins, Gertrude Overton and Alfonso Holman became trustees of one of the first adult chemical dependency centers in the Nation to be founded by African Americans. The dedicated, compassionate and professional staff at ORCA House continues the mission they began 60 years ago: to provide comprehensive treatment to individuals and their families. Treatment programs at ORCA House are based on several phases of assessment, treatment and after care, and are reflective of highly successful programs implemented locally by United Way and other national organizations.

Moreover, ORCA House exists as a live-in sanctuary of recovery and hope for impoverished and homeless women and men, struggling to become healthy, productive citizens. Residential treatment programs, which can last up to 30 days, include in-depth assessments, and at least 30 hours of weekly alcohol and drug treatment services. These services include individual, group and family therapy, job development classes, anger management sessions, HIV/AIDS education, nutrition and health classes, and a 12-step group program.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the founding members, staff and volunteers of ORCA House, Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio—past and present—whose unwavering dedication to lifting the lives of thousands of individuals and families onto a platform of safety, strength, recovery, hope and peace have strengthened our entire community.

HONORING MS. IRENE HORSTMANN HANNAN

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Main Line Chamber of Commerce and Devereux Foundation's selection of Irene Horstmann Hannan as recipient of the "2010 Helena Devereux Women in Leadership Award."

Helena Devereux once wrote "The Devereux aim must always be to innovate and build programs so forward-looking that they will never reach completion—but which will perpetually pioneer in developing improved insights and solutions." Just as that philosophy shaped one of the world's great schools, so too Ms. Horstmann Hannan's financial acumen has helped build countless small businesses and non-profits through her current position as Senior Vice President of Citizens Bank. Also, as a board member of both Temple's Fox School of Business' Center for Entrepreneurship and the Women's Investment Network, she supports the education of our next generation of women entrepreneurs. Finally, her service on the board of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania provides over 41,000 young women and girls of our region an outstanding example of everything that is right in our country.

As a father of a young daughter, I am an enthusiastic admirer of her work. Her remarkable range of influence on young girls, graduate students, and successful business women is impressive in every sense. Few can claim to be as important a mentor and counselor across three generations of women.

Irene Horstmann Hannan embodies the inspirational spirit, passion, and determination of Helena Devereux. She has worked tirelessly to make our community more caring, prosperous and enlightened. I join all the good people of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, in saluting this extraordinary leader and deserving recipient of the "2010 Helena Devereux Women in Leadership Award."

IN HONOR OF GROTTO PIZZA

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize one of the great small businesses in the state of Delaware, Grotto Pizza, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. With over 18 locations throughout Delaware, Grotto Pizza has certainly put its stamp on our great state, not only as a successful restaurant, but as a community leader.

At the age of 17, Dominick Pulieri, with the help of his family opened the first Grotto Pizza in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in 1960. Starting from humble beginnings, Dominick worked tireless hours to produce a unique product for the community. His efforts paid off as only three years after the initial opening, Dominick opened a second location. With growing demand and statewide popularity, Grotto Pizza opened as a year-round restaurant in 1974. As they celebrate their 50th anniversary, Grotto Pizza now employs over 800 individuals year-round swelling to 1,300 in summer months. This is a testament to the strong leadership Dominick provided, great customer service and most importantly delicious food! Not only has Grotto Pizza been a successful small business, their community service and loyalty to the state of Delaware have been second to none.

Throughout its 50-year history, Grotto Pizza has been a strong and active member of Delaware's community. The restaurant sponsors over 700 organizations each year including schools, fire and police departments, and sports teams. However, Grotto Pizza is quick to lend a helping hand outside of Delaware as they have participated and sent aid to the tsunami and Katrina relief efforts, as well as recently contributing over $24,000 towards the earthquake relief in Haiti. Their many contributions to the local community and nation are strong examples of the positive impact a small business can make.

I am proud to represent a state where small businesses like Grotto Pizza reside. I consider Dominick Pulieri to be a friend of mine and I am proud of the many accomplishments that he and Grotto Pizza have had over the past 50 years. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this significant milestone.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PFC ANDREW HAND

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Army PFC Andrew Hand, one of South Alabama's finest, who recently lost his life while defending his country in war-torn Afghanistan.

On July 24, PFC Andrew Hand, age 25 of Enterprise, Alabama, gave his life in service to America. He and three of his comrades were killed when their military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device in Qalat, Afghanistan.

A member of the 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade, Private First Class Hand was serving his third deployment and preparing to return home in October when he was taken in the IED attack. He was a devoted soldier, father and son—loved by many and whose memory will never be forgotten.

A former resident of Birmingham, Andrew Hand moved to Enterprise with his family in 2001, where he was a star athlete on the Enterprise High School "Wildcat" football team. The Southeast Sun newspaper in Enterprise recognized him as the leading receiver and kick returner for the Wildcats. The paper quoted Wildcat coach Kevin Collins as saying Hand "single-handedly" beat rival Northview High School of Dothan.

PFC Andrew Hand was laid to rest on August 2, 2010 at the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo.

On behalf of the people of Alabama I wish to offer heartfelt condolences to the family of PFC Andrew Hand, including his wife, Amanda Kay Hand of Enterprise; two sons, Tristan and Gavin of Enterprise; mother, Phyllis Parris of Gulf Shores; father Kenneth Hand and stepmother Renne Hand of Birmingham; sister, Laura; and brother Robert, both of Birmingham.

You are all in our prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Friday, July 30.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 513 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3534) and "no" on rollcall vote No. 514 (on passage of H.R. 5982).

CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF S. 1789, FAIR SENTENCING ACT OF 2010

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate our steps towards restoring a single

standard within our criminal justice system. For too long, Federal sentencing guidelines have placed far harsher penalties on crack users and dealers than on the users and dealers of powder cocaine.

As crack cocaine use became prevalent and made headlines in the mid-1980s, experts suggested that crack was significantly more addictive and linked to greater urban violence than its powder counterpart. Congress came parachuting in with mandatory sentencing minimums and, for good measure, established an exaggerated 100:1 sentencing ratio.

But like so many well-intended Congressional actions, the disparate mandatory sentences have had a devastating effect on our urban communities and racial minorities. The 1986 law has contributed to skyrocketing incarceration rates of low-level, non-violent drug-offenders and even allowed these street-level dealers to be punished more harshly than drug-kingpins.

We need to punish crimes, but this unjustified disparity has tied up law enforcement resources. It has encouraged skepticism and resentment within our African-American community and undermined public confidence in our nation's anti-drug laws.

Former major league baseball player Willie Mays Aikens is a classic example of the sentencing disparity. Aikens faced a 20-year sentence for crack distribution and other crimes. Upon his release, Aikens commented that, had he been caught with powdered cocaine, he might have faced a single year's sentence, rather than the 12½ he faced for crack distribution. Aikens was grateful that the Sentencing Commission revisited his case and allowed for an early release.

A broad coalition of civil rights, criminal justice, community-based, and faith-based organizations have joined forces to rectify the disparity. With the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (S.1789), the sentencing disparity is corrected from the current 100 to 1 ratio to 18 to 1, while establishing stiff new penalties for serious drug offenses.

I am delighted that Congress has decided to act. Upon his release, Aikens interviewed with ESPN. His words capture my sentiment. "All I can say, it's about time."

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, thank you Chairman BERMAN for your leadership and for encouraging our government to help the people of Pakistan at this critical time.

Pakistan is suffering one of the worst natural disasters in recent history. The situation in Pakistan is dire. The United Nations estimates that more than 20 million Pakistanis have been displaced by the flooding, exceeding the combined total of individuals impacted by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2007 Myanmar Cyclone and the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's, USAID joint endeavor with the U.S. military in Pakistan has already resulted in the evacuation of more than 10,000 people and the delivery of more than 2.7 billion pounds of relief supplies.

Like the tsunami that wreaked havoc upon northern Indonesia in 2004, the Pakistani floods threaten to propel Pakistan, a key ally, away from the successful economic progress and growth that it has made over the last decade.

This outcome would inevitably cost Pakistan thousands of more innocent lives and years worth of development and sustainability, further increasing both the humanitarian crisis domestically and the security threat worldwide.

Just two weeks ago, I personally wrote to Administrator Shah of USAID and commended his decision to use a portion of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan funding towards relief aid. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I know how important a stable Pakistan is to global stability. Redirecting more funds provided through the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act will demonstrate to our Pakistani partners that the United States is truly committed and will not abandon Pakistan in her time of need.

Pakistanis must know that we are in this for the long haul. Our dedication is not a matter of encroaching on Pakistani autonomy or manipulating a nation's internal politics.

The United States seeks to renew its commitment to the people of Pakistan through this tragedy and combat those who dare to take advantage of the suffering of innocent Pakistanis to further their radical beliefs.

On behalf of my over 30,000 Pakistani-American constituents, I urge this body to support this measure and its message, as well.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ERB

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donald Erb, 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. Donald Erb was recognized on Tuesday, September 14. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: DONALD ERB

(By Greg Eckstrom)

At 84 years old, Donald Erb might be considered one of the younger veterans of World War II, but still shares many characteristics with other WWII veterans of the time. He is disciplined, modest and sees military service as many did in his time . . . as more of a duty than an option.

Moving to Boone County with his family at a very young age in 1929, Erb graduated from Ogden High School and was immediately drafted into the Army as an infantry soldier in 1944.

"I graduated high school in 44 and went into the Army in 44," he said. "Just as soon as I got out of high school. We went to a replacement depot and wherever they needed soldiers was where they sent you. I went to Camp Walters, Texas, for 16 weeks training and then we shipped to the Philippines."

Erb arrived in the Philippines just as the heavy fighting in Manila was finishing up and jungle warfare was going on outside the city. A machine gunner during his time stationed there, Erb recalls his fellow soldiers as being one of the best parts about his service.

"Buddies, friends," he said when asked about his favorite part of service. As far as what stood out to him most in his time overseas, however, the answer was the difficulty of fighting in the jungle.

"I think jungle warfare," he said. "All these supplies were brought in by water buffalo. Any injuries or anybody that was hit or killed was carried out by Filipino litter bearers. We didn't have any roads. As we took the jungle and got control of it, then bulldozers made roads."

As roads were bulldozed into the jungles, tanks were brought in to clean out the caves.

"They bulldozed a major road there and brought tanks in with flamethrowers and cleaned out the caves and stuff in there by using flamethrower tanks," he said.

Erb also recalls the final days of World War II, when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Like many WWII veterans, he saw the bombs, and the resulting end of the war, as a Godsend.

"The atomic bomb, I would say, saved my life," he said. "Because every man, woman and child would have been armed in Japan. It probably saved the lives of a lot of people even though it killed a lot of people at the time. Every man, woman and child would have been fighting you otherwise. It would have been a bloodbath on both sides."

He also recalls the attitude among the soldiers upon receiving the news that the war had ended.

"The boozers, they went out and got drunk," he said. "But most of the soldiers just thanked God that it was over. Everybody was glad it was over."

Erb kept in contact with several of his fellow soldiers from the war, now good friends although their numbers have dwindled.

"I've got a buddy that was one day older than I am and lived in Eugene, Oregon," he said. "I've kept in contact with about 7 or 8 guys, but I think there's only three of us left. I was on the tail end of the war, and I'm 84, so these other guys are getting up in the 90s. This flight that we took up to Washington, D.C., one guy was celebrating his 94th birthday that day."

The flight Erb took, the Honor Flight, brought veterans to Washington D.C. where they had a chance to visit monuments, including the WWII memorial.

"It was a long day, but it was wonderful," he said. "We all had gold shirts on and these black hats. And when they dumped you out at the memorial, you had 305 guys out there with the gold shirts, and it was really kind of fascinating."

Being with other veterans, and seeing the World War II memorial, Erb said was a great experience. In his view, the war was difficult, but necessary.

"When you have to protect our country. . . World War II, we didn't have a whole lot of choice," he said. "We had both ends of the world moving in on us."

I commend Donald Erb 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 HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MARGARET L. RAPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Margaret L. Rapp, devoted mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend to many. Mrs. Rapp was also a community activist with a lifelong dedication to making our community a better place.

Mrs. Rapp's life was framed by family and community. She was the devoted mother of Kathleen, Renee and Kurt, and the devoted mother-in-law of Jose and Deborah. She was also the adored grandmother of Conor, Erin, Kelly and Eric. She was very close to, and was an active participant in, the lives and special events of her children and grandchildren. They were a great source of strength and mirth for her. Mrs. Rapp was also a lifelong community activist who was involved in several causes and issues that served to improve our entire community.

Mrs. Rapp was known for her ardent opinions, kindness and good sense of humor. She served as a dedicated employee of the city of Parma for more than 20 years and was an unwavering volunteer and leader within the local political scene. She also served as a longtime precinct committeewoman for the Democratic Party and regularly wrote her elected representatives regarding her opinion on many issues that concerned her. Always inquisitive, Mrs. Rapp was an avid reader who was well-informed on issues affecting our community and our country. She was also passionate about genealogy and successfully traced and recorded her Irish, Welsh, German and French ancestry back hundreds of years.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and memory of Mrs. Margaret L. Rapp, whose energetic spirit, service to others and joy for living reflected throughout her life. I extend my deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, nieces, nephews and many friends. The love she extended to her family, friends and to our community will be remembered and treasured.

CONGRATULATING TAOS PUEBLO, ITS LEADERS AND ITS PEOPLE, ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN OF THIER SACRED BLUE LAKE LANDS

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the return of the sacred Blue Lake lands to the people of Taos Pueblo.

The people of Taos Pueblo have continuously occupied the Blue Lake lands since before Spain established rule over what is now the Southwestern United States. The lake and its surrounding mountains constitute the spiritual and religious center of Pueblo life and culture. After the Spanish conquest, the Pueblo was granted possessory rights over these lands and those rights were honored by subsequent Mexican and United States governments.

In 1906, with the passage of the Antiquities Act, the U.S. Government unlawfully seized the Blue Lake lands and incorporated it into Carson National Forest. Upon the severance of the Pueblo from its spiritual homelands, the Pueblo's leaders began a 60-year-long struggle to reclaim its native lands. In 1965, the U.S. Indian Claims Commission affirmed that the United States had unjustly taken these lands; however, it was not until 1970 that a bipartisan Congress passed legislation to finally return 48,000 acres of scared tribal lands to the Pueblo.

On signing the legislation, President Nixon declared that "This bill indicates a new direction in Indian affairs in this country in which there will be more of an attitude of cooperation rather than paternalism, one of self-determination rather than termination, one of mutual respect." The Blue Lake lands are sacred to Taos Pueblo, but they are a vital symbol of the sovereignty and self-government for all of Indian Country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of the leaders of Taos Pueblo as they celebrate the anniversary of the return of their sacred lands. The perseverance of the Pueblo to obtain justice when faced with decades of opposition is an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING NURSE JODY BOCK, THE RECIPIENT OF THE HEART FAILURE NURSE MAVEN AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jody Bock, the recipient of the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award. Jody Bock is a registered nurse, a heart-failure care coordinator, and the director of professional practice at Banner Heart Hospital.

Heart failure is a leading cause of death in the United States, affecting 8 million Americans and their families. It is only through the efforts, technical expertise, and compassion of nurses like Jody Bock that those who struggle with heart failure can learn to accept and fight this terrible disease. The Healthcare Accreditation Colloquium awards the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award to recognize these remarkable nurses for their essential roles in the lives of people with heart failure.

Jody Bock began her career in nursing in Illinois, but moved to Arizona soon after receiving her master's degree and becoming a nurse specialist with a focus on heart-failure care. Employed at Banner Heart Hospital for her specialization, Jody Bock was part of a group which contributed to the hospital's certification as an Accredited Heart Failure Institute.

As a recipient of the Heart Failure Nurse Maven Award, nurse Bock has demonstrated her talent and empathy for her patients and their families. The challenging work she does daily helps to improve the lives of those dealing with heart failure. For this, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this exceptional nurse, Jody Bock, for her service as a nurse in the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010,

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 15, 2010, I could not be present for votes due to a commitment back in Michigan. Had I been present I would have voted the following.

House rollcall vote 521 on H.R. 2039—Congressional Made in America Promise Act, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 522 on H.R. 5873—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office", I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 523 on H. Res. 1522—Expressing support for designation of the last week of September as National Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Week and the last Wednesday of September as National Previvor Day, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 524 on H.R. 5366—Overseas Contractor Reform Act, I would have voted "yes."

House rollcall vote 525 on H. Res. 1610—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001, I would have voted "yes."

145TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a storied institution of faith in the Third Congressional District. This year, Queen Street Baptist Church is celebrating its 145th anniversary, and I would like to highlight some moments from the history of the church and its contribution to our community.

The Story of Queen Street Baptist began in 1865 with a group of newly freed slaves. Originally members of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, these freed men gathered in the Hampton Courthouse and took the name Second Baptist Church. Under the direction of Rev. John Smith, their first pastor, the church met in several locations until eventually erecting a building constructed with "used" boards on a plot of land between Holt and Victoria Avenues, now Settler's Landing Road. The church members saved funds and in 1875 had enough to build a new church at a cost of $2,800. Upon Rev. Smith's death in 1881, Rev. Ebenezer Byrd assumed the pastorship for a brief period, until Rev. Thomas Shorts was called as third pastor in 1883.

Under Rev. Shorts' leadership, the church grew rapidly. Additional land was needed to build a larger church, and during Rev. Shorts' tenure, the site where the church now stands was purchased. It was also at this point that the church was renamed Queen Street Baptist, taking its new name from its new location. A fire in 1905 destroyed the church building,

but Rev. Shorts encouraged the congregation and led them in the rebuilding effort. Sadly, he died before the completion of the new church building, which still serves as the current sanctuary of Queen Street Baptist.

Fourth pastor Rev. J.A. Brown carried the charge to rebuild that Rev. Shorts began, and the new sanctuary was completed during his tenure (1918–1929). Fifth pastor, Rev. Berryman Johnson, oversaw the purchase of a parsonage on West Queen Street, which is still in use today. Rev. George Russell became pastor in 1935, and gave 31 years of progressive and innovative service to the church before dying in 1966.

Rev. Calvin Jones and Rev. Omie Holiday each served as pastor for four years in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In 1978 Rev. Marcus Pierce was installed as the ninth pastor, and during his 10-year tenure, numerous members of the church were licensed to preach, a testimony to the Reverend's influence.

The current pastor of Queen Street Baptist, Rev. Anderson W. Clary, Jr., was installed in 1991. His priorities of teaching the Bible in a manner understandable to young and old, and teaching Christian doctrine in all aspects of life have been adopted by the Queen Street congregation.

As Queen Street Baptist Church gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on the future. I would like to congratulate Rev. Clary and all of the members of Queen Street Baptist Church on the occasion of their 145th anniversary.

HONORING ALBERT R. MANISCALCO

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Albert R. Maniscalco, a longtime Southern California resident and friend to many.

Mr. Maniscalco was born April 11, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan.

He proudly served in the United States Army in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, from 1946–1949. Following his service, Mr. Maniscalco retired from the drywall and construction industry.

Although he never married he was regarded as a father figure and grandfather to many families whom he loved as his own. His closest friends and relatives would say that he was the kindest man they had ever known.

Mr. Maniscalco was called home to the Lord on August 10, 2010 at the age of 81 in Garden Grove, CA. On September 2nd he was laid to rest at the Riverside National Cemetery with Military Honors.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that this Congress join me in honoring the life of Mr. Albert Maniscalco for his service to our country and community.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HEREDITARY BREAST AND OVARIAN CANCER WEEK AND NATIONAL PREVIVOR DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1522, a resolution focusing on the important health issues of breast and ovarian cancer. It is the obligation of this Congress to do everything that we can to support the individuals with these cancers and to lead the fight to find a cure. The lives of too many Americans are destroyed by these cancers—not only the individuals suffering from these diseases, but the family members and caregivers as well. I have been working to raise awareness of inflammatory breast cancer, a area and particularly deadly form of breast cancer. Many people may not be aware that there are different types of breast cancer. Even many physicians are unfamiliar with inflammatory breast cancer. That is why continuing to educate ourselves about these cancers and continuing to raise awareness is so critically important. This resolution will continue to raise awareness of breast and ovarian cancer and encourage continuing education. I want to thank Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her work on this resolution and for being a leader on these issues and women's health in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CALDERON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Joseph Calderon, a Navy and 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. Joseph Calderon was recognized on Tuesday, August 17. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOSEPH CALDERON

(By Alexander Hutchins)

Joseph Calderon, 75, was drafted into the Army in 1959. It was a requirement for his naturalized citizenship, and he feels proud of both his native and adoptive countries to this day.

Calderon grew up in a poor, but educated, family in La Paz, Bolivia, the highest national capital in the western hemisphere. His father always stressed the value of education, and a lifetime of hard work helped Calderon earn entry into a La Paz university to study medicine. At the time of his studies, political instability gripped the nation. The government frequently shut down the university where Calderon studied, as the school was the source of much of the insurrection against those in power. Frequent interruptions to instruction influenced many medical students at the university to leave.

''Most of my classmates decided to go to other parts of the world,'' Calderon said. ''Some of them went to Argentina, many went to Brazil, a lot of them went to Europe, to Spain. And I, since I was so interested in and reading so much about the U.S., decided to come to the U.S. My father thought that it was a crazy idea, because he asked me ''who do you know up there?' ''

Being 22 and adventurous was his impetus.

''Ever since I was a child, for as long as I remember, I always wanted to be a doctor just to help people,'' Calderon said. ''There was nothing else that interested me more than to wear my white coat some day and taking care of patients.''

He applied to immigrate to the U.S. and moved to Nebraska. Calderon was drafted into the Army in 1959 after working in a mental institution in Hastings, Nebraska. While in the Army, Calderon worked in a hospital as a medic and was stationed in bases around the nation.

''The irony of my life is that, even though I had no idea that I was going to he drafted into the Army, the moment I put on that uniform I felt so proud because 1 used to see in movies in my hometown John Wayne and other actors wearing their uniform, and I'd dream that I'd get to wear a uniform some day in my lift,'' Calderon said.

Having recently immigrated, his English was very limited. Calderon said he followed the example of the men around him at first, and with attention and practice he became much more proficient in English. He met a good friend, Jerry Butler, in 1959. The men struck up a friendship, and Butler mentioned he was from Eldora, Iowa, before the men were deployed. Butler went to Korea and Calderon went to Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga. They would be separated for some time, though not indefinitely.

After serving as a medic in Ft. Gordon, Calderon was discharged from the Army and worked to complete the medical studies he had begun in Bolivia. He returned to Omaha after being discharged and worked as an orderly and then a surgical technician. Due to financial issues and age limits, Calderon was not able to attend medical school in the U.S. He applied to a medical school in Mexico, was accepted and applied for his license to practice medicine upon graduating five years later. Calderon completed post-graduate training in Canada and returned thereafter to work in Saint Joseph's hospital in Omaha. In 1979, 20 years after first joining the Army, Calderon enlisted in the Navy.

''That was very, very, very rewarding,'' Calderon said of his 20 years in the Navy.

He had seen a billboard advertising the Navy as an adventure in Omaha, and after researching the service, Calderon decided the Navy fit his life goals. The recruiter was impressed with Calderon and appreciated his medical training, thus Calderon was soon shipped to the Naval hospital in Camp Pendleton. He served several tours at Pendleton, staying with the Marines each time thanks to the requests of the Marines themselves.

''I worked with the Marines for 15 years,'' Calderon said.

Eventually Calderon would be reassigned, and he traveled the world for a time, as well as directing a number of Navy clinics.

''I also had the privilege to participate in Desert Storm when Iraq invaded Kuwait. So I was the main medical planner for one of the large units on the east coast in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which was a Marine Corps base,'' Calderon said.

He also provided humanitarian aid in Central America and received mandatory retirement from the Navy in 1999 at the rank of Captain.

''In essence, I had a wonderful time with the Navy. I enjoyed every day of my life working in the Navy,'' Calderon said. ''I didn't want to retire because I was still active, healthy and very well liked.''

Unfortunately he would have to retire, but it would open a new chapter of his life.

Calderon would leave the medical world after his tour in the Navy, leaving a field that has become very complex and burdened with paperwork. He and Mary Kay, his wife, moved back to Mary Kay's hometown of Boone.

''I always tell people that I have so many projects, I have no time to be busy,'' Calderon said happily.

He paints pictures, many on subjects pertinent to his home country. He reads non-fiction, collects stamps and international currency and he and Mary Kay travel frequently to Europe, Ireland, and next year they hope to travel to Bolivia. Calderon is also a member of the American Legion and the Marine Corps League.

Calderon retired to Iowa, much to the surprise of his colleagues. Both his sons, David and Roberto, live in California, but Calderon retired to Iowa because of the people. He said he has never felt at a disadvantage in the U.S. because he endeavors to act with respect and intelligence.

''I want to show and I want to tell people that immigrate from a different country that once they come into this country, they need to dedicate their lives to the county that has given them tutelage, so to speak, or the ability to be successful,'' Calderon said.

He feels strongly that the work and service he has given to the United States is the reason he has been rewarded with success and kindness.

''1 still care for Bolivia, but Bolivia hasn't given me anything. The United States has helped me, and I have given back to my country. I'm proud to fly a U.S. flag at my house, and mainly to respect the laws of this country,'' Calderon said.

Calderon still follows some of the traditions and ideas of his native country, but he strives to act as an American in public. He also presents a booth about the culture and history of Bolivia at cultural fairs in Iowa.

Calderon said the legal process for immigration may be strict, but it is the law and it should be followed and respected. Federal laws on immigration should be enforced to ensure that people entering the country can contribute to society, he said.

''The demands are difficult and numerous to get into this country, but while it takes work, it can be done, and it's the way I and others have come here,'' Calderon said.

Calderon recently contacted Jerry Butler, his friend from the Army in 1959. Calderon and Butler met on Butler's farm in Eldora. The two men had a reunion, and after all the years and miles apart their friendship showed to be just as strong as it was fifty years ago.

I commend Joseph Calderon 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 HIS HOLINESS THE GYALWANG DRUKPA ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend a warm welcome and friendship to His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa during his visit to the United States. His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa is the supreme head of the Drukpa Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism and the founder of Live to Love International—a global non-profit organization.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding humanitarian and leader for his commitment to service. His projects embody the profound spirit of compassion and action expressed through the collective works of Live to Love. This week, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Awards Committee in conjunction with the United Nations Millennium Campaign and the United Nations Office for Partnerships recognized this remarkable spiritual leader and his work through Live to Love at the tenth anniversary of the Millennium Development Goals Awards Ceremony.

The mission of Live to Love is to blend traditional Himalayan philosophy with innovative contemporary solutions to provide concrete solutions to humanitarian problems. Live to Love focuses on five areas: (1) education, (2) medical services, (3) relief aid, (4) heritage preservation and (5) environmental sustainability. The organization is headquartered in Hong Kong with support chapters in Bhutan, France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Vietnam, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

In furthering the five goals of Live to Love, the organization builds the world's greenest schools and educates young girls in remote regions empowering them with leadership skills and confidence. Additionally, these schools teach a sustainable way of life. Live to Love also combines the best of Eastern and Western medicine to deliver vital health care to underserved groups. Live to Love builds and operates urgently needed medical clinics that serve poor rural areas at little or no cost. These clinics perform eye surgeries, distribute medicine, aid burn victims, as well as administer health and wellness programs. They also train local volunteers to assist resident medical specialists, helping them gain valuable skills that are in strong demand in the workplace and increases their employment prospects. Also, in an effort to preserve traditional Himalayan heritage, Live to Love provides educational services that celebrate indigenous cultures; helps conserve and restore ancient art, artifacts, and structures; and trains community leaders to protect their culture and history.

His Holiness teaches that in serving others, we nurture ourselves. The example and actions of His Holiness and Live to Love serve as a clarion that can rouse the best and highest within us. Indeed, his life and the organization's mission are an inspiration from which we can all draw as we endeavor to lift and strengthen others, and this is why I am pleased to recognize him on this occasion and bring his work and the work of his organization to the attention of the U.S. Congress.

HONORING DUANE IRVING

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Duane Irving who passed away July 19, 2010, at the age of 75 on Halleck Creek Ranch, his family ranch, on which he established Halleck Creek Riding Club for Handicapped Children. An iconic figure in West Marin, Duane was a hero to hundreds of children and community members who admired his unique blend of cowboy skills, sense of fun and adventure, and big heart.

Born on December 8, 1934, in San Rafael, CA, Duane grew up on his family's ranch in Nicasio. He excelled in athletics, and after San Rafael High School, he turned down an offer to join the San Francisco Giants minor league team to enlist in the Marine Corps where he excelled in both football and baseball. Despite an innate distrust of authority and a tendency for pranks, he was proud to be a Marine and remained loyal to the Marines and their ethics his entire life.

After his discharge, Duane returned to Nicasio where he married Nellie Woodard in 1959. The couple had three children, Peter, Jeannette, and Buck, before divorcing in 1985. Duane also coached Little League in Nicasio for twelve years, maintaining the baseball diamond by attaching a length of chain link fence to his belt and dragging it over the diamond.

Duane trained horses and managed several ranches in West Marin as well as working for Marin Municipal Water District for 12 years. Legendary West Marin Rancher Boyd Stewart enlisted his help in establishing the Morgan Horse Ranch in Point Reyes National Seashore, where Duane set up a breeding program and trained young Morgans to become ranger mounts throughout the national park system.

At the Morgan Horse Ranch, volunteer Joyce Goldfield was bucked off a horse named Dill Pickle and spent five months in a full body cast. While Duane was sympathizing with her inability to get out and enjoy the wilderness, he spoke of some of the children who came to the park confined to wheelchairs and were unable to join in tours or mount horses due to insurance issues. The two decided to use their gentle horses to take disabled children riding into the wilderness of Duane's Nicasio ranch. Thus, in July, 1977, Halleck Creek Riding Club for the Disabled began.

Since that time, thousands of youngsters and adults with any and all disabilities have been served, and many have had their conditions improve dramatically. Duane and Joyce expanded activities to include camping, rafting, snow trips, hose shows, parades, sailing, kayaking, and beach trips in which Duane pushed children in wheelchairs right into the surf. Since all this was free of charge, Duane became a prodigious fundraiser as well. Today over 300 disabled riders per week enjoy the benefits Halleck Creek offers—improved self-esteem, greater freedom and mobility, adventurous activities, and the therapeutic effects of horseback riding.

Duane received many honors for his work including President Bush's Thousand Points of Light award, J.C. Penny Golden Rule Award, and Marin County's Volunteer of the Year. He was also active in helping Joyce collect and distribute clothing and bedding for the homeless and in an annual benefit for Heifer International.

Joyce became Duane's beloved companion, and for nearly 30 years they lived at Fairwinds Farm on Inverness Ridge with her children Cindy, John, and Danny. In Joyce's words, ''Duane, the beloved native son of Nicasio and West Marin, shall be ever missed. This handsome, gentle, loving, immensely talented, free-

spirited man was part of all our lives and resides in all our hearts.''

Madam Speaker, I echo Joyce Goldfield's words. Duane Irving was a special man who knew how to direct his spirit and generosity when he saw he could make a difference for so many. His legacy is an inspiration to us all.

HONORING PHILLIP T. EASTMAN

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Phillip T. Eastman, who passed away on July 29th of this year.

Mr. Eastman was born on August 2, 1932 and worked on his family's dairy farm as a child. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Cornell University and his Master's Degree from the State University of New York at Albany.

Mr. Eastman honorably served in the United States Army during the Korean War, and upon his return, became a teacher and guidance counselor. He retired in 1989 from the New Hartford School District as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Eastman was a tremendous asset to his community, as he dedicated his time and effort to helping others. He served as President of the New Hartford School Board, and as a member of my Veterans Advisory Committee. Mr. Eastman volunteered countless hours in assisting my office in evaluating hundreds of applicants for military academy nominations.

Mr. Eastman enjoyed playing golf and working in his wood shop, but he cherished nothing more than spending time with his family, especially at their camp in Cooperstown.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great life and contributions of Mr. Phillip T. Eastman. Our country and community is a better place because of Phil's character, kindness and commitment to helping others. He will truly be missed.

HONORING A CAREER OF SERVICE AND SACRIFICE BY MR. ROBERT J. WINCHESTER

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and a great friend, Bob Winchester, who has served our country in uniform and as a dedicated member of our intelligence community for more than three decades. Bob is officially retiring this week from his post at the Pentagon where he has served in many positions but most recently as the face of U.S. Army Intelligence.

Bob has distinguished himself and brought honor to the Army through his exceptionally meritorious service to the Defense Department, the Intelligence Community (IC), and the Nation during a career that has spanned more than 36 years. And in recognition for his service, he will receive our government's highest honors for civil service from the Defense Department and the Director of National Intelligence.

Bob has consistently epitomized the consummate Military Intelligence professional even through the last nine years of increasingly demanding and critical leadership challenges.

Though he recently culminated his career of service as the Military Intelligence Portfolio Manager for the Office of Congressional Liaison, that post tells only part of the story of Bob's long career.

Well known and well respected, Bob spent 26 years as the face of Army Intelligence on Capitol Hill and as a trusted confidante for ten heads of the Army intelligence branch.

His long list of achievements and contributions are as varied as they were crucial. In the wake of the Iran Contra scandal in the 1980s, Bob was a key architect in developing legislation that changed the way our intelligence apparatus operated. He was called upon again in the wake of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal to answer tough questions about our intel programs in Iraq and work with Congress to reshape our military interrogation program. He was at the forefront of Army and Defense Department intelligence policy and execution. His experience and intellect were recognized, sought, and leveraged as a subject-matter expert within the Army, DoD, and the broader U.S. Intelligence Community.

A lawyer and proud graduate of Temple University's Beasley School, Bob provided expert advice on Intelligence Law long before Congress fully considered the ramifications of conflicting intel priorities. He engineered the process of Congressional oversight of intelligence activities, worked intricately on the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 and was frequently and regularly called upon by my colleagues for testimony at Congressional hearings. He has also served as advisor and support staff to numerous military commanders during their testimony before the House and Senate Armed Service and Intelligence committees.

But Bob was also a teacher and a mentor. For many years, the nation's youngest and brightest intel officers have studied under Bob's tutelage before taking up assignments throughout the Army staff or on Capitol Hill as Congressional Fellows.

Bob was also a professor who has shared his broad wealth of experience to better the whole of the Army. He has been a regular instructor at the Military Intelligence Battalion and Brigade Pre-Command Course that has shaped generations of Military Intelligence commanders and Command Sergeants Major. He has also been a frequent speaker at courses for young officers and enlisted personnel, preparing Military Intelligence leaders to succeed in engagements on the battlefield and in the halls of Congress. In this respect, Bob remains a strong and tireless professional.

Bob was instrumental in the establishment of critical intel programs which continue to pay huge dividends in the current fight. His efforts, particularly on Counterintelligence and Human Intelligence programs, include the introduction of advanced biometrics collection and establishment of the Human Intelligence Training Joint Center of Excellence that is housed at Fort Huachuca in my District.

As a result of Bob's vision and persistence, the Army has increased its Counter-intel and HUMINT capability by threefold, and that trend continues.

For more than a quarter century, Bob's tireless energy and enthusiasm has facilitated deep-rooted and trusting relationships between the Army and Congress. And through his hard work and determination, he has been an integral part of shaping the Army's most critical Intelligence requirements during wartime and peacetime.

As the Army seeks ways to fill the gap created by Bob's retirement, they have found it takes more than one young officer to keep up with the daily routine he so aptly maintained for so long. Bob's legacy of service and innumerable contributions to the Army, the Intelligence Community and the United States will be long-lasting and immeasurable.

I am proud to not only count him as a friend, but also honored to represent him as a constituent.

Thank you so much, Bob, and enjoy your retirement.

IN HONOR OF MR. DOMINIC CALABRO

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Dominic Calabro of Tallahassee, Florida, who is in his thirtieth year of public service with Florida TaxWatch, the statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit government watchdog and research institute that has served the taxpayers of my home State of Florida for more than three decades.

Mr. Calabro was first hired as a Senior Research Analyst for Florida TaxWatch in 1980, promoted to Executive Director in 1982, and has served as the CEO of TaxWatch since 1986. He has guided the growth of TaxWatch into a dynamic, influential organization dedicated to improving government productivity and taxpayer value through research and civic engagement. TaxWatch recommendations, approximately 70 percent of which have been adopted by Florida's government, have saved billions of dollars for Florida taxpayers.

In addition to identifying and working to improve government spending in the public interest, Mr. Calabro and TaxWatch are the key players in the annual Prudential-Davis Productivity Awards, a nationally unique public-private partnership that recognizes and rewards exceptional Florida state employees whose innovative work measurably increases productivity and saves taxpayer money.

Mr. Calabro's hard work and dedication has helped Florida TaxWatch earn and maintain the respect of the state's most highly regarded and influential leaders, as well respect of the citizens of Florida and the state and national media. Mr. Calabro has received numerous honors and awards, including being named by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce as one of Ten Outstanding Young Americans for 1994, and during this same period, many Florida TaxWatch recommendations have served as the impetus for important changes to Florida budgetary and taxation policy, including the Taxpayers Bill of Rights of 1992, the Government Performance Accountability Act of 1994, the complete phase-out of the Intangibles Tax, and a recent Government Cost Savings Task Force that so far has saved the

state nearly $3 billion to weather the current economic climate.

In addition to his many roles in government accountability, Mr. Calabro is involved in a number of community organizations, including the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Big Bend, the Knights of Columbus, and the Board of Directors of Florida House.

Mr. Calabro is also dedicated to improvements in public education. He is on the Board of Advisors for Florida State University's Graduate School of Social Work. Mr. Calabro also serves on the Florida Education Foundation and Communities in Schools of Florida.

Mr. Calabro has been supported in all of his endeavors by his loving wife of thirty-one years, Debbie. Mr. and Mrs. Calabro are devoted to their four children, Diana, Dominic, Christina, and Danny.

I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Calabro on his thirty years of service with Florida TaxWatch, and to wish him nothing but the best in his future endeavors.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus and co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1613. I am deeply concerned about the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Pakistan due to the recent historic floods and hope that this resolution will bring much-needed attention to the plight of the Pakistanis. I am always moved and inspired by the generosity of the American people when they hear about those in need around the world and I believe that the United States should do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aid supplies and workers into the region.

We must do everything possible to help expedite the flow of U.S. and international aide supplies and workers into the region. I believe that we should immediately reprogram funds from the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which were initially set aside for democracy building, into the relief effort. This way we can have an immediate impact without spending a single additional taxpayer dollar. While food shortages and instances of waterborne disease continue to spread, we must act quickly and decisively. The generosity of the American people has been commendable. Let's make it count by acting as swiftly and competently as possible.

We are currently fighting extremists throughout the region of South Asia, extremists who propagate the lie that Americans are out to destroy the Muslim way of life. Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to prove that this couldn't be further from the truth by helping the Pakistanis when they need it most. The U.S. response to the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan led to a short-term increase in positive public opinion of the United States in Pakistan and I know that a similar response to this, a much larger tragedy, is sure to have an even greater influence in the hearts and minds of people.

PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS IN CON DAU

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to once again raise the issue of human rights. In January 2010, the Government of Vietnam sent police and government officials into a village to force parishioners and families to sign an agreement to sell their land. In April 2010, a 73-year-old parishioner named Le Van Sinh was hit with tear gas and fell unconscious. In May 2010, parishioner Mrs. Dang Thi Tan passed away and was met with extreme violence and 300 armed police officers and special anti-riot troops while her friends and family tried to bury her in the Con Dau cemetery. During the ceremony, the police attempted to seize the casket. The diocese of Da Nang also reported that Mr. Nam Nguyen, a parishioner of Con Dau was arrested, threatened and beaten to death.

Are these the actions of a country that respects human rights? The same country that committed these horrendous violations was taken off the Country of Particular Concern (CPC) list because the Department of State felt they had progressed in respecting religious freedom. The same country that detained these individuals for peacefully exercising their freedom of speech is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

How can we identify Vietnam as an international partner when it is unable to respect and recognize the basic fundamental ideas of democracy and freedom? Vietnam must be put back on the CPC list and challenged by the U.S. government to improve and promote human rights in order to further United States-Vietnam relations.

I urge the Department of State to seriously address the human rights violations occurring in Con Dao. I also urge my colleagues to support the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Vietnam to investigate the ongoing human rights violations happening in Con Dau by becoming a cosponsor of House Resolution 1572.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's anniversary of independence of numerous Latin American countries, of our country's Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Latinos in my district and throughout our country.

On September 15, five Latin American countries commemorate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. I join these nations in mutual celebration of liberty, democracy and freedom, values which we share dearly.

I am proud that my district is the home of thousands of Hispanic or Latino descent. This community is comprised of individuals who cherish their various ethnicities and national origins. And yet, the Hispanic-American community is united by the importance that they place on faith, family, hard work, and the hope of sharing in a better America.

Madam Speaker, it is in this spirit of national unity that I join you in commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month.

HONORING BILL GRAFF

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, last weekend, a shining light went out in the City of Norwood, Ohio when Bill Graff passed away.

Before he moved to Norwood eight years ago, Bill was one of the millions of Americans whose work formed the backbone of our nation. He retired from General Motors after a career that took him from his native Michigan to Tennessee.

It was after he retired that Bill brought his charisma and commitment to Norwood, and spent the last years of his life changing that city for the better. In the relatively short time he called Norwood home, Bill Graff wove himself into the fabric of that community. Whether carrying out a restoration that breathed new life into one of Norwood's magnificent older buildings, leading the charge to get new equipment for Norwood's police and first responders, or brainstorming about their next project with Vivian, his wife of 45 years, Bill was always looking for new ways to give back and strengthen the bonds that hold Norwood together.

Through his tireless actions, Bill showed us that community means more than just a group of people sharing a street or a neighborhood. He showed us that community is built upon service to one another, concern for our neighbors and our children, and a dedication to improving the lives of those around us as well as our own families.

Especially in these tough times, we look at Bill's life as an example of what a single person can do to lift up so many others. He will be dearly missed.

MEDIA GIVES FAR MORE MONEY TO DEMOCRATS THAN REPUBLICANS

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, for a revealing example of the national media's liberal bias, just follow the money.

During the 2010 election cycle, journalists have given to Democrats over Republicans by

a margin of almost 2 to 1, according to a new report by the Center for Responsive Politics.

The list includes employees of news outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Reuters, among many others.

Furthermore, during the 2008 election cycle, 88 percent of campaign contributions from television network employees went to Democrats, according to The Washington Examiner.

It's no wonder only 8 percent of Americans trust the media, according to a Zogby public opinion poll.

The national media should give Americans the facts, not give Democrats more money.

TAN ESCO CAN TEACH US ALL A LESSON OR TWO

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Señora Escolastica Tudela Cabrera, more popularly and lovingly known as Tan Esco, is an icon to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for her enduring entrepreneurial spirit and tenacity in overcoming adversity.

Born on February 10, 1930, Tan Esco grew up during the difficult days of the Japanese Administration of the Northern Mariana Islands. Her father had to leave his young family and go to Palau, working in the phosphate mines there to earn money for his family back home in Saipan.

Tan Esco attended a private, Catholic school, but later had to transfer to a Japanese school, where Chamorro and Carolinian children were taught the Japanese language and customs. Tan Esco remembered her Japanese teachers for their harsh manner in dealing with errant students and for the corporal punishment, which they meted out unsparingly. Despite such treatment, Tan Esco excelled at school. She was among the top ten in her class and was even put in charge of classes, when the teacher was summoned away.

The attitude of the Japanese Administration towards the local Chamorros and Carolinians hardened even farther, Tan Esco recalls, with the onset of World War II. And when American forces invaded Saipan, the Japanese military treated the local people almost as if they, too, were the enemy. Tan Esco hid in a small cave with over 40 natives for 19 days, while gunfire and bombs raged around them night and day. It was a nightmare for the 14-year-old Escolastica; and the memories of the war remain fresh to this day, memories she hopes no one in her family will ever have to experience.

After the war ended, Tan Esco worked hard to help her family rebuild their lives. With the knowledge of hairdressing she learned from an American lady and $500 borrowed from her father, Tan Esco opened Saipan's first beauty shop in the village of Susupe. The budding entrepreneur was only 19 years of age. Then her business interests grew. Within a few short years, she expanded into retail, becoming the first post-war shopkeeper to sell shoes and clothing. Tan Esco and her husband, the late Gregorio Camacho Cabrera or Tun Guru, next opened a gasoline station, began manufacturing charcoal, processing tapioca, and much to everyone's delight dishing up dessert at Saipan's first soft-serve ice cream shop.

Tan Esco's lasting legacy to her island community, however, and the business that would even make her name abroad, was the bakery. She did not even know how to make bread, when she started. But with a little advice from her mother to get things going, and lots of help from the rest of the family, Escolastica plunged into baking.

As always, Tun Goru was there by her side, nurturing his wife's enthusiasms and executing the business plans that she never seemed to run out of. The two would wake at 2 a.m. to bake and prepare food. They sold their goods from their snackmobile to the several hundred hungry students at Mt. Carmel School and Hopwood Junior High, who in those days had no school cafeteria. Tan Esco and Tun Goru also had a snack shop at the Saipan airport, which they would open when flights were arriving or departing. They baked 500 loaves of bread daily, delivering it Tanapag and San Roque in the north, often running out because of demand, but always assuring customers there would be more fresh bread tomorrow.

And in the midst of all this activity, Tan Esco and Tun Goru managed to raise a family—13 children in all, who themselves quickly learned the lessons of hard work and sacrifice needed to ensure the survival of the family. All the children's tasks were either directly or indirectly related to running the family business, Escolastica's Enterprises.

Admired for her work ethic and drive to succeed, Tan Esco also became involved in local politics and civic organizations. She was the first woman ever to serve on the municipal council of Saipan. She held key positions in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with the Saipan Farmer's Market Association, the Micronesian Arts and Crafts Association, the PTA committees of Mt. Carmel School, the Kristo Rai Church parish council, the Vocational Education State Advisory Council and other organizations. She participated in the White House Conference on Aging. And in 1991, Tan Esco accepted the honor of being the first woman grand marshal in Saipan's Liberation Day parade and festivities.

Today, Tan Esco enjoys her days in full retirement, having handed over the reins of the business to her youngest daughter. Tan Esco reached the milestone of 80 years of life earlier this year. Her years of work have left her as vigorous and she could easily pass for a woman of 60. Tan Esco says she can hardly believe that she has lived for eight decades, marveling that time has flown so fast. Her husband Tun Goru passed away in 2006, but their 13 children, and many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were on hand to celebrate Tan Esco's 80th birthday.

Biba, Tan Esco, and dangkulo na si Yuus Maase. You are a living lesson to the younger generations of the Northern Mariana Islands. God bless.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO PAKISTANI PEOPLE AFTER FLOODS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, as an original sponsor of this resolution, I join Chairman BERMAN, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and my colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 1613, a resolution expressing our condolences and support to the Pakistani people as they face a humanitarian disaster of monumental dimensions.

Today, a fifth of the country of Pakistan is under water as the country endures the greatest flooding in a century. More than 1,750 people have lost their lives, over 2,700 people have been injured and almost 2 million homes have been destroyed—displacing millions of men, women and children. Hundreds of bridges have been destroyed, cutting off communities from relief supplies. And many communities lie vulnerable to cholera and other epidemics as access to clean drinking water diminishes. This disaster has impacted the lives of tens of millions of people.

Acting swiftly, the U.S. government joined forces with the Pakistani government to provide immediate assistance. American military helicopters were redirected to rescue efforts within hours of the Pakistani Government's request for help. American military aircraft began delivering hundreds of thousands of meals and millions of pounds of relief supplies to the affected areas. We have provided heavy-duty waterproof sheeting to construct temporary shelters for more than 100,000 people, rescue boats, construction equipment, water filtration units, and even prefabricated bridges. We are working hand-in-hand with the Pakistan National Disaster Management Authority to ensure this assistance is delivered expeditiously to those in need.

Additionally, the U.S. has pledged more than $150 million toward emergency flood relief. Approximately $92 million of that total is in direct support of the UN relief plan. USAID and the State Department are also working together to redirect $60 million of the $7.5 billion Pakistan development aid package to flood recovery and reconstruction efforts. And, in light of fast moving events on the ground, USAID Administrator Shah has expressed an intention to re-evaluate future uses of the Pakistan aid package.

This is a time of great crisis for the Pakistani people and they urgently need our help. This resolution expresses our support for the people of Pakistan as they face this unprecedented catastrophe and encourages the Obama Administration to re-examine its priorities for using funds under the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 in light of the crisis.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

CRUSH IT—IN HONOR OF A REAL AMERICAN HERO, SGT MICHAEL CAMERON, THE UNITED STATES ARMY 984TH MP COMPANY

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a strong son of the South, and a real American hero, SGT Michael Cameron of Atlanta. Another freedom fighter, from that great State of Georgia, who went off to war for his country. On April 1, 2007, Michael lost his leg in southern Iraq, and almost his life, but he's come back home even stronger in his quest to rebuild his life. With the support of his lovely wife and their beautiful daughter, they are living the American dream as he is back in college at Emory University embarking upon a new career. I ask that this poem penned by Albert Caswell, who has grown to admire his strength and courage and determination over the years, be placed in the RECORD in honor of his courageous life . . .

CRUSH IT

In times of war, Georgia Men . . .
Have but our Nation's burdens bore!
Men like Max Cleland, whose fine hearts have soared!
As into That Darkness, they'd so moved forth!
As there they Crushed It! Moved it, and ran right through it . . .
All in the darkest of all evils, as Michael you so pursued it!
As you so ran right up to it, as death you so viewed it . . .
Built for speed! All in your heroes creed . . . You Crushed It!
As you could not be stopped, as you would not heed!
As deep . . . deep . . . deep . . . deep down inside, your great heart . . .
So began to beat!
To give you all that you so needed!
As a Hero, a Freedom Fighter . . .
As all for God and country you would so bleed . . .
A bold Army Man, who now so stands . . .
As life and death, all so lie all in your hands . . .
The kind of guy, A Band of Brothers . . . wants by their side . . .
All in the darkest of all nights, who will so stand . . .
While, all there in that moment of truth . . .
When, all seems so lost . . .
Your fine heart so shows us the proof!
As looking down, as you so found . . . your strong leg not found . . .
And yet somehow, your fine heart will not be reduced!
As you had to Crush It . . . as you must rebuild, all but with your iron will . . .
As you Crushed It . . .
As so much depends upon you Mike . . .
Pumping up, as once again it's all up to you . . . my son!
To rebuild where none lies left,
as your fine heart so instills, for you to but be only your very best!
As with your courage, you so Crushed It . . .
Oh yes . . . as all of us you have so blessed . . .
As we watch you, when your courage comes to crest . . .
All in your tine life's reps, as an Army man who so can . . .
To Be The Best!
As you will not wait, as you will not rest . . .
All in this, your life's most heroic quest!
You Crush It!
Surely, legs we can all live without . . .
But, heart's . . . we can not so surely live no doubt . . .
As but where all of your courage so comes from, is all about!
Watching you Michael, we so understand . . .
Just what the word Hero, is all about!
Whether, on battlefields of honor seen . . .
Or back home rebuilding your life, Michael You Are Seen, Crushing It!
With but all of your, Most Heroic Dreams!
Teaching Us! Reaching Us! As all hearts here so Beseeching Us . . .
Making dynamic gains, all in your life's theme!
Chiseled, from the top on down . . .
Rebuilding, your life into a work of art so profound!
As, there is nothing that's going to hold this Army Man down!
A Freedom Fighter, who all hearts will so ignite here . . .
Crushing us now, all with what's all in your heart so found!
And if I ever have a son, I but hope and pray he could be like this fine one!
Who So Shines, like this Southern Son . . .
For what your heart and life has won!
You've Crushed It!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, September 16, 2010, due to a meeting at the Institutes of Medicine. If I were present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall 526, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 1620—Providing for consideration of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

"Yea" on rollcall 527, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 1620—Providing for consideration of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act.

"Yea" on rollcall 528, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendments, H.R. 3562—To designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building.

H.R. 5827, PROTECTING GUN OWNERS IN BANKRUPTCY ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5827, the Protecting Gun Owners in Bankruptcy Act. This legislation would provide a special exemption to allow gun owners to keep certain firearms during bankruptcy proceedings.

Bankruptcy is a difficult and trying time for all families who face it. The federal system is designed to protect some personal items from being seized, because they are essential to an individual or family's livelihood. Assets such as clothing, household furnishings, retirement funds, and social security benefits are exempt from seizure—within certain limits—so that those struggling through bankruptcy have something to restart their lives with. While this bill may be a political victory for the American gun lobby, a special carve-out for guns would do nothing to help families emerge from the crisis of bankruptcy.

In these times of economic hardship, millions of working families are facing bankruptcy and foreclosure. They need real help, not carve-outs for special interests.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLYDE McQUEEN OF THE FULL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Clyde McQueen, an individual who has dedicated his life to economic development and job training initiatives in the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, the district that I am honored to represent. This week, during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, Mr. McQueen will be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame, an annual occasion held to honor the achievements of African Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

Mr. McQueen serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Full Employment Council—Missouri Career Center, a center that works to promote job training and placement in the Kansas City, Missouri and the surrounding areas. The Full Employment Council is a nonprofit organization tasked with providing career employment and training for the unemployed and the underemployed. In this position, Mr. McQueen, administers and directs funding towards job training, education, and economic development. The Full Employment Council is responsible for program activities that work to develop employment training programs in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

Mr. McQueen has served in this role for over 23 years, and has assisted over a half a million people during his tenure. While in this position, Mr. McQueen's commitment to unemployment has been recognized by a proclamation from the Missouri House and Senate, as well as from a letter of appreciation from former President Bill Clinton in recognition of support offered to the President during his 1996 visit to Kansas City. Prior to serving as President and CEO of the Full Employment Council, Mr. McQueen served as Division Director of Training and Employment Development for the Texas Department of Community Affairs. In this role, Mr. McQueen was responsible for directing the budget to fund units of government, business organizations, and community based groups for job training and employment initiatives.

Mr. McQueen received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Speech Communication and Political Science from the Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. Currently, he is a board member of the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Workforce Development Council, and was appointed to the Missouri Automobile Task Force by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon. Mr. McQueen has been

awarded the "Professional of the Year" award by the Missouri Association of Workforce Development and a "Local Hero" award by Ingram's Magazine.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and privilege for me to recognize Mr. Clyde McQueen for his efforts to improve the workforce and advance job training in the Kansas City Metropolitan Area. I know that Mr. McQueen will continue to fight for both the unemployed and underemployed in my district, and in this time when unemployed rates have plummeted, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of Mr. McQueen. It is with great pride that we honor Mr. McQueen today for his commitment to the residents of Missouri.

HONORING THE 2010 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF THE FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I honor the four schools in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas recently recognized for excellence in education. Fred Douglass Elementary School in Jacksonville, Lake Highlands Junior High School in Dallas, Scurry-Rosser Middle School in Scurry and West Side Elementary School in Jacksonville were named to the Department of Education's 2010 Blue Ribbon Schools list.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the students, parents, teachers, and administrators to a quality education. Education is the backbone of a successful society, and I am proud to know that the students of these four schools are receiving a quality education that will provide a solid foundation for future academic success.

This is a great honor of which the school, its students, parents, and communities can be justifiably proud, and I offer my warm congratulations on this fine achievement.

Madam Speaker, as the representative for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to commend these schools for their continued achievements in education.

EDMUND G. SCHMIDT OF HUTTO, TEXAS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Edmund G. Schmidt of Hutto Texas. "Mr. Hutto", is what they call him. Mr. Edmund G. Schmidt has served the Hutto community in countless ways for decades. First being elected to city council in 1961, Ed served the city for 29 consecutive years, 9 as city councilman and 20 as mayor of Hutto. A World War II Veteran, and small business owner for over 50 years, Schmidt has also continued serving with several groups, including the Hutto Lions Club, where he is in his 54th year of perfect attendance as a charter member, and Hutto Lutheran Church where he has served for more than six decades. Schmidt served as the first President of the Hutto Economic Corporation.

Schmidt grew up on a farm outside of Taylor. "God's country," he calls it. Looking for a way to a way to provide for his young family after returning from the war, some friends convinced him to open his own grocery store in Hutto.

Signing a 5-year lease for $25 a month, Schmidt transformed a big, open building on East Street into his own grocery store, Red & White, with his wife Julia. They opened their doors on Friday, July 13, 1951, with three other groceries in the area to compete with. Ed proved himself to the community of Hutto and 2 years later, in 1953, he bought and expanded into the space next door. When his lease expired he purchased his first building. He owned and operated his grocery store with Julia on East Street until 1990. With the store closed, Schmidt had the opportunity to get in the insurance business with his son Dennis, so he sold some of his building space and kept enough for an office where he still works with his son. As an established resident, small business and property owner in Hutto, in 1961 Schmidt learned of a place on the council through a good friend from church who was also council member. When an opening came up mid-term, Schmidt filled it and then kept getting re-elected, never spending a cent on a campaign. "I never thought, and no one on council, thought of ourselves as politicians," he said. "We were serving the community. We just had to pitch in."

At this time, the city assessed and collected its own taxes; it had one elected marshal who was replaced with a one-person police department, a distant thought from the Hutto we see today, with a full police force, and new neighborhoods and schools being built to keep up with the rapid growth. On Friday, October 20, 2007, the city honored Schmidt, renaming County Road 119 after him, for his contribution to Hutto's growth. Ed Schmidt Boulevard links Hutto to Pflugerville's FM 685.

Though he continues to work hard every day without any sign of slowing down, Ed cherishes his time spent with Julia. Married 68 years, the Schmidt's have raised four children and now take great pride and joy in their 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who all live between Austin and Rockdale.

CONGRESSIONAL MADE IN AMERICA PROMISE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2039, the Congressional Made in America Promise Act. This bill extends the provisions of the Buy American Act to the legislative branch. It is important that the Congress lead by example and support American manufacturers and businesses.

In the global economy, American manufacturers are being pressured from all angles. It is important for this Congress to pursue policies that ensure that our businesses are able to compete in the world economy.

There is much to be done, but this bill is a step in the right direction and allows for us to support our manufacturers directly. I look forward to working with the my colleagues to continue to support American manufacturing and a strong, vibrant workforce.

HONORING LARRY POWELL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Larry Powell for receiving the 2010 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Sequoia Council Boy Scouts of America. Larry has had a distinguished career as the Superintendent in the Fresno County Office of Education, adhering to extremely high standards of quality and integrity.

Larry is a lifetime resident of Fresno County who has created a legacy in his 40 years of service in public education. He has served students and lead community educational endeavors in Sanger Unified School District, Fresno Unified School District, and Central Unified School District.

Larry is also very involved and well connected within his community. He has participated in many civic and church activities, including membership on the Board of Trustees for Fresno Pacific University, the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, Break the Barriers, the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts, and many others.

Larry's educational leadership has been recognized by the California School Administrators of Region 9, who awarded him as Superintendent of the Year. He has been recognized by Fresno State as a Noted Alumni.

Larry is married to Dot, a former principal and Executive Director of SALT Fresno and READ Fresno, Inc. He has a daughter and two grandchildren. It is clear that Larry will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in commending Larry Powell for his distinguished career and community service, and in wishing him the best of luck and health as he continues to set standards in Fresno County.

HONORING THE 300 ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Congregation of Great Valley Presbyterian Church in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania as they celebrate the Church's 300th anniversary.

Recognized as the second-oldest Presbyterian church in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, services originally were held in homes of various members. Rev. Malachi Jones delivered the first sermon in 1714 from a wooden pulpit inside the rough log cabin held together by iron nails forged on site and with windows made from imported glass.

Organized more than 65 years before our nation declared its independence from Great

Britain, Great Valley aided America's Revolutionary War effort by providing supplies to help troops encamped at nearby Valley Forge survive the brutal winter of 1777–1778.

While the Church and the area surrounding it has evolved immeasurably since the days when farmers and their families worshiped in a ''little country church,'' the tremendous commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of members and strengthening the bonds between neighbors and families has remained constant.

A worship service to give thanks for 300 years of faith and service will conclude the Church's tercentennial celebration on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Congregation of Great Valley Presbyterian Church as they commemorate this memorable milestone and in extending best wishes for continued success and growth.

CONGRATULATING THE MOJAVE AIR AND SPACE PORT ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an airport in my community that has been at the forefront of aerospace milestones. Mojave Air and Space Port, located in Mojave, California, is celebrating 75 years of service and cutting edge innovation this upcoming September 18, 2010.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has a unique history. Starting as a rural airstrip in 1935, the Mojave Airport provided access to the local gold and silver mining industry. After seven years of serving the local mining industry, the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) shifted the focus of the airport and turned it into the Marine Corps Auxiliary Station (MCAAS) Mojave in 1942. In 1946, MCAAS Mojave was converted into a U.S. Navy airfield. In 1951, the USMC reopened MCAAS Mojave as an auxiliary field, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. In 1961, Kern County acquired the airport, and in 1972, and the East Kern Airport District was formed to direct the airport.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has three core focuses: flight testing, space industry development, and aircraft heavy maintenance and storage. With its convenient location close to Edwards Air Force Base, the Mojave Air and Space Port has been a leader in flight testing activities for over 30 years. Beginning in the late 1990s, the Mojave Air and Space Port became a hub for small companies seeking a place to develop space flight technologies, with the first flight tests starting in 1999. In 2004, it was the first spaceport certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to be licensed for horizontal launches of reusable launch vehicles in the United States.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is the home to the Rutan Model 76 Voyager aircraft, designed by Burt Rutan and piloted by his brother Dick Rutan, where they set a record-breaking flight around the world without stopping to refuel in 1986. Model 281 Proteus, a tandem-wing high-endurance aircraft designed by Burt and tested at the Mojave Air and Space Port, holds several altitude records.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is also home to SpaceShipOne. It is the first, and so far only, privately built, flown, and funded aircraft to launch and enter a man into space in June of 2004. This feat was acknowledged with the Ansari X Prize, and the 2004 Collier Trophy later that year, awarded by the National Aeronautic Association. Today, SpaceShipOne is displayed in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's ''Milestones of Flight'' gallery in Washington, D.C. SpaceShipTwo is now in development and will continue to transform the commercial space industry.

Today, the Mojave Air and Space Port occupies about 3,300 acres and serves as a world renowned flight resource center. The airport is home to over 40 companies, ranging from small industrial to highly advanced aeronautical design firms. XCOR is a small business that is building a spacecraft to take individuals to space. Recently, NASA awarded funding to tenant Masten Space Systems through the NASA Commercial Reusable Suborbital Research Program to finance the development and testing of the Xaero vehicle which will make four flights from the Mojave Air and Space Port to demonstrate reusable launch and small payloads going to near-space.

The Mojave Air and Space Port continues to break new ground and expand its facilities as it recently extended its largest runway to 12,500 feet and integrated a new commercial development taxiway system. The Mojave Air and Space Port not only is known for its revolutionary air and space technology, but it also boasts an extensive resume in film production. The airport has been the host to movies, television shows, commercials and music videos.

Today, the Mojave Air and Space Port is run and supported by the leadership of the East Kern Airport District. The East Kern Airport District encourages entrepreneurship and flourishes, existing by its mission statement to, ''Foster and maintain our recognized aerospace presence with a principle focus as the world's premier civilian aerospace test center while seeking compatibly diverse business and industry.'' The Mojave Air and Space Port is under the forward-thinking leadership of the East Kern Airport District Board Members Jim Balentine, JoAnn Painter, Marie Walker, Dick Rutan, and Cathy Hansen and General Manager, Stuart Witt, along with his team of dedicated individuals.

The Mojave Air and Space Port is also home to the Intermediate Space Challenge. Through this program, the Mojave Air and Space Port opens its facility to young students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, enabling them to work together in a team environment to choose a team name, create team banners, craft an essay, and develop and use their math and science skills to construct and launch a small rocket under appropriate supervision. Along with involving the community in this revolutionary program, the Mojave Air and Space Port also encourages teachers and administrators across the country to implement similar programs that stimulate students and infuse them with a love of engineering, mathematics, and science.

The Mojave Air and Space Port has given the community 75 years of exceptional service. It is a keystone of our aerospace achievements not only in California but around the nation and throughout the world. I applaud the Mojave Air and Space Port for its innovative research and its service as a public airport and will continue to support its place in America's air and space development for years to come.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF 2010 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of 2010 Hispanic Heritage Month, as we celebrate the members of this community and their invaluable contributions to the Greater Cleveland Area and to our country.

Hispanic Heritage month celebrates and illuminates the significant contributions that Americans of Hispanic heritage have had on American culture. Hispanic Americans have contributed immeasurably toward efforts to elevate the human condition.

Americans of Hispanic descent have served our country in numerous ways—as elected officials, teachers, musicians, physicians, veterans, community activists, and dedicated employees in virtually every sector of the economy. Their rich and diverse culture has touched the life of every American has been an invaluable addition to Cleveland's diverse social fabric.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of Hispanic Heritage month of 2010, as we recognize the great contributions made by Hispanic Americans in my district and around the country.

COMMEMORATING CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, September 17th is Constitution Day, a time to show appreciation for the foundational and supreme law of our land that deserves special attention this year. The principles of the U.S. Constitution have successfully guided our Nation through times of both prosperity and challenge. The genius of our Constitution rests in the Founding Fathers' intricate system of checks and balances and the division of powers between the states and the national government. This has helped ensure that the people are the masters of their government, rather than its servants. The 10th Amendment was particularly prescient in recognizing that the most effective, responsive, and representative government is that which is closest to its citizens. It has long been my practice to distribute copies of the Constitution to the school groups with whom I meet, and I am greatly encouraged by the millions of patriotic Americans who are now dedicating themselves to reaffirming and restoring the principles of limited government and personal freedom. Public and personal readings of the Constitution are taking place throughout Alabama and our country in recognition of Constitution Day. All Americans should reflect on an enduring document that has given us the magnificent gifts of

democracy and freedom and remained relevant to providing guidance for our government despite the passage of more than two centuries.

LEGISLATION TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY FOR HHS TO GRANT CHILD WELFARE WAIVER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO STATES

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, today I introduced legislation with Representative JOHN LINDER (R–GA) that would restore the authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to grant child welfare waiver demonstration projects to States. Child welfare waivers will give some States additional flexibility in designing targeted interventions for at-risk children.

While I support providing opportunities for States to improve the outcomes of children through this authority, waivers are not a substitute for comprehensive child welfare financing reform or for additional investments in improving outcomes for at-risk children.

I will continue to work with all of my colleagues to develop proposals that build on the progress made with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act so that we can ensure the best outcomes for every child that comes to the attention of the child welfare system.

PERMITTING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO ADMINISTER THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO APPLICANTS FOR NATURALIZATION

SPEECH OF

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4862, which permits Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization. I strongly support this bill and am a proud cosponsor of this bill.

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is granted to a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act. According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, more than 700,000 immigrants become U.S. citizens every year.

America is a diverse nation that was built on immigrants. As we all know, immigrants have made, and continue to make, lasting contributions to our society. In my home state of Georgia, immigrants comprise at least 11.9 percent of the state workforce. Thus, it is important to do all we can to create pathways for immigrants to become U.S. citizens. America is known for its rich diversity which is truly a source of strength and competitiveness.

At naturalization ceremonies, immigrants finally have the chance to become official citizens of the United States. Becoming a naturalized citizen U.S. citizen is a process that can take years to accomplish. Individuals must not only be knowledgeable about U.S. history, but be very patient. Naturalization is a special moment in their lives when all of their hard work, determination, and persistence ultimately pays off and they become U.S. citizens.

I look forward to having the opportunity to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization. Immigrants have, and will continue, to make long-lasting contributions to the United States. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 4862 and urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE CENTENARY OF MOTHER TERESA

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhi and of Albanian descent, for over 45 years ministered to the poor, sick, orphaned, and dying, first in India and then to other countries. She died in 1997 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II as Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

On the centenary of her birth, we celebrate the great work of this wonderful woman, who gave so much as an advocate for the poor and helpless that she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

When she arrived in India, she became increasingly disturbed by the widespread poverty she saw in Calcutta. She began her missionary work in the slums in 1948, wearing a simple white cotton sari with a blue border. She began looking after the needs of the destitute and starving by begging for food and supplies.

In 1950, she received Vatican permission to start the congregation that would become the Missionaries of Charity with a mission to care for, in her words, "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone." It began with 13 members and today has more than 4,000 nuns running orphanages, AIDS hospices and charity centers worldwide, and caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless, and victims of floods, epidemics, and famine.

She went wherever there was suffering. At the height of the war in Beirut she rescued children and brokered ceasefires; she helped the hungry in Ethiopia; radiation victims of Chernobyl; and earthquake victims in Armenia. She even opened a center in the South Bronx.

Mother Teresa suffered a heart attack in Rome in 1983, while visiting the Pope. After a second attack in 1989, she received an artificial pacemaker. In 1996, she broke her collar bone, suffered a bout of malaria, and her left ventricle failed. In failing health, she stepped down as head of Missionaries of Charity in March, 1997, and died on September 5, 1997.

Mother Teresa showed what can be done through dedication and love. She is a shining example of one who rather than curse the darkness, lit candles throughout the world to show us the way to help others.

NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Aerospace Week.

At a time when there is so much discouraging economic news, we can look to the skies for some solace.

Los Angeles County's unemployment rate is hovering around 13 percent, worse than the national average. But my district, the 36th Congressional District, has an unemployment rate of less than half that—largely because of the cushion provided by the aerospace industry. It is our economic engine.

Our aerospace companies employ 819,000 Americans in high-skill, high-wage jobs—nearly 6,500 of them in California—who together contribute 3 to 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

The products produced by aerospace companies are in world-wide demand. Last year the U.S. exported $81 billion in aerospace technology, responsible for the largest foreign trade surplus in the American economy.

Aerospace is not only vital to the American economy—it is vital to our national security. From the Mexican border to the Pakistan frontier, unmanned aircraft and other platforms provide eyes and ears to our military and law enforcement.

These are American jobs, and they are a cornerstone of our economy. For reasons of national security, nearly two-thirds of these jobs cannot be performed overseas. They are here to stay.

But our aerospace workforce is aging. Some 60 percent of aerospace workers are over age 50, and almost 26 percent are eligible for retirement this year. Not enough young scientists and engineers are signing up to take the place of the "gray wave."

It used to be that being a rocket scientist was synonymous with genius. Now that mantle seems to apply only to the inventors of Facebook, eBay and Google. We are graduating just 70,000 engineers a year. And U.S. students recently ranked 21 out of 30 in science literacy, and performed even worse in math literacy.

The only way we'll maintain our edge in aerospace is by inspiring kids and making it "cool" again to design air and space craft. Dean Kamen—the inventor of the Segway—does this through a nonprofit after-school robotics program. FIRST—For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology—is partnered with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to supply secondary schools with instructional materials, guidelines for starting robotics teams, and marketing support to interest children in studying the math and science behind construction of these devices.

Schools in my district participate in the robotics competition, and Dean Kamen has personally visited my district to take part in a panel on the need for more young people to pursue aerospace careers. Our economy and national security depend on it.

HONORING A FAMILY'S DEDICATED SERVICE TO AMERICA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. –WOLF. Madam Speaker, this past weekend I had the privilege of visiting with the Piedmont Republican Women's Club (PRWC) which was celebrating its 50th anniversary. The PRWC, whose first president was Anita Brower, was founded in Fauquier County in 1960. They are a volunteer grassroots organization, with more than 80 members, affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women and the Virginia Federation of Republican Women. Mrs. Patricia Rice was in attendance at the luncheon. She and her husband Scott Rice are the parents of six remarkable children who have served our country in immeasurable ways.

All six of the Rice children are currently serving or have served in the armed forces. Their commitment is extraordinary. The Rice family's story is one of unwavering strength and devotion to this country.

Rebecca L. Rice Johnson served five years in the Air Force during which time she attained the rank of senior airman. She also received the Air Force Commendation with Valor for her heroic efforts on the scene of a car accident. After serving in the Air Force she graduated from George Mason University and is now married to a Marine.

Sergeant Patrick McMahon Rice served as a radio tech from 1999–2003 and served in Iraq, fighting in the battle for An Nasiriyah for which he received a Presidential Unit Citation. After receiving an associate's degree he reenlisted and is currently stationed at New River Air Station, North Carolina, with 2nd Platoon, Military Police Company, Marine Wing Support Group 2/7.

Mary Ann Rice was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps and is a second lieutenant currently stationed at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii.

First Lieutenant Elisabeth Claire Rice, who was previously stationed at Tripler Army Hospital, was deployed to Afghanistan on a Forward Surgical Team. She has recently been treating many Afghan civilians—women and children—some in need of basic medical service and others who are victims of IED explosions.

Lance Corporal Christopher Scott Rice was diagnosed with an inoperable brainstem glioma at age 2, but fortunately had successful radiation treatments. After six months in Afghanistan with the Second Marines, Combat Logistics Group 6 in support of 1/6, he recently returned home. During his tour he provided convoy service in Helmand. He was involved in two separate incidents where IEDs went off but fortunately escaped without harm in a mine resistant vehicle.

Corporal Philip Kenneth Rice is a U.S. Marine who trained in intelligence at Cory Station, Florida. He is now receiving additional training in radio Recon.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to represent the Rice family of Warrenton, Virginia. This family has demonstrated unsurpassed devotion, leadership, and sacrifice in their service to our Nation. I salute them for their unyielding patriotism and love of country.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH WALTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Kenneth Walter, a World War II Navy 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. Kenneth Walter was recognized on Tuesday, September 7. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: KENNETH WALTER

(By Greg Eckstrom)

History is best learned from experience.

Living through it, feeling it and seeing it from your own eyes.

As a former American history teacher, Kenneth Walter, who has lived in Boone for 50 years now and is a retired United administrator, would likely be the best teacher you can find for World War II history from the Pacific.

Learning about Kamikaze pilots? Walter's boat was hit by one. The flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima? They came to Walter's boat first looking for a spare flag, and ended up getting the one from the boat next to him.

Walter's experiences brought him through some historic moments in World War II, but as far as sharing this in his classrooms after returning to the United States, he stuck to teaching rather than sharing stories.

''In my years of teaching I don't ever recall an instance of recounting the fact that I was in the service,'' he said. ''Everybody had been in the service. You did it and never gave it too much thought.''

Born in Keokuk, Walter graduated high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, before enlisting into the service.

''What choice was there for a young man, 16 or 17?'' he recalled of signing up for the Navy. ''You got in just as quick as you could . . . at least I did.''

And once he was in, Walter took pleasure in the little things . . . the basic things.

''On most every occasion I had a bed. On most every occasion, somebody else prepared my meal,'' he said with a laugh. ''And beyond that, I had a great job in the Navy. I was a quartermaster, which is not a quartermaster in the Army. A quartermaster in the Navy is the master of the quarter deck, which is the bridge. Quartermasters were in charge of navigation. As a quartermaster, you had to be able to do the same things a radio man did, the same things a signal man did. I also got qualified as a radar man. We had to do all sorts of things. We supervised the other enlisted staff on the bridge. But of course, we were always managed by officers. Navigation and communication were primary responsibilities.''

Walter found himself aboard a Tank Landing Ship, the LST–477, a long ship—about 325 feet—used to carry massive amounts of cargo.

''We went to Guam and did landings there, landings at Gilbert Islands. Our major action was in Iwo [Jima] when we got into the action big time,'' he said. ''We had a kamikaze hit us. That's when I lost my place to sleep.''

At the time, Walter's ship was carrying 25 tanks that were to be discharged on the first day of the Battle of Iwo Jima—a very heavy load.

''We were struck maybe 75 feet back from the bow,'' he said. ''It was carrying a bomb in addition to itself as a missile, and it penetrated the side and we went down on our nose. We couldn't get in because of our bow being low. So we had to wait two days. Finally, on the fourth day, we made it in.''

Another vivid memory for Walter was the flag raising at Mount Suribachi.

''We were one of the ships they came to looking for a flag to put up on Mount Sirabachi on Iwo, and the ship next to us had a flag extra, and we didn't happen to,'' he said. ''But we did get to see the event from our ship. We blew our horns and everything like that. The Marines let us know what they'd done, because we had Marines who were unloading tanks at that particular time.''

Walter also recalled the final day of World War II. His ship had been remodeled to be a hospital ship for the invasion of Japan.

''We had doctors and nurses aboard,'' he said. ''They put a couple operating rooms down where we usually carry tanks. So we were not unhappy to see the war be over. We were amongst those that were pleased that the atom bombs stopped the war. We knew what was going to happen to us.''

After the war ended, Walter traveled to Korea with a construction battalion, and then back to Japan. His boat had been decommissioned, and he found himself as part of the group giving his boat to those they had previously been fighting.

''It was an odd feeling,'' he said. ''There's nothing in any history book about the United States helping the Japanese in that kind of way. I think it's one of those typical things Americans do . . . give the beaten people a better chance to get by. And what happened to our ship, it was turned over to some Japanese fishermen. We gave them about two days worth of training on how to run the ship and gave it to them. On March 13, 1946, we did that. That's when I started my long trek home. I got out in July of 1946. I took a ship, another ship, back home.''

After his service, Walter moved to Illinois, then Boone, where he has lived for the past 50 years. He most recently went on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC. Although he had been there several times in the past, it was the first time he had seen the World War II Memorial.

''That's spectacular,'' he said. ''It really is.''

When recalling the history he's lived through, Walter doesn't give the highlights typically heard of service men and women of their travels.

''Yeah, I went to Japan and Korea and Australia and so on,'' he said. ''But it's not like being a tourist. You're not a tourist. There are a lot of places I was where I never stepped foot on the ground. You were just . . . it's like flying over Iowa.''

For Walter, he recalls the friendships that were formed with those aboard his ship. Since World War II, they have held reunions, and he has had friends from the service visit him in Boone.

''Lasting friendship,'' he said. ''Not deep friendship, just lasting. The service experience is something altogether different. There isn't anything to explain it.''

I commend Kenneth Walter 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 HONOR OF KIRSTEN C. COTY

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 1st Lieutenant Kirsten C. Coty, a courageous American hero, who recently returned from serving her country honorably in Iraq. First Lt. Coty's military service first began in March 2007, when she joined the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. She went on to complete her Air Force Officer Training in San Antonio, Texas before being assigned to the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In August 2009, 1st Lt. Coty was deployed to Joint Base Balad in Iraq as part of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing. In January 2010, she was reassigned to the United States Air Forces Central and extended her commitment of service through August 2010. Upon returning from Iraq, 1st Lt. Coty has been assigned again to the 90th Security Forces Squadron at the Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Characteristic to her distinguished service, 1st Lt. Coty continues to exemplify the strong character and bravery of the men and women who have put their lives at risk to fight to keep our country safe and free.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing 1st Lt. Kirsten C. Coty for her bravery, dedication and achievements. The American people owe her a great debt of gratitude for her selfless service to our great nation.

HONORING ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH IN WESTERN SPRINGS ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross Parish, a Catholic community in Western Springs, Illinois. This Saturday, September 18th, the parish is beginning a year-long celebration of 50 years as a faith community. My wife, Judy, and I will be participating in the first anniversary event which is a Mass celebrated by Francis Cardinal George followed by a parish family dinner reception.

Responding to a growing Catholic population in Western Springs in the 1950s, the Archbishop of Chicago, Albert Cardinal Meyer, authorized the founding of St. John of the Cross Parish in 1960. The original parish included 650 families. The church flourished under its first pastor, Reverend William J. Bennett, and opened a K–8 school of 595 students one year later.

Over the last 50 years, St. John of the Cross has been a pillar of the community in Western Springs. Its primary mission is feeding the spiritual needs of its 13,000 Catholic parishioners in 3,875 families. It is also one of the most generous faith communities in Chicagoland, including providing financial help and cultivating personal relationships with five churches around the U.S. and one in Uganda, along with helping to serve the basic needs of countless people in the area and around the world. St. John of the Cross Parish also supports a school that currently enrolls 700 students and is one of the top schools in Chicagoland.

As a parishioner of St. John of the Cross Parish, I have been able to witness first-hand the dedication and hard work of current pastor, Reverend David P. Dowdle, and the previous pastor, Reverend Richard Hines. All of the priests and staff members of St. John of the Cross cultivate a culture of charity and community among the parish.

I ask you to join me in honoring the clergy, faculty, staff, students, and parishioners of St. John of the Cross on the parish's 50th anniversary. May they enjoy this year-long celebration and may they provide many more years of commitment and service to the community.

ESTABLISHING ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VETERANS' CURATION PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5282, a bill that would create a Veterans' Curation Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, Mr. BARROW, for his work on this legislation. H.R. 5282 again shows the necessary commitment from the federal government to assist our veterans and military personnel through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

While I am supportive of H.R. 5282, I would be remiss if I did not take a few moments to discuss perhaps the biggest issue for the Corps of Engineers in the State of Georgia—updating the current manuals that affect both the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) Basins. Over the next 18 months before the court ordered deadline for negotiations to be completed, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida must develop a workable water sharing plan with the resources within these two basins.

Madam Speaker, one of the critical aspects of these negotiations will be how Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier are treated. I firmly believe that both of these lakes should be considered water supply lakes for the purposes of serving the local communities. Knowing that the negotiations are ongoing, it is my hope that common ground on the treatment of these lakes will be reached.

To that end, I applaud the leadership of both of Georgia Senators—SAXBY CHAMBLISS and JOHNNY ISAKSON—on these water issues. Specifically, both Senators have championed the notion of authorizing Lake Lanier and Lake Allatoona to be used for water supply and reallocation of storage to meet the current and future needs of the surrounding towns and cities.

As for the governors of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, I hope that a compromise including the use of these lakes for water storage and further, that allows them to be part of the water supply for the State of Georgia is on the horizon.

Madam Speaker, I am supportive of the efforts of the bill that we have before us and believe that it is another way in which we can help those who have so bravely served our country through the Armed Forces. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5282.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. MARINE CPL. JOE WRIGHTSMAN

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman for his selfless and valiant service to our nation.

On July 18, 2010, our country lost a Marine, and Jackson Parish lost a native son. However, as long as the American flag continues to fly over the sands of Afghanistan and the piney hills of Jackson Parish, Wrightsman's contributions to protecting the freedoms we hold so dear will never be forgotten.

A 2005 graduate of Jonesboro Hodge High School, Wrightsman was serving his third tour overseas—an exemplary achievement of a young man of 23 years old. In a generation where so many men and women have answered freedom's call to duty, his example of heroism and devotion embody what has truly made America a great nation for over two centuries.

Today, our words seem futile in comparison to Wrightman's service, but as written in 2 Corinthians 1:3, our prayer is "that the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, may be able to comfort those in troubling times."

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to U.S. Marine Cpl. Joe Wrightsman and extending thanks on behalf of a grateful nation.

KYLE VANOCKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deputy Sheriff Kyle Christine VanOcker. Ms. VanOcker passed away August 19, 2010 after a heroic battle with lung cancer.

Kyle's career in law enforcement began in 1986 as a police dispatcher for the Wheat Ridge Colorado Police Department. In 1989 Kyle joined the Jefferson County Sheriffs Department. During her years of service to the community, which spanned 24 years, Kyle received many awards and touched several lives by seeing the good in everyone.

Kyle was a model for outstanding service to her community and in honor of her memory, her family sponsored a K–9 dog for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. The Department is naming the dog Kyle.

Kyle had a very large support group from many walks of life which is a testament to the values she possessed. She will be remembered as a dedicated friend and committed to making her community better for all of us.

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

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Budget Enforcement Resolution that the House passed on July 1, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 14th, I was not present for rollcall vote 519. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RAY A. CONNER AS 2010 CHESAPEAKE FIRST CITIZEN

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Honorable Ray A. Conner as he receives the distinguished designation as First Citizen of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia for the year 2010. This prestigious honor is bestowed annually by the Chesapeake Rotary Club to an individual whose record of service and reputation of excellence and integrity exemplify the Rotary motto: "Service above self."

Ray has an extraordinary record of public service that extends from his professional position as Chesapeake's Commissioner of the Revenue to his tireless efforts on behalf of a broad spectrum of community life.

Demonstrating a lifelong commitment to excellence, Ray, an honor graduate of Great Bridge High School, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Old Dominion University and entered public service as a Magistrate for the City of Chesapeake, Virginia. Rising quickly to the position of Chief Magistrate, Ray then became Commissioner of the Revenue—a position to which he has subsequently been reelected eight times by the citizens of Chesapeake.

Ray earned certification as a Master Commissioner of the Revenue from the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, and his high professional standards have earned him positions of leadership as president of the Virginia Commissioners of the Revenue Association and president of the Virginia Association of Locally Elected Constitutional Officers. Ray has also served on the Advisory Committee of the Virginia Institute of Government and the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Retirement System.

Ray's impressive and extensive record of service to the community includes leadership roles as president or as an officer of the Chesapeake Regional Health Foundation, the Chesapeake Rotary Club and its Foundation, the Chesapeake Crime Line, Oak Grove United Methodist Church, and the South Norfolk Ruritan Club. Ray also serves on the boards of directors of the Southeast Virginia Community Foundation and Towne Bank.

Ray attributes his accomplishments and community spirit to the work ethic and personal values instilled in him by his parents, Dorothy Conner Payne and the late Clarence E. Conner, and to the loving support of his wife, Gretchen Maurer. Ray Connor has managed, through the force of his passion for his hometown and his profound commitment to serving others, to build a lifelong career of making Chesapeake, Virginia, a great place to live.

Madam Speaker, I feel privileged to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending the Honorable Ray A. Conner as 2010 First Citizen of Chesapeake.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELLEN NOËL ART MUSEUM

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ellen Noël Art Museum on its 25th Anniversary. For a quarter century, this institution has brought world class art to the dusty roads of West Texas. It is a beacon of knowledge and culture that shines across the Permian Basin.

Through the museum's art classes, workshops, and collaborations, a generation of Texans has been afforded a window on the wider world that rivals those in Dallas, Austin, and beyond. Just recently, the museum was selected to be an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution because of its "well deserved reputation for its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming." This opportunity will give the museum access to the vast collections of the Smithsonian Institution and allow

the citizens of West Texas to see some of man's finest artistic achievements in their own back yard. It also serves as an exclamation point on 25 years of exceptional educational opportunities.

Of course, without curators, teachers, maintenance staff, donors, and volunteers, a museum is just a building. As we celebrate the museum's 25th anniversary, we must also extend our gratitude to the hundreds of people who have worked over the years to build this institution into the community treasure we have today.

For 25 years, the dedicated staff and volunteers at the Ellen Noël Art Museum has served the students and families of their community. From nothing more than an idea, they have built a lasting legacy for every citizen of West Texas to enjoy and be inspired. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of the citizens of the Permian Basin, who I am privileged to represent, I extend my congratulations to the Ellen Noël Art Museum on its 25th Anniversary and my deepest thanks to the citizens who have worked to create this institution. Our community is made better because of your hard work.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF NORBERT M. BANGAYAN, MD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of Norbert M. Bangayan, MD, whose lifelong commitment to his patients, family and community made a permanent impact on countless lives throughout the northeast Ohio region.

Dr. Bangayan was a dedicated internist who led a family medical practice for nearly 40 years. Beyond his superior medical expertise and knowledge, Dr. Bangayan was known for his caring, patience and kindness. He treated every patient with dignity and respect, and frequently went above and beyond the call of duty to assist a patient in need. A gentle soul, Dr. Bangayan practiced from Deaconess Hospital in Cleveland for nearly 40 years, where he served in several leadership roles, including the hospital's Chief of Medical Staff. Dr. Bangayan served on several committees at Deaconess Hospital, and volunteered his time within several community organizations.

The center and foundation of Dr. Bangayan's life was always his family. He was the beloved husband of Ofelia and the loving father of Shirley, James, Maribe, and Michele. He was the devoted grandfather of Eric, Jack, Leo, Max and Kristin, and the beloved brother of Amelia. Dr. Bangayan was the beloved brother of Amelia. Dr. Bangayan was the beloved father-in-law to Ermir, Dr. Kieo and Steve. Along with his wife, Ofelia, Dr. Bangayan taught his children and grandchildren the significance of family, faith, heritage and giving back to community. He was deeply connected to his Filipino heritage, and was very active in the Filipino community of Greater Cleveland. For several years, Dr. Bangayan served as the President of the Association of Philippine Physicians of Ohio.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Norbert M. Bangayan, MD, whose joyous life was framed by love for family, devotion to friends and dedication to the wellbeing of the patients he so lovingly served. Dr. Bangayan's generous heart and love for others will forever exist within the hearts and memories of his family, friends and every patient who knew and loved him—and he will never be forgotten.

OVERSEAS CONTRACTOR REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5366, the Overseas Contractor Reform Act. The Overseas Contractor Reform Act will keep any person found to be in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 from receiving a government contract or grant. It is important that we ensure that any individual that receives a contract from the Federal Government, and therefore is a de facto representative of the people of the United States, is of the highest moral standard and complies with all applicable laws. Improving our ability to effectively oversee our foreign contractors will yield numerous benefits. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to improve our contractor system and curtail abuses and excesses when they are found.

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN LEGION DAY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Legion for the outstanding work they do on behalf of and for our nation's veterans.

Today we celebrate American Legion Day, the 91st anniversary of the date that the American Legion received their charter from the U.S. Congress. Over the past nine decades, the American Legion has never wavered from their commitment to support our veterans, our country and our communities.

The American Legion is a tremendous advocate for war-time veterans through their legislative outreach. Over the years, the Legion helped write and successfully advocated for the original "GI Bill of Rights" during World War II and the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, among other important accomplishments. In addition to working directly with and for veterans, the Legion has also played an important role providing community support in areas such as mental health, children's welfare, and disaster relief.

As the House sponsor of the 21st century Post 9/11 GI Bill, I am particularly grateful to the work the American Legion once again put forth to advocate for improved and enhanced education benefits for today's veterans. From helping to craft language and whipping support among lawmakers and the public, the Legion was an irreplaceable partner in this great step forward. Thanks to the Legion's grassroots efforts, today there are more than 330,000 veterans across the country now enrolled and using GI Bill benefits.

I am grateful for the many opportunities I have had to work with the Legion on both the national and local level.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing American Legion Day and honoring the decades of service to our veterans, and the vital work they continue to perform for our country.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF MAULDIN, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON ITS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Mauldin, South Carolina, on its Municipal Association of South Carolina Achievement Award for improving relations between the Mauldin Police Department and youth community. Through four innovative youth initiative programs, Mauldin police officers interacted with the young people in a positive, hands-on way.

The Mauldin Youth Court puts first-time juvenile defenders in a student-run trial. The jury of high school students hands out sentences typically consisting of community service, tutoring, or an essay. The program has seen success evidenced by a recidivism rate 5 percent lower than the rest of the state.

The Youth Academy program targets middle-school students who have met the police department in negative circumstances. Together the Mauldin police department and other community members interact with the students for four weeks in circumstances not involving disciplinary measures. After the four weeks have concluded, each student is delegated an officer for a year-long mentorship program.

Mauldin's police community also has made an effort to create a more formative relationship with adolescents through the Fifth Quarter program. With the help of the local high school and churches, the program hosts students at the local skating rink after school sporting events to prevent swarming and loitering. Officers serve free food and hand out prizes throughout the night. The program successfully has eliminated juvenile delinquency after football games, leading to a possible expansion of the program after basketball games.

The Mauldin Youth Academy and Explorer programs give youth community a chance to interact directly with the police department through hands-on activities and mentorship. These programs not only teach adolescents about law enforcement but also give the police department a desired pool of potential candidates when hiring new officers.

I am honored to see the City of Mauldin's novel youth programming with these four initiatives. The Mauldin Police Department is giving students the opportunity to interact with officers to proactively address juvenile crime

and garnering interest in law enforcement while serving and protecting the entire Mauldin community.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD ROTCH, LONGTIME PRINCIPAL AND COACH AT T.R. MILLER HIGH SCHOOL, BREWTON, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I join the people of Brewton and Escambia County, Alabama in mourning the loss of a beloved community leader whose life was suddenly taken during a tragic auto accident on August 11, 2010.

Donald Wayne Rotch, or ''Coach Rotch,'' as he was affectionately known to his former players and students and many in Brewton, was an institution in Escambia County. Originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana, Coach Rotch came to Brewton in 1974 from Jackson, Alabama, joining the T.R. Miller High School coaching staff.

Coach Rotch was a fixture in Tiger athletics for the better part of 18 years as the football offensive line coach while also coaching the baseball team.

T.R. Miller is a sports powerhouse in South Alabama and Coach Rotch was a major force behind the Tiger's success. As a coach, he helped the team attain two championships in 1984 and 1991, before transitioning to the role of high school administrator in 1992. He served as assistant principal and then principal at T.R. Miller for the next 20 years.

As a school administrator, Donnie Rotch also witnessed the Tigers achieve football championships in 1994, 2000 and 2002. Just one month after his death, his beloved Tiger football program scored their 600th victory—a milestone not matched by any other Alabama high school football team.

Coach Rotch was tragically taken from his family and his students in August when his vehicle was struck by another during a police chase. Ironically, the person driving the vehicle which took Rotch's life was a former T.R. Miller student. The police officer who was pursuing the other vehicle once played baseball under Coach Rotch. In a very real sense in this wonderful, small South Alabama town, this accident was a tragedy in every imaginable way.

Coach Rotch was the friendly face who greeted T.R. Miller students each morning as they arrived at school and he was the steady hand that guided his school through many decades of excellence—urging everyone from students, teachers and parents to ''do their best.''

It has been reported that Coach Rotch was planning to retire from his leadership post at T.R. Miller in the coming year. His untimely passing has left T.R. Miller and all of Brewton with deep and profound sadness. There was no bigger believer in his students and no bigger role model to his school than Coach Donnie Rotch.

Madam Speaker, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the family of Coach Rotch and to the people of Brewton and Escambia County who were all influenced by his remarkable presence. Our prayers especially go out to his wonderful wife, Jane; his daughter, Jayme; his son, Richard; his mother, Jean Rotch Bonneau; his three brothers, Greg, Ray and David; two sisters, Kathy and Connie, and other family. You are all in our prayers.

CONGRATULATING GREGORY APPLEGATE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gregory Applegate on his retirement from his position as city administrator of Sonora, California, where he has served since 1990. His work and service has made a permanent mark on the community and he will be missed.

Greg has been married to his wife, Deborah, for 31 years, and they have 2 children, Caleb and Cassie. Prior to his service as city administrator in Sonora, Greg worked for the city of Dos Palos and the city of Merced in his successful career in public administration. Greg was involved in many local and federal associations such as the Tuolumne County Economic Development Board, the Historic Downtown Chamber of Commerce, the League of California Cities, the California Redevelopment Association, and the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management, where he was past president.

Aside from industry and municipal organizations, Greg spends much of his time and energy serving the community through school initiatives, measures to improve children's health, Rotary Club, and mentoring youth at his church. Greg was involved in the Tuolumne County Healthy Children's Project as well as served on the Summerville High School Bond Committee.

You don't have to walk far through the streets of Sonora to see for yourself the hard work and tireless effort that Greg has put into the city. He has played a pivotal role in the following projects: the Sonora Opera Hall, creating the Sonora Redevelopment Agency, the Rother's Corner Fire Museum, the new fire station, the renovations of City Hall, the Mono Way Pedestrian Facility, the Sonora Crossroads Project, among countless other valuable projects.

Greg has been awarded a number of accolades throughout his time as a city administrator. These include the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Government Award, which he received in both 1991 and 2006, the Tuolumne County ''Top Hand'' award in 2002, and was named President of the city managers section of the League of California Cities, Central Division. He was also President of the Central San Joaquin Valley Risk Management Authority from 2004–2006.

After a long and full career of helping communities by developing and managing cities in the Central Valley, Greg is leaving the world of city administration, but his legacy will forever stay with the city of Sonora through the continuation and development of projects he has worked on and implemented through his 30–plus years of service. I rise today to thank Greg Applegate for his hard work and congratulate him on his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCGOVERN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize John McGovern, a Vietnam War Army Ranger and Studies and Observations Group 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 McGovern was recognized on Tuesday, August 31. Below is the article in its entirety:

BOONE COUNTY VETERANS: JOHN MCGOVERN

(By Greg Eckstrom)

John McGovern worries about sounding like he's bragging when he talks about his time in the military.

After all, with a resume of experiences like McGovern's, it's hard to share them without this concern crossing your head.

The man once briefed John Wayne. He's been part of the handful of graduates from some of the most difficult military training in the country. He's seen shrapnel come within inches of hitting him, walked through an ambush by himself and cheated death more than half a dozen times.

And so he recalls these experiences in a quiet, modest voice. He's proud of his time in the military, but quickly dismisses any comments that even tread on being complimentary with a quick statement.

''I've been lucky,'' he said. ''That's all.''

Coming from a large military family, McGovern was born in Oceanside, Calif., and raised in several states around the country—Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Alaska—as his father was in the military.

The decision to join the military was made by the young McGovern when he was 16 years old.

''I was ready to get out on my own,'' he said. ''I told [my father] I wanted to join, and he told me he'd sign for me. I took all my tests and everything and when I had my 17th birthday, they flew me out for Fort Carson, Colo.''

McGovern originally wanted to enter the infantry, but was given the offer to become an Army Ranger and jumped on the chance.

Once in Florida, McGovern ran into two sergeants—Pierre and Lehew—who took him under their wing.

''I ran patrols with him for six months at night, and then doing my job in the daytime. Finally they said I was ready,'' he said. ''So I put in for Ranger school, passed it, and then they kept me as an instructor. Oh, it was rough. That's actually probably one of the roughest schools other than Special Forces.''

Ranger school started with 275, graduated 70, and only 57 had enough points to receive the tab.

After passing Ranger school, the three went to Scuba school, then Airborne school, then Special Forces school.

Around 50 people were enrolled in Special Forces school. After its completion, only McGovern, Lehew and one other person remained.

''I've been lucky,'' he said. ''I would pick out the worst man, and I'd say, 'I'm going to be here longer than him.' And if he failed out, then I picked the next one. The main thing with all these hard schools . . . if you set your mind that you're going to pass it,

you'll pass it. But if you have any doubts, you're going to fail.''

After training, McGovern went to the 7th Special Forces group and Lehew, the 5th.

Stationed in Vietnam, at one point, McGovern's unit was having problems with ambushes, so they called up an additional force to help. Among them was Lehew.

''Naturally, I wanted to go out with him, but my team sergeant told me no,'' McGovern said. ''They wanted to keep me on the airfield with the reserve company.''

A while later, they got a radio call that the team had walked into an ambush and had one American and a couple Vietnamese wounded. McGovern asked if they wanted him to come out, but they declined, saying they were coming back in.

A couple hours later, they received another radio message that another ambush had hit them, this time with casualties. McGovern asked again if they wanted him, but they declined, and asked him to call in helicopters to transport the dead and wounded.

When the dead and wounded arrived back via helicopter, McGovern helped unload. Reaching up to grab a boot, he pulled and found his comrade, Lehew, was one of the dead. After helping load Lehew into the helicopter, the team sergeant ordered McGovern to round his company up and go escort the team back to camp.

That was during his first tour in Vietnam, which lasted about 13½ months. Upon returning to the U.S., he became an instructor in the Special Forces course before volunteering to go back. This time, he ended up in the Studies and Observations Group, or SOG.

''The main mission for SOG was . . . you take two or three Americans and about three or four Vietnamese or Montegnards and they'd drop us off in North Vietnam, Leose or Cambodia,'' he said. ''And we'd sneak around out there and try and gather intel or call in air strikes or whatever.''

During his second tour, McGovern shared his wife's, Janet McGovern, favorite story from his service.

Shortly before heading home, McGovern was asked if he wanted to run one more mission, which he readily accepted. He was told to gather a team together and that a helicopter would arrive in two hours.

''So I got a bunch of MCO's together and we got out there, and when the helicopters came in, we jumped on and took off,'' McGovern said. ''Well, the target area was clouded over so we couldn't get in, so we had to turn around and come back. They told us to be ready to go the next morning when the helicopters got there.

The next day, when the helicopter arrived, a Major notified McGovern that he was taking over. He was taking out a team that was closer to the target area, so McGovern said, 'OK,' and stood down.

''That afternoon at 1 o'clock, we got a radio message that they had been shot down and all of them killed,'' McGovern said.

Following his service, McGovern had a chance to meet up again with many of the men he served with overseas in Las Vegas for an SOA reunion. When asked what it's like to see these guys again, after going through so much with them in the service, McGovern's response is short and to the point.

''Oh God,'' he laughed. ''Great.''

For those joining the military, McGovern heartily endorses going through jump school and entering Special Forces . . . based on one condition.

''If possible, put in for jump school and special forces. If you're single,'' he said. ''Married men do it, but we had a 95 percent divorce rate and a 100 percent re-enlistment rate.''

McGovern's loyalty to his service, and his country, is unquestionable. Would he do anything differently if he could go back? ''No.'' What's been his favorite part of his military career? ''All of it.'' Do you ever miss it? ''Oh yeah.''

He's not being evasive in the questions . . . for McGovern, the shortest answer is the most accurate one. And he absolutely means it.

''You have to really experience it to understand it,'' he said. ''Unless you're in combat, the rest of it's just like having a job here in civilian life. You've got your job to do.''

Dedication . . . it's what's required for military service, and it's what McGovern has in spades. If he was called up today, Janet McGovern summed up what the response would be.

''If they called him today and said, 'Can you report tomorrow to do something?' he'd be gone,'' she said. ''And I'd have to let him go, because that's who he is. That's just what would happen. That's who he is. He loves his country more than anything.''

And that's not bragging . . . for McGovern, just like with his stories, that's just the truth.

I commend John McGovern 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.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 5297, Small Business Lending Fund Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7143–S7186

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3793–3801, and S. Res. 626–629. **Pages S7174–75**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 3980, to provide for identifying and eliminating redundant reporting requirements and developing meaningful performance metrics for homeland security preparedness grants, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–291)

S. 2739, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the establishment of the Puget Sound Program Office, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 111–292)

H.R. 4715, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–293)

S. 3799, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011. (S. Rept. No. 111–294)

S. 3800, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011. (S. Rept. No. 111–295)

S. 3717, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide for certain disclosures under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act). **Page S7174**

Measures Passed:

Small Business Lending Fund Act: By 61 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 237), Senate passed H.R. 5297, to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for small business job creation, as amended, after taking action on the following amendments and motion proposed thereto: **Pages S7144–58**

Adopted:

Reid (for Baucus/Landrieu) Amendment No. 4594, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S7144, S7150–58**

Withdrawn:

Reid (for Nelson (FL)) Modified Amendment No. 4595 (to Amendment No. 4594), to exempt certain amounts subject to other information reporting from the information reporting provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. **Pages S7144, S7149**

Reid (for Johanns) Modified Amendment No. 4596 (to Amendment No. 4595), to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of $600 or more to corporations. **Pages S7144, S7149**

Reid Amendment No. 4597 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 4594), to change the enactment date. **Pages S7144, S7149**

Reid Amendment No. 4598 (to Amendment No. 4597), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S7144, S7149**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 41 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 234), two-thirds of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to suspend Rule XXII, Paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with respect to Grassley proposed amendment No. 4433, to extend expiring tax incentives for biodiesel and renewable diesel. **Page S7149**

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 235), two-thirds of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to suspend Rule XXII, Paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with respect to Hatch proposed motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report the same back to

the Senate with changes to make permanent the research credit under section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996. **Pages S7149–50**

By 61 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 236), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Page S7158**

National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010: Senate passed H.R. 6102, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Navy to enter into multiyear contracts for F/A–18E, F/A–18F, and EA–18G aircraft. **Page S7181**

The American Legion Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 627, designating September 16, 2010, as ''The American Legion Day''. **Pages S7181–82**

10th Anniversary of the National Book Festival: Senate agreed to S. Res. 628, recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the National Book Festival. **Page S7182**

Hispanic Heritage Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 629, recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation. **Pages S7182–83**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3454, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S7158–68**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of September 16, 2010, a vote on cloture will occur at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, and that on Tuesday, September 21, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill following a period of morning business, with the time until 12:30 p.m., equally divided and controlled between Senators Levin and McCain, or their designees. **Page S7159**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, September 20, 2010. **Pages S7183–84**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was established in Executive Order 13224 on September 21, 2006; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–66) **Page S7172**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

Barbara Short Haskew, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

Neil G. McBride, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2013.

Jill Long Thompson, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring May 21, 2014.

Charles P. Blahous, III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Charles P. Blahous, III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Charles P. Blahous, III, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Robert D. Reischauer, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

Joshua Gotbaum, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

William B. Sansom, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2014.

Marilyn A. Brown, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2012.

Elisabeth Ann Hagen, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

Dennis J. Toner, of Delaware, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for the remainder of the term expiring December 8, 2012.

J. Patricia Wilson Smoot, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

Sara Louise Faivre-Davis, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Lowell Lee Junkins, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Myles J. Watts, of Montana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Richard M. Lobo, of Florida, to be Director of the International Broadcasting Bureau, Broadcasting Board of Governors.

Michael C. Camunez, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Mimi E. Alemayehou, of the District of Columbia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Carl Wieman, of Colorado, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Robert M. Orr, of Florida, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

Catherine E. Woteki, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Mark Feierstein, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Nisha Desai Biswal, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Pages S7180, S7186

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

George Albert Krol, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Charles M. Oberly III, of Delaware, to be United States Attorney for the District of Delaware for the term of four years.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy.

Pages S7184–86

Messages from the House: **Pages S7172**

Measures Referred: **Pages S7172–73**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S7143, S7173**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S7173, S7183**

Executive Communications: **Pages S7173–74**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S7174**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7175–76**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7176–79**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7171–72**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S7179**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S7179–80**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—237) **Pages S7149–50, S7158**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:13 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 20, 2010. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7184.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the promise of human embryonic stem cell research, after receiving testimony from Senator Wicker; Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; George Q. Daley, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, Massachusetts; Sean J. Morrison, University of Michigan Center for Stem Cell Biology, Ann Arbor, on behalf of the American Society for Cell Biology; Jean Peduzzi Nelson, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; and Cody Unser, First Step Foundation, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year ending September 30, 2011; and

An original bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for fiscal year ending September 30, 2011.

KOREAN PENINSULA SECURITY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the current security situation on the Korean Peninsula, after receiving testimony from Wallace C. Gregson, Assistant Secretary, Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, and General Walter L. Sharp, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Commander, Republic of Korea—United States Combined Forces Command, and Commander, United States Forces Korea, both of the Department of Defense; and Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State, East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND EXCHANGE RATE POLICIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Treasury Department's report on international economic and exchange rate policies, after receiving testimony from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury; C. Fred Bergsten, The Peterson Institute for International Economics, and Charles W. Freeman III, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), both of Washington, D.C.; and Lynn Brown, Hydro Aluminum North America, Baltimore, Maryland.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Reagan Washington National Airport and the Perimeter Rule, after receiving testimony from Susan L. Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, and Michael J. Sammartino, Director of System Operations, AJR–1, Federal Aviation Administration, both of the Department of Transportation; Lee R. Kair, Assistant Administrator for Security Operations, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security; and Charles Darwin Snelling, and Lynn Hampton, both of the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed in Prague on April 8, 2010, with Protocol (Treaty Doc. 111–05), with amendments.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3717, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Company Act of 1940, and the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide for certain disclosures under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act); and

The nominations of Michael J. Moore, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, Michael Robert Bladel, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Iowa, Kenneth James Runde, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa, James Edward Clark, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Kentucky, Joseph H. Hogsett, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, and Beverly Joyce Harvard, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia, all of the Department of Justice.

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL: PORTEOUS

Impeachment Trial Committee (Porteous): Committee continued hearings to examine the Articles Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., after receiving testimony from Rafael Pardo, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle; Dane S. Ciolino, Loyola Law School, and Donald C. Gardner, both of New Orleans, Louisiana; and S.J. Beaulieu, Metairie, Louisiana.

Committee will meet again on Tuesday, September 21.

THE DEEPWATER DRILLING MORATORIUM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Deepwater drilling moratorium, focusing on a review of the Obama Administration's economic impact analysis on United States small businesses, after receiving testimony from Rebecca M. Blank, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and John Fernandez, Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, both of the Department of Commerce.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 6144–6156; and 12 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 318; and H. Res. 1627–1637 were introduced. **Pages H6803–04**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6804–05**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5194, to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 111–595);

H.R. 5131, to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–596);

H.R. 3785, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of expanding the boundary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (H. Rept. 111–597);

H.R. 5110, to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–598);

H.R. 4823, to establish the Sedona-Red Rock National Scenic Area in the Coconino National Forest, Arizona, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–599);

H.R. 3914, to designate certain lands in San Miguel, Ouray, and San Juan Counties, Colorado, as wilderness, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–600);

H.R. 5388, to expand the boundaries of the Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–601);

H.R. 4195, to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–602);

H.R. 4347, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide further self-governance by Indian tribes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–603);

H.R. 4888, to revise the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as it applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–604);

H.R. 5494, to direct the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior to transfer certain properties to the District of Columbia, with amendments (H. Rept. 111–605);

H.R. 5152, to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 111–606);

H.R. 1745, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at health centers under section 330 of such Act, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–607);

H.R. 3199, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to State emergency medical service departments to provide for the expedited training and licensing of veterans with prior medical training, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–608); and

H.R. 3470, to authorize funding for the creation and implementation of infant mortality pilot programs in standard metropolitan statistical areas with high rates of infant mortality, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–609). **Pages H6802–03**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Wednesday, September 15th:

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and Roy K. Moore Federal Building Designation Act: Concurred in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3562, to designate the federally occupied building located at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the "James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and Roy K. Moore Federal Building", by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 528; **Pages H6775–76**

Expressing condolences to and solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods that began on July 22, 2010: H. Res. 1613, amended, to express condolences to and solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods that began on July 22, 2010, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 531; and **Page H6791**

Expressing the support for and honoring September 17, 2010 as "Constitution Day": H. Res. 1612, to express the support for and to honor September 17, 2010 as "Constitution Day". **Pages H6791–92**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Price (GA) announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Pages H6776–77**

Rural Energy Savings Program Act: The House passed H.R. 4785, to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use, by a recorded vote of 240 ayes to 172 noes, Roll No. 530.

Pages H6766–75, H6777–91

Agreed to the Shadegg motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment. Subsequently, Representative Butterfield reported the bill back to the House with the amendment and the amendment was agreed to. **Pages H6789–90**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of H. Rept. 111–594 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill. **Page H6782**

Agreed to:

Cuellar amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–594) that directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance and technical advice to the qualified entities providing loans under this bill to increase the participation of economically distressed rural communities with unemployment rates above the national average; **Page H6786**

McCarthy (NY) amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–594) that requires that lenders providing loans under this Act give priority to active duty members of the Armed Forces and to veterans; **Pages H6786–87**

Butterfield amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–594) that requires the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to consider passive house retrofits when identifying qualified energy efficiency measures; and

Pages H6787–88

Holden manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 111–594) that clarifies that loan funds under the bill may not be used to purchase manufactured homes, makes technical corrections to a Comptroller General report, prohibits provision of funds to certain contractors and makes ineligible for loans certain Federal Employees. It also requires the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture to take steps to prevent misuse of funds. Prohibits any additions to direct spending in regards to provisions within this Act. Does not allow an entity with an ongoing capital repayment obligation to the Treasury due to the Troubled Assets Relief Program to participate in the programs within this Act. Ensures that funds provided under this bill would supplement and not supplant other energy efficiency funding (by a recorded vote of 402 ayes with none voting ''no'', Roll No. 529). **Page H6788**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that agree that the funds will be used to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce energy use, and for other purposes.''. **Pages H6790–91**

H. Res. 1620, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 188 noes, Roll No. 527, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 186 nays, Roll No. 526. **Pages H6774–75**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in the armed forces and their families.

Page H6791

Privileged Resolution: Agreed by unanimous consent that Representative Price (GA) may be recognized on the legislative day of Wednesday, September 22, 2010, to offer the resolution that he noticed on Thursday, September 16, 2010, without further notice under clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX.

Page H6792

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, September 20th, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21st for morning hour debate. **Page H6792**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2010—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 111–145). **Pages H6792–93**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H6793.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6774, H6774–75, H6775–76, H6788, H6790, H6791. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 758, as amended. Pediatric Research Consortia Establishment Act; H.R. 1032, as amended, Heart Disease Education, Analysis Research, and Treatment For Women Act; H.R. 1230, as amended, Bone Marrow Failure Disease Research and Treatment Act of 2009; H.R. 1347, as amended, Concussion Treatment and Care Tools Act of 2009; H.R. 1362, as amended, National MS and Parkinson's Disease Registries Act; H.R. 1995, as amended, Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention Access and Care Act of 2009; H.R. 2408, as amended, Scleroderma Research and Awareness Act; H.R. 2818, as amended, Methamphetamine Education, Treatment, and Hope Act of 2009; H.R. 2941, as amended. To reauthorize and enhance Johanna's Law to increase public awareness and knowledge with respect to gynecologic cancers; H.R. 2999, as amended, Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act; H.R. 5354, as amended, Gestational Diabetes Act of 2009; H.R. 5462, as amended, Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010; H.R. 5986, Neglected Infections of Impoverished Americans Act of 2010;. H.R. 6012, as amended, To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to review uptake and utilization of diabetes screening benefits and establish an outreach program with respect to such benefits; H.R. 6081, as amended, Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2010; and H.R. 6109, as amended, Health Data Collection Improvement Act.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet held a hearing on H.R. 5828, Universal Service Reform Act of 2010. Testimony was heard from Carol Mattey, Deputy Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, FCC; and public witnesses.

SEC'S CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled ''Legislative Proposals to Address Concerns Over the SEC's New Confidentiality Provision.'' Testimony was heard from Representatives Towns and Issa; Mary L. Schapiro, Chairman, SEC; and public witnesses.

NORTHERN IRELAND; BOSNIA PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight held a hearing on Fulfilling the Promise of Peace: Human Rights, Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and Bosnia. Testimony was heard from Daniel P. Serwer, Vice President, Centers of Innovation, United States Institute of Peace; and public witnesses.

DIGITAL MARKETPLACE COMPETITION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy held a hearing on Competition in the Evolving Digital Marketplace. Testimony was heard from Richard Feinstein, Director, Bureau of Competition, FTC; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 4339, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Act; and H.R. 6015, To require the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce to publish certain economic data regarding territories and Freely Associated States. Testimony was heard from Athony M. Babauta, Assistant Secretary, Insular Areas, Department of the Interior; Howard P. Willens, Counsel to the Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 1853, To clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Gragin Dam and Reservoir; H.R. 4036, National Liberty Memorial Act; H.R. 5965, Monongahela Conservation Legacy Act of 2010; and H.R. 6111, To amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission. Testimony was heard from Representatives Kirpatrick of Arizona; and Van Hollen; Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service. USDA; Peter G. May, Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources and Planning, National Capitol Region, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on the following measures: H.R. 3061, Pine River Indian Irrigation Project Act of 2009; H.R. 5039, To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and

Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of the Groundwater Replenishment System Expansion to reclaim and reuse municipal wastewater in the Orange County, California region; H.R. 5413, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement Act of 2010; and H.R. 6107, To amend Section 301(d) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 to provide for notice regarding certification of certain projects. Testimony was heard from George Skibine, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

CAMP LEJEUNE HEALTH ISSUES

Committee on Science and Technology: Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a hearing on Camp Lejeune: Contamination and Compensation, Looking Back, Moving Forward. Testimony was heard from Chris Portier, Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease, Department of Health and Human Services; Thomas J. Pamperin, Associate Deputy Under Secretary, Policy and Program Management, Veterans Benefits Administration Department of Veterans Affairs; MG Eugene G. Payne, Jr., USAF, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Facilities), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

PILOT FLIGHT AND DUTY TIME RULE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing on Pilot Flight and Duty Time Rule. Testimony was heard from Margaret Gilligan, associate Administrator, Aviation Safety, FAA, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING TRAINING REQUIREMENTS—VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION CLAIMS PROCESSING PERSONNEL

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on Examining Training Requirements of Veterans Benefits Administration Claims Processing Personnel. Testimony was heard from Daniel Bertoni, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, GAO; Michael Cardarelli, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

UPDATE OF POST-9/11 GI BILL

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on Update of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Veterans Affairs: CPT Mark Krause, USN, (ret.) Program Manager, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic; and Keith Wilson, Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration; and representatives of veterans organizations.

CHINA'S EXCHANGE RATE POLICY

Committee on Ways and Means: Continued hearings on China's Exchange Rate Policy. Testimony was heard from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury.

BRIEFING—UPDATE ON FISA COURT

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Update on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 20 through September 25, 2010

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at approximately 3 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3454, National Defense Authorization Act.

On *Tuesday*, at 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of 3454, National Defense Authorization Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: September 21, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General James F. Amos, USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 21, to hold hearings to examine investigating infrastructure, focusing on creating jobs and growing the economy, 10 a.m., SD–538.

September 22, Full Committee, 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, 10 a.m., SD–538.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, 2 p.m., SD–538.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Housing Administration, focusing on current condition and future challenges, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: September 22, to hold hearings to examine assessing the Federal policy response to the economic crisis, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: September 22, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, 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, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the need for a nationwide public safety network, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 23, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy's Loan Guarantee Program and its effectiveness in spurring the near-term deployment of clean energy technology, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: September 21, to hold hearings to examine welfare reform, focusing on women and poverty, 10 a.m., SD–215.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine tax and fiscal policy, focusing on the effects on the military and veterans community, 10 a.m., SD–215.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on lessons from the Tax Reform Act of 1986, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: September 21, 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, S. 987, to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, S. Res. 573, urging the development of a comprehensive strategy to ensure stability in Somalia, 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, 2:15 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mark M. Boulware, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chad, Jo Ellen Powell, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Christopher J. McMullen, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and Wanda L. Nesbitt, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Donald Kenneth Steinberg, of California, to be Deputy Administrator, and Nancy E. Lindborg, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the United States Agency for International Development, 11 a.m., SD–419.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kristie Anne Kenney, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, and Karen Brevard Stewart, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, both of the Department of State, 3 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 21, business meeting to consider the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 9:15 a.m., SD–342.

September 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Maria Elizabeth Raffinan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine nine years after 9/11, focusing on confronting the terrorist threat to the homeland, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 22, to hold hearings to examine the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, focusing on promoting security and protecting privacy in the digital age, 10 a.m., SD–226.

September 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine investigating and prosecuting financial fraud after the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, 2 p.m., SD–226.

September 23, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 3675, to amend chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code, to address reorganization of small businesses, S. 2888, to amend section 205 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualifying law school students participating in legal clinics from the application of the general conflict of interest rules under such section, and S. 3767, to establish appropriate criminal penalties for certain knowing violations relating to food that is misbranded or adulterated, and the nominations of Kathleen M. O'Malley, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Beryl Alaine Howell, and Robert Leon Wilkins, both to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Edward Milton Chen, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Louis B. Butler, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, John J. McConnell, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, Goodwin Liu, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, and Robert Neil Chatigny, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: September 22, 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, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: September 22, to hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation focusing on the American Legion, 10 a.m., 345, Cannon Building.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Veterans' Affairs disability compensation, focusing on presumptive disability decisionmaking, 9:30 a.m., SDG–50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 21, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David B. Buckley, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency, 2:30 p.m., SD–124.

September 23, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Impeachment Trial Committee (Porteous): September 21, to resume hearings to examine the Articles Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., 8 a.m., SH–216.

September 22, Full Committee, to continue hearings to examine the Articles Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., 8 a.m., SH–216.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 22, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on A Question of Quality and Value: Department of Defense Oversight of Tuition Assistance Used for Distance Learning and For-Profit Colleges, 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

September 23, full Committee, hearing on U.S. Cyber Command: Organizing for Cyberspace Operations, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats, and Capabilities, hearing on Operating in the Digital Domain: Organizing the Military Departments for Cyber Operations, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, September 22, hearing on Budgeting for Education: The Tole of Perkins Loans, 2 p.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, September 23, hearing on Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 21, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Cutting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in Medicare and Medicaid," 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

September 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "The Outbreak of Salmonella in Eggs," 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing on the Precious Coins and Bullion Disclosure Act, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, September 22, hearing entitled "Implementation of Higher FHA Loan Fees and Pending Legislative Proposals to Strengthen the FHA MMIF Fund and Improve Lender Oversight," 10 a.m., and a hearing entitled "The State of the International Financial System, Including International Regulatory Issues Relevant to the Implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act," 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 23, full Committee, hearing entitled "Perspectives on the Livable Communities Act of 2010," 2:30 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled "Assessing the Limitations of the Securities Investor Protection Act," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing on H.R. 3149, Equal Employment for All Act, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 22, hearing on Nuclear Cooperation and Non-proliferation after Khan and Iran: Are We Asking Enough of Current and Future Agreements? 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

September 22, Subcommittee Asia, The Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on Renegotiating the South Pacific Tuna Treaty: Shutting Down Closing Loopholes and Protecting U.S. Interests, 1:30 p.m., followed by a hearing on Crimes Against Humanity: When Will Indonesia's Military Be Held Accountable for Deliberate and Systematic Abuses in West Papua? 3 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 22, hearing entitled "DHS Planning and Response: Preliminary Lessons from Deepwater Horizon," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, September 23, to mark up H.R. 6116, Fair Elections Now Act, 11 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 22, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on H.R. 4596, Holocaust Insurance Accountability Act of 2010, 11:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing on ECPA and the Revolution in Cloud Computing, 11 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 23, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 4817, To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to clarify that uncertified States and Indian tribes have the authority to use certain payments for certain noncoal reclamation projects, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

September 23, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, oversight hearing entitled ''The Role of Partnerships in National Parks,'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, September 22, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement, hearing entitled ''Minority Contracting: Opportunities and Challenges for Current and Future Minority-Owned Businesses,'' including a discussion of H.R. 4343, Minority Business Development Improvements Act of 2009, 9 a.m., 2203 Rayburn.

September 22, Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled ''Made in the USA: Manufacturing Policy, the Defense Industrial Base, and U.S. National Security,'' 210–HVC.

September 23, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Transition in Iraq: Is the State Department Prepared to Take the Lead?'' 210–HVC.

September 23, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia, hearing entitled ''Moving Forward After the NTSB Report: Making Metro a Safety Leader,'' 2 p.m., 2203 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, September 22, to consider the following measures: H.R. 5866, Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 2010; and the Rare Earths and Critical Materials Revitalization Act of 2010, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on the Science of Science and Innovation Policy, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

September 23, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing on Progress on P25: Furthering Interoperability and Competition for Public Safety Radio Equipment, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 22, hearing on Residential Through-the-Fence Agreements at Public Airports: Action to Date and Challenges Ahead, 10 a.m, 2167 Rayburn.

September 22, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on Five Years after Katrina: Where We Are and What We Have Learned for Future Disasters, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 23, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Veterans Health Administration Contracting and Procurement Practices, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, September 22, hearing entitled ''The Global Clean Energy Race,'' 9:30 a.m., 2325 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, September 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3454, National Defense Authorization Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2:30 p.m., Monday, September 20

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 2:30 p.m.

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