

Berg from Sante Fe Springs, California. Laura was a member of the 2008 U.S. Softball team which brought a silver medal home from Beijing.

This was the fourth time that Laura has represented our Nation at the Olympics, winning gold medals in softball at the 2004 Olympics in Sydney, the 2000 Olympics in Athens, and at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. She is the only four-time Olympian in the history of softball. At the 2006 International Softball Federation's World Championships, she also set a world record by appearing in her fourth World Championship.

Before stepping down in 2007 to train for the Olympics, Laura showed her commitment to helping the next generation by working as an assistant coach at her alma mater, Fresno State.

On behalf of the 38th District of California, we are so proud of all our Olympians.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to establish "The National Water Research and Development Initiative," to coordinate national efforts on water research and technology development and to provide a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet the water needs of municipalities, industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

At the turn of the 19th century, U.S. population stood at a little more than 5 million citizens. Our population is now over 300 million with an annual growth rate of one percent. Available surface water supplies have not increased in the United States since the 1990s, and groundwater tables are continuing to decline. It is clear that the U.S. water supply cannot support future populations and economic activity at its current rate of consumption.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the nation's resources, to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or

more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will come with increased costs to all businesses, industries, and municipalities which rely on the same water resources. The Association of California Water Agencies reported in April 2008 that California is now losing income and jobs due to the state's water supply crisis.

A new commitment is necessary to ensure that the United States can meet the water challenges over the next twenty years and onward. The House Science and Technology Committee has begun to search out ways for the federal government to spur new technological innovations that will improve our water-use efficiency. We are doing our part to highlight this important issue and to develop legislation that will address technological and strategic deficiencies at the federal level.

If we are to avoid water crises in the future, we need an effective research and development effort that provides tools and information to manage our water resources effectively. Coordination of the twenty federal agencies responsible for water programs is a logical place to start. The 2004 National Academies Report on Federal Water Research indicated that the United States is not getting its money's worth on water resources research because of a lack of coordination.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on the Administration's effort to coordinate federal research on water resources by establishing an interagency committee—the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Technology Council. The bill codifies this subcommittee and provides it explicit Congressional authorization.

The bill also incorporates recommendations from the 2004 report by the National Academies entitled, *Confronting the Nation's Water Problems: The Role of Federal Research* to strengthen the subcommittee's role in setting priorities and developing an integrated budget to support research on water resources. The Academy's report indicated that SWAQ is an effective forum for agencies to share information about their efforts on water. However, the report identified several issues that needed to be addressed to make SWAQ an effective coordinating body.

This bill strengthens the budget function for SWAQ through participation of OMB on the subcommittee. In addition, SWAQ is directed to engage in outreach activities to develop connections to state and local governments, to a wider community of stakeholders, and to the public. These recommendations, and others, helped to form the basis of the initiative.

In order to better manage water supplies, there is a critical need for reliable, contemporary information about our water resources and how supplies vary over time. Currently, quantitative knowledge of water supply is inad-

equate in the United States. The U.S. Water Resources Council completed the most recent, comprehensive, national water availability and use assessment in 1978. This legislation directs the subcommittee to mobilize federal resources to undertake a new national water census.

I offer this legislation to improve and coordinate federal research and development efforts on water. It is critical that we actively pursue technological innovations to ensure future water supplies.

#### HONOR OF THE SAPPINGTON HOUSE

### HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exquisite Thomas Sappington House, believed to be the oldest brick house in St. Louis County.

Built in 1808 of sun-dried bricks cut from Missouri clay, the house is a 2½ story example of Federal Architecture that was popular in the post Revolutionary War period and has been restored as a historic home museum since the mid-1960s.

It is a National Historic Landmark, and is owned by the City of Crestwood as part of their Parks and Recreation Department.

I would like to recognize the group of dedicated volunteers that run the house and grounds on a day to day basis, which includes a free reference library and barn tea room which are open to the public to help educate present generations about the past.

I would also like to recognize the citizens of Crestwood as well as the other volunteers who donate their time and money to preserve this wonderful house for future generations and commend it as it a true gem of St. Louis County.

#### TRIBUTE TO LYNN MITCHELL

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynn Mitchell and to congratulate her on being honored as Iowa Class 2A District Coach of the Year.

Lynn Mitchell has been the girls' golf coach at West Marshall High School in State Center, Iowa since 1999, after serving as an assistant coach. Since that time, the team has won conference championships in 2005, 2007, and 2008 and they were also district champions in 2005, 2006, and 2008. She was awarded the Class 2A District Coach of the Year Award after she led the team to their first appearance at state golf after they won the regional competition.

I congratulate Lynn Mitchell on her well-deserved award. It is an honor to represent Lynn in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best.

HONORING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. This organization has been instrumental in promoting and preserving the history of a critical time in U.S. history—the War of 1812 era.

The National Society has been a service organization of women descendants of veterans of America's Second War for independence and remains dedicated to promoting the War of 1812 in our nation's history through educational, patriotic and historical activities. Eighty years ago in 1928, the National Society purchased a national headquarters building on Rhode Island Avenue in our Nation's capital. For these 80 years, the National Society has remained at the same address and maintains one of the few museums and libraries dedicated solely to the War of 1812 time frame. At this location is a grave location index along with extensive genealogical files that are not duplicated anywhere else in the United States.

The National Society United States Daughters of 1812 has long strived to preserve the colorful War of 1812 era—the exciting, yet critical time in American history that produced our United States Constitution and our National Anthem. I commend the entire organization for the important work they do to keep our history alive.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor this prestigious organization. I ask that you join me along with the people of Southern Missouri to congratulate the National Society United States Daughters of 1812 on their anniversary and their invaluable contributions to American history.

HONORING MATTHEW JOSEPH DILLMAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Joseph Dillman of Liberty, Missouri. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN HONOR OF THE 23RD ANNUAL "HEATS ON" PROGRAM

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, this weekend, the professional pipefitters of St. Cloud Local No. 539 and contractors from the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association will head out to 30–40 local homes to provide free furnace service for low-income, senior, and disabled homeowners. They are putting their skills and experience to work to help those who are less fortunate in our community.

Maintaining a furnace is a very important household task. An inefficient furnace can cost a family hundreds of extra dollars each year—and the winters get pretty cold in Minnesota. With energy prices already high and with food and other costs skyrocketing as well, few can make room in their tight budgets for those hundreds of dollars. And, this is especially true of seniors and others on fixed incomes.

The free services provided by these professionals, however, not only help save money, but also help save lives. By installing detectors during their inspections, they will help keep so many people from exposure to life-threatening levels of carbon monoxide.

For 22 years, HEATS ON has provided more than 25,000 hours of services to more than 6200 households. While the money value on these services exceeds \$2.7 million, the real value is so much greater. And, I commend these men and women for their work and their dedication to their community.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS TRACK COACH JOHN McDONNELL

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, John McDonnell is known as the legendary track coach at the University of Arkansas. His 47 national titles are the most by any single-gendered coach in the history of college athletics.

Every single outdoor and indoor track and field event record is held by one of his student athletes. Winning 84 conference titles including 34 straight in cross country, he took very little credit, often crediting his assistant coaches with the success.

He was committed to mentoring, educating, and developing thousands of young men in the classroom and on the track. He pushed his student athletes to strive for excellence.

Coach McDonnell is much more than just a coach. He often spoke about the importance of family in his life. During his retirement announcement, he talked of wanting to spend time with his wife Ellen, daughter Heather, and son Sean.

His contributions as a coach, educator, and leader have brought great pride to Razorbacks all across the Nation. He has given so much

to Arkansas, and all Arkansans thank him for his work. I congratulate Coach McDonnell for 36 years of excellence at the University of Arkansas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 22, 2008, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall votes 617 and 618.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. ROBIN HOEFER JACKSON

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 23, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize Mrs. Robin H. Jackson a valued member of the Midlands community of South Carolina.

Born in Columbia, South Carolina, Mrs. Jackson received her education in the Richland District One Public School System, graduated from Eau Claire High School, and later attended Benedict College. A 1975 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a bachelor of arts degree in vocal performance, she received her certification in music education from the University of South Carolina. Additionally, she holds a master of education degree from Cambridge College, Boston, Massachusetts, which she earned in 2001.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Jackson has served her community doing what she loves best—teaching music to children. She served as music specialist at the South Carolina State Hospital before returning to Richland School District One to teach music education at various schools, including Lyon Street Elementary School, Fairwold Elementary School, Rosewood Elementary School, and the Olympia School. In May 2008, Mrs. Jackson retired from teaching after 28 years at A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School.

During Mrs. Jackson's term as an instructor of music at A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School, she received training from the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and became certified in creating an original opera for children. This opportunity allowed her to guide students in grades 4 and 5 in creating their own original opera, which consisted of composing their own music, writing their own lyrics, and building their own sets. Mrs. Jackson also led the students on educational tours of New York City, where they were exposed to various operas and Broadway shows. A.J. Lewis Greenview Elementary School was the only elementary school in Columbia to participate in this program.

Mrs. Jackson's work in music education demonstrated her belief that every student