in Newsweek. He ends by quoting Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor who was instrumental in the resistance movement against Nazism. Bonhoeffer said, ''The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world it leaves to its children.''

I can't help but wonder what sort of future today's partisan Washington is leaving to our children and grandchildren.

Fortunately, we still have options—if we act soon.

I am truly impressed by the bipartisan and broad ranging coalition that the ''Gathering Storm'' report has assembled in its cause. I believe we can replicate this success in addressing entitlement reform, tax policy, and fiscal solvency. We need to replicate the ''Gathering Storm'' effort to deal with the issue of our debt.

For the past year, Congressman Jim Cooper, a Democrat from Tennessee, and I have been working closely together on the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act. It has since garnered over 80 bipartisan cosponsors, including Republican leadership in the House as well as the chairs of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition.

The Heritage Foundation, Brookings Institution, Concord Coalition, and former Comptroller General David Walker helped us draft this and it is supported by David Broder and David Brooks.

Modeled after the base-closing process, the bill would create a bipartisan 16-member commission to review entitlement spending, tax policy, debt, and all other federal spending.

The Commission will look beyond the Beltway for solutions, holding at least 12 town meetings—one in each of the nation's Federal Reserve districts—over the span of 12 months in order to hear directly from the American people.

Everything must be on the table—including tax policy.

If anyone has another viable plan to address our entitlement tsunami, we are anxious to hear it. But it has to be able to pass. Doing nothing is not acceptable.

And just like the base-closing process, the SAFE Commission Act would require and up-or-down vote on the Commission's proposal—ensuring that Congress finally considered a comprehensive solution to this great challenge.

So far, Rep. Cooper and I have reached out to every Member of Congress, the President and his potential successors, Fortune 500 leaders, small business owners, think tanks, thought leaders, and the religious community.

And today I'm reaching out to you—our science, technology, engineering, manufacturing and workforce development leaders.

I ask for your support in this endeavor so that it may put us back on track financially, just as the ''Gathering Storm'' report spurred us to fix our nation's education and competitiveness programs.

William Wilberforce, who, in his first speech in the British Parliament in 1789 describing the evils of the slave trade, concluded by telling his colleagues,

''Having heard all this you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know.''

Not one of us can say we do not know about the nation's long-term financial outlook.

We know, and it's on our watch to fix.

This must also be a part of this year's presidential debate. We need to make the next president understand that entitlement reform.

And the media needs to do a better job covering it. We should insist on a presidential debate devoted to these issues.

I am confident that, with your support, we will succeed and it may well lead to a renaissance in America—a renaissance in innovation, education, and economic development.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE TAVARES

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Stephanie Tavares by entering her name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Stephanie Tavares, reporter for In Business Las Vegas for her achievements in reporting on various small business legal issues within the Southern Nevada community.

Stephanie grew up in a small town that did not have access to many big-city newspapers, but while she was still in high school, she strongly identified with a local television news anchor inspiring her to pursue a career in journalism.

She worked as a news clerk for her college newspaper, which helped to launch her love for writing, editing, and the news. For the past three years, Stephanie has reported on small business issues for In Business Las Vegas. She is credited with not only covering business issues, but with being an advocate for small business as well, learning different perspectives, policies, and the needs of the small business community. She also reports on utilities and environmental issues for the magazine.

In addition to her professional work, Stephanie donates much of her time and talent to several professional and community organizations. She is involved with the National Association of Business Journalists, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and the International Studies Association. Additionally, she recently served on a panel of the 2007 Women of Color Conference. On the local level, Stephanie is a supporter of Adoption Exchange, Henderson Libraries, and Henderson Parks and Recreation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Stephanie Tavares for her achievements in journalism for small businesses within the Las Vegas community. I would also like to congratulate her on receiving the Small Business Journalist of the Year at the 2008 Small Business Awards.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA VEEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cadet Lieutenant Amanda Veen of Perry, Iowa for being named Cadet of the Year by the Iowa Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

Amanda, who is currently a sophomore at Liberty Home School, also received the Billy Mitchell Award and served as Color Guard Commander in the North Central Region Cadet Competition last year for the Des Moines Metro Cadet Squadron.

The Cadet of the Year award honors Amanda's dedication and commitment during her participation in the Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Programs. The Iowa Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, which is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 390 officers and cadets in Iowa. The Civil Air Patrol's Cadet Programs provide youth opportunities to reach their full potential as they study four subject areas: aerospace education, physical training, leadership, and moral and ethical values.

I know that my colleagues in the U.S. Congress join me in commending Cadet Lieutenant Amanda Veen for her leadership and dedication to representing the Iowa Civil Air Patrol. I consider it an honor to represent Amanda and her family in Congress, and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

COMMENDING THE HARD WORK OF OUR NATION'S NURSES ON THIS, NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the incredible efforts our nurses pour into their grueling workdays, carrying out their duties to the great benefit of this country's health and medical care system. Together, nurses represent the largest share of health care professionals in the field, boasting numbers eclipsing 2,500,000—but that's becoming increasingly not enough. Facing a shortage that demands a million new nurses by 2016, the current crop of professionals have shouldered, and will continue to shoulder, the extra work and hours of properly caring for our elderly and infirmed. For this, and so much more, nurses deserve a generous helping of our gratitude and the highest of reverence, not just this next week dubbed ''National Nurses Week,'' but all year round.

We can show them that we care by paying tribute to those nurses serving in Iraq and Afghanistan—by bringing them and our heroic troops home after a job well done. We can show them that we care by outfitting them with a health care system that is affordable, universal, and driven less by profits and more by compassion and humanitarianism. We can show them that we care by investing in the research, techniques, and technologies that promise to one day cure age-old, debilitating diseases that plague millions—and not play politics when our citizens' livelihoods are at stake.

The Harlem Hospital Center serves my district as a powerful force for social progress, catering to the community's health needs and training the next generation's minority and female physicians. The nurses there fight the good fight, day in and day out, not often