

H.R. 1544 fulfills the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission by providing priority assistance to first responders facing the greatest threat; by streamlining terrorism preparedness grants; and by requiring specific, flexible, and measurable goals for State and local government terrorism preparedness.

As a member of the Congressional Rural Caucus, I am especially interested in how rural areas will be treated under this legislation.

Currently, rural America does not receive its fair share when it comes to the distribution of homeland security funds. H.R. 1544 will ensure that rural Americans have a seat at the table when federal spending decisions are made. For the first time, tax dollars will be distributed to first responders based on risk, regardless of whether the potential dangers are in urban, suburban, or rural communities.

Under this legislation, each State shall develop a 3-year Homeland Security Plan. The State must solicit comments from local and county governments—including those in rural areas—and evaluate risk factors, threats, populations, and all critical infrastructure. Risks to Missouri's Fourth Congressional District might include agriculture and agribusiness, natural gas pipelines, Bagnell Dam, Truman Dam, the Lake of the Ozarks, and the Missouri River, among others.

H.R. 1544 allows for rural Missourians to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future terrorist attacks under a risk-based formula. Additionally, this measure maintains a State minimum for funding to ensure that each State can reach at least a minimal level of preparedness.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1544 is supported by every major first responder organization and by the State of Missouri. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important, risk-based legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, Monday, May 16, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes No. 171, No. 172, and No. 173. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 171, H.R. 627, to designate the Linda White-Epps Post Office; "yea" on rollcall No. 172, H. Res. 266, supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day; and "yea" on rollcall No. 173, H.R. 2107, modifying the authorities for the use of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Maintenance Fund.

MARKING THE 50TH YEAR OF ST. ANTHONY'S "FREE FISHERMAN'S BREAKFAST"

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated group of sportsmen, merchants and citizens who have reached an

important milestone as they celebrate the 50th year of the Free Fisherman's Breakfast. On May 27, 2005, from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., volunteers will serve pancakes, sausage, bacon and eggs, hash browns, coffee, milk and juice to more than 5,000 people at Clyde Keefer Memorial Park in St. Anthony, Idaho.

Volunteers join together each year to continue the tradition which began near the opening of fishing season in May of 1955. The St. Anthony Chamber of Commerce and the Sportsmen's Association came up with the idea to try to draw fishermen into town on their way to their favorite fishing hole. The idea grew from just coffee and doughnuts to a full free breakfast, served faithfully each year despite rain, wind, snow and floods.

Informational booths were added in the park for guests to enjoy as they wait in line to be served. Many local, state, and national elected officials take advantage of the opportunity to visit with friends and supporters. Each year fishermen come from all over the state, as well as adjoining states, to renew old friendships and make new ones. An outstanding community member is honored each year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate everyone who has been involved in the "Free Fisherman's Breakfast" over the years and join them this month as they commemorate its 50th anniversary. I have enjoyed socializing at this event in the past and will be looking forward to it in the future. I wish the City of St. Anthony well as they continue this great hometown tradition.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE AMALIE HIGH SCHOOL ON REGAINING THEIR ACCREDITATION FROM THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the principal, Ms. Jeanette Smith-Barry, and her team of dedicated individuals at the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, on the occasion of their re-accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. Their tireless efforts, hard work, dedication and faith have paid off and will truly make a difference in the future of our youth and of our Territory.

At a time when school districts around the country are faced with budget cuts and higher standards, our schools have to do more with less. The school's accreditation team comprised of administrators, parents, community and business leaders set a goal of obtaining re-accreditation by graduation date 2005 and achieved it.

Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) is the first of four public high schools in the U.S. Virgin Islands to regain the accreditation that was lost in 2002. Now their students will be able to compete as equals for college and university entrance as well as entry into the U.S. Air Force which will not consider any student from an unaccredited school.

Mr. Speaker, this year's graduation which will take place on June 5, 2005 will be a dou-

bly joyous and celebratory occasion for the CAHS Class of 2005 who will receive their diplomas and also be able to finally and proudly say once again that they received them from an accredited high school.

It is in appreciation of their efforts that I use this opportunity to commend the CAHS students, faculty, parents, administration, and their private sector supporters for their successful efforts in developing and executing a successful strategy for regaining accreditation. They are an example to all of us who strive to improve our community.

I am proud of their success and wish the entire CAHS family and the Class of 2005 continued success as they continue to "Excel Always."

IN MEMORY OF SENIOR BORDER PATROL AGENT TRAVIS W. ATTAWAY

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero—senior Border Patrol Agent, Travis W. Attaway of D'Hanis, Texas. Travis met an untimely death while serving our country and securing our Texas borders in the McAllen sector.

On September 19, 2004, days of harsh rain and a rising Rio Grande tragically interrupted what otherwise was a routine three-man patrol operation near Free Trade Bridge in Los Indios. When rushing waters capsized the 19-foot patrol boat, Travis and two other agents were ejected into the river's strong current.

At the young age of 31, Travis has marked history as a true American hero. He sacrificed his life to protect the citizens of this great nation. Today, we honor his memory and the memory of all our Fallen Law Enforcement Officers for National Police Week 2005.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CITY LAS VEGAS, NV

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, while all Americans have heard of Las Vegas, many may not be aware of the rich history we have in Southern Nevada. For instance, the City was named by Spanish traders traveling from New Mexico to California. These traders dubbed the area "Las Vegas" which means "the meadows".

The first settlement in the Las Vegas valley by Westerners was a fortified mission colonized by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Over the last century, Las Vegas has become the entertainment capital of the world, with world class hotels, gaming, entertainment, and outdoor activities for visitors of all ages.

In the 1990s, the population of Las Vegas boomed, making it the fastest growing metropolitan area in the country. A record-setting 40