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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Blessed be the God and Father of us all, for he has chosen you to be representatives of his people.

Lord God, what a blessing it is to realize one has a calling at a particular time for a specific service to accomplish Your holy will. It is then we truly have purpose.

Both in great and small things, we become neither overwhelmed nor disdainful. Every task can be embraced. Every duty fulfilled. Every burden can be lightened by the knowledge that You, O Lord, are accomplishing great things in and through us, both now and always. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NOTICE

If the 108th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before November 21, 2003, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 108th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Monday, December 15, 2003, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–60 or S–410A of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Friday, December 12, 2003. The final issue will be dated Monday, December 15, 2003, and will be delivered on Tuesday, December 16, 2003.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

ROBERT W. NEY, *Chairman.*

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin 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.

MEDIA THREATENS DEMOCRACY

(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. Mr. Speaker, most Americans now realize that Big Media, network TV news programs and the largest newspapers and news magazines, tried to determine the outcome of the Presidential election.

A study by the Project for Excellence in Journalism confirms what Americans already suspected: George Bush received more than twice as much negative coverage as JOHN KERRY. Think what President Bush's margin of victory would have been without the media bias.

But the danger is the media bias will continue. That is a real threat to democracy.

When the American people do not have the facts, the unvarnished truth, they cannot make the best decisions and we do not have good government.

Big Media needs to reassure the American people that they will strive for objectivity and seek to restore their reputation as the protector of democracy, rather than remaining a threat to it.

AMERICA NEEDS THE BOY SCOUTS

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

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, a few minutes ago, this body pledged its allegiance to our flag and to our Republic, under God. Just so, at every meeting, the Boy Scouts of America give their oath to our Republic and to God. There it is, that name again: God. It is good enough for our pledge, it is good enough for our currency, it is even good enough to be in the phrase above the Speaker's podium behind me.

But the ACLU has sued the Department of Defense because the Boy Scouts of America use that phrase and DOD sponsors Boy Scout troops. This is not just the usual left-wing, anti-American foolishness.

Boy Scouts of America is a voluntary organization. It teaches American values like self-reliance and civic duty, values that are at the heart of our military, values that have created so many great leaders, even former presidents. Like never before, America needs leaders, America needs role models and positive, values-based programs. America needs our Boy and Girl Scouts.

The Department of Defense should not back down and, surely, the ACLU has better things to do.

REWARDING AMERICANS FOR THEIR TRUST

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

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the American people voted for much more than candidates or parties this election year. They embraced our bold vision, and they expect us to deliver results.

They elected us with a mandate to keep our Nation on its path of economic growth and job creation, to continue tax relief for working families, and to pare back an inefficient, bloated bureaucracy that kills dreams.

One of our first priorities must be to reform our wasteful and oppressive Tax Code. Year after year, working Americans pay accountants and tax lawyers to help them understand this confusing labyrinth of laws and regulations. Just think about what this energy and capital could accomplish if directed towards truly creative purposes. Just imagine what a fair and simpler Tax Code could do to help us build a 21st century economy.

So let us engage in a vigorous debate. Let us begin rewarding the trust that the American people have placed in us, beginning today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AND HONORING PHIL CRANE AND BILL LIPINSKI

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and honor to two of our retiring colleagues, Congressman PHIL CRANE and Congressman BILL LIPINSKI, two of the finest men I have ever known.

I first met PHIL CRANE in 1966 when he spoke to a conservative student group at the University of Tennessee and a few years later invited him to speak to my law school class at George Washington University. PHIL CRANE was one of the early national leaders of the modern-day conservative movement, a highly-respected professor, author and legislator. His life has been a true inspiration to countless numbers of young people all across this Nation.

BILL LIPINSKI served as my Ranking Member for the entire 6 years I chaired the Subcommittee on Aviation. I said then that I do not believe any Chairman and Ranking Member got along or worked together better than BILL LIPINSKI and I did. BILL LIPINSKI never forgot where he came from. I have always considered him to be a master politician in the very best sense of the word and the epitome of what a Congressman who truly serves his constituents should be.

I will miss seeing these two men on such a regular basis, but this Nation is a better place today because of the service of two gentlemen from Illinois, PHIL CRANE and BILL LIPINSKI.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARINE CORPORAL SHANE KIELION

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of gratitude and profound sense of sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of a brave young man who grew up in my hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, Marine Corporal Shane Kielion who died Monday in combat in Iraq, in Fallujah. On the same day, he became a father.

With his entire life in front of him, Shane chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts in a land halfway around the world. This was his second tour of duty.

My heart goes out to his wife April and his brand-new son Shane and his parents, Roger and Patricia. As a father myself, I cannot imagine being unable to see my sons grow up, and it breaks my heart that Shane will not have the same experience. But I know that Shane will be watching over his young son, and I hope the boy will grow up knowing that his father loved him and his mother very much.

Shane was known as a dedicated person to his wife and he would be to his son and to his country, and all Nebraskans will remember him as a true American. We can take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a better place. My thoughts and prayers go out to Shane's family and friends during this difficult time. May God grant them strength, peace, and comfort.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 856 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 856

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2986) to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of

this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 856 is a closed rule that provides for consideration of S. 2986, a bill to increase the public debt limit. The rule provides one hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. Finally, the rule provides 1 motion to commit.

Mr. Speaker, the debt limit increase bill that will come before this body is a necessary step in order to avoid a shutdown of our government. The Federal Government has never before defaulted on our obligations, but without our immediate action today we will simply be unable to pay our bills.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill increases the statutory debt limit in order to protect the full faith and credit of the United States. It is necessary and not an unusual step to ensure that the Federal Government is able to pay its bills.

It is important to note that the level of debt subject to limit is a function of past decisions made by decades of administrations and Congresses. It is equally important to note that increasing the debt limit does not increase the deficit.

As Robert Rubin, President Clinton's Treasury Secretary noted, ''Passage of the debt ceiling is totally unrelated to deficit reduction.'' And in testimony before the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services, he further noted that ''The debt limit is about meeting obligations already incurred, while future deficits can only be reduced so actions taken in the budget process itself.''

While the publicly-held debt has increased more rapidly in recent years, it is a result of the ongoing war against terrorism, an effort that began after the horrific attacks on our Nation on September 11, 2001.

Without passage of the underlying bill today, vital programs such as Social Security, medicare, unemployment insurance benefits, veterans' care, and military retirement are all put in jeopardy.

We risk not providing food, clothing, ammunition, and other necessary resources to our brave men and women engaged in the war on terror. Highway funding, disaster assistance, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, all will be at risk.

In addition, if we do not act today, taxpayers will be further burdened with higher interest rates, and we risk the disruption of financial markets at a time when our national economy continues to grow at a strong pace.

Mr. Speaker, this rule and this underlying legislation is necessary to keep the government operating, ensure the continued delivery of vital services for our citizens, and provide the equipment, supplies, and munitions our troops need to continue our fight in the war on terror.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

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

□ 1015

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

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as of yesterday, the national debt hit $7,444,423,020,967.95. It translates to over $25,000 owed by each and every one of us. The national debt is growing so fast, $1.6 billion every single day, that the last seven digits on the national debt clock in New York City are flipping faster than can be seen by the human eye.

No one is spared this heavy economic burden, not even America's children. In fact, today every child born in America comes into this world owing a birth tax of $25,255 which is their share of payment on a national debt that they had no part in creating.

To my friends on the other side of the aisle that fought with such fervor and passion against the so-called death tax, I ask, where is the moral indignation when it comes to the birth tax which is levied on this Nation's most innocent Americans, its children?

This is a moral issue. The Federal Government cannot continue to borrow 20 cents of every dollar it spends, run up historic deficits, and add to the Federal debt without seriously harming the economy for generations yet unborn.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a measure to raise the debt ceiling for the third time in 3 years. The debt ceiling is a statutory limit, imposed by law on the total amount of debt that the United States of America can incur. It currently stands at $7.384 trillion. At the beginning of President Bush's first term, Congress was told that the debt ceiling would not need to be raised until the year 2008 at the earliest. However, if we count the $800 billion increase provided for under S. 2986, the bill to be considered later today, the debt limit will have been raised by more than $2 trillion since President Bush took office.

On this day, with Americans coming together in Little Rock, Arkansas, to open the Bill Clinton Presidential Library, I find myself waxing nostalgic for the budget policies of the 1990s: the PAYGO rules, the spending caps and other critical budget policies that set our Nation's budget on a path to historic surpluses and allowed us to pay down the national debt for 7 straight years. It was not easy but it was the right thing to do.

Last night in the Committee on Rules, my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), offered an amendment to S. 2986 to help us get on the path of fiscal discipline. The Thompson amendment, co-authored with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), one of this body's most thoughtful Members on budget issues, would have allowed this body to restore the PAYGO rules and spending caps that were allowed to lapse in 2002. Regrettably, the Thompson amendment was rejected and my colleagues are being denied the opportunity to restore some budget discipline.

Mr. Speaker, our national deficit keeps hitting historic highs, $413 billion by the end of September, and no end in sight, particularly as we are spending $5 billion a month on the war. At this rate, deficits will continue for years to come, adding several trillion at a minimum to the colossal debt we have already incurred. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office analysis indicates that at the current rate of deficit spending, by the year 2014 the debt ceiling will have to be raised to $14.5 trillion.

Chronic budget deficits also undermine the economic security of Americans. As the government's appetite for money increases and it consumes more and more of the capital available in credit markets, more Americans will face higher interest rates and find it harder to finance their homes, their education, and their businesses.

Moreover, there is cause for alarm when we look at how this debt is being financed. I have serious concerns about how this Nation will maintain its sovereignty as foreign governments and nationals continue to bankroll us.

Today, the Japanese hold over $600 billion in U.S. debt paper and the Chinese hold between $225 and $275 billion. When 90 percent of new debt is purchased by the likes of the Bank of China and Japanese interests, how can we be sure that we have the resources to provide for the national defense? How do we ensure our independence when foreign governments who do not share our Nation's values or views on foreign policy issues buy up our bonds?

I strongly believe that the level of foreign holdings is a grave and gathering threat to our Nation's sovereignty.

Mr. Speaker the closed rule before us today only allows an hour to debate the national debt. That is simply not enough time to debate an issue that affects every man, woman and child, living and unborn, in this country. Moreover, the majority's refusal to let the Simpson-Stenholm PAYGO amendment come to the floor for a vote is foolhardy. Without a major change in course, we are on the path to debt for generations to come.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2004]

SOARING CEILINGS

This week the lame-duck Congress will have to raise the federal debt ceiling. For several weeks the Treasury Department has

been doing the governmental equivalent of scrounging for spare change in the couch cushions to pay its obligations. Now, with the election safely past and Treasury at the limits of its ingenuity, lawmakers will do the inevitable and increase the government's borrowing authority by as much as $800 billion—raising the debt ceiling to more than $8 trillion.

This will be the third time in three years that the debt limit has been increased, for a grand total of more than $2 trillion during President Bush's first term. The last hike was nearly $1 trillion, but it took less than 18 months for the government to hit the newly raised ceiling. By way of comparison, the entire federal debt in 1980 was less than $1 trillion;

There will be some noisy debate about this, only partly on point. The debt limit, as now defined, both overstates and understates the problem of the national debt. It overstates the problem by including not only what an ordinary person would think of as ''real debt''—the $4.3 trillion the government has borrowed—but also money the government essentially owes itself. These are the ''trust funds'' to finance future obligations, such as Social Security and Medicare, that the government ''borrows'' from to pay its current bills. To the extent this reflects a debt, it's of a different sort from a Treasury bond. But if this is a debt, the ceiling understates the problem because the trust fund IOUs the government issues to itself don't come close to reflecting the full cost of its future commitments to those programs.

This much is beyond question: The government is living far beyond its means. The deficits it racks up year after year impede economic growth, burden future generations and force the United States to rely on foreign governments and investors. Since Mr. Bush took office, foreign holdings of U.S. debt have grown from 30 percent to 43 percent of the total, and 90 percent of the new debt has been purchased by foreigners. Meanwhile, as the government has to pay more interest on its debt, it has less for health care, education and other programs. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the government's interest payments are expected to more than double between 2003 ($153 billion) and 2010 ($319 billion); interest costs will account for almost 10 percent of federal spending in the next decade.

''We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now,'' Mr. Bush said in his first State of the Union address. He was speaking about his plan to pay off over the next decade the entire $2 trillion in government debt held by the public. Now, instead of being eliminated, debt held by the public—real debt—is on track to reach $6.5 trillion by 2011. How do Mr. Bush and all the lawmakers who have enabled his irresponsibility plan to explain that to the grandchildren?

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to just clarify the record that while public debt is held by foreign interests, foreigners invest in the United States because we have a sound economy and we provide a safe place for them due to our low risk of default.

The market for U.S. Treasury securities is the largest, most liquid and transparent financial market in the world.

It is also important for our colleagues to know that our debt limit increase is not an unusual function if we just look at the 21st century, but I think we kind of have to look at the last half of the 20th century.

The level of outstanding debt is subject to a limit and a function that is past decisions made by previous administrations and Congresses over decades, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, as well as current and past levels of economic activity and should not be subject to political gamesmanship.

As we look at the debt limit increase measures, there have been 83 since 1940, Mr. Speaker, seven during the 1940s, six during the 1950s, 13 during the 1960s, 18 during the 1970s, 24 during the 1980s, 13 during the 1990s and two far this decade. So it is not an unusual function or an unprecedented function or a Republican function or a Democratic function. It is a function of keeping the government running.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I want to begin by saying that I suspect that this may be the last rule that will be managed by our good friend from Buffalo, New York (Mr. REYNOLDS), as he is going to be taking the position that the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) is giving up as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means representing the State of New York on the Committee on Ways and Means. So I want to say that rarely have we seen the kind of passionate eloquence when it has come to management of rules on the House floor that we have from my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS). And I want to congratulate him and thank him for his stellar service to the Committee on Rules and to this institution overall.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule. It is the fiscally responsible policy for us to increase by $800 billion the national debt limit. One might say, how can that be fiscally responsible for us to all of the sudden increase that burden which has the potential to increase interest rates and do all of these other things that obviously we bemoan increases in spending.

Well, the reason it is the fiscally responsible thing for us to do is that if we do not, there are tremendous obligations that the Federal Government has that could potentially be jeopardized. Not that they will be jeopardized or not, but potentially be jeopardized. One of the things that is important for us to realize, Mr. Speaker, is that if we look at the question of the auction of our Treasury bills that is on the horizon, we know one thing full well. If we do not take this action now as expeditiously as possible, get this done, we will increase the already-high interest costs that the American taxpayer will be shouldering.

Now, this issue is a wonderful issue to demagogue, and I will tell you that I probably in my quarter century here have been guilty of having done it in the past. I will say that clearly increasing the debt ceiling is something that it is easy to cast a ''no'' vote on it, but it is not the responsible thing to do.

Now, we listen to people decrying a number of things. Obviously, there is talk about how this President inherited a wonderful surplus and today many of our colleagues are in Little Rock, and we congratulate President Clinton on the opening of his library; but let us remember that as we looked at the surplus that was created during the decade of the 1990s, Mr. Speaker, it was done so because of the fact that we Republicans came to majority in 1994. And we came to majority focusing on a couple of things. Yes, trying to restrain the growth of Federal spending, but at the same time we had our attention on the issue of economic growth. And we know that we brought about that economic growth because of the fact that we were able to reduce taxes to stimulate the economy.

Now, one of the things people say when we talk about the problems of increased spending that has taken place over the past 4 years, one of the things we need to recognize is that even if we did not have the horrendous attacks of September 11, 2001, against the United States of America, even if we did not have the war and the costs of that war in Iraq, we still would be dealing with deficit spending. We still would be faced with the challenge of increasing the debt ceiling. Why? Because it was the fact that we saw an economic slowdown that really began as every economist, virtually every economist has recognized, every nonpartisan economist has recognized, began in the waning, waning months of the year 2000, before George Bush was even elected President of the United States. We saw this economic slow-down. And that economic slow-down obviously diminished flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury.

Now, what is it that we have done? Fortunately, with the policies we have put in place, Mr. Speaker, we have actually seen an increase to the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury and the last projection showed actually an unanticipated $108 billion in revenues have come into the Federal Treasury. Why? Because of the fact that the economy is growing.

So we are on a path toward greater economic growth. And now that this election is behind us, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we also need to realize is that we have the potential to make permanent the tax cuts, to bring about reform of Social Security, which is a very high priority, and a wide range of other things, like market-opening opportunities which will help us.

The other thing that was just raised by my friend from Buffalo that I think is important for us to talk about is this wringing our hands over the fact that

there are nations like the People's Republic of China that might consider investing its dollars in the United States of America. What better signal of the strength and confidence that the world has for our economy than to see them invest in our economy? I see that, Mr. Speaker, as a positive for us as a Nation.

So it is very clear, some people who want to politicize and say, oh, well, let us not increase the debt limit. Well, it is very important that we do this. Increasing this debt ceiling will save U.S. taxpayer dollars because if we do not, we will see an even greater interest burden shouldered on the U.S. taxpayer. So let us vote for this rule. Let us vote for the rule as it is reported out because of the fact that any kind of delay would delay action over in the other body, and we need to move as quickly as we can on this and then let us vote for the package itself.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), a member of the Committee on Rules.

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

□ 1030

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, that did not take long. On just the third legislative day after the election we are yet again confronting a need to raise the Nation's debt limit. It is interesting that even though this problem has been apparent for months the Republican leadership chose to wait until after the election to bring this issue to the floor, interesting but not at all surprising.

Once again, the historic fiscal mismanagement of this Republican Congress and the Bush administration is on display, and, once again, we are reminded that we are passing on a massive, unpaid credit card bill to our children and our grandchildren, and the numbers are staggering.

In 2002, the Bush administration came to Congress asking for a debt limit increase of $450 billion. In 2003, they asked for another increase of $984 billion, an unprecedented increase, and this year's request will increase the debt ceiling by another $800 billion. Amazingly, this increase is only expected to last the Treasury 1 year, which means that unless this Congress gets its act together we will be back here next year debating yet another multibillion dollar increase in the national debt limit.

In the last 18 months, this Nation's debt has gone up by nearly $1 trillion, $1 trillion. Today's debate proves once again that the promises made by the Bush administration when they came into office were nothing more than empty rhetoric.

They promised under their plan the debt ceiling would not be reached until 2008. Instead, because they continue to insist on massive tax breaks for the wealthy that are not paid for, the debt limit will have to be raised for the third time in 3 years.

On January 29, 2002, George Bush stood in this Chamber and told the Nation our budget will run a deficit that will be small and short term. I guess he misspoke.

But this debate is about more than numbers, Mr. Speaker. It is about priorities. It is about the kind of country we are leaving for future generations. How will our children be able to afford things like education and health care, homeland security and national defense? How will they be able to pay for us when we retire?

These massive deficits, this huge debt will mean higher interest rates, and that means that the American people will have to pay more for a college education or a new car or a new home. Reckless fiscal policy is not a value. It is a vice, and it has to stop.

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal irresponsibility of the majority and the administration is magnified by the Republican leadership's refusal to institute budget reforms requiring Congress to pay for any new spending. PAYGO simply is a responsible plan that says if you want to increase spending or if you want to give tax cuts to your rich friends, you have got to pay for it.

In the Committee on Rules, several members offered, and I supported, an amendment to increase the debt limit and reinstate the pay-as-you-go spending policies, and it was rejected.

Now I know what my friends on the other side of the aisle are thinking, the next election is not for another 2 years. They think the American people will forget about this fiscal irresponsibility that they are pursuing. Well, maybe they might and maybe they will not, but, in the meantime, they are undermining our economy and they are passing on to our kids a big fat credit card bill and it is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and vote no on the underlying bill so we can have a real debate on the gross fiscal mismanagement of this Congress and this administration and institute real budget reforms that will provide pay-as-you-go for increased spending and these tax cuts.

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

I think it is important, after listening to my colleague and fellow member of the Committee on Rules, that we point out that tax relief did not cause the deficit. We would have triple-digit budget deficits today if taxes remained at the historically high levels of 2000. The tax policies that were put in place helped our economy out of a recession that began in the Clinton administration and was in the early Bush years.

Without our tax policies, the economy would not have recovered as quick and as well as it has. More Americans would have lost their jobs. A less robust recovery from recession would have had the adverse effects on revenues and the budget deficit, and healthy revenue growth continues even with tax relief. The recent decline in the deficit is largely a result of revenue increasing faster than anticipated because of strong economic growth.

After 3 years of declining revenue in the wake of September 11, revenue is now growing more robustly than expected. Just since July, we have seen the deficit projections for this year drop by $32 billion. While I cannot predict what the next election will be, I do know the President ran on those tax cuts, as did the majority in this Congress, and both the President will serve another term and in the 109th Congress the Republican majority will continue in being the majority in this body

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REYNOLDS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I just refer him to CBO's report in which it concludes that the tax cuts are the largest legislative contributor to the negative debt that we have right now. I mean, so it runs contrary to what the gentleman is saying.

All we are suggesting here is that when my colleagues pass these tax cuts for their corporate friends and for wealthy people that they pay for them, pay as you go. That is the responsible thing, so we do not pass this debt on to our kids and our grandkids.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, in the time of the last 2 years of this Congress we have had a great debate. A guy from the left that believes that there should not be tax cuts, or to have some kind of message for middle America to feel that they might get a piece of it.

I am a guy that believes if you pay taxes, you ought to get a tax cut. We took that referendum, I guess, to the public, and they have ratified an opportunity for this majority to remain.

Now, I also understand majority/minority politics, and I guess if I look through the years of 1940, 1950, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s and 2000 when we would find that Republicans controlled the place or Democrats controlled the place, I am sure that there were a few that made the debt reduction or the aspect of all of that debate at the same time they looked at the debt limit.

But also in my opening remarks we heard from Secretary Rubin who said that the aspect of raising the debt limit was not the aspect of addressing the deficit. It was the budget itself. And I will quote him.

As Robert Rubin, then Treasury Secretary under the President said in November of 1995 in that quote, Passage of the debt ceiling is totally unrelated to deficit reduction. The deficit can only be reduced in the budget process.

He reiterated this truth 1 month later in testimony before the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services when he said, The debt limit is about meeting obligations already

incurred, while future deficits can only be reduced through actions taken in the budget process itself.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REYNOLDS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this is the third time under this administration that we have raised the debt limit, and what we were asking for last night in the Committee on Rules and what we are asking for today is that, before we do this again, that we institute the necessary budget reforms that require pay-as-you-go so that we are not going down this path of fiscal irresponsibility, so we are not passing down to our kids and our grandkids this massive credit card bill.

My colleagues denied us that ability to be able to vote up or down on a pay-as-you-go bill today, and that is what we are urging here today. That is why we are opposing this rule, and that is why I am going to vote against increasing the debt limit. Because there is no reason to believe that my colleagues' bad habits are not going to continue into the next Congress.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, a couple things.

One, in the finger pointing of this 21st century of deficit and debt limit increases, again, I will put on the record, we had seven during the 1940s, six during the 1950s, 13 during the 1960s, 18 during the 1970s, 24 during the 1980s, 13 during the 1990s and two so far this decade. So we are not into a new venture, and we are not into a Republican venture. We are into a congressional decision of whether we keep the government moving or whether we do not, and there were 83 debt limit measures that have been enacted into law.

I believe the gentleman from Texas will come up and talk about the PAYGO amendment that was offered before the Committee on Rules last night, and I think that it will be important for us to listen to him, and I believe that the issue of PAYGO will have bipartisan support if and when it comes to this floor.

But I also want to caution my colleagues that this is a Senate bill that we are taking up, and further delay once again results in this body jeopardizing our trust funds such as Social Security, Medicare, highways, and we further jeopardize veterans' care and military retirement.

So when we put our military at risk, at not having the necessary resources of food and clothing and ammunition, we also endanger unemployment benefits and disaster assistance, low-income home energy assistance programs.

The debate on PAYGO I believe should happen and will happen. It is not necessarily that it has to happen when we are looking at debt limit for a number of reasons, including the quotes of Robert Rubin of 1995.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by congratulating my Republican colleagues for bringing this bill to the floor today, clean, up and down. There is a certain amount of justice to this because those who have built up these deficits should have the courage to vote to increase the debt ceiling for the policies of which they have been very successful, and that is commendable.

I sincerely say that, even though my opposition to those policies help contributed to my defeat. Because I have stood on this floor many times, Mr. Speaker, asking that PAYGO be reinstated, but it was never the right time, and, according to the Committee on Rules, it is not the right time today to bring up pay-as-you-go.

But we can talk about these deficits and debt and my friends on the majority side can continue to explain them as they really do not matter anymore. It does not matter that we have borrowed $570 billion in the last 12 months, that we borrowed $1.5 trillion in the last 3 years, that we are going to borrow who knows how much more, continuing to fund the same policies. Because I assume if one was elected on these policies they will continue them. That means, based on most economists, the deficit is going to explode into the next year, 2, 3, 5, 10 years.

I hope I am wrong. I want to say here today to my friends on this side of the aisle, I sincerely hope they are right because our country will be so much better off if they are right than if they are wrong, because I detect in today's motion a reluctance to change anything.

I have come to the conclusion now that politics are not going to change my colleagues' policies. They have got the majority in the House. They have got the majority in the Senate. They have got the White House. Therefore, they are going to do what they believe is in the best interest of our country.

I just do not share the belief that deficits do not matter. I just do not share the belief, and I never dreamed I would be a member of the party of fiscal responsibility, which my party has become.

Based on historical records, they talk about a trillion and a half is not much money, $800 billion, not much money. Well, it took our country 204 years to borrow the first $1 trillion. Today, we are going to make it possible to borrow another $800 billion, and it probably will occur in the next 12 to 18 months.

It is not politics that is going to ultimately decide this question. It is the market that is going to decide this question, and I would encourage my friends on this side of the aisle to start paying attention to the market.

It was not insignificant that 2 months ago the Japanese, for the first time since 2002, chose not to increase their holdings of United States Treasury notes. It is not of some insignificance that the European community is concerned about the fall of the dollar.

Much of what the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) has said I agree with him on. I agree with Mr. Rubin, Secretary Rubin. I agree with him 100 percent. I am glad the gentleman repeated it twice for the RECORD because more Members of this body need to read that and understand that what he is talking about is exactly as he has restated it.

This is not a budget vote. What we were talking about last night in asking my colleagues to make pay-as-you-go a part of this rule is changing the policy just a little bit in reinstating pay-as-you-go which worked in a bipartisan way in 1993 and 1997. But this bunch, those of my colleagues who control this House today, have said, nope, that is not any good anymore. We have got a new and better policy. Some of us disagree with that, and we just ask respectfully that we be allowed to vote on that today, but my colleagues said no, and this is their prerogative. That is their prerogative.

To those of my colleagues who believe that the amount of deficits this country is running today and will run under the policies they advocate, if they are going to make the tax cuts permanent, if they are going to continue to have the reductions in the amount of revenue, if we are going to continue to fight to a successful culmination, which I hope we do, of the wars, if we are going to do that, I think there may be a little justice in this for the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS), and I hope you will be up to it.

Going to the Committee on Ways and Means means the gentleman is going to be part of the ways and means of solving this problem, sooner or later, but not today, obviously. Sooner or later, the gentleman is going to have to be part of that, I believe.

So, again, I conclude by congratulating my colleagues for bringing this bill up for a clean up and down vote. If they would have allowed pay-as-you-go, I would have been one of those votes, but I am not going to ratify a policy that I believe is going to drive this country to the brink of ruin, and the market will ultimately be the judge of this, not any vote in this body according to the majority today.

□ 1045

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

It is true that in 2004, as we consider whether we increase the debt limit, the government is controlled by Republicans, a Republican President, a Republican Congress in both the other body and in this one. But I am reminded of President Bill Clinton's State of the Union address in 1996, and I quote him: ''And on behalf of all Americans, especially those who need their Social Security payments at the beginning of March, I challenge Congress to preserve the full faith and

credit of the United States, to honor the obligations of this great Nation as we have for 220 years, to rise above the partisanship and pass a straightforward extension of the debt limit. Show them that America keeps its word.''

That rang true when a Democratic President spoke to a Republican Congress; it rings true today as we consider the debt limit.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 second just to say that President Bush, in his first State of the Union said, ''We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now,'' speaking about his plan to pay off in the next decade the entire $2 trillion in government-debt held by the public.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5½ minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, we are here because the Secretary of the Treasury has warned us that he has run out of tricks. Five times he has written the leadership of the Congress and told us that he was approaching the legal limit which Congress has imposed by law on how much debt the United States can incur. We call it the debt ceiling. Now he has told us that he is out of tricks and he is having to do things he does not regard as prudent unless we increase the debt ceiling. So it is right that we are here to do just that.

But it is also right that we take an hour or two to ponder what brings us to this juncture, to raise the debt ceiling again by $800 billion, when we have already raised it twice in the last 3 years.

Let us go back to January 1, 2001. The Bush administration takes office, and the fruits of our labor in the last two administrations of the Clinton years are laid before him. They look out and see surpluses of $5.6 trillion and decide that this warrants huge tax cuts. We warned them against buying into a blue-sky projection which might not be obtained, and surely enough, that happened.

They told us, nevertheless, that even if we adopted their tax cuts, they would not have to be back to request an increase in the debt ceiling due to the fantastic surpluses they foresaw, until the year 2008. In truth, they were back in 2002 asking for $450 billion. And then on May 26, 2003, just 18 months ago, the second request from the Bush administration was passed raising the debt ceiling by $984 billion. And now we have the third debt ceiling increase in 3 years, equal to $800 billion, before us.

Let me just take a minute to go through some charts which will explain more graphically why it is we are here and what it is we need to do at this point in time.

This was the debt ceiling when Mr. Bush came to office in January 2001, $5.950 trillion. This first increase took it to $6.4 trillion. The next, where we are today, $7.384 trillion. That was a $984 billion increase just 18 months ago. Today, they would like to take that up another $800 billion because they have rung up $984 billion in debt in the last 18 months.

Just consider that. Every 18 months the government of the United States under the Bush administration is incurring $1 trillion in additional debt. Every 18 months. That is the rate at which we are running right now. This next increase will take the debt ceiling to $8.2 trillion, up from $5.950 trillion. That is quite a statement about the fiscal policies of this administration.

Now, the administration assured us that they would not need to come back until 2008; that we could cut taxes by immense amounts not only in 2001, but 2002 and 2003, because there have been three tax cuts, and even more, and still enjoy an increase in revenues. This was the path they plotted when they sold their tax cuts to the Congress of the United States showing that tax revenues would rise from a little over $1 trillion to $1.118 trillion, individual and corporate income taxes.

Instead, the revenues of this country have followed this descending path here, and we can see the gaping hole, the difference of $300 billion today between what they predicted and where we actually are. This is an underlying cause.

In addition to that, there have been things that have taken their toll on the budget: defense. Much larger than anybody anticipated in 2001. Homeland Security. We did not even have a heading called Homeland Security 3 years ago. And the 9/11 response. But the increases in spending that have affected the bottom line of the budget have all been sought by the Bush administration. Ninety percent of the increases in spending over and above current services have been things they have sought and we have appropriated because they were urgently needed.

So where are we? A $450 billion increase in the debt ceiling in 2002. In 2003, we had a $984 billion increase in the debt ceiling. And today, an $800 billion increase in the debt ceiling. That means this administration has had to come to Congress and ask for the debt ceiling to be raised by $2.234 trillion. Let me say that again. It is so fantastic: $2.234 trillion to accommodate its budgets over the last 4 years. That is the bottom line. It is inescapable.

And how much is $984 billion, the last increase we had 18 months ago? Well, $984 billion is more than the entire debt of the United States in the year 1980–81 when Ronald Reagan came to Congress. The last increase 18 months ago exceeded it.

Let me just wrap up by saying that this calls for action. Sure, the ceiling has to be increased, but we should not just increase the ceiling and leave the problem unattended. The very least we can do is reinstate the PAYGO rules which have worked so well and put the budget in surplus for the first time in 30 years in the 1990s. That is what we ask today, an opportunity to put up an amendment that would at least take one solid step towards stopping this head-long descent deeper and deeper into debt.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) has 9½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) has 12 minutes remaining.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in yielding me this time.

I heard the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules talk about how this is an easy issue to be a demagogue. Well, I would suggest what we heard from the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) was the antithesis of demagoguery. It does not require an emotional or irrational appeal to prejudice. They have been direct and straightforward in telling the consequences of the Republican approach to debt management and spending.

I should amend that. It is not the Republican approach, because the gentlemen I just referred to from South Carolina and from Texas represent many Republicans, like I do back in Oregon, that do not subscribe to this; and it insults them to suggest this is the Republican approach to budgeting.

The distinguished Committee on Rules member from New York talked about the mandate. Well, I would think the Republicans and the President would have a mandate if they had ever talked about this. I did not hear a single Republican talk about increasing the debt. I did not hear them talk about reckless spending on programs for special interests, divorcing it from reality. In fact, they employed tactics to disguise the fact that we had exceeded the debt limit. They have been borrowing from retirement and disability funds, for instance, we expired in October.

No, if they had talked about this directly and honestly to the American public, I would accept the notion there is a mandate. And in fact I would suggest if they had done that with their plans, they would not have had a mandate, because they would not have won the election.

The fact is we are incurring more debt than is necessary for weapons that do not add to security, for handouts to special interests that do not need them, and tax cuts for people who need them least, making them permanent regardless of the fiscal consequences.

We are given a program from the majority party and the President that, if we approved it, would almost double this problem over the next 10 years. I, for one, cannot go back home to campuses and look these young men and women in the eye and suggest that I was a part of approving it.

I long for the day when we have a bipartisan effort to reduce the deficit and to deal meaningfully with our spending priorities. But unless and until that happens, I will vote ''no'' as the one way I have of protesting this bizarre divorce from reality, of the fiscal reality that all of us are going to have to live with.

Mr. Speaker, would that their rosy scenarios come to pass. In some respects, I hope that they will. I do not wish ill on our country. But the fact is, the policies and the practices are leading us down a path that we will regret for years to come.

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

First of all, I want to correct my colleague from Oregon. I do not think I said I had a mandate on anything. I think I outlined the fact we had a great debate before an election and Republicans continue here.

I also wonder if my colleague ever voted for a debt limit increase in his many terms of service, as we demagogue the issue today. As we come to a vote, it is going to get down to whatever excuse you find if you do not vote for it. But if you do not vote for it, you are actually putting the government in harm's way, which means the people are in harm's way. We have said that in repeated messages on the record today, and that still remains a fact as we look at consideration of the debate on the rule and then the underlying legislation following it.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, last night I had the opportunity to testify before the Committee on Rules on behalf of my Blue Dog colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), who had proposed an amendment to reintroduce PAYGO into the rule. That proposed amendment would have reestablished one of the most basic, most responsible, and most successful principles of budget enforcement, the PAYGO rule.

I am sad to stand on this floor today and say that this amendment was stopped. It was stopped by the majority on that Committee on Rules from being able to be part of this final resolve to this issue today.

PAYGO was a provision in the original Budget Enforcement Act which this House allowed to expire in 2002. Prior to that time, not only were we forced to operate within the caps imposed on our discretionary spending; we had to offset all legislation that had the effect of increasing spending or reducing revenue. Put plainly, we had to pay for our bills as we passed our bills.

Since the expiration of the Budget Enforcement Act provisions, PAYGO included, this Congress has not been operating with anywhere near the same level of fiscal responsibility.

□ 1100

Deficits are growing. They are growing in size, they are growing as a percentage of our gross domestic product and, most important, they are growing unchecked because we have allowed provisions such as PAYGO to expire.

The Stenholm proposed amendment would have returned us to the rules by which Congress operated during the 1990s, bipartisan rules. This is not a partisan concept. In its original form in 1990, PAYGO was part of a bipartisan budget agreement between the first President Bush and a Democratic Congress. In 1993, it was extended with a Democratic President and Congress, and again in 1997 it was extended with a Democratic President and a Republican Congress. One hundred ninety-three Republicans voted for PAYGO when it was last extended. One hundred twenty-one of them are still serving in this House today.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal budget should emphasize fiscal responsibility, saving the money necessary to keep both Social Security and Medicare solvent, and paying down the national debt, not increasing it.

I do not like voting to increase the debt ceiling any more than anybody else in this body, but I am not opposed to it if it is accompanied by a plan that would put us back on solid fiscal ground. A good way to start is to reinstate the PAYGO rules. It would be irresponsible for this body to raise the debt limit without a plan for controlling this runaway spending.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for fiscal responsibility, to stand up for fiscal integrity and vote no on this rule and insist that we restore PAYGO.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to a number of my colleagues, and I have been on the record repeated times. First of all, what came before the Committee on Rules last night was a Senate bill. The Committee on Rules made a vote and decision without having any further delay to bring forward the Senate bill for consideration on the rule that we are now in debate on, and later we will have debate on the underlying legislation.

We can demagogue it and put on the record all sorts of messages to feel good or draw political lines or switch from when might have been responsibility for voting for debt limit and now not, and now PAYGO. We have had debate on that. But I want to make sure that we listen to two things when we talk about bipartisanship. Bipartisanship is a two-way street of working together.

I suspect, as I said before my colleague from California entered the Chamber, I expect to see Republican support again for PAYGO. Republicans are looking at it closely. There is certainly support for consideration of that. My colleague from California outlined some of the votes in a bipartisan vote that came for PAYGO, and I addressed that I think, with the gentleman from Texas, that there is support.

The question is, under the terms of the debate, we want it altogether, right now, right here, and that is the position we are carrying. Some of that has been now a Blue Dog position that has been laid out by a number of members of that caucus. But the reality is if we keep screwing around with this thing, we are going to shut the government down. We cannot have it both ways.

Each of us has voted for something that makes the government run and takes credit for it when it is the fall of the election year, making sure that voters knew they were working hard to bring some of that Federal money back home.

Any further delay will result in this body's jeopardizing our trust funds, like Social Security, Medicare and highways. We further jeopardize military care and retirement. We put our military at risk. We endanger unemployment benefits and disaster assistance and low-income home energy assistance programs, programs many of us had in our messages back in our respective States and districts.

We also talk about listening to presentations from 2000. At least twice I put on the record in this hour 83 different times over the last 64 years has the Congress taken upon itself to increase the debt limit.

I also put on the record President Clinton's 1996 State of the Union address where he asked for bipartisan cooperation to ask the Congress to do the right thing and increase the debt limit.

So it is not a new thing, it is not a Republican thing, it is not at Democrat thing, it is a government thing. There will be a consequence if we do not keep the government running because, for the history of our Nation, we have never not made sure that we honored what needed to be done with respect to debt limit.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York talks about the great mandate the Republicans got in the election. Why did they not have the guts to bring up an increase in the debt limit before the election?

This is no surprise. In fact, we technically reached default over a month ago. They have been borrowing Federal employees' retirement to keep the government floating, but now they say we

have no option but to vote for this today, and they have no plan.

Let us distill it down to something Americans understand. Trillions, billions, they do not get it. This is the third time we are going to ask for an increase in our borrowing on our credit card limit in 3 years under the Republican leadership, $2,000 per U.S. citizen. That is what they are authorizing today to borrow. Now everybody here is going to have to pay that back with interest. With interest. And they have no plan to stop borrowing into the indefinite future. No plan at all.

They will not allow us to adopt a simple principle: If they want to increase spending, cut something else. If you want to cut income, decrease taxes, either get tax increases elsewhere or cut spending. That is all we are saying. It is a simple principle. It is something every American would have to do before their credit card company would give them an increase for the third time in 3 years. That is what they are doing here.

They say, there is no time to do that. We are powerless in face of the Senate.

Come on. Give me a break. Members want to talk about demagogues. You are a champion demagogue. You really are. We are borrowing $1 million a minute to run this government. They want to say let us cut spending.

We can eliminate the entire government, the entire government, far beyond libertarians' dreams, and we would still have a deficit this year. Now we would keep half of the Department of Defense, but we would eliminate everything else the government does, and we would still have a deficit this year. That is how serious this problem is.

And they are borrowing money in the name of the American people who are going to have to pay it back with interest. Our kids are going to pay it back with interest. Our grandkids are going to pay it back with interest. In their scenario, our great great grandkids are going to pay it back with interest to the Chinese and others who are now financing our government and our spendthrift ways.

All we are asking for here is a little bit of fiscal responsibility, a plan, a plan to deal with this mounting debt, a plan that any American would have to have if they asked their credit card company for the third increase in 3 years in their credit card limit, and they were also cutting their income.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 1996, we heard, as I put on the record, President Clinton's appeal to the Congress. I thought I might share a little bit of the appeal of our colleagues. The two I have come from the Democratic side of the aisle at that time who made the appeal for the debt limit to be rising.

Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut stated, ''Lifting the debt limit should not be a matter of politics, but of governance. Ensuring that it is done should not be a question of partisan leverage, but of leadership.''

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), ''If the debt ceiling is not extended or is sent to the President in a form he cannot sign, the repercussions will be devastating. Already, the leaders of our European allies are warning of an international financial crisis should the United States default on its debt payments. Bond rating agencies are raising alarm that our Nation's triple A bond rating is in jeopardy.

''An actual default would cause interest rates on Treasury bonds to rise, making a balanced budget almost impossible to achieve. Home mortgage and business borrowing rates would increase, slowing economic growth.

''In the past, many clean debt limit extensions have been passed in a bipartisan manner by this House. It was the right thing to do then, and it is the right thing to do now.''

I do not always agree with my colleagues on some of their viewpoints of getting government solutions, and I am sure that many do not agree with me on government solutions, but we have certainly had a history of administrations, Democrat and Republican, and 83 times this Congress since 1940 has said let us do it.

Now I understand showmanship. I understand consumption back home. I understand we are still in November, so we have a little election spirit in us. But the reality is if we do not increase this debt limit, we are putting America's people in jeopardy.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I might ask the gentleman how he himself voted.

Mr. Speaker, the full faith and credit of the United States is not seriously at issue here. What is at issue is what we do not hear a lot about anymore. We do not hear the other side saying we can grow our way out of this debt. We do see the danger signs, the decline of the dollar, the rise in debt purchased by foreigners.

How can we plunge ourselves back into debt so quickly? As President Clinton dedicates his library, I cannot help remember the halcyon days of surplus where the President imposed pay-as-you-go discipline. We can do this ourselves.

Postponing a vote on the debt limit to get through an election is pathetically transparent. The moral bankruptcy of that postponement is deepened by the failure to even make a promise on PAYGO during this debate.

Unless we move, this generation will be remembered as the generation that had a party at the expense of their grandchildren, so selfish that they gave themselves a tax cut, robbed their children's Social Security, and then charged it straight away to them. Let us do better than that. That is the very definition of a national moral issue.

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

I will be calling for a no vote on the previous question so we can change the rule and add the Stenholm amendment to reinstate pay-as-you-can-go programs in our budget process.

This amendment was offered in the Committee on Rules last night and defeated on a straight party-line vote. I want to emphasize that this no vote will not in any way prevent or block the consideration of the underlying bill to increase the debt ceiling, but a yes vote will block us in voting to restore the pay-as-you-go provisions in the budget process. I urge a no vote on the previous question

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must honor our commitments and America's priorities. We must stand up today in support of our seniors and veterans and military and all citizens who will be harmed by our inaction. I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and support the rule and the underlying bill.

I also look at the 109th Congress as an opportunity for those who want to look at PAYGO, Republican and Democrat, from those from the left to those on the right to come together in a bipartisan fashion and continue working through the will of the House to see those types of considerations debated in committee and debated on the floor of this great House.

Before I yield back, I would like to quickly thank the gentleman from California (Chairman DREIER) and all of the members of the Committee on Rules and staff as this is most likely the last time I will manage a rule for this industrious panel. I have been honored to serve on the Rules Committee for the past 6 years.

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

PREVIOUS QUESTIONS FOR H. RES. 856: RULE ON S. 2986

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert:

That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 2986) to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) the amendment specified in

section 2 of this resolution, if offered by Representative Stenholm of Texas or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order or demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to commit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The amendment referred to in the first section of this resolution is as follows:

Redesignate section 1 as section 101 and before such section add the following:

TITLE I—INCREASE IN PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

At the end, add the following new title:

TITLE II—REINSTATING BUDGET ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENT.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 252(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by striking ''2002'' and inserting ''2009''.

(b) SEQUESTRATION.—Section 252(b)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by striking ''2002'' and inserting ''2009''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 274 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended by striking ''2006'' and inserting ''2013''.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, 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. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2035

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 856 on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 191, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—205

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner (OH)
Upton
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—191

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Chandler
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—36

Ackerman
Baca
Boehner
Burr
Cannon
Carson (OK)
Crane
Dooley (CA)
Dunn
English
Feeney
Gephardt
Greenwood
Hoeffel
Houghton
John
Kleczka
Lipinski
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
Millender-McDonald
Musgrave
Nethercutt
Norwood
Oxley
Quinn
Radanovich
Rangel
Schrock
Simmons
Stark
Stearns
Tancredo
Toomey
Weller

□ 2102

Mr. WEXLER and Mr. BLUMENAUER changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. McINNIS changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2100

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTION IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 3204, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of H.R. 3204, the Clerk be authorized to make the following correction: In section 4(a)(4)(B), strike ''2010'' and insert ''2006''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 856, I call up the Senate bill (S. 2986) to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of S. 2986 is as follows:

S. 2986

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

Subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$7,384,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$8,184,000,000,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 856, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The issue before us is really America's responsibility to pay its bills, to meet obligations that America and Congress, as our Members, have already incurred.

Before September 11 and the war on terror, the Republican-led Congress paid down nearly half a trillion dollars in public debt, marking the first time since 1969 that Congress had reduced the national debt. Today, America is fighting an elusive and determined enemy abroad, while working to stimulate the economy and help industry still recovering from the 9/11 attacks.

At this extraordinary time, with our Nation's many obligations, the government is nearing the debt limit. If the Treasury cannot issue the debt, the government may be unable to meet many of its obligations, such as the regular investment into the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund. Republicans want to do the responsible thing. As a result, Congress is increasing the debt limit to $8.1 trillion.

Holding the line on spending and raising the debt limit are not mutually exclusive, and it is important to remember that. Earlier this year, the House approved a lean, responsible budget that would cut the deficit in half within 5 years, hold the line on spending and guard against Democrats' calls for job-killing tax hikes.

Republicans are committed to reducing America's debt through responsible and restrained spending. Congress must meet America's priorities such as Social Security and Medicare. That is why raising the debt limit is so critical. But, in doing so, we can remain steadfast in our quest to eliminate the waste, the fraud and abuse on behalf of all taxpayers and future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a bipartisan request. Tonight's measure is an appropriate time to discuss spending and deficits and solutions, but as we debate this and as we make our final vote, let us not punish our seniors, let us not punish our elderly, let us not punish our military just to score political points. If the debt ceiling is not increased, America cannot pay its bills. We cannot meet existing obligations. We will not ultimately have the cash on hand to pay Social Security benefits, military retirement, Medicare benefits, unemployment benefits and other trust fund obligations.

As raw as this recent election was, as bitterly contested as it was, with hurt feelings all around, we need to work together as Americans to take responsibility for our bills. Let us not default on our obligations. Let us not stop the checks to our needy who are counting on us. Let us not use our elderly as political pawns in trade for a seven second sound byte back home. They deserve better. We have a responsibility to pay our bills.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the remaining time.

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

I would like to join in the bipartisan request that we try to work this out. The request sounds like a drunk going to an Alcoholic Anonymous meeting, saying just give me one more drink and I will not do it again. But there has to be a program involved in joining with my colleagues in this bipartisan approach, and we have a program and that is pay-as-you-go.

My colleagues cannot help themselves with spending. They think they have a credit card with no limit on it. They go to the richest of their friends and they tell them, they do not ask for it, that they are going to give them a $1 trillion tax cut. Then when they ask, well, where are we going to get the money, do not worry about it, we will increase the debt ceiling, we will just borrow some money.

Who are we borrowing the money from? The Japanese and the Chinese. What kind of patriotism is that? What kind of bipartisanship do my colleagues want for that?

The truth is every day for the next 2 years we are going to be dealing with the moral issues that encompass this Congress and this country, and the quicker my colleagues try to explain how they can take a surplus projected at $5.6 trillion and then come up and waste it and come up with a deficit of $3 trillion, the quicker they can see that the interest on this debt is going to be larger than the things that they talk about in the Koran, in the Bible or in the Torah and all of those things. That is, talking about education and health care and help your fellow man and let us not help the high rollers that my colleagues try to do.

So we are prepared to work in a bipartisan way. If a creditor wants to try to help someone that just could not control the spending, the first thing they do is get a plan. We will give my colleagues plenty of opportunity to be bipartisan by saying pay-as-you-go. Do not stop everything. Do not hurt the aged. Do not hurt Social Security. Do not hurt Medicare. We know how compassionate they feel about those issues, but do not get us involved in anymore debt unless you have some kind of a cockamamie plan to get us out of the mess that you put us in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) for the purposes of control, who has a true understanding of patriotism and compassion and moral values, and take notes because my colleagues are going to be hearing a lot about this.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) will control the time.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, why are we here for the third time in 3 years? It is because our country has borrowed over $1.5 trillion in that time from 2001 until now.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an accident. This is the first administration and the first Congress in the history of this country that has knowingly, willfully, deliberately, and consciously pursued an economic plan that will leave our country weaker in the long run than when they found it. No other people who have occupied these seats have consciously, willfully and deliberately bankrupted our country like what is going on today.

Just in the last 4 years, at a 5 percent interest rate, these people have raised taxes on the American people $67 billion a year each and every year from now on to the rest of our lives because of this prolific borrowing that is going on.

President Jimmy Carter once said that the highest office in our land is that of citizen, and he is right. Citizens hire us to come here every couple of years in this body to do the public work, to try to run their business like we would run our own.

All we have asked of the majority is before we borrow another $800 billion in

the name of every citizen in this country, they would at least give us the opportunity to stop and say why do we not pay for what we are spending? Why do we not do the moral value of paying our bills? We are not paying our bills by borrowing another $800 billion. We are passing our bills on to our children, our grandchildren and anybody else who follows us. That is no moral value.

I tell my colleagues one other thing. We are creating a financial vulnerability in this country that is second only to the threat of terrorism. Since 2001, there has been an $844 billion increase in foreign-held debt, and do my colleagues know who holds it? Almost every country in the world.

I hold this up from the Treasury Department: Japan, over $700 billion; mainland China and Hong Kong, over $230 billion; the Caribbean banking centers, over $100 billion.

□ 2115

We are literally, you are literally mortgaging our future economy to anybody in the world that will give us money on the cheap today so we do not have to face up and pay our own bills from my generation: pass it on to somebody else. It is nothing less than a national security issue, and we will have more to say about that later.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Some people have a short memory around here. I do believe that reducing the debt, restraining spending is a bipartisan effort. We have to work together. But I recall my friends on the Democratic side, when Republicans proposed a Medicare drug plan of around $400 billion, our friends on the Democrat side proposed a plan of $968 billion. We did not spend too little; they wanted to spend more. When we talked about unemployment extensions, they increased it $30 billion over the Republican plan. It was not that we were spending too little; they wanted to spend more. And when we talked about welfare reform and the need to move people to work, they added $52 billion, my Democratic colleagues, so concerned about the debt. It was not that we were spending too little; they wanted to spend more.

And when we are talking about moral obligations, I guess I would ask this: Is it a moral obligation when you trumpet that press release for that new firefighting equipment, for that new road you got, for that new university research, for that farm bill you championed, when you stand for the ribbon-cutting back home, and when you court public approval for spending tax dollars? Do you also have the moral obligation to pay for it?

Today, the issue is are we going to pay the bills of America, pay for the spending that has been incurred and take responsibility for our own actions?

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say one thing. We are not paying for anything. We are borrowing every dime he is talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

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

Mr. LEVIN. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) asked us to be bipartisan. Why were the Republicans not bipartisan when you put your budget together? You want us to be bipartisan now. What about the past? You want us to be fiscally responsible for your fiscal irresponsibility. We will not do that.

You mentioned the Medicare bill. We paid for ours. You hid the facts about what you were proposing. You hid them from us, and you continue to do so.

It has been said here let everybody understand the impact on the families of America. The gross interest on the national debt this year: three-quarters of all nondefense discretionary spending. And when projected over 10 years, it is going to be even larger than nondefense discretionary spending.

This action of yours today is the bitter fruit of your fiscal irresponsibility. You give every reason for this problem except your own actions, your own default. It is time that you stood up to the bitter fruits of your policies. Do not stonewall. Do not give us the hollow excuses. This country's families are now being asked by you for a tax increase on every family of America. You can vote for that; I am not going to do so.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Like a mortgage payment, like a credit card payment, we are paying for past decisions by this Congress, some of them decades old. In fact, if we are talking about the past 40 years of control by our Democratic friends, we are talking about raiding the Social Security trust fund, increasing the debt, and in more recent years voting against every bill because we did not spend more. Because we did not spend more.

Republicans are standing up for this responsibility. We understand that America took three big hits to our economy on 9/11: the recession President Bush inherited, the attacks of 9/11 that cost us almost 2 million American jobs, and then the technology bubble burst and the scandals from the false economy of the 1990s.

America fought back. Republicans fought back with the simple principle: if we want to create jobs in America, leave the tax dollars in America, in our hometowns, on Main Street in our small businesses. By fighting back from a hit that would have sent most countries stumbling to their knees, we are creating jobs, we are increasing revenue to the Federal Government, and the deficit is dropping.

But today, the question is, for all those Members who have been so eager to trumpet that press release, so eager to take credit for that spending that they brought home, the question is: Are you going to step up and pay the bills that America and Congress has incurred, or are you going to vote to stop our Social Security checks, stop the retirement checks to our military, stop the Medicare payments so important for the elderly?

It is bipartisan, whether you agree or disagree with how we got here. And that is a fair argument. Republicans and Democrats have a different view of this, and that is a healthy one. But regardless of that, if you supported the farm bill, if you supported the road bills, if you supported the water projects, if you supported the road projects, then step up and pay the bill tonight.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas described a situation here 3 years ago before we went on this borrowing binge. What he conveniently neglected to point out was that President Bush and the Republican Party inherited the strongest economy in the history of America that was expected to post a $5.6 trillion, 10-year surplus. And he conveniently neglects to point out that it is the $2 trillion that they have taken from the budget through tax cuts that have helped to put us in the situation that we are in. Talk about amnesia.

In just 4 years of Republican management, the country's fiscal situation has collapsed to the tune of nearly $9 trillion, draining the entire Clinton surplus and digging a deficit of $3 trillion, the largest deficit in the history of the world. And today, for the third time in 4 years, the country's fiscal situation has become so dire that we bumped up against the legal limit on how much we can borrow. So we are going to raise the limit or the government will default. All of this from the party that in American history has preached fiscal responsibility. So we have to come up with enough money now for their tax cuts, the war, and, by the way, just think of this, two wars with four tax cuts. That defies human history.

And the President has very big plans for the next 4 years. He says he is going to spend a lot of capital that he has earned. So we are going to create private accounts for Social Security, which would cost more than $1 trillion, more than the current system might offer; and we do not even have enough money in the current system so that we are going to borrow this money tonight.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), who is a nice enough fellow, he mentioned a couple of moments ago the situation that we are in. I want to remind this body that 8 years ago the Republican Party was going to impeach Bob Rubin for doing precisely the things their Secretary of the Treasury is doing this evening.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I have 2 minutes and three or four charts that I think I can tell the whole story with.

The year 2001. The President saw, looking out 10 years, surpluses of $4.6 trillion, and he said we can have it all, tax cuts and surpluses too. So he sent us a budget with enormous tax cuts. We warned against buying into those projections, but it was not heeded. They told us at the time that we could pass these tax cuts and we would not even have to consider an increase in the debt ceiling until the year 2008. That promise lasted 1 year.

The next year, in 2002, there was a $450 billion request for another hike in the debt ceiling. The following year, 2003, there was a request for an increase in the debt ceiling of $984 billion, the single largest increase in history, a bigger amount than the entire national debt in 1981 when Ronald Reagan came to office.

Add those three together and they tell you a lot: $450 billion, plus $984 billion, plus tonight's request, $800 billion, comes to $2.234 trillion. $2.234 trillion. That is the amount by which we have had to increase the debt ceiling of the United States in order to accommodate the budgets and fiscal policies of the Bush administration: $2.234 trillion.

Now, that is bad enough, but we asked CBO last September to take its latest economic forecast and to project the Bush budget 10 years, through the year 2014, and tell us how much debt would be accumulated in that period of time if we stayed on this course. This is what is to come. Tonight is only the beginning. This is what is to come if we follow those policies for the next 10 years. We will accumulate a national debt of $14.545 trillion.

And here, the final chart tells it all. Our debt is increasing twice as fast as our GDP, or income. This cannot be sustained, and that is why we do not believe this bill in its present form should be adopted.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), a long-serving Member with strong leadership on the Select Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Many of our colleagues are just back from the Clinton library. I will never forget the night on this floor, not so long ago, in 1996, when in this very Chamber President Clinton said right on the heels of his attempt to have the Federal Government take over responsibility for one-sixth of the Nation's economy, ''the era of big government is over.''

That line recalled similar sentiments by such earlier conservative Presidents as Ronald Reagan, Calvin Coolidge and Abraham Lincoln, with the difference being that the latter three actually meant it.

How many of you remember not just Clinton's favorite line but the entire passage in proper context? It went as follows: ''We know big government does not have all the answers. We know there is not a program for every problem. We have worked to give the American people a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington, and we have to give the American people one that lives within its means. The era of big government is over.''

I remember that moment vividly. I was, of course, sitting in this House Chamber, about 20 feet from the President, in this seat right here when he spoke those words. He was reading from the teleprompter, and his line of sight over the Plexiglas extended directly to my reserved place here at the leadership table.

Because Bill Clinton was very comfortable using the teleprompter, he routinely made eye contact with the Members sitting in the Chamber, and he looked me directly in the eye, and at that moment I could see that he was enormously satisfied with that line in his speech. Yet in retrospect, when Bill Clinton declared ''the era of big government is over,'' he was right, for now we are living in ''the era of really big government.''

Assuming we keep to our schedule this evening, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government will spend more than $100 million just in the time we are debating this debt ceiling legislation. The growth of government in modern history has been astounding. In 1952, the year I was born, which we all agree was not very long ago, Federal spending was a quaint $68 billion compared to over $2.5 trillion today. And it was just that high because America was at war in Korea at the time.

When my oldest child was born in 1993, Federal spending was $1.4 trillion. In just one generation, the size of the Federal Government had increased more than 20-fold. We blew by the $2 trillion mark in 2002, and we have not even taken our foot off the accelerator.

□ 2130

We are past the point where we can make excuses for the big government elephant in the living room. He has taken over our living space, contributing nothing to the family and, as Ronald Reagan knew, posing a threat to our freedoms.

President Reagan, my first boss in Washington, said it best in his 1989 farewell address, ''Man is not free unless government is limited. There is a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: As government expands, liberty contracts.''

President Reagan knew this fundamental truth: Big government is incompatible with freedom.

There is a reason that fiscal restraint is a traditionally conservative value. Big government requires big spending and, therefore, a comfort level in taking and using the fruits of other people's labor. It is a comfort level found in socialism, not conservatism.

So it is with great sadness that I come to the floor tonight to recommend a vote on increasing the debt ceiling. But the reason it is necessary is that the money has already been spent. The bills have come due for what this Congress has already voted for.

Three years ago, we endured a vicious attack on our Nation. As horrifying as it was, it was a visible attack, an attack from without. We knew then how to mount a defense against a foreign enemy. We would not give in to terror. At the time, Osama bin Laden boasted, ''I tell you, freedom and human rights in America are doomed.'' He was wrong then, and he is wrong now. We will not cede this Nation to tyranny, but neither should we cede it to the burdens of big government.

We have got to acknowledge that, unlike the hideous face of terrorism, big government is an attractive seductress. It is sometimes enticing to our citizenry and certainly to many of us in this Chamber. But as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know that every tax dollar spent on nonessential functions of government is, in these times, doubly squandered. Monies given to National Public Radio or the National Endowment for the Arts cannot go toward our national defense.

The truth is, rapid, unsustainable increases in nondefense spending threaten our ability to protect American citizens and to respond to future threats. Period. That is precisely what is happening now so long as the liberal big spenders in this Congress will not say no.

This vote on the debt ceiling tonight is nothing but a reminder that it is high time we get back to pruning back the waste of government. It can be done. We did it in 1995, the first year of the Republican House majority, and we can do it now.

The truth is, the biggest spenders in this Congress will be the ones who vote against this resolution. Because, for big spenders, reining in the government is not a serious priority. The majority of us, however, have got to be responsible. We have got to go forward with renewed resolve to be fiscally responsible. We have to keep uppermost in mind that big government does not have all of the answers. It really does not have many answers at all. Not good ones, anyway.

We know there is not a program for every problem. We have discovered, after all these years, that is really a good thing. So as we do the right thing tonight, Mr. Speaker, let us vow to stick with what the Founding Fathers wanted us to do. Not surprisingly, those are the very things we have been good at all along.

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

Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman just told Members is up is down, and down is up. The liberal big spenders have not spent a dime in this place in 10 years. They do not have the votes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the gentleman from Tennessee that Lewis Carroll is writing the speeches that are being given on this legislation: Up is down, black is white, good is bad, and bad is good.

Dick Armey said Republicans control this town, and you have for 4 years. Republicans control it. This House, the Senate, and the White House. Not a nickel is spent because Democrats vote on it. It is all your spending that you are talking about. All your spending.

The immoral, intellectually bankrupt fiscal policies that we have been pursuing for the last 4 years resulted in this request for this gargantuan increase on the debt on the head of every American, young and old.

Bill Clinton was President of the United States and, in 1998, no increase in the debt; 1999, no increase in the debt; 2000, no increase in the debt; 2001, no increase in the debt. Not until the Republican fiscal policies were adopted did this country start to sink deeper and deeper and deeper into debt. From less than $6 trillion, in 42 months you have taken this country another $2 trillion in debt.

Let us talk of moral values in America. Let us talk of squandering the public resources of a $5.6 trillion surplus that President George Bush said was available when he spoke to this Congress in February, 2001. We have some fiscal conservatives, they say, on this floor and they say spending is the problem. Why have they not stopped it for 4 years?

They say there has been terrorism. I agree. There has been a war. We had a war under President Clinton, Members recall, one the other side of the aisle was not enthusiastic about, but we lost very few people, and the despot who committed genocide against the Bosnian people is now locked in The Hague.

I tell my friends, this is the right thing to do if we adopt the motion to instruct that will be offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the most fiscally responsible Member of this body. Increase it for a short time. The United States cannot welch on its debt. We must pay our debt, but fiscal responsibility ought to be adopted by the majority that have control to do so.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

''We did not spend a dime around here for the past 10 years. All the spending is yours''?

That is not what you told your constituents. I have seen your press releases. You said you secured the road project. You said you championed university research. You said you got that road project. Here is my question: Who are you not leveling with, the voters back home or the people listening tonight?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am prepared to pay for the public works projects that I secure. The public works project that this side secured pales into insignificance beside the public works projects that you get for your Members on your side of the aisle, 17 times as much as we did, and you came here saying we are against pork. Seventeen times, my friend. Seventeen times is the pork in your bills.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. ''Mr. Speaker, we did not spend a dime around here for the past 10 years. It is all your spending.'' That was 2 minutes ago.

Today, it is, yeah, we spent a lot, but you spent more. Well, there is a difference. What we spent our deficit on was tax relief for the American people. I readily admit that. When we look at the deficit today, and we do share this, the fact of the matter is 50 percent of our deficit is caused because of this recession and we have to strengthen this economy. We have to get into a stronger economy. Twenty-five percent of it was new spending, spending that you have claimed credit for, not tonight, but you have claimed credit for years and years throughout the districts, in your speeches and in your campaigns. And the rest of that, that small amount left, is for tax relief to get people back to work, to help small businesses create jobs and get this economy strong again.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are stepping up tonight to accept that responsibility to get the economy going. We are going to pay our bills. We are not going to claim credit for spending, lay the blame on another party, and then try to stop the checks for our Social Security recipients and our Medicare recipients and our military retirees.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think people realize the situation we are in. We will step up to the plate if the other side will allow us to pay-as-you-go, but they will not do that. They are not paying anything. They are borrowing another $800 billion. We are not paying any bills. We are borrowing money right now based on last year of $1.1 billion a day, $48 million an hour, $796,000 a minute. We have already borrowed $10 million while we have been talking. It is $13,000 a second, and you will not let us have pay-as-you-go.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about morality on this House floor and about patriotism.

I want someone to explain to me how it can be moral for a father to stick his kids with his bills. How can it be moral for me to stick my three kids and CHARLIE STENHOLM'S beautiful grandson here with $800 billion of new debt? I want to hear how it is patriotic to burden the next generation of Americans with so much debt that they cannot pay for their wars which they will unfortunately have, that they cannot pay for their natural disasters that are going to happen. Please tell me how that is moral or patriotic.

And for God's sake, Mr. BRADY, please do not tell me you are paying the bills tonight when you are borrowing $800 billion that you are going to stick your kids with. You are not paying the bill. Your kids are going to pay the bill. And until they pay the bill, we are going to continue to squander $1 billion a day on interest on the national debt.

It gets better, Mr. BRADY, because I bet when you got back to Texas you tell them how much you hate foreign aid, and so I am sure you would love to tell the people of Texas that one-third of that billion dollars a day that we spend on interest on the national debt goes to the Communist Chinese, goes to the Japanese, goes to the other countries that now own one-third of our debt. I am sure you are proud of that.

But let me just remind you, Mr. BRADY, 3 years ago on this floor, on my son's birthday, you all came down and said you can cut taxes, increase spending, and you were going to pay off the debt. Since that time, you have borrowed $1,786,314,460,700.45. It gets better. Because in that time you have stolen over $600 billion from the Social Security trust fund. Tell me how it is moral for you to steal from the Social Security trust fund, how it is moral to steal from the Medicaid trust fund, how it is moral to steal from the military retirees.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The Chair reminds Members to address the Chair and not other Members in the second person.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 45 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, tell me the moral clarity of going home each week and trumpeting that press release for the firefighter fund or the road project or for

that water project, and then stand up here tonight and tell us we are not going to pay the bill for it. So the seniors who need their Social Security checks, the heck with them. The military retirees who are counting on their retirement, the heck with them. I got my press acclaim, I got my public support, but you, you on the other side of the aisle, you take responsibility for making sure those checks get there. Tell me the moral obligation of that.

□ 2145

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in support of this proposal. Some will talk and just say no and just point fingers. Others will stand and take the responsibility for governing. We have absolutely had a very difficult last several years. We came into this, this administration, with a recession, we were attacked, we are dealing with a war on terror, increased costs of homeland security to fight terror, to prevent further attacks on the United States. That costs a lot of money. There is no doubt that dealing with those costs during a recession put us in a difficult situation.

So what are we to do? Simply say, oh my, let's raise taxes on the American people who are in a recession? That is a huge mistake. We are getting out of the recession. We see growth. We see job improvement, all as a result of the President's and our decision to keep taxes low.

The whole point of this tonight is to take responsibility, not cry and whine and say it is not our fault, it is your fault. We are taking responsibility. We are going to raise the debt ceiling. We are continuing with a conservative budget that will cut our deficit in half in 5 years. That is responsible. I urge my colleagues to grow up, take responsibility and support this tonight.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker:

A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake.—Thomas Jefferson, 1798, after the passage of the Sedition Act.

These words of Jefferson ring particularly true at this moment. Principles are indeed at stake—basic principles of standing up for fiscal integrity, keeping our promises to American workers, and leaving the next generation free of crushing deficits. The majority has abandoned these principles, but we will not let them be forgotten. The futures of our children and our grandchildren are at sake.

We are here to vote on the administration's demand for an increase in the debt limit of $800 billion dollars. This is the third increase in the debt that this administration has demanded in its first term—for a total of $2.1 trillion, the largest debt increase in our history. This administration has spent recklessly and immorally, driving the deficit each year to a new record.

Democrats know how to reduce the deficit—and so did Republicans, in earlier years. When I came to Congress in 1992 we had a deficit of $290 billion. Yet, after 8 years of bipartisan policies of fiscal responsibility we ended President Clinton's second term with a projected 10-year surplus of $5.6 trillion.

After only 4 years of this administration's irresponsible spending, we have a 10-year projected deficit of $2.3 trillion—a free fall of almost $8 trillion dollars in only 4 years. How much worse will it get before we can restore the government to its true principles?

Having been chastised by all the financial ministers of Europe this week for allowing the U.S. budget deficit to get to this point, Secretary Snow said today that the budget deficit is the administration's highest economic priority. I challenge the administration to put its money where its mouth is.

If the administration meant what it said, it would urge Republicans to join Democrats in reinstituting the pay-go rules that enabled us to reduce the deficit under President Clinton. We had bipartisan support for these rules for 8 years—because they work, and because they represent the necessary and responsible course.

If the administration meant what it said, we would have a strategy to pay down the debt held by China and other Asian countries before they acquire a stranglehold on our economy and can dictate our fiscal choices.

If the administration meant what it said, we would not be here debating a further increase in the debt limit while the Secretary has already raided the Civil Service Retirement Fund.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must bring government back to fiscal responsibility. Any vote on increasing the debt limit must be coupled with a vote to reinstate the pay-go rules.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds. We want to take responsibility. We want to pay as you go instead of borrowing and borrowing and borrowing. That is responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. We are all sinners. None of us has clean hands, particularly on spending issues. But there is one among us who over the last 26 years has the cleanest record and the best record of doing the right thing on Federal budget deficits. That man's name is CHARLIE STENHOLM, and he is proudly from Texas. Sadly, tragically, due to the last election and very unfair partisan gerrymandering, he will no longer be with us. But we need to carry CHARLIE STENHOLM's message in our hearts, in both parties, every day, because this man has lived it for 26 years and in a friendly and bipartisan fashion tried to carry each one of us on his ample shoulders.

It is a tough job, even in the greatest country in the history of the world, to do the right thing when it comes to future generations like his grandson sitting right there. It is a tough job to live within the budget that you set. But CHARLIE has done the best job of any of us. So I hope that in this debate tonight, as we are literally borrowing nearly $1 million a minute against our children and grandchildren, that we will learn to reform, because this debate is really about whether we reform our ways starting tonight. Not next Congress, not next year. Starting now. Will we adopt pay-as-you-go? Because that is the only thing that has worked around here. CHARLIE STENHOLM has championed that. It has worked. It worked for 12 years magnificently. We all need to get behind CHARLIE STENHOLM and adopt pay-as-you-go as the policy of this House.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am no longer the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, but I am the chairman of a subcommittee and I do appreciate it. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) might take issue with that.

Let me just say, I looked around this Chamber and I was listening to the debate. I have a lot of friends on the Democrat side, including my good buddy CHARLIE STENHOLM and CHARLIE RANGEL. We have all been here for a long time. All I can say is that it really kind of tickles me because I hear many of my colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle talking about spending constraint. For 40 years you guys had control of this place and year after year after year after year the budget deficit went up and up and up and up, and now that we are in the majority and we have got all these problems and granted we do have a lot of problems we have got to get control of spending and I am for all of that.

To hear colleagues of mine like CHARLIE and others come up here and talk about spending constraints tickles me to death, because for 40 years you did not do that. I love you guys. I love working with you. But there is nothing like a reformed lady of the evening, and I love you guys because you are changing.

But where were you for those 40 years? I do believe we have to work together. I do believe we have to work together, but please remember your past when you are admonishing us to change things.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds. The gentleman from Indiana's side of the aisle has borrowed more money in 3½ years than the Democrats borrowed in 40.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to stand in this well as a Democrat, and I hope that the people of this country are taking good notes tonight, because it is the Democrats in this Congress who are standing up for sound fiscal responsibility. I think it is very important for us to realize and never forget that it was President Clinton who left a huge surplus that has been squandered in these last 4 years.

Here are the facts. This is the third time in 3 years that the debt limit has been increased for a grand total of more than $2 trillion. The last hike was nearly $1 trillion. But it took less than 18 months for the government to hit the new rate ceiling. By way of comparison, the entire Federal debt in 1980 was just less than $1 trillion. We are on a runaway train without any brakes. And all we are asking for is pay-as-you-go so that we can be responsible.

I will tell you really just how irresponsible you are being on the other side of the aisle. Do you realize that 90 percent of this new debt that you are creating is being purchased by foreign countries and foreign interests? And just the amount of the interest that we are paying on it, just the cost of borrowing this money from these countries accounts for more than 10 percent of all of Federal spending, which is more than what we are spending on our own homeland security. You talk about irresponsibility. It is truly irresponsible for us to turn over our debt, our fiscal security, to foreign interests, let alone the irresponsibility we are showing for passing on this debt to our children.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Let us do a quick fact check here. Eighty-eight percent of the debt that we are raising today comes from government transfers, or from past debts before President Bush's administration took office. Eighty-eight percent of that. So we are paying for past decisions, including past Democratic administrations and Democratic holds of this Congress.

Second point. Our deficit and our debt is way too high. I think we all agree on that. I do not know anyone here who thinks otherwise. That truly is bipartisan. Let us keep in perspective that publicly held debt today is 37 percent of the economy. It was as high as 49 percent in 1995 during President Clinton's tenure. The fact of the matter is the debt and the deficit is too high at all levels in America's history, and at some point at the end of this debate after this is all done and we get out and get through with all of our purging of our frustrations on how we got here, we are going to have to work together to balance this budget, to start paying down this debt and find some solutions.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 seconds. You have got an opportunity to do that tonight by adopting a PAYGO rule. You can start right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk and discussion in the media recently about our country's morals which played an important role, I think, to many in our recent elections. I personally welcome these discussions, but I am saddened by the fact that there has been little talk about the moral values of the government's borrow-and-spend economic policies.

Tonight we will have a vote to raise the debt ceiling for the third time in the last 3 years. Why? Because Congress has been content to manage the American taxpayers' money in a way that immorally disregards the well-being of our Nation's economic future. I believe it is immoral for this country to keep racking up debt as far as the eye can see and to pass it on to our children and our grandchildren. I think it is immoral to borrow and spend and ask our soldiers to make the ultimate sacrifice while we refuse to make even marginal sacrifices in our fiscal policies.

Mr. Speaker, last week on Thursday, November 11, the 278th Regimental Combat Unit left for Iraq. Many of these brave men and women of this National Guard unit come from Tennessee and from my congressional district. I was able to visit the 278th in Fort Shelby, Mississippi, the day they went off to defend our country. I wish them luck and offer my prayers for their safe return home. Now I wish our soldiers' government would take the steps necessary to curb this deficit spending, to reinstate true budget enforcement measures like PAYGO, and to pay down this Nation's debt, instead of continuing to raise the ceiling, so that our troops when they return home, they are not left with footing the bill for a war they so bravely fought. As we continue to discuss morality in America, I hope we will not continue to ignore the immoralities of our current fiscal policies.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I think it is important to keep focus that 88 percent of this debt occurred through intergovernmental transfers or before the Bush administration. It is a shared debt and a shared responsibility. The way we do not tackle it is to cut off the retirement checks for the military mothers and fathers of those serving today. That is exactly the wrong way to do it, the wrong way to duck responsibility. Together we can agree to pay our bills and then work together to reduce the debt.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there are two reasons why we should vote against this debt ceiling limit. The first is that there is no plan to pay it off and the second is that what we are really doing is mortgaging our children's future. The reality is that when you talk about social spending, we could eliminate all social spending and we would still have an annual deficit. Tax cuts have equaled 17 times all domestic discretionary spending, and every child born in this country is now going to inherit $85,000 in interest costs on this debt, and that is what you are passing on to the next generation. That is immoral.

Also, bear in mind that 90 percent of this new debt is being bought by foreign countries. Forty-three percent of it is now owned by foreign countries. Imagine the situation that you are leaving to the next generation. This is the result of a $10 trillion fiscal reversal. We are going to offer a PAYGO proposal where we would look at revenue as well as spending. That is what you have to do. That is the only thing that has worked, and that is the only responsible thing to do tonight.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds as a reminder that it is the economy that has caused this deficit; it is additional spending both for homeland security, supporting our troops, and for those press releases Members in this Chamber have so proudly touted back home. Today, and in fact we could have taken away all the tax cuts and we would still be running a deficit in America. It is time to pay our bills. Let us not cut off checks to our Social Security people simply for partisan purposes.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

□ 2200

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, we have heard some quite interesting statements tonight. One of the previous speakers derided this side of the aisle for the way we handled the national economy for the 40 years we were in control.

Here are the facts: from 1946 until 1979, our national debt as a percentage of total national income declined by almost three-quarters, from 126 percent of our total national income to about 25 percent of our total national income. Then along came Ronald Reagan and his free lunch budgets; and in the years he was President, our national debt, as a percentage of our national income, doubled. Our national debt went from less than $1 trillion to more than $3 trillion under Ronald Reagan's stewardship.

Bill Clinton came into the White House, and with the support of the Democratic Party with not a single vote from the Republican side of the aisle, he took the actions that led to a balanced budget and produced the surpluses that were referred to earlier by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr.

HOYER). Mr. Bush then came along and reversed all of that progress.

So I am sorry. We can all have our own spin, but the fact is one cannot change history. One cannot change the record.

I would say only one other thing. All of the talk about the past is beside the point. This debate tonight is about what we are going to do tomorrow, and that is what the Stenholm motion is all about. It says that regardless of what anybody has done in the past, tomorrow we are going to return to the kind of fiscal responsibility we have not seen under the Bush administration by returning to PAYGO. If they believe in being more responsible tomorrow than they have been up until today, they will vote against this resolution and they will vote for the Stenholm motion.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I want to wish everybody aloha here. Can we get a smile on everybody's face? Aloha. I invite everybody all out to Honolulu. As long as we are spending money, why not come out to Honolulu and enjoy it while they have the opportunity?

Let us face it. The only reason that we are not out there right now is that the Democrats did not take over. If I were chairing one of the committees, we would have an excuse to bring everybody along. We could have a discussion out there on the beach.

Somebody asked me today, What are we doing down there during this lame duck session? I said, We are organizing our delusions. That is what we are doing, organizing our delusions.

I just spoke to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and I said, You are engaged in a non sequitur here, the fact that you can point to somebody and say you did something real bad for a long time and so now we have an excuse to keep on doing it.

That is not an answer. If we are going to do right by the American people, starting tonight, as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) said, it is always time to start doing the right thing. And tonight we ought to start by doing it by passing the Stenholm motion and acting responsible towards the people who sent us here.

Aloha, Mr. Speaker. Have a wonderful holiday.

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

I do not really believe that people of our country realize the shape the financial balance sheet of our country is in. The budget deficit last year, if we stack $1 bills on top of one another, would be 41,000 miles high. Listen to this: we are paying $5,100 a second in interest, $310,000 a minute. The American people will have paid $19 million in interest while we have been talking about this matter right now, and that is not including what we are borrowing.

I tell my colleagues if we do not adopt pay-as-you-go, which simply says we are going to pay the bills, not borrow the money from our children and grandchildren, from anybody on Earth that will buy our paper at a relatively low rate of interest while we are here in this place, I tell my colleagues, I said at the outset, this is not an accident, Mr. Speaker. This is a willful, knowingly, deliberately conscious act of following an economic plan that puts us further and further into debt, and they will not accept a simple provision that says simply we ought to pay for what we are consuming. They will not accept that. We are going to have a motion to recommit that will ask for it to.

He said we are going to get around it. We can do it tonight. We can start acting responsibly tonight by simply adopting pay-as-you-go. That is what most American families do. That is considered a virtue where I come from. One pays their bills, they try to behave, they go to work, they get up, they go to church. That is responsibility. It is not responsible to say I am going to buy a new house and give the mortgage to my son. That is not responsible.

I tell my colleagues this is very frustrating because it is so abundantly clear we are mortgaging the future of this country. And what makes it worse is that now 43 percent of our paper is being held by foreign governments that do not see the world as we see it. And some day, I sound like a canary in a coal mine, some day, these chickens are going to come home to roost. When they quit buying, we are going to have lost control of this economy and we will have to pay whoever however much in order to refinance this debt. And that market is going to respond to what you people are doing. And it is not going to be too much longer, I am afraid. And when it does, it is going to be something that the American people are going to suffer from for a long time to come.

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

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me this time, and I commend him for his very excellent work on fiscal soundness for our country and in this Congress. He has so eloquently driven the message home that no country has ever been strong, prosperous, and bankrupt. I thank him for his eloquence and his leadership.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), our distinguished ranking member on the Committee on Ways and Means, has been a champion for middle-income families in America and understands the importance of the fiscal soundness they have in their homes in paying their mortgages, their credit cards, their car payments, and the impact of a huge budget deficit, a huge national debt has on the lives of working families in America, and I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) as well.

I want to reserve my highest praise for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM). This Congress has been blessed for many years by his distinguished service in the House of Representatives. He has been a champion for the American people, for the American farmer, and a leader for fiscal soundness in our country. He is about accountability, accountability in our service here. No one has been a stronger or more eloquent voice for that message and what it means. He has been a teacher to the Congress. He has changed the thinking of a political party by making Democrats the party of fiscal responsibility for having a pay-as-you-go policy where we say no more budget deficit, no more deficit spending.

It has too high a cost in the personal lives of the American people. It has too high a cost to fiscal soundness of our country, and as others have indicated, there are countries that own our debt that we are at the mercy of should they decide not to play in those markets at any given time.

So this place will simply not be the same without the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), but I hope that as a source of comfort, if that is the word, to him as he goes on to other great things, and I know he will, that he has made a tremendous difference for our country. He has made tremendous progress for our country. I know I speak for every person here when I say it has been an honor to call him colleague. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

Mr. Speaker, many of us just came back from the dedication of the Clinton Library, where obviously we were drenched in the rain for several hours. But it was well worth it because we could pay tribute to a President who too was committed to fiscal soundness. Under the economic policy and the plan that was passed in this body by only Democratic votes, our country went on a path of fiscal soundness that had zero deficit in 1999. Zero deficit. Think of it. Compared to this year when the deficit is over $425 billion just for this year. And President Clinton, when he left office, he put us on a path of fiscal soundness and surplus of $5.6 trillion, $5.6 trillion in surplus.

And now we are going on a path of over $3 trillion in deficit, a huge swing approaching $10 trillion. It is historic, the swing that has taken place. So no wonder we would endure the driving rain and all that it did to us there to thank President Clinton.

And I might say that in attendance were also present Jimmy Carter, President George Herbert Walker Bush, and President George W. Bush. And both Presidents Bush spoke with great eloquence. They spoke with great unity for our country. It was an honor for all of us to hear their words and to be there with them at the dedication of the Clinton Library. So it was a very wonderful occasion. And I, as Democratic leader, want to thank President George W. Bush for giving us the planes to enable us to go there and to thank our distinguished Speaker for rolling the votes so that the Democrats and I think some of the Republicans could go there. Senator FRIST was there, but some from the House were there as well.

But just to get back to our subject here, here we come back. Is it not ironic that the Republicans in the campaign went out there and talked about their economic policy and the first order of legislative business when we get back here is to increase the debt ceiling? In the course of the President's administration now, this 4 years, it will have been raised $2 trillion. This is absolutely astounding in terms of these figures. Whatever happened to the deficit hawks? I know they are over there. We heard from them in earlier manifestations of their legislative lives that they really were concerned about the fiscal soundness of our country. Have the deficit hawks become an endangered species?

Be true to yourselves. Face the facts. We have to have pay-as-you-go again. Pay-as-you-go is what brought us into surplus. Pay-as-you-go is the way we have to go now. And we will have that opportunity to do that later.

I am going to submit my fuller statement for the RECORD because the hour is late and because my colleagues have spoken so eloquently to this point. But I just want to close with a point about accountability. This budget that we have is supposed to be a statement of our national values. We have talked about that over and over again. And a value that we have to have is accountability, how we answer to the next generation for the debt that we are piling on them. We want to give our children opportunity. Instead, we are giving them obligations.

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It is simply not right.

So I urge all of my colleagues to support our motion to commit which will accommodate, will give the government a chance to go forward, but also to put a limit on this profligate increase in the debt. I hope at the end of the evening, though, that everyone who stands up for fiscal soundness will vote against this irresponsible lifting of the debt ceiling unless there is a responsible discipline thrust upon it of pay-as-you-go or a plan from the President to say how he intends to reduce the deficit.

With that, once again, I want to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) for their exceptional leadership on this subject, which is a very, very important one to our children, that we are accountable to them, that what we hand to them is our responsibility and that we will never forget that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for fiscal soundness, vote for pay-as-you-go, vote for a plan to reduce the deficit, vote for a limitation on the time that the Republicans can continue to pile on and pile on the debt.

At the same time, President Clinton's responsible economic policies eliminated the deficit, and we had three years in a row of budget surpluses.

How ironic—and how sad—that our first item of legislative business upon returning to Washington after election is to raise the debt ceiling to make room for the enormous piles of debt that President Bush, and this Republican Congress have run up.

When President Bush took office, we were on a path to a $5.6 trillion surplus. We are now facing a $3 trillion deficit—a fiscal collapse of nearly $9 trillion. Record surpluses have become record deficits. The deficit for this year alone is $413 billion.

Now, Republicans want to raise the debt limit for the third time in three years. Including this year's increase, Republicans will have raised the debt limit by more than $2.2 trillion since President Bush took office.

What happened to the Republican deficit hawks? They have become an endangered species in Washington. The truth is that there really is no limit to the amount of debt Republicans are willing to run up.

Republicans will tell you that these deficits are not their fault; that they were caused by circumstances beyond their control. But it's just not true.

These deficits are the direct result of irresponsible Republican choices—tax cuts for the wealthy and reckless corporate handouts including tax breaks that encourage shipping jobs overseas.

The Republican policy of borrow-and-spend must end. We are running up a bill and handing it to our children.

We should be giving our children opportunity, not obligations, but America's growing debt will ensure that our children and our grandchildren are paying for Republican irresponsibility for the rest of their lives.

Their taxes will pay for the interest on our debt instead of keeping our military the strongest in the world, strengthening Social Security, or improving education.

Higher deficits also have real consequences for American families today. The federal government is by far the largest player in the credit markets, and when federal borrowing increases there is less credit available to everyone else, causing interest rates to rise.

Higher interest rates mean consumers must spend more on their mortgage, credit cards, and student loan payments.

And when it becomes more expensive to borrow money, businesses are less likely to make the investments that generate jobs and opportunities.

Democrats have a better way. We believe in accountability in government. Accountability was one of the six core values in our New Partnership for America's Future.

Democrats believe we must return to accountability by restoring fiscal discipline and eliminating deficit spending with pay-as-you-go budget rules in which both tax cuts and spending increases must be paid for.

These rules created the surpluses under President Clinton, and can work again.

Democrats tried earlier today to restore the successful pay-as-you-go rules, but Republicans wrongly rejected that effort. Now, because this issue is so critical, we offer the Republicans yet another chance to work together in good faith to reduce the deficit.

CHARLIE STENHOLM has long been one of the most passionate and eloquent advocates for fiscal responsibility in this Congress. And tonight he is giving us another opportunity to meet our moral responsibility to the next generation.

By supporting his motion to instruct, we will agree to increase the debt ceiling until April 15 next year, at which point the President must present a balanced budget. This would keep the government running and give the President and Congress time to put forward the balanced budget the American people need and deserve.

Thank you, CHARLIE, for all of your leadership, and for this motion. I urge my colleagues to support the Stenholm motion to instruct.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, let me first, on behalf of this side of the aisle, join with the Minority Leader in praising the service of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM). His grandson ought to be proud of his granddad, his service here, both for our country here in Congress and in Texas where, as a fellow Texan, I can tell my colleagues I am very proud of his service and proud to have served with him.

There is something else we share as well. We share a debt in this Nation and we share a responsibility to pay those bills. The debt we face tonight is shared. Eighty-eight percent of this debt occurs from intergovernmental transfers of before the Bush administration. This is debt generated over decades and decades that every Member in this House today had a hand in creating.

The solution in the end, after all of the rhetoric is said and done, is going to be to join together for spending restraint, for abolishing obsolete agencies, to eliminating the billions of dollars of duplication, to getting a backbone to say no to projects. And, in fact, we have the opportunity starting in January, maybe tonight, to have a fresh start about working together, Republicans and Democrats, to again balance this budget and to start paying down that debt.

But, in truth, the question tonight is much simpler than that. The question is, are we going to pay our bills? Are we going to take responsibility for that press release, that project, that water funding, that university research, all of those things that we have championed and ran on back home, are we going to

take responsibility to pay those bills tonight? Or are we going to vote to go into default, to not meet our obligations, to stop our Social Security checks to the elderly or retirement checks and medicare payments?

It is time to gather Republicans and Democrats to pay our bills, to look out for our seniors and to vote yes on this debt ceiling.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today thoroughly discouraged with the current proposal to increase the public debt limit by a staggering $800 billion. If this proposal is allowed to pass the American people will inherit a budget system that allows the federal deficit to grow to $8.18 trillion. This kind of economic maneuvering is not only dangerously foolish, it is in fact unethical. There is a reason why we have a federal debt limit, because incurring too much debt ruins our ability for long-term growth, by adding an additional $800 billion to the debt limit we are only laughing at the idea of fiscal constraint. This proposal being considered by this body only continues the fiscal irresponsibility of the Bush administration and this Republican Congress.

This administration has tried to say that deficits don't matter; we know that that is simply not true. History has proven that chronic deficits threaten our economic strength by crowding out private investment, driving up interest rates, and slowing economic growth. Indeed foreign investment in the United States has dried up because foreign investors have no confidence in the Bush economic agenda. This administration's irresponsible budget policies have turned a surplus into a large deficit that is choking off growth in the American economy.

President Bush likes to say his budget is geared towards tax cuts for all Americans. When in fact the average American won't receive a substantial tax cut, but will instead be hit with a tax hike in the form of an ever-growing deficit. A large deficit means taxpayers have to shoulder the costs of paying the interest on this new national debt. The end result will be a debt tax on the great majority of Americans. This will be a tax on lower and middle class Americans; it will be a tax on the elderly and most unfortunately it will be a tax on our children. The truly sad part of the President's economic policies is that while they are bad for America today they are even worse for future generations of American taxpayers.

Today, we celebrated the opening of the Bill Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. One of President Clinton's greatest achievements was the fact that he led his country through one of our most economically prosperous periods and furthermore he took our large public debt built up through 12 years of Republican administrations and actually turned it into a surplus. It saddens me that while that was one of President Clinton's greatest achievements, it will not be one of his most lasting due to the irresponsible and misguided fiscal policies of the Bush administration. Republican mismanagement has turned large projected surpluses of over $5.6 trillion into huge projected deficits of more than $3.5 trillion. The difference in only a few years is staggering and ultimately reckless. The large public debt could be significantly reduced by instituting the pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) system that applies to tax cuts as well as mandatory spending. These PAYGO enforcement rules were so effective in the 1990s at reducing our deficit and making our way towards a surplus. Democrats in Congress have time after time supported the reestablishment of these effective rules, but it seems no one on the other side of the chamber is listening.

These Republican policies will double the current debt in 10 years. The CBO projects that the debt subject to limit will continue to rise, reaching $13.272 trillion by 2014 if there is no change in current Republican budget policy. Accounting for the implementation of administration policies, such as making permanent the expiring tax cuts, the government will incur about $6.2 trillion in additional debt between now and 2014, raising the statutory debt to a projected $14.5 trillion, nearly double the current $7.384 trillion limit. These figures are astounding in their size, but truly they are saddening in their effect. Our children will bear the burden of this fiscal insanity. We can raise the debt limit today with little effect, but we are only postponing the inevitable. At some point all accounts have to be paid, unfortunately by then it will be our children who will be left with this oversized bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to convene the 109th Congress, one of our top priorities should be getting our fiscal house in order. Unfortunately the Republican leadership is sending us in the wrong direction. The House voted recently to raise the debt limit by a total of $800 billion. The vote to raise the debt limit for a third time in 3 years is a direct consequence of the reckless fiscal policy pursued by the Republican leadership over the last few years.

A key step to putting America back on the path to financial security would be re-implementing pay-as-you-go policies. The House Republican leadership blocked efforts to restore these rules. Using pay-as-you-go rules, the Clinton administration helped turn a $290 billion budget deficit in 1992 into budget surpluses in 1998, 1999, and 2000. As a result, the Clinton administration was successful in paying down $362 billion in publicly held debt. However, in 2002, the Republican leadership let the pay-as-you-go rules expire and once again we are facing endless budget deficits and soaring national debt.

Debt increases have serious consequences for American families. At a time when the House leadership is promoting more and more tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest Americans, increased budget deficits create an enormous debt that will mortgage our future. While a few are benefiting disproportionately from certain Bush tax cuts, all Americans will pay the consequences through the rising "debt tax."

Throughout our history, every generation of Americans has worked to leave our children a world that is stronger and more secure than the one that was left to us. That is our legacy and it should also be our commitment. It is simply wrong to run up a debt on our national credit card and leave our children to pay the bill. We must take personal responsibility to return our Nation to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, Congress is once again engaging in fiscal irresponsibility and endangering the American economy by raising the debt ceiling, this time by $800 billion. One particularly troubling aspect of today's debate is how many Members who won their seats in part by pledging never to raise taxes will vote for this tax increase on future generations without so much as a second thought.

The term "national debt" really is a misnomer. It is not the Nation's debt. Instead, it is the Federal Government's debt. The American people did not spend the money, but they will have to pay it back.

Most Americans do not spend much time worrying about the national debt, which now totals more than $8 trillion. The number is so staggering that it hardly seems real, even when economists issue bleak warnings about how much every American owes—currently about $25,000. Of course, Congress never hands each taxpayer a bill for that amount. Instead, the Federal Government uses the people's hard-earned money to pay interest on this debt, which is like making minimum payments on a credit card. Notice that the principal never goes down. In fact, it is rising steadily.

The problem is very simple: Congress almost always spends more each year than the IRS collects in revenues. Federal spending always goes up, but revenues are not so dependable, especially since raising income taxes to sufficiently fund the government would be highly unpopular. So long as Congress spends more than the government takes via taxes, the Federal Government must raise taxes, print more dollars, or borrow money.

Over the past 3 years, we have witnessed an unprecedented explosion in federal spending. The national debt has actually increased an average of $160 billion a day since September 30, 2003.

Federal law limits the total amount of debt the Treasury can carry. Despite a historic increase in the debt limit in 2002 and another increase in 2003, the current limit of $7.38 trillion was reached last month. So Congress must once again vote to raise the limit. Hard as it may be for the American people to believe, many experts expect government spending will exceed this new limit next year.

Increasing the national debt sends a signal to investors that the government is not serious about reining in spending. This increases the risks that investors will be reluctant to buy government debt instruments. The effects on the American economy could be devastating. The only reason why we have been able to endure such large deficits without skyrocketing interest rates is the willingness of foreign nations to buy the Federal Government's debt instruments. However, the recent fall in the value of the dollar and rise in the price of gold indicate that investors may be unwilling to continue to prop up our debt-ridden economy. Furthermore, increasing the national debt will provide more incentive for foreign investors to stop buying federal debt instruments at the current interest rates. Mr. Speaker, what will happen to our already fragile economy if the Federal Reserve must raise interest rates to levels unseen since the seventies to persuade foreigners to buy government debt interests?

The whole point of the debt ceiling law was to limit borrowing by forcing Congress into an open and presumably somewhat shameful vote when it wants to borrow more than a preset amount of money. Yet, since there have been no political consequences for Members who vote to raise the debt limit and support the outrageous spending bills in the first place, the debt limit has become merely another technicality on the road to bankruptcy.

The only way to control federal spending is to take away the government's credit card, which will force Congress to control federal spending. Therefore, I call upon my colleagues to reject S. 2986 and, instead, to reduce government spending. It is time Congress forces the Federal Government to live within its constitutional means. Congress should end the immoral practice of excessive spending and passing the bill to the next generation.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting ''no.'' Congress and this administration simply must end the reckless and irresponsible budget path we are currently on.

Early next year, my wife Faye and I expect to become grandparents for the first time. While this is an exciting time for our family, I shudder to think that our Nation's legacy to that child is going to be the largest national debt ever bequeathed to a generation in this country's history. That is wrong. It is immoral. It violates to the core our most basic values of responsibility to one another.

The current administration and the Republican leadership has run up a massive national debt of $7.4 trillion and growing with no end in sight. Each newborn child now inherits $85,000 in debt. This so-called ''baby tax'' is wrong and is building inflation into our economy that poses catastrophic danger to our Nation's economic prosperity.

America must return to the values of balanced budgets and put our fiscal house in order. As someone who hails from a conservative state, I fail to see what at all is conservative about refusing to pay one's bills.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must reject this legislation and return to policies of budget sanity and economic growth so that every individual willing to work hard can make the most of his or her God-given abilities and live the American dream.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we need to raise the debt limit this week. I vote against S. 2986 not for the purpose of causing the United States to default, but rather for the purpose of forcing a serious debate on fiscal policy.

I am confident that if this motion were to be defeated, Congress would in effect go into emergency session to deal with the fiscal issues that are before us.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose increasing the debt limit without putting in place any plans or mechanisms to bring our budget into balance.

''Increasing the debt ceiling'' is a technical term for what Congress is actually doing today—we've spent another $800 billion we didn't have, and now we're forced to borrow that amount of money from our children. The national debt, already $7.4 trillion, will soon rise to more than $8.1 trillion because of the irresponsible borrowing and spending of the Republican Congress.

Today marks the third time in the last 3 years that the Republican Congress has been forced to raise the debt ceiling. It's the moral equivalent of applying for a credit card in your child's name, running it up all the way, raising the credit limit, charging more money on it, raising the limit again, charging even more money, and raising the limit one more time. Only Congress is doing it on a much larger scale.

It's a fact that the biggest cause of the red ink is tax cuts—tax cuts that went overwhelmingly to the highest income brackets and failed to create jobs. The second biggest cause is the Republican Congress's addiction to unrestrained spending.

Ten years ago, the Republican Party took power in Congress promising to restore fiscal responsibility and balance the budget. I was proud to work with President Clinton and my Republican colleagues to achieve a historic balanced budget agreement in 1997.

In the 1990s, working under PAYGO budget constraints, we balanced the budget, lowered interest rates, grew the economy, and charted a course to a debt-free America. In January 2001, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that we'd be able to pay off the entire debt of the United States by 2011.

But over the last 4 years, Congress has veered onto a different course; $5.6 trillion in projected surpluses have turned into $5 trillion in projected deficits. The dream of a debt-free America has vanished—today, about 40 percent of our mounting debt is in foreign hands. That is the legacy of this Republican Congress—giveaways to special interests, tax cuts for the very wealthy, historic levels of borrowing, all leading to a diminished future for our children.

I urge my colleagues to support the Stenholm amendment to restore fiscal and moral responsibility to Congress and oppose another yet increase the debt limit.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 2986, a bill that will increase the debt limit of the U.S. Federal Budget from $7.4 trillion to $8.2 trillion.

Why am I voting against this bill? I am following a basic rule that families in my district, and throughout the country follow—don't spend money you don't have.

When my constituents sit down and look at their credit card bills, they don't say, ''Oh look, I'm in debt. I guess I better spend more.'' No, they think about where they can save money, in big and small ways. And they prioritize. And maybe, if there is something that they really need, they decide to work a little overtime next to add some more money to the balance.

That is exactly how government needs to function. Government needs to exercise fiscal responsibility. Government needs to spend within its means, or raise more money to finance unmet needs.

The Republican majority, unfortunately, does not seem to understand this basic principle. It increases federal spending—more than any other government in recent history—and it simultaneously cuts taxes. They want to have their cake and eat it too.

It is the time for the majority to start practicing what they preach about fiscal discipline. It needs to keep an eye on both the spending and revenue columns in the ledger. It needs to prioritize and economize, particularly in the areas where we are spending the most.

Let's be realistic. Families can't balance their budgets by spending dollars and saving pennies, they need to make real economies.

Similarly, we can't balance the budget on the back of domestic spending. Comparatively speaking, domestic spending makes up an insignificant part of our budget. If Congress really wants to balance the budget, it is going to have to look at entitlements, interest on debt, defense spending, and we're going to have to think twice about projected tax reductions.

The future fiscal health of the United States is in our hands. I urge my colleagues to be more responsible with the money of the taxpayers of this country. There are no more excuses.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the third time since President Bush took office, Republicans will increase the federal debt limit. This year, Republicans will increase the debt limit by $800 billion. This would allow borrowing to reach $8.2 trillion—$8.2 trillion. Where has the fiscal responsibility gone?

This year the deficit will hit a record $412 billion. Over the last 4 years the federal debt has ballooned by $1.4 trillion. Because there appears to be no end in sight to the annual budget deficits, the new debt ceiling will probably have to be raised again next year.

One would think that faced with this huge debt problem our friends on the other side of the aisle would want to reinstate ''pay-as-you-go'' rules as we, Democrats, have been advocating. But, unbeknownst to me and the American public—who are paying attention because they are the ones carrying this heavy debt burden—Republicans refuse to adopt ''pay-go'' rules.

These are the same ''pay-go'' rules that played a key role in balancing the budget in the 1990s under the Clinton administration. The Republicans' refusal to adopt ''pay-go'' does not make any sense.

f we have to increase the debt limit, then we should do so along with fiscally responsible ''pay-go'' rules that would stop Republicans from putting Americans deeper and deeper into debt. It is hard-working American people that are the victims of this growing, out of control debt. An average American family of four bears a debt burden of about $100,000—$100,000.

Something has to be done. At some point we will have to stop these massive increases in the federal debt. At some point we will have to make room to adequately fund our children's education, our brave troops, Social Security.

Republicans do not seem to understand that the larger our federal debt becomes, the less room there is to fund these important programs. This body should bear that in mind as we vote tonight.

The American people are watching.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 2986, a bill that increases the federal debt limit by $814 billion while doing nothing to ensure a return to fiscally responsible economic policy. If we continue to spend at the current rate while giving tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, our national debt will top $8 trillion in the very near future.

Just weeks ago, President Bush and many Republican candidates across the country were campaigning on a platform of fiscal responsibility and cutting the deficit in half during the next 4 years. Now that they've won the campaign, that rhetoric is gone and their actions today—increasing the debt limit for the third time in 4 years—certainly don't meet their election promises.

We could have had a real debate today about re-implementing the pay-as-you-go rules that led to historic surpluses at the end of the Clinton administration. That would be a real move toward fiscal responsibility. Instead, Republicans are giving themselves the freedom to further reduce tax revenue while funding an ill-conceived war in Iraq, and claiming they just

can't afford to pay for the government programs vital to this country's health and well-being.

Republicans will, however, continue to run up huge deficits while lowering taxes, especially for corporations and individuals making over $200,000 a year. Unfortunately, they don't want to pay for the loss of revenue caused by these tax-cutting measures. That means less money to spend on everything from education to Medicare.

Increasing the debt limit is a statutory necessity to keep the government running, but it is also a sad commentary on the fiscal stewardship shown to the American people by this administration and the Republican leadership in Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 856, the bill is considered read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

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

MOTION TO COMMIT OFFERED BY MR. STENHOLM

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to commit.

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

Mr. STENHOLM. I most certainly am, in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Stenholm moves to commit the bill S. 2986 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions that the Committee report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end of section 1 of the bill the following new sentence: ''The amendment made by this section shall not apply after April 15, 2005.''.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking our leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) for their kind remarks about me.

I want to say it is with a little bit of mixed emotion tonight that I address this body for the last time. I guess it kind of came to me in a real way just a moment ago when my grandson, who is sitting beside me, asked me a moment ago, ''What are you going to be doing?'' I said, ''I am going to offer a motion.'' ''Are you going to win this one?'' I said ''No, we are not.'' And he said, ''Why?''

Well, that is a question that a 9-year-old would ask. It is also a question a lot of 50- and 60-year-olds ought to be asking. Why is it those of us on this side who used to vote with my colleagues on that side on fiscal restraint have been losing every single vote for the last 4 years? What is it that has changed?

I listened to some of the rhetoric tonight, and I want to say with great respect tonight I recognize the right to have disagreements on this floor. It is so important that we do and that we do it without being disagreeable. But for the life of me I cannot understand how the majority can march in lockstep on this side and build up the largest fiscal deficits in the history of our country and explain it away in saying deficits really do not matter anymore.

Now, I know so many of my colleagues so well, and I appreciate everyone in this body. But when you come up to me privately and say, Charlie, you are right, but I cannot vote with you, I ask the simple question, why?

Now, I understand there has been an election and I understand you won, and I commend you for winning. But that also means you now have the responsibility of your actions.

It was amazing to me that some tonight tried to continue to blame it on Democrat spending. They know better than that. The minority cannot spend. Yes, I say to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), we can take credit for some things within the budget because we are not for zero spending.

I tried to offer an amendment to this bill to say pay-as-you-go, which worked, bipartisanly. It worked. Why did my colleagues choose to knock it out in 2002 and say we are not going to have pay-as-you-go anymore? Why do you insist on that when you know in your heart that it works? We tried to do this in the rule today, but we lost, because you said, no, we are going to increase the debt ceiling by $800 billion. So I assume that means you are going to continue with the same policies that you have been carrying for the last 4 years.

Here I will say I hope and I pray you are right. Our country will do better if you are right. But you should be getting a little bit nervous tonight because, ultimately, politics and arguments across this side of the aisle in which you are going to in fact have 100 percent party loyalty is not going to cut it. The market is going to ultimately determine whether our fiscal policies for our Nation are correct or incorrect. You know that and I know that, and you should be getting nervous, as I am getting nervous.

The Japanese, for the first time since 2002, did not buy the amount of debt that they had previously been buying. You should be a little bit worried about the Chinese beginning to become our bankers at the rate that they are becoming our bankers. That should bother you a little, but it does not seem to.

Now, I hope you are right. Because for the good of the country, continuing down the economic path you are insisting on going down, in my judgment, is going to create a major problem. But that helped me lose an election, because the people in my district agree with you and, therefore, I respect the people of my district, and I hope and pray you are right.

But, tonight, let me conclude by saying this: Yes, I have one of Cindy's and my three grandchildren on the floor. And a lot of people have asked why I have been so involved in Social Security. I wish we had spent a part of the last 4 years dealing with the future of Social Security, because everyone in this room knows that we are 4 years closer to D-Day on Social Security, but we have done nothing on that. We tried. That got me opposition from my opponent in this race. But we are going to have to face up to it. You are.

Well, our grandchildren do not have a vote tonight. And to those of you who believe we can fight two wars, win the war on homeland security and do it with continued borrowed money and believe that our country is going to profit, then vote against the motion to commit. It is pretty simple. All we are saying tonight is, increase the debt ceiling until next April 15 and give the new Congress a chance to go in and reexamine the economic policy that we are following and, as many of you have said, you like pay-as-you-go. All we are saying with this motion to commit is, let us do it in the new Congress. That is all we are saying.

You have already said you did not want pay-as-you-go, but you said you might want it next year. All we are saying is, reduce the amount we can borrow and force bipartisan cooperation. Allow the Democratic Party and those on this side who believe, as many of you say you do, allow us the chance in the next Congress to do it.

That is what this motion to commit is all about tonight. It is increasing the debt ceiling just enough to get to April 15 so the 109th Congress can do everything that both sides are saying need to be done.

Please vote for the motion to commit.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I agree with much of what our distinguished friend from Texas has said; and, again, he has been a long champion of balancing the budget and reducing this deficit. And he is so right, and we all agree: Deficits do matter. They mattered before we got here. They will always matter.

But jobs matter, too. Jobs matter, too. We did not ask for the attacks of 9/11 that not only struck the heart of our Nation, they struck two million American workers from the payroll. We did not ask for the recession. It was inherited. And we did not ask for the Enrons and the WorldComs and the technology bubble that not only cost so many workers their jobs but really damaged, I think, everyone's hopes for retirement in the future.

How we respond to that challenge, there was a difference, a respected difference. My colleagues on the Democratic side felt that if we kept the money here, if we spend and target different ways, that would move us out of the economy, and that is a fair position.

As Republicans, we felt otherwise. We thought if you want to create jobs

in small business, leave the money in small business. If you want to create jobs on Main Street, leave the money on Main Street. If we want families to be able to recover and to make ends meet, let them keep more of the hard-earned money that they in the past have sent to Washington where, unfortunately, we have squandered with so many I think obsolete agencies and duplicative programs we would all agree with.

But the fact of the matter is leaving the money at home worked. We are creating more jobs, and we need to do more. I think, ultimately, after tonight is over, that is the solution we can agree on: continuing to grow this economy so more people work and they pay taxes and Social Security and Medicare, and then together, working together, identifying all of the wasteful spending, getting the backbone on spending, saying no when it would be easier to say yes, maybe doing without, with one less press release on that project back home, all of which, by the way, we have a responsibility today to pay for those bills and these spending projects.

□ 2230

This motion has nothing to do with PAYGO. And I would respectfully say PAYGO as I have seen it really means higher taxes, unfortunately higher spending, and unfortunately fewer jobs. I just respectfully disagree on that. But the fact of the matter is if we keep the economy going, if we will work together on spending restraint, I know that we can balance the budget. I know we can pay down the deficit. But tonight we have a responsibility to pay our bills, to meet our obligations, to keep the checks going to our Social Security recipients, for our military retirees.

I would respectfully urge this Chamber to vote ''no'' on commit.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to commit.

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 194, nays 213, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 535]

YEAS—194

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Chandler
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NAYS—218

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner (OH)
Upton
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—21

Ackerman
Cannon
Carson (OK)
Dooley (CA)
Dunn
Feeney
Gephardt
Hoeffel
Kleczka
Lipinski
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
Millender-McDonald
Musgrave
Norwood
Quinn
Stark
Tancredo
Toomey
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 2254

Mr. OTTER, Mr. NUNES, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. THOMAS and Mr. CHABOT changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. OWENS, Mr. STRICKLAND and Mrs. LOWEY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the Senate bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 208, noes 204, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 536]

AYES—208

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Dreier
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McInnis
McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner (OH)
Upton
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—204

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bartlett (MD)
Becerra
Bell
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Case
Chandler
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Frost
Gibbons
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hefley
Herseth
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCollum
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Ose
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—21

Ackerman
Cannon
Carson (OK)
Dooley (CA)
Dunn
Feeney
Gephardt
Hoeffel
Kleczka
Lipinski
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McDermott
Millender-McDonald
Musgrave
Norwood
Quinn
Stark
Tancredo
Toomey
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 2311

So the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2986, the Senate bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1350, INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS (during debate on S. 2986), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–781) on the resolution (H. Res. 858) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS (during debate on S. 2986), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–782) on the resolution (H. Res. 859) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. SESSIONS (during debate on S. 2986), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–783) on the resolution (H. Res. 860) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 2310

CONGRATULATING BOSTON RED SOX ON WINNING THE 2004 WORLD SERIES

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 854) congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the 2004 World Series, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object because this is a resolution congratulating the greatest team in the history of baseball, the Boston Red Sox, who after 86 years finally relieved all New Englanders, and all wonderful people in America, of the greatest burden in the history of sports, 86 years of drought. No more. No more. The Cubs come next.

Mr. Speaker, down three to nothing against one of the greatest teams in baseball, they staged the greatest comeback in the history of sports, sweeping four games in a row against a fantastic Yankees team and one of the

greatest rivalries in professional sports today, and then sweeping a four-game series against the Cardinals, another fantastic team, that many of us thought would win the World Series this year.

Not only did they do that, when they came home, we were fortunate enough a few years ago to have the Patriots win their championship in football. We had a million people in downtown Boston celebrating that. The Red Sox won, and we had well over 3 million people. That is half the population of the State of Massachusetts. We had people flying in from all over the country to witness a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I heard that many people went to cemeteries and gave hats and gave baseball cards to their loved ones who were not here to see this. I heard that some people brought the ashes of their loved ones to the parade because there were those of us who just had no understanding of how to win with our beloved Red Sox.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAPUANO. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, what did they bring to the parade?

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, we will have to get a translator.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution congratulates the men of the Red Sox and the owners of the Red Sox for their dedication and their commitment to the sport and to their fans. They have opened up the park, I will translate that word, too, later on. They have opened up the park to the public. They have had the players out there talking to the people who come to the games. They have closed off a piece of public turf so we can expand the experience of Fenway.

For those fortunate enough to come to the convention this summer in Boston, I am hoping most Members got to go to Fenway Park, still the smallest ballpark in the major league, yet always sold out because the people of New England support their team.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a thank you to the best of our ability to thank the men of the Red Sox and the owners and to the entire Red Sox nation for 86 years of unflagging support and dedication to a team that has so often let us down but every year came back and gave us more to cheer for.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAPUANO. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New Hampshire.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts knows that I am from New Hampshire. There is a friendly rivalry between our States, as Members know. We have gone back and forth for years and years on a number of things, but the one thing that we have always shared in common with other New England States is our love of the Red Sox.

I, too, like the Members from Massachusetts here tonight, wondered if I would ever live long enough to see the Red Sox win the World Series ever. When Dave Roberts stole that base and changed the tide against Mariano Rivera, the greatest closer ever, and then David Ortiz hit a home run, and then David Ortiz hit a bloop single the next night, Curt Schilling the next day pitched that great game, and then Derrek Lowe on 2 days' rest came back, and we won four games and then did it again against the Cardinals, there was a dream that most of us in New England thought would never happen.

People wondered where we would be on the night that the Red Sox won. I do not know where the gentleman from Massachusetts was, but I was with my sons who are younger, and they had never been through Bill Buckner and through Carlton Fisk or Jim Lamborg, or even Johnny Peske, and all of the memories that those of us who have grown up in New England have known for years and years and years. But, finally, we have done it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and may our States always be friends and always rooting for the Red Sox.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAPUANO. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I have an offering for the House this evening with apologies to Ernest L. Thayer entitled ''The Curse Has Struck Out.''

The outlook wasn't guaranteed for the Red Sox nine this year. Since 1918 the boys had left us crying in our beer. And when they lost twice in New York and lost again at home, a pall-like silence fell upon the loyal Red Sox fans.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. ''Wait 'til next year,'' they said. Resignation filled the air. The rest clung to that hope that springs eternal in the human breast. ''It ain't over 'til its over'' they muttered half in jest. They thought, ''If only our boys could put some bat on that ball, we'd put Bambino's curse to rest once and for all.''

And then Ortiz let fly a homer, to the wonderment of all. And Johnny Damon, bases loaded, tore the cover off the ball. And when the dust had lifted on that memorable night, we had come back from three games down, the Curse was in our sights.

Then from all of Red Sox nation's throats there rose a wild call, it echoed on the Common, it shook Fanueil Hall. It pounded on the River Charles, and splashed upon the Bay, the Yankees were all through, kaput, a World Series we would play.

And they rolled out to St. Louis, jewel of the Midwest. The Cards had won their league with ease, but now they faced a test. Were they ready for the Boston boys? The town was dressed in red. The fans could not be nicer, the team was so well led.

But the Red Sox took the first three games, competing nobly one and all. They overcame their errors, they answered every call. And as game four proceeded, and a series win now loomed, all New England shivered with the thought we might still be doomed.

□ 2320

What deus ex machina would fall down from the sky?

What Bucky Dent/Bill Buckner ghost might steer things all awry?

Keith Foulke climbed up upon the mound, ball burning in his hand.

The Curse stepped up to face him, to make a final stand.

There was ease in the Curse's manner as he stepped into his place.

There was pride in Bambino's bearing, a smile on the Curse's face.

And when, responding to his fans, he lightly doffed his hat,

No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas the Curse at the bat.

A nation's eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt.

60,000 tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt.

Then, while Foulke rubbed the ball into his shifty hip,

Defiance flashed in the Curse's eye, a sneer curled on his lip.

And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,

And the Curse stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.

Close by the portly batsman the ball unheeded sped—

''I just can't hit that,'' said the Curse. ''Strike one!'' the umpire said.

From the canyons of Manhattan, there rose a muffled roar.

New York fans were screaming, ''Would the Curse really be no more?''

''Kill him, kill the umpire,'' they shouted in Yankee land.

The Curse looked smug. In 86 years the Curse had never fanned.

With a smile of overconfidence, the Curse's visage shone.

He stilled the rising tumult, he bade the game go on.

He signaled the Red Sox closer, and once more the dun sphere flew,

But the Curse couldn't hit it, and the umpire said, ''Strike two.''

''It's over,'' thought the Cardinals fans, who are brought up so well.

But the Curse gave a scornful look and an eerie silence fell.

They saw his face frown stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain.

And they really thought the Curse wouldn't let that ball go by again.

The sneer has fled from the Curse's lip, the teeth are clenched in hate.

He pounds, with cruel violence, his bat upon the plate.

And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,

And now the air is shattered by the force of the Curse's blow.

Oh, all across this favored land the sun is shining bright.

The band is playing happily and our hearts are oh so light.

And Red Sox Nation smiles and laughs, and little children shout.

And there is pure joy in Beantown—the Curse has struck out.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to also congratulate all of the Red Sox, but I especially would like to congratulate my longtime friend Johnny Pesky. Johnny Pesky, at the age of 85, still dresses out every day with the Red Sox. Nobody loves the Red Sox more than Johnny Pesky, a longtime player, coach, manager, broadcaster, one of the most popular figures in all of New England.

I had the privilege as an 11 and 12-year-old boy of serving as his batboy for the Knoxville Smokies minor league baseball team and got to know him starting in 1959. He has had me right in the dugout at Fenway Park. I know that no one is more excited or happy over these great events of the last few weeks than my friend Johnny Pesky. I would like to offer a special congratulations to a really fine man and great American, Johnny Pesky.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I am going to submit this for the RECORD but I would just like to read the first two paragraphs of an article that appeared in the Boston Herald:

''When Margaret 'Peg' Coyne lost her desire to eat, when she could no longer rise from her parlor chair, walk to the kitchen and fix herself a cup of tea, there was still the Red Sox.

''When the grand nieces who kept a vigil by Aunt Peg's hospice bed were sure the pain, the morphine and the Ativan had eased her into a tranquil delirium, Johnny Damon would step into the batter's box and Peg's 93-year-old eyes suddenly opened.''

It is a longer article than that that I will submit for the RECORD. But I think those two paragraphs catch the tenor of how the Red Sox Nation feels. This is something we have waited for a long time and many people have come and gone. There have been fantastic players that have been with the team over the years that have given us joy. Johnny Pesky. The right field foul pole is named after Johnny Pesky because he gave us so many thrills while he was playing.

[From the Boston Herald, Nov. 1, 2004]

ANGEL IN THE OUTFIELD SENDS HEAVENLY MIRACLE FROM ABOVE

(By Peter Gelzinis)

When Margaret ''Peg'' Coyne lost her desire to eat, when she could no longer rise from her parlor chair, walk to the kitchen and fix herself a coup of tea . . . there was still the Red Sox.

When the grand nieces who kept a vigil by ''Aunt Peg's'' hospice bed were sure the pain, the morphine and the Ativan had eased her into a tranquil delirium, Johnny Damon would step into the batter's box and Peg's 93-year-old eyes suddenly opened.

''Come on, Johnny! Come on, Johnny!'' she cried out at the television screen, her voice frail but unbowed.

''We couldn't understand how she knew the inning, let alone the batter,'' Jeannie Boutin recalled. ''When we asked her, Peg just said, 'Because I pay attention, what do you think, Besides,' she'd say, 'they run the numbers along the top of the screen.' And, of course, she always wanted to see her Johnny.''

''Oooh, my sister loved Johnny Damon all right,'' Nora Coyne said. ''She loved how he managed to get on base. Peg loved Johnny's heart. But then, of course, she was always saying, 'I wish Johnny would cut his hair and shave that beard.' ''

Nora betrayed the kind of self-conscious blush one might expect from a fan of, say, 19 . . . or maybe 29. She happens to be 89.

Ah, but when you venture this deep into the heart of Red Sox Nation—to the cozy sanctuary of a South Boston parlor where two easy chairs sit side-by-side—age is little more than a state of mind. And baseball is what keeps you forever young.

The Coyne sisters didn't particularly care for Babe Ruth. Why?

''Because Peg and I were there at Braves Field, when the Babe came to play for the Braves at the end of his career,'' Nora explains. ''We used to sit in this box right there beside the Braves' dugout. We knew all the Braves. Really, they were our favorites for a long time. We always like the National League guys, because they were a lot more friendly.

''Oh . . . I'm sorry, back to Babe. Well, you see, all these little kids came down from the grandstands to get his autograph, and the Babe . . . well, he just ignored all the little kids. My sister and I thought that was really awful. We never forgot it. And, of course, don't get me started on the Southie girl Babe married. Her name was Nora, too. She lived on Fourth Street, just above F (Street), I think. And what did the Babe do but leave her for a New York showgirl.''

In between caring for several generations of family—my wife and our son among them—and stitching curtains in factories throughout Southie, Roxbury and Dorchester, Peg and Nora didn't just watch baseball . . . they lived it.

There are tales of how the ancient Sox pitcher Boo Ferris charmed Peg and Nora with a ''Hello Girls,'' on his way into the Harvard Club, or how Ted Williams fired off a string of ''bad words'' when the sisters stepped in front of his Caddie.

''Dizzy Trout, the Detroit pitcher, was sitting next to him in the front seat,'' Nora remembered, ''and he just laughed.''

On the final day of this past August, during a Red Sox winning streak, Peg Coyne's vantage point on this season shifted from a blue parlor to a celestial box seat. My son's theory was that in return for letting go and coming to heaven, God had surely promised Peg that the Sox would catch the Yankees down the stretch.

When Johnny Damon finally emerged from his playoff slump in truly miraculous fashion, Nora's phone rang off the hook.

''It's Peg,'' all the nieces screamed, ''Peg's there in the outfield with him.''

''When Keith Foulke made the last out,'' Nora said, ''I leaned over to say something to Peg. But there was only an empty chair. I wanted her to know what just happened. The Sox finally won it all. They took the Series. But then, of course, my sister already knew. She was watching everything from a much better seat . . . way up there.

And she was smiling.''

Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I have the wonderful honor of representing the city of Boston with my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO). This is a special moment for us. I want to rise here tonight just to remember a couple of great Red Sox fans from this body, a couple of people who just embodied the spirit of loyalty to the Red Sox and who I wish were here to share in this. Those two gentlemen are Silvio Conte who served in this body for such a long time representing western Mass, and also my predecessor, Congressman Joe Moakley. Two finer Red Sox fans there never were. I think Silvio Conte would have the full Red Sox uniform on tonight making his remarks if he were here.

The hour is late. I do want to before this resolution passes congratulate the Boston Red Sox and their superb management team, Larry Lucchino, John Henry, Tom Werner and also Theo Epstein and Terry Francona for putting together a wonderful team of just extraordinary gentlemen who not only carried out their athletic roles with excellence but also did it in a way that young people from Massachusetts and all through New England and through the country can really look up to. They really handled themselves with extreme class. The players of the 2004 World Series champion Red Sox, I do not have to name them tonight because their names as we all know will be forever written in the hearts of the citizens of Boston and of New England and of Red Sox Nation. I join with my colleagues in the House in congratulating them for their wonderful, wonderful accomplishment.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I was not intending to speak but I am now, because I am not a poet and cannot really compete with my colleague from Alden, but I am now goaded into speaking out of respect for my predecessor Silvio O. Conte who has just been referenced by my esteemed colleague from Boston (Mr. LYNCH).

And so, Mr. Speaker, I am adding my congratulations to the Boston Red Sox for overcoming what many thought was impossible, namely, the toppling of the New York Yankees and ultimately overcoming the Curse of the Bambino. While our Nation is often described as polarized and divided, this Red Sox team managed to bridge these gaps and bring fans from all corners of the country into the Red Sox Nation. All the 2004 Boston Red Sox team will be remembered for their stars, Curt Schilling, Manny Ramirez, Pedro Martinez and David Ortiz, the real underlying message of this team is that the impossible can occur when people come together with the right attitude.

In their march to the world championship, the Red Sox overcame obstacles not through individual triumphs but rather through team effort. Players who had been stars with other

teams selflessly accepted lesser roles in the interest of the team. Such players could have easily sulked and pined for personal glory. Instead, they encouraged those who were participating and did their job when they were called upon. The triumph of the 2004 Boston Red Sox was twofold, physical and mental. While the Red Sox players, coaches and management would tell you they did not believe in curses, the fans and the media were convinced that there were forces at work far greater than those who give the curveball its break or cause a knuckleball to dance. Still, despite 86 years of expectations, capped by disappointments, this self-labored ''bunch of idiots'' managed to overcome preordained demise and ultimate collapse and they did it all with a goofy smile on their face, goofy styles in their hair and a love for the game that is a breath of fresh air in professional sports.

The 2004 World Series run will always hold a special place in the heart of Red Sox fans in the New England region as a whole.

□ 2330

Gone is the label of lovable loser and all the ''what if'' speculation in the papers and on the airwaves. For the first time in 86 years, the Red Sox Nation can breathe a deep sigh of relief this off-season and enjoy the fruits of the hometown team's labor. Gone are the columns speculating on the cause of their most recent demise, and in their place are columns about long-suffering fans able to rest knowing that they have seen in their lifetime what others in the past were not so lucky to see.

Mr. Speaker, 2004 will be a year remembered for many reasons; and while some of those reasons may fade with the passing of time, I am sure that the citizens of the Red Sox Nation will keep a not-so-silent vigil to ensure that 2004 is remembered as the year an impossible dream became a reality, the hopes of the faithful and long suffering were met in full, and the season that was always going to be next year was finally this year.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to privately say we finally did it. The Boston Red Sox have won the World Series for the first time in 86 years. Not only did they win, but they made history in the process. Congratulations to the gentlemen. They have done what so many thought was impossible.

As a lifelong Red Sox fan, I can honestly say that this is a dream come true. Like millions of other fans, I had such high hopes year after year only to see the World Series slip through our fingers. We have had so many opportunities during our long drought, but something was always missing. Time and time again when victory seemed to be within our grasp, fate intervened and the season would end once again with us muttering the line ''there is always next year.'' Next year was finally this year.

Self-confidence is the hallmark of this team embodied by Curt Schilling and is now classic mantra of ''why not us?'' History is in the past, and we must live and play for today, and that is what the 2004 Red Sox have taught all of us.

We also learned that over the course of this season that redemption cannot come easy. The Red Sox were three outs away from packing their bags for the winter, as they have so many times in the past. But perhaps the first time, these men knew they could not allow their arch rivals to celebrate at Fenway Park. More than that, Terry Francona knew that the Sox were not done and masterfully managed his team with four straight victories with the help of David Ortiz's amazing performances.

Red Sox fans know that the game is never over until the last out, but we have got to believe. We have all finally seen a dream come true. And it said that Red Sox, the Red Sox play 162 home games, the support of their amazing fans follows them everywhere and is a key factor that propelled the team to victory.

Finally, I am happy to be able to say this in my lifetime, that we did it and I look forward to the 2005 season when the Red Sox defend their World Series title.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, just yesterday the gentleman who runs the Democratic cloak room was brought to the hospital for a little problem, and I understand that as he was heading towards the hospital clutching his chest, he was heard to say, ''It's okay, I've seen the Red Sox win. It's okay.'' He will be back soon.

But I will tell my colleagues that though many of the Sunday morning pundits are now thinking that some of us in Boston are scratching our heads wondering what happened on some issues this year, the truth is we are all looking at each other wondering how do we enter next year's baseball season now that we have won. We know what to do when we lose: do not worry, next year is it, we are going to make this trade. We have not got a clue how to deal with a win. So all of us at home are really kind of standing wondering now what do we do. We will figure it out, and we will stumble through. And the only thing I will say for the rest of the night is in 86 years, I will be back again to do this one more time.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 854, congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the World Series.

The 2004 Boston Red Sox were no ordinary champion. I would urge my colleagues to remember the scene at Fenway Park as midnight neared on October 17, 2004.

The Sox had dropped the first three games of the American League Championship Series—a deficit that no team had ever surmounted. The night before, they were drubbed 19–8 before the hometown fans.

The Boston bats were silent. Their arms were spent. Their gloves were shaky. Their ace pitcher's foot was stapled to the rest of his leg.

Now trailing 4–3 in Game Four, they came to bat in the bottom of the ninth just three outs away from another close call, another heartbreak for another generation of Sox fans.

In the other dugout was a Yankees team that dashed our hopes last year and won 101 games this year—a team packed with talent and carrying a monster payroll of $184 million.

On the mound was Mariano Rivera, the best and most reliable closer in the history of the game.

Hovering over all of New England was the ghost of Babe Ruth.

Only a ''band of idiots'' could have believed that they could come back. And only the 2004 Boston Red Sox could have actually pulled it off.

But the slugger Kevin Millar patiently worked out a walk. The speedy pinch-runner Dave Roberts stole second, leaving third baseman Bill Mueller with the chance to tie it. He promptly did, smacking a single through Rivera's legs, and he—and all of the Red Sox Nation—watched Roberts speed home.

The game was tied. The Sox were alive. The Bambino rolled over in his grave. The Yankees' historic choke had begun.

David Ortiz ended the game with a twelfth-inning homer, and less than 24 hours later, the heroic ''Big Papi'' won Game Five with a fourteenth-inning single.

Game Six was won by the clutch Mark Bellhorn, the mythical Curt Schilling and the medical miracle workers who put his ankle back together.

In Game Seven, the Yankees succumbed to the biblical slugging of Johnny Damon and the untouchable sinkerballs of Derek Lowe.

The Series wasn't even close. The Cardinals had a great season, but they picked the wrong year to win the National League. 2004 belonged to Red Sox Nation. After the bitter endings of 1948, 1978, 1986 and 2003, we deserved it.

All of New England breathed a collective sigh of relief as the always dependable closer Keith Foulke grabbed the final ground ball of Game Four and tossed it to Gold Glove first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz for the final out.

For the first time in 86 years, the Red Sox are the World Champions of baseball—truly World champions, with a roster assembled from the Dominican Republic, South Korea, Colombia, Red-State and Blue-State America. Congratulations to the brilliant general manager Theo Epstein.

Congratulations to our field general, Terry Francona, and his lieutenants on the coaching staff.

Congratulations to the top brass—John Henry, Tom Werner, and Larry Lucchino.

Congratulations to World Series MVP Manny Ramirez. Congratulations to the dean of the Red Sox, Tim Wakefield. Congratulations to the bullpen saviors Mike Timlin and Alan Embree. Congratulations to the steady veterans Jason Varitek, Trot Nixon, and Doug Mirabelli. Congratulations to recent arrivals Bronson Arroyo, Orlando Cabrera, Gabe Kapler, and Pokey Reese.

Congratulations to the unparalleled Pedro Martinez—Pedro, please don't go!

Congratulations to the entire Red Sox team, who will be remembered forever as the conquering heroes who Reversed the Curse and brought a baseball championship to New England for the first time since the Wilson Administration. (Woodrow Wilson, not Mookie.)

Congratulations also to all the great Red Sox players of the past, including Johnny Pesky, Dom Dimaggio, Carl Yastrzemski, Jim Rice, and Luis Tiant—this victory was as much for them as anyone., The same can be said of Ted Williams and all the other Sox greats who have passed on, but who no doubt watched from the heavens above, smiling.

And most importantly, congratulations to baseball's most loyal and passionate fans: Red Sox Nation.

Mr. Speaker, on April 11, 2005, the Red Sox will raise the 2004 World Championship banner at Fenway Park alongside its counterpart from 1918. In the visiting dugout, watching the Sox try on their rings, will be a team that has suffered without a championship since the year 2000—the New York Yankees.

Don't worry, Yankees fans, there's always next year.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 854

Whereas on October 27, 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series title in 86 years in a four-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals;

Whereas the Red Sox won their sixth world title in the 104-year history of the storied franchise;

Whereas the 2004 Red Sox World Champion team epitomized sportmanship, selfless play, team spirit, determination, and heart in the course of winning 98 games in the regular season and clinching the American League Wild Card payoff berth;

Whereas the 2004 Red Sox World Champion team honored the careers of all former Red Sox legends, including Joe Cronin, Bobby Doerr, Carlton Fisk, Jimmie Foxx, Carl Yastrzemski, Cy Young, Johnny Pesky, Dom DiMaggio, Jim Rice, and Ted Williams;

Whereas the 2004 postseason produced new Red Sox legends, including Derek Lowe, Pedro Martinez, Curt Schilling, Tim Wakefield, Jason Varitek, Keith Foulke, Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz, Johnny Damon, Trot Nixon, Orlando Cabrera, Kevin Millar, Mike Timlin, Alan Embree, Mark Bellhorn, Bill Mueller, and Dave Roberts;

Whereas Red Sox Manager Terry Francona brought fresh leadership to the clubhouse this year, and brought together a self-proclaimed ''band of idiots'' and made them into one of the greatest Red Sox teams of all time;

Whereas Red Sox owners John Henry and Tom Werner and Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino never wavered from their goal of bringing a World Series Championship to Boston;

Whereas Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein assembled a team with strong pitching, a crushing offense, and most important, the heart and soul of a champion;

Whereas the Red Sox never trailed in any of the 36 innings of the World Series;

Whereas the Red Sox set a new major league record by winning eight consecutive games in the postseason;

Whereas Derrek Lowe, Pedro Martinez, and Curt Schilling delivered gutsy pitching performances in the postseason worthy of their status as some of the best pitchers in Red Sox history;

Whereas the Red Sox starting pitching in Games 2, 3, and 4 of the World Series had a combined earned run average of 0.00;

Whereas Manny Ramirez won the 2004 World Series Most Valuable Player award in the World Series after batting 0.350 in the postseason with two home runs and 11 runs batted in;

Whereas the Red Sox staged the greatest comeback in baseball history in the American League Championship Series against their rivals, the New York Yankees, by winning four consecutive games after losing the first three games of the series;

Whereas the Red Sox prevailed in four consecutive American League Championship Series games, while producing some of the most memorable moments in sports history, including Dave Roberts stealing second base in the bottom of the ninth inning of Game 4, David Ortiz securing a walk-off home run in the 12th inning of Game 4, David Ortiz singling in the winning run in the bottom of the 14th inning in Game 5, and Johnny Damon making a grand slam in Game 7;

Whereas the entire Red Sox organization has a strong commitment to charitable causes in New England, demonstrated by the team's 51-year support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Jimmy Fund in the fight against childhood cancers;

Whereas fans of the Red Sox do not live only in Boston or New England, but all across the country and the world, and a grateful ''Red Sox Nation'' thanks the team for bringing a World Championship home to Boston;

Whereas the 2004 Boston Red Sox and their loyal fans believed; and

Whereas this IS next year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Boston Red Sox for winning the 2004 Major League Baseball World Series and for their incredible performance during the 2004 Major League Baseball season; and

(B) the eight Major League Baseball teams that played in the postseason;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Boston Red Sox players, manager, coaches, and support staff whose hard work, dedication, and spirit made this all possible;

(3) commends—

(A) the St. Louis Cardinals for a valiant performance during the 2004 season and the World Series;

(B) the fans and management of the St. Louis Cardinals for allowing the Red Sox fans from Boston and around the Nation to celebrate their first title in 86 years at their home field; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the 2004 Boston Red Sox team;

(B) Red Sox Manager Terry Francona;

(C) Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein;

(D) Red Sox President and Chief Executive Officer Larry Lucchino;

(E) Red Sox Principal Owner John Henry; and

(F) Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner.

The resolution was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MR. OSE

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the preamble.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment to the preamble offered by Mr. OSE:

On page 1 line 10 strike the word ''payoff'' and insert the ward ''playoff''.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak to the amendment, if I might, because I know the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) comes from district eight in Massachusetts, and clearly there has been an error in the third paragraph of the resolution. We are going to call this E–8 in the gentleman from Massachusetts' (Mr. CAPUANO) memory because I do not believe he meant to put the word ''payoff'' in there, and we are attempting to correct this. And I just want to assure folks of the district that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) represents that it was an error made in good faith and that it was an error much like many errors in the past like Mr. Buckner has made, and I hope to never see such an error again in the next 86 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment to the preamble.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DREIER, (during debate on H. Res. 854) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–784) on the resolution (H. Res. 861) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

A FISCAL U-TURN: BACK IN THE HOLE AND STILL DIGGING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I joined many of my colleagues in Little Rock, Arkansas, for the official dedication of the William Jefferson

Clinton Presidential Center, a place where scholars and all Americans can study the many remarkable achievements of 8 years of the Clinton administration.

As I sat through the dedication ceremonies today, I reflected on the unparalleled economic prosperity that America experienced during President Clinton's tenure. I also could not help thinking about the important matter we would be confronted with on the House floor later in the day, a vote to raise the debt limit for the third time since President Clinton's successor took office. With today's vote, the majority of this House has agreed to a whopping $800 billion increase in the debt ceiling from its present level of $7.38 trillion to $8.18 trillion.

The impending breach of the statutory debt ceiling is the latest warning about the Nation's fiscal health. Our debt has been growing faster than our economy's ability to repay it due in large part to a reckless economic policy over the last 4 years. These policies have undone the hard work it took to balance the budget during the 1990s and have left us awash in a sea of red ink.

At the beginning of the Clinton administration in 1992, the Federal budget deficit was at a historic high of $290 billion, 10 million Americans were out of work, and the Nation's economic growth rate was the lowest in more than half a century. In response, President Clinton and the congressional Democrats worked together to enact the 1993 Deficit Reduction Plan which passed the House and Senate without a single Republican vote. The balanced budget plan demonstrated that guided by common sense and realism, we could slash the deficit in half while also making important investments in our future including education, health care, science, and technology.

The plan included more than $500 billion in deficit reduction and cut taxes for 15 million of the hardest pressed Americans as well as small businesses.

□ 2340

What followed is unarguable: the creation of more than 22 million new jobs and the Nation's lowest unemployment rate in 30 years. The Nation went from the largest budget deficits in history to the largest budget surpluses in history. Four consecutive years of debt reduction also followed, a total of $453 billion paid down, bringing the public debt down to $2.9 trillion lower in 2001 than projected in 1993.

When President Clinton left office, we were on track to eliminate the Nation's public debt by 2012, making America debt-free for the first time since Andrew Jackson was President.

Today, we continue the fiscal U-turn that this Congress and administration have steered us into over the last 4 years. Today's vote to increase the debt limit marks yet another unfortunate milestone in our Nation's history where we have the largest deficits we have ever had, $413 billion, and absolutely no plan in sight to put our fiscal House in order.

For years, members of the Blue Dog Coalition have warned that we were spending money we did not have, that the administration had no economic plan, and that tax cuts alone were not a substitute for an economic plan for our country's future. This Congress continues to reject efforts to budget in the same way that your family and mine does, by paying as you go.

Even as we sought to stave off the day of reckoning, middle-class Americans are paying for our profligacy in the form of rising interest rates. As a result, American consumers are paying more for their mortgages and on their credit cards.

With the retirement of the baby-boom generation beginning in just 4 years, we must rededicate ourselves to ensuring that our children and future generations are not saddled with the enormous responsibility of paying for our economic health and our safety. We owe it to the American people to stop imperiling the Nation's economic future by borrowing money to pay for irresponsible policies.

We all acknowledge that the September 11 attacks and the resulting war on terrorism as well as the war on Iraq have put an additional stress on our economy. But instead of spending political capital to ask all Americans to share in the Nation's sacrifice, the President and the majority today took the easy way out.

Mr. Speaker, the day of reckoning is at hand, and with today's vote we must all acknowledge we have hit rock bottom.

In his farewell address to the Nation from the Oval Office in February, 2003, President Clinton left the American people with three thoughts about our future. His first admonition was that America must maintain its fiscal responsibility. Pointing to record deficits turned into record surpluses and the paying down of our national debt, he urged us to stay on track. ''If we choose wisely,'' he said, ''we can pay down the debt, deal with the retirement of the baby-boomers, invest more in our future, and provide tax relief.''

Unfortunately, this Congress and this administration have not chosen wisely. The juxtaposition of today's dedication of the Clinton Library and this evening's vote to increase the national debt is a clarion call to return to the sound fiscal policies that were central to the economic boom of the 1990s. We have a duty to the American people to restore sanity and discipline to our Nation's finances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to join with over 100 of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, and four U.S. presidents to dedicate the William J. Clinton Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. All of the four presidents spoke eloquently. I was especially moved by the words of former President George W. Bush when he said it not a Democrat or Republican day, but it was a great day for all Americans.

I joined President Clinton in the 1992 election here in Washington to represent northern Michigan to do, as President Clinton challenged us then, to put people first. I have learned and tried to do that each day as a Congressman. I learned this not just from President Clinton but from my own father who was a local elected official in Delta County, Michigan.

I come tonight to put people first, to put our children first as I continue to speak out against the acne drug Accutane. As a legislator, I have called for more restrictions on the distribution and use of this drug, which is known to cause severe birth defects and a form of impulsive behavior and depression in young people taking this drug.

This drug has devastated my family with the loss of our son BJ and more than 250 other families who have lost their young son or daughter across this Nation who have lost them while they were taking Accutane.

As we were flying back from Little Rock, Arkansas, CBS news ran a story tonight, and I quote an FDA safety reviewer, Dr. David Graham, when he spoke to the Senate Finance Committee. Dr. Graham said, ''I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx.'' He told the Senate Finance Committee that ''there are at least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether

they should remain on the market.'' He cited the acne drug Accutane.

Why Accutane? Because of the horrendous birth defects, but also because of a recent study by Dr. J. Douglas Bremner. He has demonstrated how Accutane mediates depression, causes impulsive behavior due to changes in the orbito frontal cortex in the front part of the brain. That mediates depression. Depression is found in this part of the brain.

Over the course of our investigation of the Committee on Energy and Commerce research, it has indicated that the current formula of Accutane may be about 240 times greater than what is necessary to be effective. Too much Accutane, a synthetic vitamin A, causes cerebri tumor or a pseudo tumor in some patients. This pseudo tumor is a warning that is found on the packaging, but what does it really mean? It means severe headaches. And while it acts like a tumor in the brain, it cannot be discovered. CAT scans will not show it. There is no evidence of a tumor. So what happens?

As Dr. Bremner showed us here in a study of the orbito frontal cortex, there is a decrease in the metabolism of the brain. This is the baseline of a person before they started Accutane. This is post Accutane, or 4 months on Accutane. Notice the red brain activity in the front part of the brain. Notice very little red after 4 months on Accutane. It neutralizes or decreases the metabolism in this part of the brain.

In this one slide that Dr. Bremner has shared with us, there is a 21 percent decrease in brain metabolism with this patient. This only occurred in Accutane patients. Dr. Bremner did the same thing with other patients on oral antibiotics. And it was not all Accutane patients, just those who complained of severe headaches. Is this excessive dosage found in the current formula of Accutane that is being given to patients, is this the cause in the change that we see?

The medical evidence is clear that Accutane causes changes in the brain, which leads some young people to take their own life through impulsive behavior.

Putting people first. Let us put children first. Let us join with the FDA drug safety reviewer and pull this drug from the market or, at a minimum, severely restrict the use and distribution of Accutane until we have all the answers about this powerful, dangerous drug.

Is a decreased metabolism that we see here, is this reversible? Will the brain repair itself? How much Accutane is safe? What should the real dose be so we do not hurt the developing young brains of our children? Has the FDA done enough to protect our children? Has the FDA seriously looked at this study and similar studies in animal testing, which also demonstrate Accutane harms the brain?

It is time to put our children first. It is time to pull this drug off the market until all of our questions are seriously answered. Put our children first.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit for the RECORD the CBS news report and also a photocopy of the CAT scan from Dr. Bremner.

INSIDER: FDA CAN'T PROTECT PUBLIC

The American public is ''virtually defenseless'' if another medication such as Vioxx proves to be unsafe after it is approved for sale, a government drug safety reviewer told a congressional committee Thursday.

''I would argue that the FDA as currently configured is incapable of protecting America against another Vioxx,'' said David Graham, who warned that the arthritis drug had been linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke.

He told the Senate Finance Committee that there were at least five other drugs on the market today that should be looked at seriously to see whether they should remain there. He cited the acne drug Accutane, the weight loss drug Meridia, the anti-cholesterol drug Crestor, the pain reliever Bextra, and the asthma drug Serevent.

Vioxx's maker, Merck & Co. pulled the drug from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

Raymond V. Gilimartin, the company president, said in prepared testimony that Merck acted within four days of learning about the risk.

''Given the availability of alternative therapies and the questions raised by the data withdrawing Vioxx was consistent with an ethic that has driven Merck actions and decisions for more than 100 years,'' he said.

Gilimartin also said the company was surprised by the cardiovascular risk because it differed from past clinical trials. ''My wife was a user of Vioxx until the day we withdrew it from the marketplace,'' he said.

The Food and Drug Administration has defended its actions regarding Vioxx. In a statement issued late Wednesday, the agency cited its ''well-documented and long-standing commitment to openness and transparency in its review of marketed drugs.''

''What's come to light about Vioxx since Sept. 30 makes people wonder if the FDA has lost its way when it comes to making sure that drugs are safe,'' said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R–Iowa, as the hearing opened.

Grassley suggested that an independent board of drug safety might be needed to ensure the safety of medications after they're approved for the market.

''Consumers should not have to second-guess the safety of what's in their medicine cabinet,'' he said.

Graham told the committee that research indicated that Vioxx caused up to 160,000 heart attacks and strokes.

''If we were talking about Florida or Pennsylvania, 1 percent of the entire state population would have been affected,'' he said. ''I'm sorry to say Sen. Grassley, but 67 percent of the citizens of Des Moines would be affected and, what's worse—the entire population of every other city in the state of Iowa.''

Graham said his research helped to coax the FDA to withdraw a number of drugs including Fen-phen, a weight loss drug, Lotronex, Baycol and Rezulin. ''During my career I have recommended the market withdrawal of 12 drugs,'' he said. ''Only two of these remain on the market today.''

At the same time, though, he questioned the agency's commitment to removing unsafe drugs from the market, since it would call into question their earlier approval.

Sen. Jeff Bingman, D-New Mexico, said the problem was within the FDA's own culture.

''The culture within the FDA, being one where the pharmaceutical industry, which the FDA is supposed to regulate, is seen by the FDA as its client instead,'' he said.

He called on President Bush to appoint a new head for the agency. Lester Crawford has been acting commissioner of the agency.

Lester Crawford's statement, sent by e-mail to reporters about 16 hours before the Senate Finance Committee's scheduled hearing on Vioxx, said the FDA initiated and paid for reviews of Vioxx and antidepressants after those drugs had hit the market. ''That is evidence the system is working,'' Crawford said.

''It's not working good for them to have a drug to be out on the market this long * * * and never really announcing that it was causing strokes and heart attacks,'' John Byrd of Coats, N.C., told CBS Radio News Thursday morning. He's a 47-year-old who had a heart attack last spring and is now suing the maker of Vioxx.

Critics contend the agency ignored risks in both instances, then intimidated its own reviewers when they pointed to safety concerns.

In October, the FDA ordered that all antidepressants carry warnings that they ''increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior'' in children who take them. Vioxx's maker, Merck & Co. pulled the drug from the market on Sept. 30 after a study indicated the popular painkiller doubled the risk of heart attacks and stroke when taken for longer than 18 months.

''I've never had any knowledge that it could cause a heart attack or blood clots or stroke. That's where I find a little shadiness in this recall,'' said Byrd, a Goodyear employee, who added the Vioxx paperwork only warned that it could upset his stomach.

The FDA's statement disturbed lawyer Andy Birchfield, who is evaluating thousands of potential cases against Merck on behalf of injured patients.

''How can they see that type of problem and look back and say 'We did everything right'?'' Birchfield said. ''When they're not willing to recognize mistakes, we have no hope for them voluntarily taking measures to correct the situation.''

Crawford's statement did not mention Graham by name, but suggested that the reviewer was a maverick who did not follow agency protocol.

Graham was lead author on a research project that studied the records of almost 1.4 million Kaiser Permanente patients, including 40,405 treated with Pfizer's Celebrex and 26,748 treated with Vioxx. The study found that high doses of Vioxx tripled risks of heart attacks and sudden cardiac death.

Vioxx was responsible for an additional 27,785 deaths from heart ailments from 1999 to 2003, Graham concluded.

He has told congressional investigators that, superiors pressured him to soften his conclusions.

Crawford said in his statement that the reviewer voluntarily chose to revise his conclusions, and he did so, in his own words, ''without compromising my deeply held convictions.''

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 of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

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

There was no objection.

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, in yesterday's Congress Daily published by the National Journal, there was an article stating that some of the Nation's largest high-tech companies are pushing for a big increase in the H–1B visa program. This is the program that grants visas to so-called skilled foreigners such as computer specialists, engineers, and technical medical researchers. This program already allows 65,000 foreigners each year to come in and take some of the best jobs this country has to offer.

Now, these giant corporations are waging what Congress Daily described as an ''intense lobbying'' campaign to get 30,000 to 40,000 more of these foreign workers, and this goes on every year and has undoubtedly let in hundreds of thousands or even more over the last several years.

□ 2350

This, of course, is on top of the many millions of illegal aliens we already have here, probably at least double or triple the ten million illegals the government estimates are here based on what I have read and heard and seen.

I realize the H1–B program is a way to get here legally, and I do commend those involved for at least going through the proper legal channels. But over the last 16 years since I have been in Congress, I have had many parents and grandparents bring me their college graduate children or grandchildren who cannot find good jobs. And these are good-looking young people with very good grades.

All over this country there are many thousands of college graduates who cannot find good jobs so they work as waiters and waitresses and go to graduate school or more often law school. Sometimes people with masters degrees or even PhDs are having trouble finding good jobs. Our unemployment is low, but our underemployment is terrible. Yet we bring in many thousands more foreign workers each year while we continue to send huge numbers of good jobs to other countries with our astounding $1 million-a-minute trade deficit.

Many years ago I read that our government estimated that half the people of the world wanted to come here to live. Consistent with that I read in the last few months that half of the people in the world have to get by on $2 or less a day and do not have a second pair of shoes. We simply cannot take 3 billion more people in to this Nation, especially over a short period of time. Already our schools and hospitals are overrun with illegal immigrants in areas near our borders.

God has blessed every nation in this world with either natural beauty and natural resources and usually both that could make those countries rich if they had a free market, free enterprise system. However, all over this world people have fallen for the myth that government can solve all problems, and they have either voted in or had governments forced on them that were liberal, left-wing or socialist. And all over this world all big government has done is to ruin economies and wipe out the middle class.

Big government means a few elite rulers at the top, a huge underclass, usually near starvation, and almost no middle class. Today with many of our trade and immigration policies, our own big government is slowly wiping out our own middle class to try to benefit a small number of huge multi-national companies. The big giants are growing bigger in large part because of government favoritism, government contracts, tax breaks, free land. Big government, though, really only helps extremely big business and the bureaucrats who work for the government. Everyone else gets the crumbs or the shaft.

There really cannot be such a thing as big government conservatism. That is an oxymoron. Only in a very small government, truly free market system does the little man or a person without great capital have a real chance.

Big government liberalism, while always claiming to help the little guy, has actually been the best friend extremely big business has. And this proposed expansion of the H1–B program is just another example of this big government, big business duopoly that is in the long run bringing down American small business and our great middle class.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

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

There was no objection.

ARMS SALES TO PAKISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my deep concern about the proposed Pentagon arms sale to Pakistan.

Reports indicate that the Pentagon has proposed sales of the following weapons to Pakistan: eight P–3C Orion surveillance aircraft valued at up to $970 million and 2,000 TOW–2A missiles and 14 TOW–2A Fly-to-Buy missiles valued at $82 million. It is undoubted that Pakistan has been an ally in the war on terror; however, it is necessary to urge President Bush to block these proposed arms sales for several reasons.

A number of my colleagues and I were extremely disappointed to learn of the Major Non-NATO Alliance status that was bestowed upon Pakistan earlier this year because it allowed Pakistan to purchase military equipment that is not normally sanctioned to a country that is not under democratic rule. Pakistan unfortunately continues to remain under military rule and is not taking meaningful steps to return to a democracy; and therefore I support democracy sanctions that will prohibit military assistance to Pakistan entirely. Moreover, I feel that it is unprecedented for the Pentagon to be engaging in weapon sales with Pakistan due to its political instability.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration's policies with respect to military assistance and now military sales to Pakistan are contributing to increased security concerns throughout South Asia and particularly to India. Although Pakistan has been an ally in the global war on terror, Pakistan has not taken steps to end terrorism in its own backyard, and foreign military assistance to Pakistan has oftentimes been used against India.

I sent a letter today, Mr. Speaker, to President Bush urging him to reexamine the interests and priorities of the United States and to take a strong position against selling arms to Pakistan both now and in the future. The Pentagon is still in the proposed phase of selling these weapons to Pakistan. I urge my colleagues to block this inappropriate and unnecessary arms sales to Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration and this Congress should be promoting peace in South Asia, not a war between Pakistan and India.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. WELLER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of his wedding.

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 Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1284. An act to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the costs of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project.

H.R. 4794. An act to amend the Tijuana River Valley Estuary and Beach Sewage Cleanup Act of 2000 to extend the authorization of appropriations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5245. An act to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry.

H.R. 5213. An act to expand research information regarding multidisciplinary research projects and epidemiological studies.

H.R. 5163. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide the Department of Transportation a more focused research organization with an emphasis on innovative technology, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 434. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes.

S. 1446. An act to implement the recommendations of the Garrison Unit Joint Tribal Advisory Committee by providing authorization for the construction of a rural health care facility on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, North Dakota.

S. 1241. An act to establish the Kate Mullany National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

S. 1727. An act to authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978.

S. 2042. An act for the relief of Rocco A. Trescota of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

S. 2214. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the ''Mike Mansfield Post Office''.

S. 2302. An act to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

S. 2484. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to simplify and improve pay provisions for physicians and dentists and to authorize alternate work schedules and executive pay for nurses, and for other purposes.

S. 2640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the ''Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building'' and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site, and for other purposes.

S. 2693. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1475 Western Avenue, Suite 45, Albany, New York, as the ''Lieutenant John F. Finn Post Office.''

S. 2965. An act to amend the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999 to modify the termination date for mandatory price reporting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 19, 2004, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

10904. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Glyphosate; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP–2004–0323; FRL–7683–9] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10905. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Mepanipyrim; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP–2004–0299; FRL–7681–8] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10906. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances [OPP–2004–0327; FRL–7682–1] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

10907. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Edward Soriano, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10908. A letter from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel), Department of Defense, transmitting notification of a decision to implement performance by the Most Efficient Organization (MEO) for the Physical Distribution in Bremerton, WA (initiative number NC20000784); to the Committee on Armed Services.

10909. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of purchases from foreign entities for Fiscal Year 2003, pursuant to Public Law 107–248, section 8033(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

10910. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Strategic Plan for Corrosion Prevention and Mitigation, pursuant to Public Law 107–314, section 1067; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10911. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of September 30, 2004, entitled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account,'' pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

10912. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule—Reinventionof the Sections 514, 515, 516, and 521 Multi-Family Housing Programs (RIN: 0575–AC13) received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

10913. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for Fiscal Year 2004, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1145(e); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

10914. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report on the Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities: Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) Projects Funded During Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

10915. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a preliminary report on the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for FY 2004, pursuant to Public Law 105–388 42 U.S.C. 13211–13219; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10916. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [CA 309–0468a; FRL–7834–3] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10917. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Interim Final Determination to Stay Sanctions, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District [CA 309–0468c; FRL–7834–5] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10918. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Corrections to the California State Implementation Plan [CA120–REC; FRL–7837–9] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10919. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Plan Revisions; Indiana [R05–OAR–2004–IN–0002; FRL–7826–8] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10920. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implmentation Plans; Texas; Memorandum of Agreement between Texas Council on Environmental Quality and the North Central Texas Council of Governments Providing Emissions Offsets to Dallas Fort Worth International Airport [R06–OAR–2004–TX–

0002; FRL–7830–8] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10921. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State Of Missouri; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, Iron County; Arcadia and Liberty Townships [R07–OAR–2004–MO–003; FRL–7831–1] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10922. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Idado; Correcting Amendments [ID–02–003; FRL–7825–3] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10923. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 307–0464a; FRL–7818–6] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10924. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District [CA284–0462; FRL–7811–2] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10925. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Environmental Performance Track Program; Corrections [OA–2004–0004; FRL–7830–1] (RIN: 2090–AA13) received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10926. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan Revision for North Dakota; Revisions to the Air Pollution Control Rules; Delegation of Authority for New Source Performance Standards [ND–0001–0011; FRL–7823–2] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10927. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Determination of Attainment and Redesignation of the City of Weirton PM10 Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Maintenance Plan [R03–AOR–2004–WV–0001; FRL–7821–4] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10928. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania VOC and NO_X RACT Determinations for National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation [PA208–4231; FRL–7822–5] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10929. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Redesignation of Kent and Queen Anne's Counties Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan [MD160–3113; FRL–7821–1] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10930. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of VOC Emissions from Yeast Manufacturing [MD170–3113a; FRL–7819–7] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10931. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, Steamboat Springs [CO–001–0077a; FRL–7815–5] received October 21, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10932. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05–05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10933. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05–09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10934. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05–06), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10935. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Pakistan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05–07), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

10936. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 13–04 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Land Battlespace Systems with the United Kingdom, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

10937. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 14–04 informing of an intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Defense Space Cooperation with Turkey, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

10938. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad with Poland (Transmittal No. DDTC 082–04), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

10939. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the annual report of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein during the calendar year 2003, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 287b; to the Committee on International Relations.

10940. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

10941. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

10942. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on International Relations.

10943. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule— Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Registration Fee Change (RIN: 1400–AB97) received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

10944. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the six-month period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10945. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting in accordance with the requirements of the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–289), the Board's FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10946. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10947. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108–199, and the Office of Management and Budget Memorandum 04–07, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2003; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10948. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting an inventory of functions performed by the Department that are not inherently governmental after the inventory has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10949. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10950. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's FY 2004 Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10951. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10952. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Secretary's Management Report on Management Decisions and Final Actionson Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending March 31, 2004, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10953. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10954. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2004 Performance and Accountability Report required under the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act of 2002; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10955. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting pursuant to the ''Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002'' and related guidance from the Office of Management and Budget, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10956. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Endowment's inventory of activities as required by OMB Circular A–76 and the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10957. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the FY 2004 Performance and Accountability Report, prepared in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10958. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled ''Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2005,'' pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10959. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2004, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report, Report on Internal Control, and Report on Compliance with Laws and Regulations; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10960. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2004 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

10961. A letter from the Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's annual financial audit for FY 2004, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2421(e)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10962. A letter from the Executive Director, United States Access Board, transmitting the Board's consolidated report for the Inspector General Act and the Federal Financial Manager's Integrity Act, pursuant to (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform.

10963. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the study, findings, and report for the Squirrel River in Alaska, consistent with section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90–542, as amended; (H. Doc. No. 108–235); to the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed.

10964. A letter from the Federal Registrar Liason Officer, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Coal Production Fees (RIN: 1029–AC46) received October 27, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10965. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031126297–3297–01; I.D. 100704A] received October 20, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10966. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031125292–4061–02; I.D. 092404A] received October 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10967. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Amendment 16–3; Corrections [Docket No. 040618188–4265–02; I.D. 061404A] (RIN: 0648–AS26) received October 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10968. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Closure [Docket No. 001005281–0369–02; I.D. 101804C] received November 1, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10969. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031126297–3297–01; I.D. 100604A] received October 20, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10970. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Oregon Sport Fisheries [Docket No. 040209049–4117–02; I.D. 091404G] received October 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10971. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery; Suspension of Minimum Surfclam Size for 2005 [Docket No. 031015257–3308–02; I.D. 092804B] received October 12, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10972. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 031124287–4060–02; I.D. 101504B] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10973. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustianable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; ''Other Species'' in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 031124287–4060–02; I.D. 10504A] received October 28, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10974. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs; NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; Framework Adjustment 5 [Docket No. 040804226–4278–02; I.D. 071904C] (RIN: 0648–AR50) received November 5, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10975. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Closure of the Recreational Red Snapper Component [I.D. 101904A] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10976. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No. 040706201–4279–02; I.D. 060204F] (RIN: 0648–AR97) received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10977. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Revisions to the Annual Harvest Specifications Process for the Groundfish Fisheries of the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 040713206–4292–02; I.D. 070704F] (RIN: 0648–AR77) received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10978. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackeral, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Inseason Adjustment of the Quater III Fishery of Loligo Squid [Docket No. 031104274–4011–02; I.D. 071604E] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10979. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Tilefish Fishery; Quota Harvested for Part-time Category [Docket No. 040122024–4105–02; I.D. 092104C] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10980. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeastern (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Closure of the Eastern U.S./Canada Area and Prohibition of Harvesting, Processing, or Landing of Yellowtail Flounder from the U.S./Canada Management Area [Docket No. 040112010–414–02; I.D. 093004C] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10981. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Fisheries by Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031125292–4061–02; I.D. 093004D] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10982. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031125292–4061–02; I.D. 093004E] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10983. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackeral in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 031124287–4060–02; I.D. 093004F] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10984. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 031125292–4061–02; I.D. 100504B] received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10985. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish; Annual Specifications and Managemetn Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No. 031216314–3314–01; I.D. 092904C] received October 20, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10986. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the thirty-sixth in a series of reports on refugee resettlement in the United States covering the period October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1523(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10987. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Documentation of Nonimmigrants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended-Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)—received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10988. A letter from the Chair of the Committee on the Budget and Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a letter asking that the judiciary be specifically exempted from any across-the-board reductions that may be considered during the FY 2005 Appropriations Process; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

10989. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Hoffman Propeller GmbH & Co KG Models HO–V343 and HO–V343K Propellers [Docket No. FAA–2004–18958; Directorate Identifier 2004–NE–32–AD; Amendment 39–13778; AD 2004–18–01] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10990. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 777 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002–NM–350–AD; Amendment 39–13777; AD 2004–17–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10991. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC–9–14, DC–9–15, and DC–9–15F Airplanes; and Model DC–9–20, DC–9–30, DC–9–40, and DC–9–50 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002–NM–345–AD; Amendment 39–13789; AD 2004–18–11] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10992. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airport Noise Compatibility Planning [Docket No. FAA–2004–19158; Amendment 150–14] (RIN: 2120–AI37) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10993. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Picture Identification Requirements [Docket No. FAA–2002–11666; Amendment No. 61–107] (RIN: 2120–AH76) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10994. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Flight Limitation in the Proximity of Space Flight Operations [Docket No. FAA–2004–19246; Amendment Nos. 91–284] (RIN: 2120–AI40) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10995. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prohibition Against Certain Flights Between the United States and Libya [Docket No. FAA–2004–19316; Special Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 65–1] (RIN: 2120–AI46) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10996. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Civil Penalty Assessment Procedures [Docket No. 27854; Amendment No. 13–32] (RIN: 2120–AE84) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10997. A letter from the Senior Attorney, RSPA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazardous Materials Regulations; Compatibility with the Regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Correction; Final Rule [Docket No. RSPA–99–6283 (HM–230)] (RIN: 2137–AD40) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10998. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–8–102, –103, –106, –201, –202, –301, –311, and –315 Airplanes [Docket No. 2002–NM–338–AD; Amendment 39–13788; AD 2004–18–10] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10999. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–8–311 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2004–18563; Directorate Identifier 2002–NM–98–AD; Amendment 39–13783; AD 2004–18–05] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

11000. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Report to Congress-Part 135 Air Taxi Operators Study,'' as required by the Aviation Investment and Reform Act of the 21st Century under Section 735; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

11001. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD–10–10F, MD–10–30F, MD–11, MD–11F, and 717–200 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA–2004–19017; Directorate Identifier 2004–NM–144–AD; Amendment 39–13782; AD 2004–18–04] (RIN: 2120–AA64) received October 18, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

11002. A letter from the Deputy Assiociate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Water Quality Standards for Coastal and Great Lakes Recreation Waters [OW–2004–0010; FRL–7837–5] (RIN: 2040–AE63] received November 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

11003. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an Agreement between the United States of America and Japan on Social Security, with a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement, both signed at Washington on February 19, 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1); (H. Doc. No. 108–234); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

11004. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on the intent to initiate negotiations for a free trade agreement between the United States and the United Arab Emirates, pursuant to Section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

11005. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on the intent to initiate negotiations for a free trade agreement between the United States and the Sultanate of Oman, pursuant to Section 2104(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 2002; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

11006. A letter from the Acting Secretary of the Army and Secretary of Agriculture, Departments of the Army and Agricutlure, transmitting notice of intention of the Departments of the Army and Agriculture to interchange jurisdiction of Army and National Forest lands at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, Louisiana and the Kisatchie National Forest,

Louisiana, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 505a (70 Stat. 656); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture.

11007. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report to Congress on Standards for Supervision of Physical Therapist Assistants (PTAs) and the Implications of Eliminating the ''Personal'' PTA Supervision Requirements on the Finanical Caps for Medicare Therapy Services, requested by Congress in Appendix F, Section 421 of Pub. L. 106–554; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

11008. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting three documents in response to requests for reports to Congress on outpatient therapy services mandated or modified in Section 4541(d)(2) of Pub. L. 105–22, Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA), Sections 221(c) and (d) of Pub. L. 106–113, Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999 (BBRA), Section 421(b) of Pub. L. 105–551, Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) of 2000, and Section 624(b) of Pub. L. 108–173, Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

11009. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a determination that there exists an emergency need for an outlet for Devils Lake, North Dakota, as defined by Section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Pub. L. 93–288; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations.

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. OXLEY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4634. A bill to extend the terrorism insurance program of the Department of the Treasury; with an amendment (Rept. 108–780). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State on the Union.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 858. Resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 108–781). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 859. Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 108–782). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. LINDER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 860. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 108–783). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mrs. MYRICK: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 861. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 108–784). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. GORDON):

H.R. 5382. A bill to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 5383. A bill to clarify that certain coal industry health benefits may not be modified or terminated; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. BELL, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BOYD, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DELAY, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. DUNN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FORD, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GORDON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HALL, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. REYES, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. WELDON of Florida):

H.R. 5384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the allowance of the deduction of State and local general sales taxes in lieu of State and local income taxes permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOEHLERT:

H.R. 5385. A bill to authorize the establishment of a Centennial Challenge Prize Program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 5386. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reform Federal Prison Industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 5387. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide remedial actions and other assistance to affected residents near the Wauconda Sand and Gravel Superfund Site; 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. EHLERS:

H.R. 5388. A bill to establish an interagency aerospace revitalization task force to develop a national strategy for aerospace workforce cultivation, training, and recruitment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 5389. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish requirements for the operation of high occupancy vehicle facilities on highways; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 5390. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to revise the procedures for Presidential succession in the case of the death, resignation, removal from office, inability, or failure to qualify of the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER:

H.R. 5391. A bill to reduce sexual assault and domestic violence involving members of the Armed Forces and their family members and partners through enhanced programs of prevention and deterrence, enhanced programs of victims services, and strengthened provisions for prosecution of assailants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, 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. STUPAK:

H.R. 5392. A bill to authorize the use of a covered grant to provide a reasonable stipend to paid-on-call or volunteer first responders for travel to or participation in training to prevent, prepare for, respond to, or mitigate terrorist attacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and 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 Ms. LOFGREN:

H.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the Electoral College and to provide for the direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the process by which the House of Representatives chooses the President of the United States in the event no candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEFLEY (for himself, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SHERWOOD, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H. Con. Res. 522. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER:

H. Con. Res. 523. Concurrent resolution strongly denouncing the danger of international terrorism inspired by an apostate vision of Islam, one of the historic religions of the world; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H. Res. 862. A resolution urging the European Council to continue to maintain its embargo on the sales of arms to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on International Relations.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

459. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan, relative to Senate Resolution No. 279 memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

460. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 107 memorializing the Congress of the United States to consign the public policy of the Legislature of Puerto Rico in facing and attending to the urgent need to review the political relations between Puerto Rico and the United States through a Constitutional Convention on Status elected by the people in the exercise of the natural rights to self-determination and sovereignty, and to initiate its organizational process; to the Committee on Resources.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 962: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 1205: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 1306: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1316: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DICKS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1431: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1563: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1684: Mr. WATT and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1783: Mr. BURNS.
H.R. 2237: Mr. SWEENEY.
H.R. 2379: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 2414: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 2509: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 2560: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2705: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2735: Mr. GIBBONS.
H.R. 2823: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 2824: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3388: Mr. ENGLISH.
H.R. 3476: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 3484: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3602: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 3634: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3859: Mr. CLYBURN and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 3880: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 4002: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 4116: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4343: Mr. FLAKE.
H.R. 4391: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4491: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 4732: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 4888: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4900: Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 4940: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4957: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 5063: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5206: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 5236: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 5244: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 5252: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5261: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5292: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. SABO.
H.R. 5335: Mr. STARK and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 5274: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. WATSON, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
H. Con. Res. 521: Mr. HERGER.
H. Res. 853: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

120. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Legislature of Orange County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 245 of 2004 petitioning the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the New York State Office of Homeland Security to investigate and address safety issues at the Indian Point Power Plant; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

121. Also, a petition of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, relative to APIL Resolution No. 23-GA-18, CD1, supporting the cause of securing just compensation for victims of radiation exposure as a consequence of activities related to the U.S. Government's nuclear tests in Micronesia; to the Committee on International Relations.

122. Also, a petition of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, relative to APIL Resolution No. 23-GA-09, supporting the Government and the people of the Republic of Kiribati for their efforts to address war reparations; to the Committee on International Relations.

123. Also, a petition of the Enough is Enough Campaign, Chicago, IL, relative to a petition for investigation, indictment, and prosecution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

124. Also, a petition of Mr. James N. Thivierge, a Citizen of Amesbury, MA, relative to a petition to amend the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 150 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004 No. 133

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, You are our God and strong deliverer, a refuge for all who call on Your name. Send to us the power and grace we need today to glorify Your name. Give us the purity of heart that will shut the door to all evil.

Today, bless the Members of this body. Keep their feet in the path of integrity that they may walk securely. Develop in them a perseverance which refuses to leave any task half done. Empower them with a diligence that will never offer You less than their best.

Lord, strengthen our military for the battles of today and tomorrow. Stand at the right hand of freedom's warriors and lift up their heads. We pray this in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI 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. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2004

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

NOTICE

If the 108th Congress, 2d Session, adjourns sine die on or before November 20, 2004, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 108th Congress, 2d Session, will be published on Monday, December 13, 2004, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT–60 or S–123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Friday, December 10. The final issue will be dated Monday, December 13, 2004, and will be delivered on Tuesday, December 14, 2004.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the Congressional Record may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at http://clerk.house.gov/forms. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT–60.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the Congressional Record may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512–0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

ROBERT W. NEY, *Chairman.*

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today we will begin a period of morning business which will extend well into the afternoon. A number of Senators have indicated they will come to the floor and pay tribute to our colleagues who will not be running for the 109th Congress. We certainly want to accommodate those requests and have set aside time accordingly.

At the close of our business this week, we will print those tributes to honor our departed colleagues. If Senators are not available to come to the floor to deliver their remarks, they are invited to submit those statements for the RECORD. Again, they will be printed as part of this larger document to which I just referred.

As a reminder, the majority leader has filed a cloture motion on the miscellaneous tariffs bill. That cloture vote will occur tomorrow morning. We expect cloture to be invoked; therefore, we hope to finish that conference report at an early time on Friday.

In addition, as everyone is aware, we continue to await completion of the Omnibus appropriations bill. It is still our hope and desire to finish our work on Friday, if at all possible.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, after this month's historic election, a lot of political pundits are ardently trying to figure out what the results may have meant. I have been in politics for a period of time, so I would like to share my point of view on the matter.

Obviously, people on our side of the aisle are pleased that the electorate has returned President Bush for a second term, and obviously we are equally pleased that the larger Republican majority in both Houses of Congress will be available to work with the President next year. The last time a reelected President returned to office with larger majorities of his party in both the House and the Senate was back in 1936 when President Roosevelt was running for reelection the first time. If the American people suddenly speak louder than they have in 70 years, I think it is clear that they would like to see some action.

The voters didn't send any of us Republicans or Democrats up here just to sit in these chairs. They sent us here to get things accomplished. Republicans can't and shouldn't do that alone. We will need to cooperate with our colleagues across the aisle to produce results, which is what we were sent here, of course, to do.

Soon Republicans will fill 55 seats in this Chamber. That is a nice number but it is not 60. And it often takes 60, as we all know. Frequently—actually most of the time—it takes 60 to get results in the Senate.

So to our Democratic friends on the other side, let me say we want to work with you. The voters expect us to work in a bipartisan manner to make our country more secure, our economic opportunities more plentiful, and our common values more respected. To do that, we need your support, and we will work to earn it.

Last week, Senator LIEBERMAN, a good friend of mine and a good friend of many of us in the Senate, came to my hometown of Louisville, KY, where he spoke at the University of Louisville, my alma mater, where he gave an outstanding speech. In it he said:

> It is critically important that we put first things first, and national interests ahead of our party interests.

I commend the Senator from Connecticut for his exemplary spirit of goodwill. I think that is a good guidepost for all of us as we begin the 109th Congress in January.

I say to my Democratic friends that we are all willing to work with them in that same spirit which JOE LIEBERMAN outlined. Together, we are going to accomplish great things of which this body can truly be proud.

We will have hard tasks ahead of us. The Social Security system is a speeding train heading for a brick wall and really must be set right for future generations. The tax system is burdensome and unfair and must be reinvented to fit our 21st century economy. We have to finish the job in Iraq so we can bring our troops home safely and with honor.

We have tackled tough challenges before. Working together—Republicans and Democrats—successfully reformed the welfare system and put millions of Americans on the path to self-reliance and financial stability. Working together—Republicans and Democrats—projected American power into the former Yugoslavia to halt the killing of innocents and provide humanitarian aid. Working together—Republicans and Democrats—we moved the brutal Taliban regime from Afghanistan and struck a fatal blow against al-Qaida.

Now we have a chance to make history again. Republicans are not likely to accomplish much alone. The same is true for our Democrat colleagues. This Senate should heed America's call for action. The voters of our States didn't send us here to simply mark time. They sent us here to build a better America for our sons and daughters, and future generations yet to come.

As we move forward, this new Congress must be prepared to get to work, and to get to work on a bipartisan basis.

I yield the floor. what

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from New Jersey.

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. CORZINE. Madam President, first, let me say that it is this Senator's personal desire, following the comments the Senator from Kentucky has so ably given, that we came here to try to make things better for the world in the years beyond and for our children. So much of what he talk about—whether it is Social Security or the Tax Code or our needs and in foreign policy—does require that we work together.

I commend the Senator for his comments. We do have to work together as we go forward.

In fact, one of the things I want to talk about, and why I came to the Senate, one of the areas is where bipartisanship and joint effort has been fundamental to raising an issue, framing it, and getting it in front of the American people. I come to the Senate today to talk about the genocide in Darfur, Sudan, and what we, the United States of America, are going to be doing about it.

Today, the U.N. Security Council is meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss Sudan and to seek the end of the civil war between the north and the south. This is a good thing and I congratulate Ambassador Danforth, in particular, for his personal efforts in making this possibility real and tangible.

Multilateral diplomacy is critical. Peace between north and south is an important component of an overall political solution for the Sudan. At the end of the day, if we do not stop the killing in Darfur—which is independent in many ways from the north-south issue—if we do not stop the genocide, then we fail.

Members will hear me say repeatedly words are important; deeds are a reality. Lives are at stake. What greater moral imperative can we have than to stop genocide? What greater moral failure can there be than allowing genocide to occur? The death toll is mounting in Darfur with all kinds of estimates—70,000, over 100,000, 125,000.

The issue is stark: life or death. Deeds, not words, are what matters. History will judge us based on whether we actually stop this genocide—not whether we gave great speeches or

passed great resolutions or made statements, but what have we done to stop it.

The words have all been said. In July, this body unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution introduced by Senator BROWNBACK and myself, declaring that the atrocities in Darfur were genocide. On the same day, the House passed a similar resolution. In September, Secretary Powell made the same declaration for the administration. We all welcomed the announcement.

Since then, the situation has only deteriorated. The death toll may have already gone over, as I suggested, 100,000 human beings. Armed militias continue to rape women and girls with impunity. Civilians are being driven from their homes by the hundreds of thousands. Now the refugees are being driven from one camp to another camp, or even out of the camps altogether. The displaced population in Darfur is over 1.5 million. That is what is confirmed.

In the last few weeks, Janjaweeds have attacked these IDP camps, the refugee camps, destroying shelters, beating civilians, and forcibly moving people from one location to another.

The escalating violence preventing humanitarian organizations from reaching needy people is also occurring. Already, nearly one-quarter of the children under the age of five in Darfur are certifiably malnourished and close to half of the families do not have enough food.

Recently, food convoys have been attacked and large areas of Darfur are now effectively closed to the humanitarian organizations that are distributing food, medicine, and other elements. Hundreds of thousands of needy refugees cannot be reached.

Before this wave of violence—even before it—World Food Program reported that it served 175,000 fewer people in October than September. Get that: Statistics for our program serving the needy are going down, 175,000 fewer people in October than in September.

When I visited Darfur in August, the conditions were grim. The one ray of hope was the pressure from the international community, including a threat of sanctions that forced the Government in Khartoum to allow access by humanitarian organizations. Humanitarian workers were overwhelmed by the number of refugees, but they were working hard and saving lives. As a result, estimates of the death toll, which could have gone as high as a million, were scaled back after that. With the violence intensifying and humanitarian organizations again restricted in their movements, we sadly revisit our gravest fears.

The other recent development is the disintegration of order in the region. Anger and resentment are on the rise among the displaced, and civil war between Khartoum and the rebels is escalating. All the conditions are in place for a complete collapse, for long-term instability and an indefinite humanitarian crisis.

As Jan Pronk, the U.N. Special Representative for Sudan, warned on November 4:

> Darfur may easily enter a state of anarchy; a total collapse of law and order.

Permitting such a thing to happen is not only immoral, it is antithetical to our national security interests. Remember, Sudan is the country that once harbored Osama bin Laden. The prospects of becoming a terrorist breeding ground are real. This is something that needs to be addressed now.

This has not happened since the administration declared genocide was taking place. Whatever the message that declaration sent, it was clearly not enough and may even have sent the wrong message that the United States may declare that genocide is existing and then not act to stop it.

Words without deeds violates the moral and legal obligation we have under the genocide convention but, more importantly, violates our sense of right and wrong and the standards we have as human beings about looking to care for one another. Words without deeds is an affront to the principle that guides our Nation and makes a mockery of the values we as public servants claim to love. The American people know this, which is why people of faith, of all religions and denominations and civic groups throughout the country, call for concerted, resolute, effective action.

Details matter. What will it actually take to stop this genocide? In September, this body passed by voice vote an amendment offered by myself and Senator DEWINE to provide $75 million for an expanded African Union force in Darfur. The funding is now being negotiated with the House of Representatives in the so-called Omnibus bill but has had little if any support from the administration and some in the Senate.

Senator DEWINE and myself offered the amendment after the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling for assistance to the AU and after Secretary Powell testified the current United States contribution of $20 million would not be enough. Get that, $20 million—not billions, trillions, which we normally are talking about.

An expanded African Union force of 3,000 will cost roughly $220 million. The European Union recently pledged half that amount would be forthcoming. We can afford to pay for the rest. We cannot afford to walk away from our moral obligation. Madam President, $75 million is less than half of what the administration sought for waste disposal in Iraq. It is insignificant compared to the costs of the wars that are waging around the globe. What we cannot afford is to provide anything less. Short-changing AU troops or delivering only incremental assistance may be worse than doing nothing. They do need helicopters, vehicles, communication equipment, and housing to patrol Darfur. We are moving forces into Darfur, but we do not give them the tools they need to be able to do what they are there for and we are setting them up for failure. We risk undermining the very credibility of a burgeoning ability to deal with some of these crises that happen all across Africa, and not just in Darfur. It is precisely now when we need to give them the resources to be able to succeed.

We should not kid ourselves about the effectiveness of the AU force. They are responsible for monitoring the April cease-fire. There was an agreement reached November 9 that includes a no-fly zone that the AU force must enforce. To quote the current AU chair, Nigerian President Obsanjo, these agreements ''won't be worth the paper they're written on if they are not scrupulously implemented on the ground.'' His words are right. Words without deeds, without resources, is meaningless.

The potential for the situation to overwhelm the AU force is real. The region is enormous and every day as the violence gets worse, the challenge grows. The answer is not to dismiss the AU force but to do whatever it takes to make it effective. If 3,000 troops is not enough, we should consider others and more. If $220 million is not enough, we should, along with our allies, push to have additional resources. Hundreds of thousands of lives are at stake. If the AU cannot set up command-and-control communications or intelligence right away, we should help them do it.

In the end, the only test is whether we stop the killing. The same test applies to sanctions. This week's efforts to reach a north-south agreement are important, but we must not weaken in any way the pressure on Khartoum with regard to Darfur. Only consistent, strong, credible international pressure has ever changed Khartoum's behavior. I heard one senior administration official say that when their lips are moving, they are lying. This means we need to apply pressure. This means an embargo, seizing assets, restricting travel of government officials and, yes, going after Sudanese oil and gas companies that deal in the finances that allow this tragedy to continue to unfold. We should be working with our allies to put in place effective sanctions. If members of the U.N. Security Council are not amenable, we should work with the EU. We also have leverage through our own capital markets. The test is whether we are prepared to stop genocide, something we have all declared exists, something the administration has declared.

How can we be discussing these options? We should be acting. There is no more critical moment than now. The pieces are in place.

Today, the U.N. Security Council is meeting in Nairobi preparing to issue another resolution on Sudan, although I hear the discussion is very limited with regard to actions they will take with regard to Khartoum. The United States has rightfully called this genocide. The U.N. Security Council has

agreed on paper that sanctions should be imposed if Sudan does not stop the violence. That violence has not stopped.

The Security Council has called on member states to support an expanded AU force, and the African Union, 2 years old, has stepped up. Its leadership is committed to preventing another genocide if we will help. We are the world's only superpower. Genocide is happening and we must act. President Bush campaigned on a platform of acting wherever necessary to protect our interests overseas regardless of world opinion.

With all that has happened in the last few years, how can we claim to be constrained in this situation with this action taking place against the human race? We are the world's superpower. If we do everything that we should do, history will judge that we acted. But they will judge us harshly if we do not step up to save these lives that will be lost in the years and the months and the days ahead. If we hesitate now, if we make excuses, most of us think we will have a hard time forgiving ourselves for what we did not do. Rwanda is burned in our memory. We should not allow hundreds of thousands of people to die. We will have doomed the AU to ineffectual operations on the ground, and we will have damaged its credibility and its underlying ability to respond to crises in the future.

I hope we will act. I hope we will not turn the pages of this omnibus financing without giving the resources to act. Words are not good enough; deeds are required. I hope we will not have failed our people and our values we hold dear.

I thank you, Madam President. I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REQUESTING RETURN OF PAPERWORK—S. 2283

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate request the House to return the papers with respect to S. 2283.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

ZELL MILLER

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a very special friend of mine and a friend of Georgia's and a friend of the United States of America. We are in what we think are our last couple of days of the 108th session. That being the case, this will be the last few days that Senator ZELL MILLER will be in Washington in his capacity as the senior Senator from our great State of Georgia. I want to take a minute just to talk about this man who has been such an inspiration to any number of politicians and others in my State relative to his public service to our State and to our country.

ZELL MILLER was born in a little town called Young Harris, GA, which is in the mountains of north Georgia, one of the most beautiful parts of our State. His father, unfortunately, died when he was 17 days old, so he was raised by his mother, whom he has repeatedly talked about in the books he has written as well as in his speeches. His mother Birdie was the most influential person in his life. She did a heck of a job with ZELL MILLER as a young man and remained an inspiration to him throughout his adult life, and particularly in his life as a public servant to our State.

ZELL did one of the best things any man can do; and that is, he married way over his head early in his life. He married his sweetheart, Shirley. Before he went into the Marine Corps, he tells the story about leaving for boot camp and he was afraid when he got back she might not marry him, so while they were in the mood they ran over to South Carolina, which is not far away from his hometown of Young Harris, and got married; and they have had decades of glorious years together. They have two wonderful sons and four grandchildren and now four great-grandchildren whom the two of them have enjoyed. Now he will have even more of an opportunity to spend time with them and enjoy them even more.

ZELL entered the Marine Corps at an early age. Again, as he has repeatedly said in his books, as well as in his speeches, it is the best thing he ever did in his life from the standpoint of straightening him out. All of us go through difficult times in our early years, and there are specific instances that make us what we are and sort of chart the course for where we are going to be in future years. ZELL has been very open about the fact that the Marine Corps is the institution that really put his mind in the right frame that it needed to be for his adult years.

ZELL began his educational career at Young Harris College following his tenure in the Marine Corps, and then ultimately graduated from the University of Georgia, which happens to be the same institution of which I graduated. Again, having a colleague such as ZELL to look to as a fellow alumnus is a great privilege.

ZELL then began a teaching career, and also very shortly entered a public service career. He served two terms as a State senator from his home county area of Young Harris. I think that was the foundation for what was going to ultimately become an outstanding career for him in public service. Like all of us, he suffered defeat as well as victory. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives twice. Having run for Congress myself, and lost the first time, I know it is not much fun, but you also find out it is the greatest experience of your life. You meet the nicest people in the world, and you get a real sense of the fact that there are just literally thousands and thousands of people in that congressional district who have the same beliefs and philosophy that you do, so you want to continue to make a difference.

Even though ZELL lost those races when he ran twice, that did not deter him from continuing in public service. He served as our Lieutenant Governor for four terms, 16 years. He just did a masterful job. The Lieutenant Governor in Georgia has a little more power than some of the Lieutenant Governors in other States around the country. He presided over the State senate, and in that capacity had the obligation and the power to appoint committee chairmen and to be involved in legislation from a direct standpoint. He did an outstanding job as Lieutenant Governor.

Following those four terms, he ran for Governor and, in 1990, was elected Governor of our State for the first of his two terms. In 1990, he campaigned on the fact that if we were going to have a State lottery—that was one of the hot issues on the ballot that year—that if we were going to have a State lottery, he wanted to make sure the funds that were generated by that lottery were used for one purpose, and one purpose only, and that was to improve the quality of education in our State.

I have to say if there is any one man who is responsible for the improvement of the quality of education in my State of Georgia, it is ZELL MILLER because he not only campaigned on doing that, he made absolutely certain all the funds generated from that State lottery went to improve the quality of education.

He is the father of the HOPE Scholarship. It is kind of interesting, in every campaign now, every statehouse campaign and gubernatorial and lieutenant gubernatorial race now, those folks who have been involved in State politics for a while who are running for those races all claim responsibility for the HOPE Scholarship. But everybody knows that the father of the HOPE Scholarship, the person who was responsible for its passage and implementation, is ZELL MILLER.

The HOPE Scholarship is a provision in our law which says, if you graduate from a high school in Georgia and you have a B average, you can go to any State institution that you are successful in applying to and getting into, and your tuition will be paid for. As long as you maintain a B average, that tuition will be paid for throughout your college career. It has been one of the best things we have ever had happen in our State.

We have been successful keeping our top students at home and attending our State universities. One of the main reasons is the HOPE Scholarship. We have kids who might otherwise go to a school in the Northeast or the West Coast that has a much greater national reputation, but they do not give the scholarships like the HOPE Scholarship to all their students who maintain those averages.

So ZELL MILLER has been primarily responsible for keeping an awful lot of the top kids graduating from our public institutions as well as our private institutions in Georgia at our State institutions. As a result of that, we have seen the average SAT scores at the University of Georgia, for example, rise every single year since the HOPE Scholarship went into effect. I do not know what the exact number is for the entering class this year, but I have confidence in saying the average SAT score for the entering freshmen class at the University of Georgia this year is well in excess of 1250, probably closer to something in excess of 1300. At Georgia Tech it is higher than that. And in other institutions we have seen the same impact. We are simply getting the brightest and the best because of ZELL MILLER and his commitment to the people of Georgia and his commitment to increasing the quality of education in our State.

As Governor, he put into effect a voluntary pre-K program for 4-year-old kids. All of us know that the earlier we involve our children in the education process, the more likely they are to come out, at the end of the day, with a better education. It is one of the best things we ever did from the standpoint of putting our kids in touch with the school system at an early age. And it has worked.

I could go on and on talking about the things that Senator MILLER did as Governor, but I want to sum it up with two anecdotes.

First, again, education-wise, he was committed to ensuring that the education of the children of our State improved every year he was in public service. I will never forget his last 4 years—and I know this; I remember specifically because my wife was a teacher in the public school system at that point in time. We were ranked 49th out of 50 with respect to the average teacher salaries. ZELL MILLER put into place—and he made a commitment to the teaching community and made a commitment to the legislature that they were going to have to abide by this. He was going to provide a 6-percent increase in teacher salaries every year for his last 4 years, about a 25-percent increase for teacher salaries across the board. He not only made the commitment, but he did it. We went from 49th in average teacher salaries to somewhere in the high twenties over the 4 years of ZELL MILLER's last tenure as Governor of our State.

He also made a commitment to the people of Georgia that if you elect me for 4 more years, then I am not going to be just your average Governor and put it on cruise control and go out as a popular guy—and he had every opportunity to do that.

I will never forget riding back up here on an airplane after one weekend, and I happened to sit beside ZELL. This was several years after he had left the Governor's office, but I was a Member of the House. I said: ZELL, I guess if there is anything about you, and I were to remember one thing over everything else, it is the fact that in your last 4 years you did what you thought was right, irrespective of the fact that you could allow the legislature to pass whatever they wanted to and you could sign it into law. A lot of the legislation were very popular bills with the people back home, but they simply were not the right thing to do. He would veto them. He would veto them, not because he had anything against the issue or the people promoting the bill, but it was the right thing to do. It was not in the best interest of all Georgians.

A lot of people ask me today, Why has ZELL MILLER changed? ZELL MILLER has never changed. In his heart, he believes we live in the greatest country in the world. He believes in his heart that he and I live in the greatest State in this great country. He is totally committed to doing what he thinks is right. He did it then when he vetoed a lot of popular bills, and he didn't have to do that; it would have been easy not to do that. That is why today when he speaks it is from his heart because he is doing what he thinks is right.

As he closes out his career, he and I are both mindful every day of the fact that ZELL MILLER didn't want to be here. It was not his wish that he serve in the Senate when he was asked to serve. He ran for the Senate in 1980 and was not successful. But he had no intention of coming back to the Senate. Unfortunately, Paul Coverdell, who was his very close friend and one of my political mentors, passed away in 2000, and our Democratic Governor, Roy Barnes, went to ZELL MILLER and said: Your State needs you, your country needs you, and I need you to fill the unexpired term of Paul Coverdell. So ZELL, after much thought about it, decided to leave the mountains of north Georgia and his hometown of Young Harris and go back into public service, to come to Washington. He and Shirley have been here since July of 2000, when he was appointed to fill that unexpired term. He ran in 2000 and was elected to the remainder of the unexpired term. So it wasn't his desire to come back, but, as always, when he has been called upon to fill a void and to be a public servant for his State and his country, he has answered that call—not unlike when he joined the Marine Corps.

As he leaves this great institution at the end of this term in another 6 or 8 weeks, this man is going to be missed by those who have looked up to him from a political perspective. He has been a person that all of us in politics admire because he has always operated in a bipartisan way and made sure he reached across the aisle and brought Republicans into his Democratic administration when he served as governor. Probably one of the highlights of that is the man who is replacing him in the Senate, my good friend JOHNNY ISAKSON, who has been a longtime Republican in our State.

In ZELL's second term as governor, he knew that with education being a priority he needed a top-flight person to head up our State board of education. He reached out to JOHNNY ISAKSON, who was then out of politics, and brought him into his administration to chair the State board of education. JOHNNY did a terrific job. As a result of that, he came on to the House to replace Newt Gingrich, and now he will be replacing ZELL MILLER in the Senate. That is simply the kind of guy ZELL MILLER is.

So it wasn't politics; it was what was in the best interest of our State, what could he do to continue to improve the quality of the education of our kids. He just did the right thing. It is the same as he did in supporting our Republican President. He knew it was the right thing to do. That is why he was so vocal about it. Irrespective of the consequences politically, he did what in his heart he thought was the right thing to do.

So now as ZELL goes back to Young Harris, I fully expect him to stay engaged in the process. He is not the kind of guy who is going to wilt away, but he will not be as active as he has been for the last three decades. He will be sitting on his front porch with his two dogs, Gus and Woodrow, playing with his grandchildren, and enjoying his family. I am sure his mind will, at times, wander back to his times in Atlanta at the State capital, and to the days he spent in this institution, and he will have some great memories. But those of us who have had the privilege and the opportunity to serve with him are going to have even better memories.

ZELL MILLER is a great American, a great Georgian, and he is somebody all of us are going to miss in the day-to-day world of politics. But he is somebody who, when we look back and say, you know, if I charted my course the way he did, I can leave this institution with a great feeling knowing that I have done what was in the best interest of my State and in the best interest of my country. So to ZELL MILLER and to Shirley, I say thank you. Julianne and I have a great appreciation for you and a great friendship with you. We look forward to continuing that friendship. We will miss you here in the U.S. Senate. God bless you.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENSIGN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary procedure that we find ourselves in?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I will address the Senate in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

CULTURAL ISSUES IN AMERICA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it seems that several things have happened with regard to questions of matters of faith and what some would call cultural issues that seem to be upside down in America.

Just in the last few days, we have seen several ABC stations across the country that have had a fear of being fined by the Federal Communications Commission for showing the award-winning movie, ''Saving Private Ryan,'' because of some of the language that is used in this extraordinarily heroic film that is one of the most accurate portrayals of the fog and heat of war that has ever been made.

At the same time, we find that ABC, in its leading up to Monday Night Football, has fostered an advertisement to promote one of its nightly network prime time shows in which a risque kind of setting is displayed for an audience that would inappropriately include children, particularly, who are watching at around 6 o'clock in the Pacific time zone of this country. On the one hand, ABC stations are taking off the air a movie that really has a great deal of portrayal of the strength of this country and all of its patriotic values and, at the same time, the network, ABC, is then promoting what some would find questionable.

It seems to me we have lost our sense of balance, our sense of direction, that it is entirely upside down as to what we should be doing.

So, too, I have noted in a Washington newspaper today the fact that Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld is urged to defend the Boy Scout movement, the title of the headline, and of which critics are pointing out that a settlement by the Department of Defense of an ACLU suit back a few years ago is going to continue to drive, to force the military to cut off all taxpayer support to the Boy Scouts of America which, in this case, uses military bases for meetings and events, such as their annual Boy Scout jamboree that is held on a Virginia military base.

It seems that we have it, again, upside down, for if the objection is that the Boy Scouts of America have, as part of their oath, an allegiance to God, and if that is the reason for the suit, might I remind the Members of the Senate that when we took the oath of office, it said at the end of the oath, ''so help me God.''

But isn't it interesting that the U.S. military has taken a position in a settlement which, if taken to its logical conclusion, would keep the Boy Scouts of America off a military facility when, in fact, every military officer in the U.S. military, including this former officer of the U.S. Army, took an oath that said the following:

> That I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of this office upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

That is the part of the oath every U.S. military officer takes, and it is the one I took decades ago when I entered as an officer of the U.S. Army.

It seems to me there is a great deal of inconsistency then that the U.S. Department of Defense would take a position where every one of its officers has sworn to uphold their oath, and at the end of that oath state, ''so help me God,'' and yet they are moving to a position to knock the Boy Scouts out of being able to use public facilities—in this case, military facilities—because they have a similar oath.

I come back to my opening comments. We have something that is upside down. There is not a Senator here who does not passionately believe in freedom of expression, freedom of speech, and freedom of belief in what any person chooses to believe, but are we getting so mixed up that we lose sight of what are the accepted ways in which we conduct ourselves and the respect we have for one another in our respective beliefs?

Really, is there anyone who wants to kick the Boy Scouts out of their annual jamboree on a Virginia military facility? Of course there isn't.

In this week that has just passed where we see the ABC network saying to some of these stations that we are not going to allow ''Private Ryan'' because it has bad words in it, and at the same time promoting a commercial that certainly has questionable viewing characteristics for young children at the 6 o'clock timeframe on the west coast of this country, and where today's news is bringing us to the point at which our own Department of Defense is taking a position that ultimately would lead to kicking off the Boy Scouts because the Boy Scouts believe in God, then I think this country has gone too far. It is time to stand up and speak out about common sense and principles that were set in place for this country by its Founding Fathers of a belief in Divine Providence and a respect for that belief.

So what I will be doing is offering a resolution to the Senate today, and that resolution will conclude that:

> It is the sense of the United States Senate that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its longstanding statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout jamboree.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from Kentucky.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

ZELL MILLER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the late Senator Paul Coverdell was a great Senator and dear friend of many of us in this body. His untimely passing left a great hole in our hearts. But it also took from Georgia and from America a great leader.

At the time, none of us had any idea how we would ever manage without him. I remember when we were doing tributes to him after his death. There was great emotion on the floor of the Senate. I remember Senator Phil Gramm tearfully giving Senator Coverdell a farewell. We all felt great affection for him.

So when the Governor of Georgia, Governor Barnes, needed someone to step into Paul Coverdell's place to be the voice for Georgia, he called upon a fellow whom I had not previously met but had heard of for some time, former Gov. ZELL MILLER.

Happily retired and without personal ambition for further public office, ZELL MILLER responded to the call of duty. And what a difference he has made in this body. In a time of turmoil, a time of terrorist attacks, of economic challenge, of foreign war, when America needed somebody to lead, Providence blessed America with a great Senator, ZELL MILLER.

During his short tenure here, this old marine has been critical to our efforts to obtain economic opportunity, homeland security, and national security for this Nation. I can say with total certainty that Paul Coverdell would be proud—proud—of the accomplishments of ZELL MILLER. They have been good for Georgia, and they have been good for America.

A review of every major battle this administration had in the last 4 years shows that ZELL MILLER was in the middle of each one and the linchpin to each success. ZELL MILLER was instrumental to the economic recovery our Nation now enjoys. ZELL MILLER was the key to the homeland security our Nation has attained. ZELL MILLER was one of the strongest voices to harden our Nation's resolve to fully wage the war against terrorism. On these, the most critical issues upon which history will judge this Nation, this President, and this Congress, it was ZELL MILLER whose vote and voice made the difference.

ZELL made the difference when the numbers didn't add up to victory. Like our mutual friend, Phil Gramm, apparently being outnumbered was never a cause for concern to ZELL. ZELL served in the proud line of Truman Democrats. Like Harry Truman, he called for unity during a time of war and, like

Harry Truman, gave hell to anybody who played games with our national security.

Like John Kennedy, he knew that tax cuts were not just good for the economy but they were good for the take-home-pay of workers and their families. But from ZELL we didn't just hear the thoughts of old-school Democrats, we also rediscovered the truths of our Nation. He showed us that integrity still matters, that nation comes before party, and that thinking first of our children and grandchildren is the right and proper way to judge national policy. Any time ZELL looked for his bearings, he gazed to those fixed stars of his favorite constellation: His wife Shirley, his children, his seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. This internal compass served him well because no one could ever accuse ZELL of being confused about what he believed in and why.

So ZELL MILLER heads back to the Appalachian Mountains of north Georgia, whence he came. He returns with his wife Shirley back to the base of Double Knob Mountains, where the ravines flow to the Brasstown Creek and then the Hiawassee River and on to the Gulf of Mexico. He returns to the dirt roads he walked as a lad, where he worked with his mother, to haul stones from a nearby field to build a rock-walled house with no rafter, no subfloor, and a ladder for a staircase in which he was raised.

From such modest beginnings, and such a modest man, the world is better because of his leadership. He stands as a lesson for all and for all time. Because of ZELL MILLER, I can say, be you a Senator, a college graduate, a single mother, or an elementary school student, never, never, never doubt the impact a single person with clear vision and a strong heart can make for your family, your community, your nation, and, yes, your world—not just for now but for generations to come.

So, Senator MILLER, we will miss you around here.

Mr. President, we have had the privilege over the last 4 years to serve with a truly great American who has made a difference in a body in which it is very difficult for an individual Senator to frequently make a difference. Farewell, Senator MILLER. We look forward to seeing you in the coming years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina). The Senator from Alabama.

ZELL MILLER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the assistant majority leader for his fine words. I certainly agree with those about ZELL MILLER. Democracies in general, America in particular, seem blessed that in times of turmoil, leaders do step forward and give us the guidance we need. During a time of war and economic challenge, America got such a leader in ZELL MILLER. It is not too much to say that he was the key, the very hinge upon which much of the fate of the agenda of the last several years swung. For the goals of President Bush, from homeland security to economic growth to the war on terrorism, ZELL MILLER has been the difference between victory and defeat, the gap between almost and barely.

I think part of the willingness of Senator MILLER to step forward, break ranks, and support President Bush came because he is a man of experience and judgment and integrity. He got to know President Bush. He looked into his heart, he examined his policies, and he believed him. He had a particular belief in this man at this point in history, based on his study of history, his writing, and his experience, and he was willing to step forward in an unusual degree and take a lot of grief for it, to stand up for what he believed was right.

When President Bush proposed a tax cut to get the economy moving in 2001, and things were not going well, ZELL MILLER was the first Democrat to support that plan. He cosponsored the bill with Phil Gramm of Texas, a great Senator. When they teamed up I thought of that slogan in the Alabama football network. Bear Bryant would have a TV show every week to talk about the game. He promoted Coca-Cola from Georgia, I guess, and Golden Flake potato chips, and the slogan was: ''Great Pair Says the Bear.'' So when ZELL MILLER and Phil Gramm joined forces, it was indeed a great pair. When it came time to protect the homeland against terrorist attacks, it was ZELL MILLER who stood with the President in 2002 to make sure we had a Department that functioned more like the Pentagon than the post office in protecting the lives of American citizens. After 4 months and 11 votes and a national election, finally it took. We passed the Homeland Security bill that has succeeded in keeping us safe, since 9/11, at least—a feat not many would have predicted possible at the time.

I would just say this: Senator MILLER understood the importance of that issue. I believe he called three press conferences. He urged those who were blocking the Homeland Security bill for some sort of internal governmental union-type politics, not on the real merits—he warned them that this was bad. It was bad for America, and it was bad politically for those who blocked it.

They didn't listen. I think they wished they had. Certainly, after the election they were quite willing to pass the bill they had been blocking before the election.

When the economy slowed down due to the attacks and the corporate scandal, and it came time to accelerate the tax cuts in 2003, once again it was ZELL MILLER who made the economic incentive plan the law of the land.

On the question of judges for America, ZELL MILLER had the classical view of the role of a judge consistent with his good friend, the wonderful Judge Griffin Bell, who was a court of appeals judge and also Attorney General of the United States under President Jimmy Carter. He follows that philosophy. As a matter of fact, he analyzed each nominee who came forward and I believe saw fit to support the nominees, consistently, that President Bush sent forward—not because of politics but because he believed those judges would follow the law, not make law. They would be constructionists, not activists.

Oftentimes, on each one of these issues it came down to this one man making the difference, either taking the lead or casting the key vote on those issues. He taught us once again that nation, family, faith, heritage, and principle are more important than politics and party. In this he reaffirmed the belief that government for, of, and by the people can work.

When he spoke, people listened. I will tell you why people listened. I asked him how he found time, how he did his speeches. He personally writes his speeches. It is not written by staff. It is not generated by some computer. It is not regurgitated from some document or some memorandum or some summary somewhere. It comes from his heart, his experience, his head, and his understanding of this great Republic of which we are blessed to be a part. That is why people listen to his speeches.

Most of us recall his speech in New York at the convention, where he, in Trumanesque fashion, blasted those who play games with our national defense. They squalled and thought it was hell. He was just telling the truth, I suggest.

It was clear, passionate, and powerful and helped change the course of the national debate. It changed the course of the national debate because it was true. What he said was important. It had to do with whether this Nation would have leadership committed to a strong America. He also had some very fine words right here on the floor of the Senate.

On the Energy bill, he rose in ''defense of that great American workhorse,'' in his words, the pickup truck. He told a story of meeting a guy who was a PHD—that is a post hole digger—who said:

> If you really want to know when times are bad, take notice of the number of people having to sell their pickups. Look at the ads in the paper and the ''for sale'' signs in the yards. The more you see, the worse it is because pickups are the very symbol of the working man. As the pickup goes, so does the working man and the very heart of this country.

He added:

> Pickups are as essential to the carpenter as his hammer; as essential to the painter as his paintbrush. So we must leave this American workhorse, the pickup truck, alone. Don't pick on the pickup.

Then he shared with us a tune called ''Talking Pickup Truck Blues.'' He spared us the agony of singing it, but he did share one verse.

Sure, an SUV is classy travel, but it ain't much good for hauling gravel, or hay or bovine feces. So please do not make my pickup truck an endangered species.

That is not often heard on the floor of this Senate—words of eloquence that bring a smile to us all but more than that drives home a truth about real people who serve America day after day in pickup trucks.

So this man knows America. Given all the good he has done in so little time—he has given so much to it—he leaves much too soon. He has done a great job for this Nation and for Georgia in replacing the departed Paul Coverdell who we all loved and admired. He has been a great leader and a great Senator, and the Senate will miss the presence of this old Marine sergeant.

I can say without contradiction I believe that few Senators in the history of this Republic have in one short term contributed so much to the health and welfare of our Nation and made such a tremendous impact on it.

It is because he put his Nation first; he stood for what we believe in. He was true to his raising.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I have listened with a grateful heart to the generous words of my colleagues, the Senator from Kentucky and earlier this morning the Senator from Alabama. I will remember and cherish those words as long as I am on this Earth. I thank each of them for their friendship.

I see my good friend from Montana on the floor. I thank him, a fellow marine, for his friendship.

This means more to me than I have words to express. I did not come to this Senate expecting events to unfold as they have. I guess I am living proof that politics is not an exact science.

In Shakespeare's ''Hamlet,'' his friend Laertes is going off to college and his father Polonius is giving him the usual advise that you give when your sons go off to college. After all the words of caution that I hope fathers still give their sons, Polonius ended with these words:

This above all: to thine ownself be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

I have always believed that and I have tried to live that.

I have had a most blessed personal life—personal and political. Since 1959, voters in Georgia have been putting me in one office or another, and I am deeply grateful to them.

God has richly blessed my personal life. My wife Shirley has been the perfect partner for over 50 years. She has been my companion, my critic, my crutch. We have two wonderful sons, Murphy and Matthew, and our daughters-in-law and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. We are very blessed.

If he had lived, Paul Coverdell would be ending his second 6-year term. As I told some of my colleagues last night, not a day has gone by since I have been here that I have not thought of this good man who left us so suddenly and so tragically.

My most fervent hope during these 4½ years has been that Paul would be pleased with the way I have served and finished out his term. I know Paul is pleased, as I am, that our mutual friend JOHNNY ISAKSON, one of the finest public servants I have ever known, will soon be our successor in this great body.

I also wish to say what an honor it has been to serve the last 2 years with my colleague from Georgia, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

Now as this page turns on the final chapter of my career as a public servant, I cannot help but remember how it was in that first chapter of my life. Growing up in a remote Appalachian valley, we lived in a house made of rocks my mother gathered from a nearby creek with only an open fireplace for heat, no indoor plumbing, no car, no phone, and no father.

On summer nights before the TVA dammed up the Hiawassee River and brought electricity to that Appalachian valley, after the Moon had come up over the mountain, the lightning bugs were blinking, while the frogs croaked down at the creek and the katydids sang, every once in a while a whippoorwill's lonesome cry could be heard.

I remember after my mother had finally quit working and was getting us quiet and ready to go to bed, we would play a game. The game would start when the headlights of that rare car would penetrate the darkness, maybe once every half hour or so on that narrow strip of asphalt across a big ditch in front of our house. We would stare at the headlights of the car as it made its way around the steep curves and finally over Brasstown Mountain. We would count and see how long it took from the time it went by our house until its taillights would disappear through that distant gap and was no longer a part of that one and only world I knew.

It was often at this time my mother would laugh and say, ''You know what's so great about this place? You can get anywhere in the world from here.''

That world has turned many times since I first traveled that narrow road through that gap and out of that valley. It has been a long road with many twists and turns, ups and downs, bumps, and, yes, a few wrecks, a road that twice carried me to the highest office of the ninth largest State in this Nation, to all the continents and famous cities of the world and, finally, to the Senate.

So I leave this Senate, knowing that once again my mother has been proved right. One could get anywhere in the world from that little mountain valley and back again. Everywhere I have ever been really was on my way back home.

I thank all of you. I thank my family. I thank my very special staff who has stayed with me through thick and thin. I thank my friends and especially my God. It has been one heck of a ride.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about my friend from Georgia, Senator MILLER, who preceded my remarks.

I was raised in the Midwest. We both come out of an era of rural America. It was a different life. I remember when we did not have electricity. We did not live on a gravel road. We did not have running water in the house. In fact, the water bucket froze on cold winter nights. We didn't have the best clothes in the world. But they were clean. And I have never gone to bed hungry.

I have an idea my mother was kind of like Mrs. Miller. A home full of love on a badlands farm made up of two rocks and one dirt, trying to hang on to it, coming out of tough times called the Depression of the dirty 1930s. It shaped a lot of character. It put a lot of fiber in a lot of people who went on to love this country and would serve her and our States at any cost.

The highest compliment one could pay to any person we meet in this body, comes from the West in an expression that says: We'll not say goodbye; we'll just say so long because you are welcome to sit at my fire anytime.

That is my feeling toward this old marine. I only have one disappointment, that we never did get a trip to the Pacific to visit Iwo Jima. I have been there but he never got to go. We tried every way in the world. We had a couple trips scrubbed because of business in the Senate. We never did make it, but we are not going to give up.

So we say so long to ZELL MILLER, a good friend, a good Senator, a great representative of Georgia, and a great representative of this country.

I came down here today to talk about other men who will be leaving this Senate, including Senator HOLLINGS from South Carolina. He was chairman of the Commerce Committee when I first came here in 1988 and 1989. I was up to my eyes in confusion, trying to drink out of a fire hydrant to take it all in. My former chairman of the Commerce Committee was part of my education, a very important part of it, in understanding the work done in the committees and this business of setting policy that conforms to the wants and desires of our States and what is good for the country.

One time I offered a little amendment that had a far-reaching effect in the debate of regulating the cable industry. I didn't want to do that but I wanted to give him a little competition to make them better. I offered an amendment without telling anybody on the committee, without telling a soul.

I will tell the Presiding Officer I know what it is like to sit way down at the end of the committee because when I came here my seniority was S100.

I remember the chairman, Mr. HOLLINGS, saying, I've never heard of anything like that. It was pretty obvious we were going to have to go to a vote. He didn't know if he had enough votes to defeat it and I didn't know if I had enough votes to pass it. An instance such as that calls for a little backroom sit-down, talk about this, and see what it does to the issue.

I was right there with him. Senator INOUYE from Hawaii was also in the meeting. One can start to learn the ways of the Senate especially in the areas of committee work.

I will miss ERNEST HOLLINGS because he has been an institution here serving from the 89th through the 108th Congress. That is a great tradition.

The Presiding Officer knows and understands ERNEST HOLLINGS. We may disagree on philosophy but we did not disagree on America.

DON NICKLES will leave this Senate in this year, having arrived in 1980 with President Ronald Reagan. The real voice of conservatism, a fiscal conservative, who stood in this Senate and fought wasteful spending and did it with grace, did it with knowledge, a leader among all.

There again, he being 8 years ahead of me, he was a mentor and someone I could look to, study and learn from.

In 1987 or 1986, TOM DASCHLE came to the Senate. A neighbor from South Dakota from Aberdeen, SD, we both learned a little bit here. He was much more successful than I, reaching into leadership of his party. We had a lot of common friends in South Dakota. I will be sorry to see TOM DASCHLE leave the Senate. But he has left big tracks here. There are fond memories on issues that we agreed on and issues that we did not agree, but we did not do it being disagreeable.

BOB GRAHAM from Florida I learned was in the Angus business and he leaves this year.

JOHN BREAUX from Louisiana. I worked with him on the Commerce Committee regarding energy issues. His wisdom will be missed.

I am afraid I took much more from these men than I could ever return to them.

I served only one term with JOHN EDWARDS and PETER FITZGERALD. They, too, will be missed in the Senate. Their contribution was huge.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL served from the 103rd to the 108th Congress. But my, the knowledge he has had and the experiences he has had.

It seems as if he has always ridden dangerous things, including old broncs and horses, which are unpredictable, and, you might say, not the safest things. What a great thrill being the cover Senator for Harley Davidson. He, too, has lived a great life. He, too, understands the West. He is also a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. The reservation is in my State of Montana.

We campaigned together, learned from each other. Now he will be returning back to his Colorado, back to the High Country. He is looking forward to that.

PETER FITZGERALD comes from Illinois. As to all of these men, I want to say you do form relationships here, and there is a certain bond that attracts us all, as we learn that even though you may be on the same side of the aisle or the opposite side of the aisle, one could always agree or disagree without being disagreeable. That is what makes the Senate a special place.

We will miss all of these men, but I am looking forward to those who take their place as, there again, new relationships will be developed, a new bond dealing with the old challenges of a free society, with those who love the Constitution and love this country who were prepared to die for it and would if asked to do so today. No one doubts the depth of their patriotism nor their service to their country. We welcome them as we say goodbye to old friends, old relationships that will never be forgotten.

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. ALEXANDER. 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. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to ten minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

1989 EDUCATION SUMMIT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, right after the election, on November 3, 2004, I went to the Miller Center at the University of Virginia. The purpose of the occasion was a discussion of the 1989 Education Summit. It had been 15 years since the President of the United States and the Nation's Governors—all of our chief executives—gathered in Charlottesville, VA, to establish the first ever national education goals for our country.

It is astonishing to me that 15 years have gone by since then, and it was to most other governors who were there. It was important to look back on what had happened in 1989, to see how it happened, and to think about what happened since then.

The summit at the University of Virginia had gone remarkably well. President George H.W. Bush had convened it. Terry Bransted, the Governor of Iowa, was chairman of the National Governors Association that year. He had appointed the Governor from Arkansas, Bill Clinton, whose library is opening today, and Carroll Campbell of South Carolina as the lead Governors. Working with the President's representatives, they came up with those first national education goals. There had been a long prelude to all of this activity in 1989. I was a part of that prelude, and I saw a lot of it happen.

In 1978, when I was elected Governor and Bill Clinton was elected Governor of Arkansas, and Dick Riley of South Carolina, and our colleague, BOB GRAHAM, who was Governor of Florida, we were all faced with the same issues. Our States were behind; the world was changing, and we needed a better education system, particularly at the elementary and secondary level. So that by 1983, when the report of the U.S. Department of Education, called ''A Nation at Risk,'' came out saying we were greatly at risk because of the mediocrity of the education system, it was into that environment that it came.

The Governors in 1985 and 1986 all worked for a year on education. I was chairman of the NGA that year, and Bill Clinton was the vice chairman. It was the first time in the history of the governors organization that we all focused for a year on one subject. Then, by 1989, we had a President of the United States, George H.W. Bush, who became the first of three consecutive Presidents to say he wanted to be an education President. The goals that the governors adopted with the President in 1989 were very straightforward.

No. 1, all children in America will start school ready to learn.

No. 2, high school graduates will increase to 90 percent.

No. 3, American students will leave the fourth, eighth, and twelfth grades having demonstrated competency in math, science, English, history, and geography.

No. 4, America would be first in the world in math and science.

No. 5, adult Americans would be literate.

No. 6, every school would be free of drugs and violence.

Those were the goals. You might say after a decade of unprecedented school reform and concern, America backed into its goals for reform. That was 15 years ago. A lot has happened since then.

When I became Education Secretary in 1991, we created something called America 2000, which was to try to move America community by community toward those national education goals. Governor Clinton became President Clinton, and he changed the name to Goals 2000 and tried his brand of moving us in that direction.

Now we have another President, the son of the man for whom I worked, who has, through No Child Left Behind, working in a bipartisan way, tried to set from Washington accountability standards that will help make sure that all children are learning. I rise to talk about this today only for this reason: That the national summit of governors and the President, on its 15th anniversary, should not go by without mentioning it on this floor.

There has never been anything like it before. One of the most important

parts of it was that members of Congress were not involved. A lot of members of Congress—it was a Democratic legislature at that time—were not very happy about that. But I think that was the correct decision because, in my view, elementary and secondary education is a national concern, central to almost everything important that we do, but it is not necessarily a Federal Government concern.

The fact that the governors and the President, the chief executives of our country, met together to establish these goals and begin to move us toward those goals was, I think, the correct way to do that.

I would like to salute the University of Virginia's Miller Center for holding this celebration. It included former Education Secretary Dick Riley, Rod Paige, the current Education Secretary, and I was there as well. It also included JOHN SUNUNU, a former Governor of New Hampshire, who was at the education summit and who was Chief of Staff at the White House at the time it was organized, and Jerry Baliles, the former Governor of Virginia, who was Governor of Virginia at the time the education summit was held.

I thought Governor Baliles' remarks were especially interesting and useful. He talked about the political context of the times and how the governors were able to do this without interference from Congressmen and Senators in Washington, DC. He talked about the competitiveness of our country and the world, and how we are driven to realize that better schools meant better jobs and that most of our standard of living depends upon the research, the inventions, and technology that we have at our great system of colleges and universities in the world. And, he talked about where we had come in the last 15 years.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD, following my remarks, the full remarks of the Honorable Gerald L. Baliles, the former Governor of Virginia, which he made at the Miller Center of Public Affairs and the Curry School of Education in Charlottesville on November 4, 2004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I think it is worthwhile, in addition to this, to give a little credit to former President George H.W. Bush. I still believe that when the dust settles and history books are written, President Bush's leadership in education will be among his most significant and lasting contributions.

His tour of duty was interrupted by the voters in 1992, so he was not able to finish the job. But his America 2000 community effort had a variety of initiatives which set the agenda for American education in the 1990s. They included a new set of national standards in core curriculum subjects, including science, history, English, geography, arts, civics, and foreign languages. It included a national voluntary examination system geared to those new standards. They included new generation, thousands of start-from-scratch, ''break-the-mold schools.'' We call them today charter schools, but then there were only perhaps ten such charter schools. It included giving teachers more autonomy and flexibility in their classrooms by waiving federal rules and regulations, something Congress eventually did more of later. It also included a GI bill for children, to give middle and low-income families $1,000 scholarships to spend at any lawfully operated school of their choice, thereby giving those parents more of the same choices that wealthy parents already had.

That was an excellent agenda in the early 1990s. It is still a good agenda today. The summit on education, the national education goals created in 1989, need to be remembered, and so does the leadership of President George W. Bush on education.

I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

THE REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE GERALD L. BALILES, FORMER GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA AND PARTNER, HUNTON & WILLIAMS, BEFORE THE MILLER CENTER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND THE CURRY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, NOVEMBER 4, 2004

THE 1989 EDUCATION SUMMIT: A REEVALUATION

At the beginning of the 1992 Vice Presidential debate, Ross Perot's running mate, Admiral Stockdale, opened the debate by looking into the camera and saying, ''Who am I and why am I here?''

Today, I am here because 15 years ago I, along with the rest of the nation's governors, met with the first President Bush and his cabinet for an unprecedented Education Summit here at the University of Virginia.

I am a strong believer in the importance of context; in the notion that to truly understand an event or a series of events, one must understand the times in which those events occurred. And that is my role here today.

The agenda is filled with Education Secretaries, educators and others who have played a critical role in how the results of the Summit were implemented. They have been on the front lines of education in the fifteen years since the Summit, while I retired from public office just three and-a-half months after the Summit's conclusion. I look forward to their assessments of the progress made and the challenges that confront us.

1 believe that former New Hampshire Governor and White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and I are the only ones here who actually attended the Summit, and all of its meetings, as principal participants. So it is that the Miller Center has asked me to provide some context, to discuss what was going on at the time, why the meeting was held, what battles were going on behind the scenes, and what our expectations were for the Summit.

I am delighted to be here today to share the program with Governor Warner, Secretary Paige and so many others who have advanced the cause of education in our country.

I just mentioned John Sununu. 1 served as Vice Chair of the National Governors Association under John and then succeeded him as Chairman. Not long after that, John joined President Bush in Washington as his Chief of Staff. One of the best things about that 1989 summit was the opportunity to see and work with John again, and I am delighted he is here today for this retrospective event.

It is also a pleasure to be here with my former colleagues Dick Riley and Lamar Alexander. I remember well my first National Governors' Association Meeting, in August, 1986, hosted by Governor Dick Riley at Hilton Head, South Carolina and chaired by a Tennessee Governor named Lamar Alexander. The major theme of the meeting was education; the NGA had done a great deal of work on education reform during Governor Alexander's chairmanship and the results were being released.

Lamar Alexander and Dick Riley, through their work as Governors and later as U.S. Secretaries of Education, have done more than any two people I can think of to advance the cause of quality education in the United States over the past quarter century. We all owe them a tremendous debt.

Now to the task at hand.

You might recall that the 1989 Summit was greeted with equal measures of anticipation and cynicism, hope and skepticism. Many noted at the time that Americans periodically make brave and impressive noises about education, but that we frequently fail to achieve the necessary breakthroughs to give education the priority it merits.

No question, some expected the Charlottesville Summit to be little more than a variation on disappointing earlier efforts. But others—and I counted myself among them—believed that something different and important could happen here, something which might foretell a favorable turning point in our national commitment to education.

The day before leaving Richmond to come to Charlottesville for the Summit, I made the following observation at a press conference: ''While it seems unlikely to me that fundamental solutions to the problems of education will emerge out of a meeting that will last little more than 24 hours, the Summit could well be the start of a significant national effort.''

Fifteen years later, I believe the Summit was not only the start of a significant national effort, but in many ways was a seminal event; nationalizing the importance of educational policy, sharpening the focus on results, and making executive political leadership more important.

To understand why, and to understand the context in which the Summit was held, I want to focus on three factors in particular:

First, I want to focus on the political context of the time. Much of the media and public reaction to the Summit centered around political questions—especially in the days leading up to the Summit. How much of the Summit was designed to cater to the President's political needs? How did Congress view the Summit? What did the Governors expect? What tensions existed between the different levels of government? Those questions were being posed at the time, and it is important to examine them.

Second, I want to look at the substantive context of the time. There was consensus across the political spectrum in 1989 that the United States faced a challenge, almost a crisis, of international competitiveness. While people of various political stripes disagreed sharply on specific remedies, it had become conventional wisdom that, by a variety of international measures, including educational achievement, the United States was not as competitive as most of its trading partners and competitors in the global economy, and was falling further behind. This may be difficult to comprehend today, but the fact is that the competitiveness issue

permeated most political debates of that time, and much of the educational reform effort in the Nation was fueled by competitiveness concerns.

Finally, I want to look at the debate over the Federal role in education. In 1989, the very idea of a Federal role in education was still an open question. Today, we largely argue over what form the Federal role should take and how much it will cost. Very few will question the Federal role. We do not challenge the need for national standards or a national approach to educational policy. Back then, things were quite different, and the Summit played a major role—perhaps THE major role—in settling the basic question of whether there should be a Federal role in education.

I want to focus on those three factors of politics, competitiveness and the Federal educational role because they really laid the foundation for much of what has followed, both at the State and Federal levels. And, yes, that includes Virginia's ''Standards of Learning'' and the Federal ''No Child Left Behind'' legislation.

POLITICS

Let's begin with the political dimension.

It is well known that during the 1988 campaign, the then-Vice President Bush had proclaimed that he'd like to be known as the ''Education President.'' There was a belief, I think, that this would not only allow him to compete for voters the Democratic nominee was taking for granted, but that it would also allow the Vice President to set himself apart from President Reagan whose rhetoric and budgets, especially in the early years, demonstrated opposition to Federal involvement in education.

If that was President Bush's strategy, it worked. His opponent in 1988, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, took the education issue somewhat for granted and the Vice President was able to use it to his advantage. For those who feared a replay of Reagan-era proposals to eliminate the Department of Education, the new President's words assuaged their worries.

When President Bush talked of a ''kinder, gentler'' administration, many believed that he was talking about education. Yet, when President Bush went on to observe, in his inaugural address, that the U.S. Government had ''more will than wallet'' in the face of mounting needs AND mounting deficits, many worried that he would walk away from his commitment to education.

Indeed, the first several months of the Bush administration saw little or no action in the education area. This was understandable. A new administration was getting organized, momentous things were beginning to happen in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and pro democracy demonstrators spent the spring of that year camped out in Tianamen Square in Beijing.

In addition, hostages were being taken in the Middle East. The budget deficit was increasing rapidly. There were many serious international priorities. That nothing was happening on education should not have been a surprise, though the fact did give rise to some grumbling and increased pressure on the Bush Administration to do something.

When President Bush came to Chicago in August, 1989 to address the annual meeting of the National Governors Association, there was much to talk about—in fact, the major story in the news the day he visited concerned the death of a U.S. hostage taken in the Middle East.

Indeed, the President broke the news of the hostage's death to the public at the beginning of his speech to the Governors. But during the course of his remarks, he announced that he would meet with the Governors in a ''Summit'' sometime that fall to discuss education. It would be only the third time a President would meet in a specially-called, Summit-type, meeting with Governors, and the first time that the subject would be education. The exact time and place had not then been determined, nor had the University of Virginia been selected as the site of the Summit.

Naturally, there were pundits who believed that the meeting would be nothing more than a photo opportunity; a chance for the President to quiet criticism of himself for not spending as much time on education as some people wanted. It was summertime, Congress was out of session, and after the National Governors' Association meeting there was little hard news for the press to focus on, at least in the domestic arena. So, people were free to speculate about the President's motives for holding the Summit, and about the agenda for the meeting.

About two weeks after the President had proposed the meeting, the White House announced that the Summit would be held here at the University of Virginia, and that it would be held at the end of September, about a month later. The fact that we now had a specific set of dates, and a location, only raised the intensity of the debate, as well as the political temperature.

To begin with, Congress was unhappy about being excluded from the discussion. Up until 1989, Federal education policy was primarily a congressional concern. Presidents might express opinions but otherwise were reduced mostly to signing bills passed by Congress. Here was a President who had proposed to alter that balance, who made it clear that the Summit was limited to himself and the 50 State Governors and the Governors of the territories.

Congressional leaders, particularly the chairmen of the education committees, were outraged—and not just at the President. Relations between Congress and the Governors were a little frayed at the time, particularly between Democratic Governors and Democratic members of Congress.

At that Chicago NGA meeting that I chaired, 49 of the 50 Governors signed a letter to congressional leaders asking for a moratorium on new Medicaid mandates. Continued expansion of Medicaid was exacting a major toll on State budgets around the country, and the Governors were asking for a brief moratorium on new mandates in order to find ways to fully fund what was already in the pipeline.

Congressional leaders were incensed. Congressman Henry Waxman, who chaired the subcommittee in charge of Medicaid, wrote to all Democratic Governors accusing them of a variety of sins for their position in support of a moratorium on new Medicaid mandates. Things were especially tense between the gubernatorial wing of the Democratic party and the congressional wing (in those days, Democrats controlled both houses of Congress).

So, there was the fear that congressional prerogatives were being stripped away and anger at Governors, particularly Democratic Governors, for being complicit in upsetting this balance.

Congressional leaders found an ally in the then-Governor of New York, Mario Cuomo. Governor Cuomo, who was also the only Governor not to sign the Medicaid mandate letter, began working with Senator Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Human Resources Committee, and Congressman Hawkins, his House counterpart. They wanted Congressional leaders to participate in the Summit since Congress would have to fund any Federal initiatives, and they were also urging Democratic Governors to go to the Summit with an agenda demanding full Federal funding of a variety of programs, and the creation of several new Federal programs as well.

Many of the Democratic Governors believed this approach to be misguided, that if the Governors' conversation with the President on education simply mirrored Washington's fights over formulas and funding, then the public would view the meeting skeptically, and we would lose an important opportunity to articulate a national commitment to education.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton was the Lead Democratic Governor for Education, and he and I worked together to convince our Democratic gubernatorial colleagues of this point of view. It was a difficult challenge and the outcome was uncertain. Attempts were made by some to convince individual Democratic Governors, and their staffs, that the Summit was a clever trap devised by the administration to ensure that no new resources would go into education.

In the end, we convinced most of the Democratic Governors that the best way forward was an approach that focused on a set of challenging goals and standards; stringent enough that the goals could not be reached without a major financial commitment at all levels of government.

We believed that if we just asked for more money, we would lose the public debate; that people would not support money divorced from results; that both needed to go hand-in-hand.

We believed, in short, that the best way to obtain additional resources for education was to set goals that could not be achieved without those new resources.

So, if one is looking for a reason why the major result of the Summit was a commitment to develop national goals, this is a good place to start.

In the meantime, the Republicans were having their own discussions. Most of them also revolved around funding, with the administration being wary of calls simply to provide more Federal money. Congressional Republicans largely agreed with the new administration in opposing more money, with some even wanting to make cuts in education spending. Republican Governors wanted to be supportive of their President in holding the line against demands for major new cash infusions, but they also realized that more resources were required. Some of the most conservative Republicans were concerned that the Summit would all but enshrine a Federal role in education that they opposed.

In the end, Republican Governors came to a very similar conclusion as their Democratic counterparts—that national goals would be the best way forward. My impression was that they were under much less pressure from their congressional counterparts than the Democratic Governors were from congressional Democrats; the pressure Republican Governors faced came more from an administration not wanting to be pressured into major new infusions of Federal money. But Governors of both parties ultimately came to similar conclusions prior to the Summit.

In today's partisan political climate, this bipartisan consensus seems almost impossible to believe. There were many reasons for this bipartisan convergence in thinking.

Perhaps it is because Governors have always been—or at least were then—better able to work across Party lines than members of Congress.

Perhaps it is because Governor Clinton and South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell, who was the Lead Republican Governor for Education, got along so well or because Iowa Governor Terry Brandstad and Washington Governor Booth Gardner, the new Chairman

and Vice Chairman respectively, of the National Governors Association got along so well, or because we all got along with John Sununu, who as White House Chief of Staff played a major role in Summit preparations. Who knows?

The fact is, however, that the political needs and desires of both Democratic and Republican Governors happened to coincide in an important way at that time, and the Governors went in to the Summit pretty much united over the need for fairly aggressive national goals. It was, to resurrect a phrase, a time of harmonic convergence.

And what about the White House? As I mentioned earlier, the main political worry from the White House was that the Summit would lead to intense pressure for a major infusion of new Federal dollars. I remember, very specifically, that this was the one nonnegotiable demand from the White House—the Summit would not be allowed to focus solely on discussions of new Federal money.

Some on the White House staff wanted little more than a statement saying that the President and Governors shared a common commitment to education. Others believed that such a result would be seen as inadequate and would merely confirm the suspicion many had that the entire Summit was pure politics.

I want to state, by the way, that my belief has always been that President Bush was sincere in his desire to chart a new way forward in education. This view was confirmed by what I observed at the Summit and by conversations I had with the President in the months and years after the Summit—including a visit to Camp David a couple of years later. In this, he had the effective assistance of John Sununu and, later, Lamar Alexander. But there were some in the administration in September, 1989, who advocated a minimalist approach, to say the least.

But others at the White House, echoing the President, believed that we had the opportunity to achieve more than a ''Mom and Apple Pie'' joint statement on the value of education. They were no more interested in committing the administration to major new Federal spending than the minimalists, but they did believe that we had a golden opportunity to focus the country's attention on the need for a shared national goal of education excellence.

Thus was the consensus born that the Summit would attempt to articulate a set of national educational goals, or at least begin a process in which such goals could be developed.

So, yes, politics was critically important to how the Summit unfolded and concluded. But as my UVA friend Larry Sabato likes to say, ''politics is a good thing.'' And in this case, politics led to a shared approach and a constructive outcome for educational reform.

COMPETIVENESS

Let me turn now to my second point, the substantive international policy concerns of late 1989.

It is hard to remember now, with most of Europe and Japan stuck in a decade-long economic funk, but in the late 1980's the major issue hanging over the education debate—permeating debates over everything in fact—was competitiveness. At the time, the best way to get attention for one's issue was to link it to the effort to make the American economy more competitive on a global basis. The book shelves were filled with tomes written by academics, journalists, politicians, sports coaches and others about competitiveness.

Education was a major issue affected by the competitiveness debate. The changes that so challenged the Nation—the changes that inspired the Education Summit—were as much external as they were internal. And they were viewed as quite real, even threatening.

The case for viewing education in this light was first made with the 1983 publication of ''A Nation at Risk.'' That report completely transformed the education reform issue; it began to nationalize the issue, and it placed education firmly in the middle of the competitiveness debate.

Listen to the language in the opening paragraphs of that report: ''[America's] once unchallenged preeminence in commerce, industry, science, and technological innovation is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world. . . . [T]he educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and as a people. . . . We have, in effect, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament.''

Tough stuff. Of course, the intent of the words was to jolt the public, the press and our political institutions out of their complacency and remove the inertia of the status quo. The fact that the report came from a panel created by President Reagan's Secretary of Education, Terrell Bell, made the words all the more powerful.

Well, if the intent was to jolt, it worked. Within just one year of the report's release, 41 States had toughened high school graduation requirements in line with the report's recommendations. Thirty-five States had raised teacher certification standards, twenty States had increased instructional time and nineteen had improved school discipline policies.

In 1986, the National Governors' Association released ''A Time for Results.'' This report proposed a series of actions to be completed by 1991—to strengthen teaching, increase the use of technology and raise the level of local educational standards. This report was to be updated each year in a series called ''Results in Education.''

Also in 1986, the Southern Governors Association Advisory Council on International Education released a report calling for improvements in the teaching of languages, geography and other international subjects. The report stated: ''By every measure, Americans are not prepared to compete and to participate in the international marketplace.'' The report continued: ''We, as a nation, as constantly surprised by world political and economic events. They occur in places we never heard of, for reasons we do not understand.'' The title of the report?

CORNERSTONE OF COMPETITION

In 1987, the National Governors Association launched a year-long initiative called ''Jobs, Growth and Competition'' which focused on a variety of issues, including education, that were deemed important to improving our international competitiveness. In 1989, the National Governors' Association launched an initiative during my chairmanship called ''America in Transition, the International Frontier.'' The final report was entitled ''A Competitive Nation.'' A series of earlier reports had focused on a variety of issues, including education.

But, this competitiveness concern wasn't just for Governors. Congress and the President got in on the act as well.

Congress created the Competitiveness Policy Council and charged it with reporting yearly on a series of actions that the nation could take to enhance its competitiveness in transportation, technology, trade, fiscal policy and education.

The White House created a Competitiveness Council, chaired by the Vice President. So, this topic was a concern at every level of government.

At the 1989 Education Summit's opening press conference, I noted that: ''We increasingly cannot compete with overseas nations. . . . The problem is that successful state and local programs are not enough; we need national educational excellence, and a national commitment to obtain it.''

So, the competitiveness issue permeated the political landscape, it impacted everything else. There was consensus across the land that we had a ''competitiveness problem'' And education was a part of that problem—and solution.

What did this mean?

It meant that education could no longer be strictly a local or state issue. For if we had a national problem of competitiveness, then we needed national solutions. We could not leave it to chance that every State and locality would properly educate their young people; after all, our competitors had not. We needed a national conversation about education, we needed national results. We needed—voila—national goals, just like our competitors had. That's why the Joint Statement issued by the President and Governors at the conclusion of the Summit began with these words: ''The President and the nation's Governors agree that a better educated citizenry is the key to the continued growth and prosperity of the United States. . . . Education has always been important, but never this important because the stakes have changed: Our competitors for opportunity are also working to educate their people. As they continue to improve, they make the future a moving target.''

And in the introduction to the National Education Goals agreed to five months later by the President and the Governors, you will find these words: ''America's educational performance must be second to none in the 21st century. Education is central to our quality of life. It is at the heart of our economic strength and security, our creativity in the arts and letters, our invention in the sciences, and the perpetuation of our cultural values. Education is the key to America's international competitiveness.''

The need to fit education into a national competitiveness strategy, combined with the political conclusions arrived at by Governors of both parties and the White House, forced a focus on national goals as the way forward.

FEDERAL ROLE

Finally, let me focus on my third point: the concern in 1989 over Federal involvement in education.

If the political mood and economic imperative seemed to be converging on the idea of national education goals, there was still an unease many people felt about Federal involvement in education. This had been the subject of considerable debate a decade earlier when the U.S. Department of Education was created during the Carter Administration. It was the topic of campaign rhetoric on the campaign trail in 1980, and it was certainly argued in the halls of Congress on an annual basis in the early to mid–1980's when President Reagan proposed eliminating the department in his proposed budgets.

Among those most uncomfortable with the idea of an Education Summit were those who were ideologically opposed to the very idea of Federal involvement in education. Many writers, including William Safire, warned explicitly that the Bush Administration was setting the stage for a large expansion of the Federal role in education and for nationalizing the issue.

They were right.

In fact, I would argue that the major achievement of the 1989 Education Summit was to settle, once and for all, the argument over a Federal role in education; whether education would be a national issue. The

President and the Governors, by agreeing to the need for national education goals and agreeing on a strategy for developing those goals, had agreed upon a framework. There WOULD be a Federal role; education WOULD be a national issue, addressed with national solutions.

It meant that educational decisions would no longer be settled solely at the local level. It meant that legislative deliberations at the State and Federal levels would become relatively less important, and executive decision and vision relatively more important. That's what happens when results are required; when speeches, money and programs are just not enough.

This all seems like conventional wisdom today, but we can easily forget it was not always so. The 1989 Summit had a real impact, far beyond the imagining of those of us privileged enough to have participated. It fundamentally changed the balance of political power on education issues, and it nationalized education policy in a way few would have conceived just a few years earlier.

CONCLUSION

When the President called for a Summit with the Nation's Governors to discuss education, many observers may not have known what to expect. I don't recall any of the Governors believing beforehand that, while we agreed on the need for national goals, we would settle the argument over Federal involvement in education, or that we would shift the Federal focus on education from one end of Pennsylvania Avenue to the other.

I do recall a great deal of skepticism and criticism from outside observers, especially Congress and the press. But I do not recall anything but the most constructive attitude being expressed by any of the principal participants. And, by the way, this was a meeting of principals, very few staff aides were permitted much of a role at all.

It is worth noting, by the way, that the participants—despite all of the good will and convergence of thinking on the value of setting national goals—did not settle on specific goals at the Summit. We agreed on the need for goals, and, in general, what those goals should address. The actual goals themselves, however, were not developed until several months later.

But, for the first time, the President and Governors were discussing on a national level a series of important questions. Many of these had long been discussed and debated in the States, and particularly in the Southern Regional Education Board states. These questions included, among others:

Intervention: Could we do a better job of preparing children for first grade?

Dropout rates: Could we slow the tide?

Adult literacy: Could we put a dent in it, even eliminate it?

Teacher quality: Could we motivate and inspire it?

Decentralized management: Could it produce better results?

And, parental choice: Could this be a workable technique or just the latest fad?

In the end, it was a focus on such questions that formed the basis of the goals and the national education policy that we know today.

I believe the Education Summit was, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, the ''beginning of a new beginning'' in education policy. I believe the way we think, as a Nation, about the goals and objectives of education began to change in September, 1989. Unsurprisingly, we did not find all the answers at the Summit. But we were asking the right questions—and for the first time, we were asking them as a Nation.

In one sense, this should not have been all that surprising, because throughout our national history, educational reform has been a vital and characteristic part of the American impulse. We have always believed that we can, by the force of our own imagination and determination, improve tomorrow by improving ourselves and our children.

But, never has it been more important that our traditional convictions give rise to deliberate action.

If ignorance is the enemy of democracy, in an international economy, ignorance could well be an invitation to national decline. In 1989, it was clear and apparent that the time had arrived for us to put ourselves on the spot, That was the message I heard in Charlottesville,

Accountability and the measurement of student performance, we declared, must be an integral part of our educational process. Indeed, Charlottesville portended a significant shift in our approach to education: From here on, we said that we are going to be increasingly measured by more than the resources we invest. Instead, we declared that we are going to be questioned and examined on the progress our students achieve—or fail to achieve.

Frankly, I think that is how it should be—for there is too much at stake for it to be otherwise.

In 1989, the President and the governors joined efforts to ensure that America becomes a Nation resolved to using education as the best means for shaping the future. The reason we are here today is to assess our national performance since 1989. Where are the benchmarks of progress? Where are the guideposts for confronting the challenges?

Our speakers and panelists today are here to help us make those assessments. I share your interest in their opinions of how far we have come, and I am confident that they will focus our attention on the significant challenges at hand.

Today, as in 1989, we recognize that we have a lot of work to do, and we should always keep in perspective that all of our educational goals, commitments and resources come down to two fundamental points:

First, education's role as a transmitter of civilization's knowledge and values must not be diminished. It is part of the glue that binds together the fabric of our society.

Second, education is, also, increasingly, the engine that drives the American economy—our economic future depends upon our ability to compete, but our ability to compete depends upon our ability to educate. It is just that simple.

Thank you. I look forward to the rest of the Conference.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded and I be recognized to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to bid official farewell to one of my best friends and to one of the greatest Senators ever to grace this body, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota.

Unsurprisingly, I am sure I have known TOM longer than anyone here. I vividly remember his first campaign for Congress in 1978, the same year I ran for the South Dakota House of Representatives for the first time. We were two young candidates, almost the same age, recent graduates, the same year, of South Dakota colleges. While we were running for very different offices, I felt an immediate bond with him at that time.

TOM's first race for Congress was in many ways predictive of the career that would follow. He was then, and still is, the hardest working, most focused person I have ever met in any sphere of my life. That year he knocked on more than 40,000 doors, personally asking South Dakotans for their vote. I can tell you, knocking on 40,000 doors in the middle of a South Dakota winter is a real challenge.

TOM looked so young he was once mistaken as the paperboy at one of those doors—a woman asked how much money she owed him. I have a photo I cherish to this day of TOM and me together during that first campaign, both of us looking like we were 14 years old. It makes you wonder how anyone voted for either of us at that time.

I remember watching the election returns coming in for TOM's campaign that evening and it didn't look very good, frankly. In fact, when I went to bed that night I was almost certain he had lost. It was only when I woke up that I found TOM was only behind by 50 votes with a recount certain, and as it turned out, he was certified the winner officially by 14 votes out of 130,000 votes cast. Who would have dreamed that such a close victory in South Dakota would have been the beginning of such a distinguished career?

In the intervening years, I watched with admiration while TOM's career advanced in the House of Representatives. He was a natural leader, and I do not believe that many who knew him were surprised, in 1986, when he decided to run for the Senate, taking on the same man who, 6 years previously, defeated Senator George McGovern, an institution in our State.

It was far from an easy race, but TOM prevailed in the end, and his leaving his House seat opened it for my election that year as well. It was the culmination of those two elections which led to an extremely close working relationship but also to a very close friendship.

I have spent the last 18 years working side by side with TOM DASCHLE. I cannot imagine a better partner with whom to work. He is, as I mentioned earlier, the hardest working person I have ever known. He is also the most patient person I have ever known, as well as unfailingly generous—qualities that served him very well as Senate Democratic leader, an extremely demanding job.

There have been fewer than 2,000 Senators who have served our Nation in

this body, but there never has been one who cared as much or worked as hard for his home State as TOM DASCHLE. I can list his many and varied accomplishments but I would be here for hours and that would not serve the purpose of this farewell. It was the Greek philosopher Plato who said, ''The measure of a man is what he does with power.'' And it is that test that so clearly shows the character and the humanity and the values of TOM DASCHLE. TOM never used the power that he had attained for self-aggrandizement. He used it to build a better South Dakota, and a stronger America.

He has always realized that our country works best when people have an opportunity to live up to their own potential, when our children are not shackled by poverty and lack of education, when our people who need a helping hand are given one, and when our older Americans are able to live out the balance of their lives with dignity. The truth is, if it weren't for TOM DASCHLE and his untiring work, there are children who would not be educated and families who would not be housed and vulnerable people who would be uncared for.

TOM DASCHLE's priorities and values have been the priorities and values of his strong family and his devout faith.

It was Jesus Christ who said:

> Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.

And no matter what level of accomplishment and power TOM DASCHLE attained, he never forgot the ''least of the people'' who Christ referenced.

While we will no longer have TOM DASCHLE to lead us in this body, we are both instructed and warmed by the example he gave us during his 26 years in his congressional career. He and his wife Linda have made an extraordinary team and will always be among the closest of friends to my wife Barbara and me. I will never serve with a man I admire more than TOM DASCHLE, and it is with very great sadness that I say goodbye to his presence in this body. But more than anyone I have ever served with, or ever will serve with, he has given glory and meaning to the term ''United States Senator.''

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING FOR MEATS AND VEGETABLES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in recent days there have been news reports about our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol Building deciding that they would like to get rid of something called country-of-origin labeling for meats and vegetables. This is a law that has been previously enacted by the Congress saying that consumers have a right to know where their meat and vegetables come from. So a Member of the House and the Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the House have indicated they would like to find a way, in these waning days, perhaps in the Omnibus appropriations bill, to repeal the requirement to establish country-of-origin labeling for meat and vegetables.

Country-of-origin labeling is now the law of the land. The Secretary of Agriculture has been dragging her feet for some long while in implementing it. While she was dragging her feet, the Congress decided to extend the time for implementation, so that time was extended over the objection of many of us. My colleagues, Senator DASCHLE, Senator JOHNSON, and many others here in the Chamber objected to that. But, nonetheless, it was done last year in one of these omnibus bills.

If those who are making decisions about what to put in omnibus bills these days decide they want to repeal the country-of-origin labeling law in an omnibus bill this year, they will do a great disservice to American consumers. They will pull the rug out from under farmers and ranchers in our country. Why? Because the fact is, we produce the highest quality food in the world.

Consumers want to know where their food comes from. Almost any consumer in this country can take a look at his or her T-shirt or their shoes, and on the label it will say: Made in the U.S.A. Made in China. You will find out exactly where it was made. We know where shirts come from, and we know where shoes come from because it is all labeled. But meat is not labeled. The law requires it to be, but it is not at this point. So the question is, Will this law remain, and will it, in fact, be implemented, or will it not?

We had a U.S. Department of Agriculture report about the condition of meat that has been imported into this country. And I would like to just show a couple of comments from that report. The report was talking about conditions inside a meatpacking plant in Hermosillo, Mexico. That plant in Mexico supplied raw beef to the American consumers. It had never been inspected and was finally inspected once. Here is what they found. They found:

> ''Shanks and briskets were contaminated with feces.''

A U.S. Department of Agriculture official wrote of his tour of the plant:

> ''In the refrigerator a disease-condemned carcass was observed ready for boning and distribution in commerce . . . Paint and condensation from dirty surfaces were dripping on the meat.''

The official found that workers were literally walking on the beef that was going to be approved for export to the United States. They found that a side of beef approved for processing was infected with bacterial blood infection.

The problem is not limited to the Mexican plants. This is one plant in Mexico. Incidentally, this plant was shut down, then reopened under another name, and to my knowledge has never again been inspected.

Mr. President, by unanimous consent let me ask to show this piece of beef from a supermarket.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, no one knows where this comes from. No Member of the Senate will know where this originated. Did this come from the Mexican plant I just described? Does it come from a French plant that was also inspected and contaminated? Does this come from one of those plants, or does it come from a domestic source in this country in which inspection, we know, is rigorous? Does it come from a domestic source where we have farmers and ranchers who produce the best supply of meat available in the world? Where does this piece of beef originate? No one knows. Consumers deserve to know. They have a right to know.

The country-of-origin labeling requirement passed by the Congress will give them the opportunity to know, but some of our colleagues around here, hailing the call of the big packing plants and others, decide now they want to try to repeal that. Maybe, just once, this place can stand up on the side of farmers and ranchers and consumers, just once, and ignore the call of the bigger economic interests who say: Let's not do this. We clearly should do this.

Labeling is important. Labeling empowers consumers. Labeling protects American producers who are producing the best quality food at the lowest disposable income of any country in the world. So my message to those who are now sauntering around the Chambers watching this Omnibus appropriations bill be put together is this: It would be a very foolish mistake to believe that the Omnibus appropriations bill should, without any debate, carry a provision that would repeal something Congress has already done that will give people the right to understand where their meat and vegetables come from, where the origination point is for the vegetables and the meat that is being consumed by the American people.

If, in fact, the majority party decides to do this—as I indicated, one Member of the U.S. House especially is proposing it. It has been, it is reported, supported by the Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the House. If they move in this direction, it will be a very serious mistake, in my judgment.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEFICITS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to, on another subject, speak for just a moment about the area of international trade.

Yesterday, the Senate approved an increase in the debt ceiling by $800 billion. That is the fiscal policy debt, that is the amount of money that is spent over that which is collected in revenues. That means our kids and grandkids assume this responsibility. It is Federal debt.

The budget deficit is the highest in history. This is a completely, thoroughly irresponsible fiscal policy. There is no question about it. Oh, I know people say we have had economic slowdowns or recessions or wars or terrorism and this and that and the other thing.

Look, we have had that for a century. But we have never had the size of the deficits we have now had in times like this. As far as I know, we have never before decided to fight a war with borrowed money and ask generations that come after us to pay for it.

But I want to talk about another debt that is growing, and it is larger than the fiscal policy indebtedness that we have. And that is the foreign debt, which arises from trade deficits. This chart goes back to 1998. I could go further. It shows that we have the largest trade deficits in history, by far. Last month, it was $54.1 billion, the third highest in history. You can see where it is going. It is growing and growing and growing.

Last month alone, the trade deficit with China—just one country—was $15 billion. Now, nobody talks about this. Nobody seems to give a rip. Some people apparently think this will have no consequence for this country or its long-term prognosis. But they are wrong. This trade deficit is dangerous and will be debilitating to the country's economy unless we do something about it.

Month after month after month we see these reports. And on this chart, this red ink has everything to do with jobs, which define the quality of life in this country. There is no social program in this country that is as important as a good job that pays well, that gives someone an opportunity to go to work, have some security, have benefits, and take care of their family and have a good life. The expansion of jobs and opportunity in this country will determine what kind of a country we have, what kind of opportunity exists for our kids and our grandkids. And jobs are leaving the country.

Yesterday, I had a call from some American workers. I will not describe the company. They are workers for a company that produces a great product. They want to sell that product in China.

Now China has a $15 billion monthly surplus with us this past month. They ship us their shirts, their shoes, their trousers, their trinkets. They ship it all to us, and we buy it. But can we get our products into China?

These workers say they've been told that to have their product be sold in China, it has to have a 40- to 50-percent Chinese content, otherwise you cannot get it in. So, therefore, the workers are concerned that the company is now going to begin processing operations in China. Why? Because China insists on it.

Well, look, that violates the World Trade Organization.

That does not come as a shock, of course. There is a systematic violation all the time, by these countries that decide they want to ship all of their products to the United States, but they want to keep their markets closed to us. That means our good jobs are leaving, not coming.

There are a lot of reasons for it, one of which is we have had incompetent trade negotiators under Republican and Democratic administrations, completely incompetent. They think their job is to negotiate agreements, the more the better, and they don't care what's in them. If they don't get an agreement, they think they fail. So they negotiate an agreement, and give away the store.

We just negotiated a bilateral trade agreement with China. Do you know what our negotiators agreed to? On automobile trade, they agreed to this: After a phase-in, China can impose a 25-percent tariff on U.S. automobiles sold in China, and we will impose a 2.5-percent tariff on any Chinese vehicles sold in the United States. Let me say that again. Our negotiators agreed with China that we would allow them to impose a tariff 10 times higher than the tariff we would impose on them in reciprocal automobile trade.

Now, what on earth would possess negotiations to result in that, with a country with whom we have a very large trade deficit?

We know China is ramping up an automobile industry and an export automobile industry, and we now have a trade agreement with them where our negotiators said it is all right to have an imbalance that is tenfold in reciprocal automobile trade.

What does that mean? To strip all the varnish from it, it means it is all right with our negotiators for American jobs to be obliterated and Chinese jobs created on automobile trade. That might be all right with some unnamed trade negotiator, but it is not all right with me. Whoever negotiated that was fundamentally incompetent.

We have some companies these days that are not American companies. Oh, they are American in terms of charter. They get a charter, a corporate charter, that allows them to become an artificial person, be able to sue and be sued, and to contract and be contracted with. They have all the rights of people, except they don't die. They can go broke, but they will never die. These artificial people are responsible only to their shareholders.

These companies have decided they would like to have all the benefits of doing business in the United States as American companies, and all the protection that exists from that, except they don't want to have the obligation of paying taxes in the United States. Therefore, they do business through a mailbox in a tax haven country. They can set up a business in the Grand Cayman Islands or the Bahamas. In some extreme cases, they have even decided they want to renounce their American citizenship to avoid paying their tax obligation to the United States, in what is known as an inversion.

In addition to that, we now have company after company—and all you have to do is open up the Wall Street Journal every day to see it—doing something called outsourcing. That means taking American jobs and moving them somewhere else in the world, where it is cheaper. Instead of doing business in America, paying American workers $10, $15 an hour, they can perhaps do it in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, or China. I have described at length on the floor of the Senate the fact that Huffy Bicycles decided to do that, and the little red wagons, Radio Flyer wagons—that firm was in America for 100 years. They decided to move production elsewhere. Why? Because they can pay sub-minimum wages. Huffy Bicycles used to pay $11 an hour to American workers. They got fired because they were too expensive. You can make them for 30 cents an hour in China, and you can work those people 7 days a week and 12 hours a day.

So we have what is called outsourcing. American companies are outsourcing jobs. That is a fancy term that describes the firing of American workers, in most cases, and employing overseas workers to do the same job at a fraction of the price.

What's even more nuts is that our tax code provides incentives for outsourcing. That's right, when a company wants to outsource, when a company wants to shut down their plant in South Carolina or in Ohio, and do that production in China, we say to that company: We have a treat for you. Get rid of your American workers, shut down the plant, move the whole thing to China and you can get a special tax break.

I happen to think that is absolutely nuts. What kind of a country provides a tax incentive for its companies to get rid of American workers and employ foreign workers? What kind of a country's tax system does that? This country's tax system does it. Yes, we voted on that. I offered an amendment to close that insidious loophole, that perversion in the Tax Code. Guess what. I lost in the Senate.

Here's something else. In a recent bill, the Senate Finance Committee, in conference, decided that U.S. companies who have foreign controlled subsidiaries and have not repatriated their overseas earnings to the United States will be able to repatriate that income at a tax rate of only 5.25 percent. Well, I have a lot of constituents who would love to have that tax rate. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing? If it is good enough for the biggest companies, which outsourced jobs, it ought to be good enough for all Americans.

Ma Ferguson was Governor of Texas once and was involved in a debate about the English-only language back in the 1930s. She had a press conference and held up a Bible and she said, ''If English was good enough for Jesus, it is good enough for Texas.'' It is the good-enough theory, I guess. The 5.25-percent tax rate is good enough for corporations that moved American jobs overseas. Why is a 5.25-percent tax rate not good enough for people named Johnson and Olsen? Why is 5.25 percent not good enough for everybody?

Why is it that this Congress, when it looks at these issues, won't even take a baby step in the right direction? We are hemorrhaging good jobs in this country. This is a race to the bottom. We fought for a century about important things. We fought for a century about the right of workers to organize. It is a very important right in America. It was a similar fight that lit the fuse that caused freedom all over Eastern Europe. Lech Walesa led that fight, the right to organize. People died in the streets on that issue—the right to say that we are not going to have 12-year-old kids working down in a mine, or in a factory. Child labor laws, safe workplace laws—a whole range of issues. We fought for a century to create safe workplaces, child labor laws, minimum wages, the right to organize, all of these issues, which have, in my judgment, made this a better place.

The fact is, there are American companies now that simply pole-vault over the issues and say we don't have to worry about that, about hiring kids. We can hire kids, we can hire 12-year-olds, work them 12 hours a day, pay 12 cents an hour, and we don't have to worry. How do we do that? We hire them overseas, hire them elsewhere. That means those who have to compete in this new world order have to compete with countries that have decided they are going to make it illegal for workers to organize. You have to compete with 12-year-old kids who are paid 12 cents an hour.

If you wonder whether that is happening, I can show you stories. There is one about a woman named Sadisha, who is making tennis shoes for 16 cents an hour. This is an hour and a half of labor in a pair of tennis shoes that comes to our store shelves for $80 a pair, and Sadisha's pay is 24 cents for making the tennis shoes.

You think that doesn't happen? It does. I can tell you stories about the kids in India who were making carpets, who came to this country and testified before the Congress about the conditions in which they worked. The people they worked for took gunpowder and lit the gunpower on the children's fingertips to create scarring, so these little kids could be employed to sew these carpets. And the carpets were sent to our store shelves so we could buy them, and congratulate ourselves on the low prices.

Is there an admission price to the American marketplace? Is there? Are there some basic set of standards, or is this a race to the bottom to have us compete with that sort of situation?

I held a hearing not too long ago with some young women from Honduras working in a sweatshop making designer shirts, for a very prominent American label. They were working under incredibly abusive conditions. The story is the same all over.

People talk about this being free trade. Look, this is simply a sea of red ink, a trade deficit that is weakening this country, and we have not paid any attention to the rules of trade that would begin to stop this. We had better wake up and decide that our interest is to be protective—and, yes, I use that word even though it is a pejorative word these days—protective of the economic interests of this country. We must do that.

I spoke of Lech Walesa. Let me describe his speech to a joint meeting of the Congress, one of the most remarkable moments I recall in my service here.

He told us about a Saturday morning in a shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, when, having been fired as an electrician in that shipyard, this unemployed electrician was leading a strike against the Communist government demanding rights for the labor movement in Poland.

He said they grabbed him that Saturday morning and began to beat him. The Communist secret police grabbed him and beat him severely and threw him over the barbed wire fence at the edge of the shipyard. He laid there, having been beaten severely, face down, bleeding in the dirt. He said he wondered while laying there, this unemployed electrician having been beaten severely, what to do next. Well, he picked himself up, and climbed right back over the barbed wire fence, right back into the same shipyard, to continue the fight. Ten years later this unemployed electrician was announced at the door of the U.S. House of Representatives as the President of his country, the President of Poland.

This was not an intellectual, not a scholar, not a diplomat, not a soldier, but an unemployed electrician with uncommon courage. He said this to us: We didn't have any guns. The Communists had all the guns. We didn't have any bullets. The Communists had all the bullets. We were armed only with an idea, a powerful idea: People ought to be free to choose their own destiny. And then he said: Ideas are more powerful than guns.

There was a lot of applause that day, and appropriately so—applause of courage, the progress towards freedom and labor rights in Poland. But around here, we seem to have short memories. We are trading away our hard-won rights.

The first baby step we should have taken in this Congress we decided not to take. I offered an amendment, and it was defeated, to stop the perverse and insidious tax breaks that incentivize American jobs going overseas. Let's not reward companies that move our jobs overseas. Stop it; stop it now. It is a baby step to decide to shut down that tax incentive.

We did not get it done this time. I lost that vote. But I am relentless, and I will again be on this floor the minute we return in January demanding once again an opportunity to debate and to vote on this issue. This is about American jobs. It is about hope and opportunity in this country. It is about expanding this great American experiment, and this issue, I assure you, will not go away.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

ZELL MILLER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to make a couple of comments regarding the departure of one of our colleagues, Senator ZELL MILLER. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator MILLER for the last several years and I think the world of him. He comes from a great line of fantastic Senators from the great State of Georgia.

When I was first elected, I served with Senator Sam Nunn and Senator Mack Mattingly. Both were very good friends. Both were outstanding Senators. Senator Paul Coverdell, a very good, close friend of mine, served in the Senate for a little over a term and, unfortunately, had a very sudden illness and passed away. ZELL MILLER was appointed to take his place.

I remember thinking at the time that Paul Coverdell was a great loss to the Senate. I believe that today. He had a great future in the Senate. He was actually elected to the Senate leadership, which was very unusual for his first term in the Senate. Paul Coverdell was one of my closest friends. I really did mourn his loss.

I did not know his replacement appointed at that time, ZELL MILLER, but I got to know him very quickly. I grew to know him, respect him, and admire him as a patriot and as a Senator. He did a fantastic job in service not only to his state of Georgia but, frankly, to this country. He made a valued, positive, and considerable impact on the Senate and, frankly, on our country. I will talk about that for a second.

I remember he was a real leader in passing the Homeland Security legislation. That was very tough legislation. It passed by a very narrow margin. We did that in his first year in the Senate.

He supported efforts to enact tax reform. I was chairman of the Committee on the Budget in 2003, and we passed a budget, frankly, by one vote. ZELL MILLER's vote helped make it happen. We had about 80 something amendments to the budget during consideration of the budget process. ZELL MILLER was with me on every one. He cosponsored the budget. He was my principal cosponsor of that budget.

That budget enabled us to pass the tax relief we did later that year, the economic tax reform bill of 2003. That bill made a lot of changes, I might add, a lot of positive changes, that would not have passed had it not been for ZELL MILLER. He cosponsored that bill with me. I was honored the President asked me to sponsor it, and I was honored to ask ZELL MILLER if he would cosponsor it with me, and he did.

We defeated a lot of amendments designed to gut the legislation, and we passed the budget. Again, we passed it with the Vice President breaking the tie. It would not have passed without ZELL MILLER's leadership, without his sponsoring the legislation.

What did that legislation do? It made a difference on every American taxpayer in this country. That legislation allowed us to have a $1,000 tax credit per child. That legislation allowed us to expand and provide marriage penalty relief. For a couple making $58,000, marriage penalty relief boiled down to about $905. That passed because ZELL MILLER stood with us on that legislation.

It also allowed us to reduce the capital gains tax rate from 20 percent to 15 percent. It allowed us to say that we would not double tax corporate dividends, at least not as punitively as we did before. We reduced the corporate tax on dividends. Actually, the bill we passed in the Senate had zero double taxation. The bill that came out of conference was 15 percent, instead of the ordinary rates. That is a big and positive change because this country, unfortunately, taxed distributions from corporations higher than any other country. We are tied with Japan at a net effective tax rate of 70 percent.

Why would corporations distribute earnings to their owners if the Government would get 70 percent? Many did not. They would accumulate earnings, hide the money, or do something different with them. We passed that legislation, and now people are paying dividends.

Microsoft announced a multibillion-dollar distribution because of that legislation. We tax it now at the individual rate, 15 percent. When we started marking up that legislation, the Dow Jones was at 7,700. Today it is over 10,500. That legislation made a difference. That legislation passed because ZELL MILLER stood with us on the floor to pass that legislation.

It is not too often you can actually say you passed legislation that made a real and positive impact. There are over two million jobs that have been created in the last 14 months as a result of that legislation. I believe the President signed it in June of 2003. It has been almost a year and a half now, and a couple of million jobs have been created since we passed that legislation. The economy is moving. Revenues are coming into the Government. The deficit is $100 billion less than estimated previously, 9 months ago, because, there is economic revival. We do have new jobs being created. There are positive signs. A lot of that happened because of the courage and conviction of the Senator from Georgia.

I said Paul Coverdell was my friend. He has certainly been missed in this Senate, and that is a fact. I will also say that ZELL MILLER is my very dear friend and he will be missed in the Senate. He only served for a few years in the Senate, but he had a great impact, a very positive impact, not only on taxpayers, and the country but to our body politic, the body of the country. As a patriot, a former marine, former mayor, former State senator, former Lieutenant Governor, and as a former Governor, he had enormous impact.

He was a speaker at the Republican National Convention. I told him his speech wasn't so much that of a Democrat or Republican; his speech was that of a patriot who was speaking out strong because he believed strongly in this country. You could see it. You could sense it. You could believe it.

I am very proud to have ZELL MILLER as my friend. He and his wife Shirley have been a blessing to this body and a blessing to this country. I thank God for the fact I had the opportunity to serve with him and the fact that he served in this body. I think our country is much better for it, and I wish him every good wish in the years ahead.

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. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I wish to make a couple of comments regarding my very good friend, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, who is retiring with me at the end of this session. Senator CAMPBELL is a unique Senator. All Senators are unique, but he is especially unique. He is a very special Senator, the only Native American presently serving in the Senate and he is chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee.

He has a very distinguished career. He was in the Air Force. He served in Korea. He served in the State legislature. He served in the House of Representatives. I believe he was elected in 1986. He was elected to the Senate as a Democrat in 1992, 12 years ago. He was reelected in 1998. In March of 1995, he had the courage and the conviction to change parties. That is not easily done. He did it and I greatly respect him and admire him for that, but also for his service to our country.

He is a jewelry designer.

I have had the pleasure of knowing BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and his wife, Linda, fairly well for the last 12 years. I have great respect for him. He has passed a lot of legislation. A lot of people are not aware of that. Many of his bills have become law. In many cases, he is a quiet legislator. He is effective and he gets things done.

He is on the Appropriations Committee. He has had his fingerprints on a lot of legislation. He is chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee. That committee considers a multitude of issues. Some of us kind of moved around and made way for him to become chairman of that committee. We thought it was very special to have a Native American become chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee for the first time.

He is unique from the standpoint that he rides a Harley. He has a great love for the West.

I think he has made a valuable, important contribution to this body, the Senate.

He has represented his State of Colorado very well. Colorado has had some great Senators. Bill Armstrong was one of my favorite Senators and one of my mentors. WAYNE ALLARD is another outstanding Senator from Colorado. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL certainly falls in that role of being an outstanding Senator. I think he and Linda both will be missed in this body, the Senate.

I congratulate him and Linda for their many years of service going all the way back to the military, to the State legislature, to serving in the House of Representatives, and now 12 years in the Senate. He has given a lot of public service to this country, and given it well. He has served well. As the Bible says, ''Well done thou good and faithful servant''. He has certainly done that. He has made the State of Colorado very proud and, frankly, the country very proud. The Senate is better off for his service. I congratulate him for his service.

The Senate will miss the services and the laughter of BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL. I compliment him for his service.

I yield the floor and 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. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DR. HARRY FRITZ

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a distinguished man and educator, Montana's 2004 Professor of the Year award winner, Dr. Harry Fritz.

Harry was born in the State of Maryland, but he graduated from Missoula County High School in Montana in 1956. He attended Dartmouth College to earn his bachelor of arts degree. Harry's relationship with the University of Montana, located in Missoula, began when he attended the university to get his master of arts degree.

After earning his Ph.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, Harry returned to the University of Montana, and that is where he has hung his hat ever since.

Harry is the chairman of the Department of History and a full-time professor at the University of Montana. He exemplifies the type of professor Montana has come to expect from its higher education community. He is a first-rate guy. He is just aces. He is an educator who meets the highest standards of professional excellence. And he is a student's teacher. He connects with students and draws them into our Nation's history.

I might say, I first met and knew Harry Fritz back about 1972, somewhere in there, when I was practicing law in Missoula, MT, and was running for the State legislature. Professor Fritz and a couple friends of ours would get together about every couple, three weeks and have pizza and beer. We called ourselves the ''Beer Committee,'' and Harry was head of the Beer Committee. It was a super bunch of friends. We would talk about the world's problems and service and what needed to be done for Montana and the Nation. It was, in many respects, the enthusiasm and knowledge of Harry Fritz that got me interested in public service. He is that kind of a guy.

I might also say, he has a wonderful sense of humor. He is a tall man. He looks a lot like Abe Lincoln. When he puts on his beard, he portrays Abraham Lincoln and performs little skits. As a history professor, he is able to bring President Lincoln and lots of other aspects surrounding President Lincoln into his classes at the University of Montana.

I might say, too, his classes are always the first to be fully subscribed. People want to go to Professor Fritz's history classes because he connects so much, he brings history to life so much, with a sense of humor, with compassion, and with insight and perception. It is no wonder he has been named Professor of the Year for 2004.

Many of us who know Harry also are reminded of all the ways he has served. He not only is a history professor, a terrific professor at that, but he also served in the State legislature in Montana in the Montana Senate and the Montana House. He wants to do what he can to serve the people of our State. His wife Nancy is equally active, equally dedicated to service. Nancy, too, was a representative in the Montana State legislature at one time. So they are people who exemplify the best of human nature; that is, serving people.

I have a view that the most noble human endeavor is service. It is service to community, it is service to church, it is service to friends, service in whatever way makes the most sense for each one of us. Many of us here believe that. That is why we are here. I certainly know that is why the Presiding Officer is here, who has so much believed in service in the various capacities that he has served his State and this Nation.

Harry Fritz is another who believes in service. I think it is important to honor and recognize people such as Harry, because the more Harry Fritzes there are in this country, in this world, by far, the more quickly we are going to solve some mutual problems.

I again pay my highest compliments to a wonderful friend, a terrific man, and one of the best professors any student could ever have, Professor Harry Fritz.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the end of the 108th Congress marks the end of an era. It marks the end of a remarkable career of a remarkable man.

I will not say goodbye to Senator HOLLINGS. His personality, his sense of humor, his achievements, his legacy will forever be a part of this Chamber. But I do take a few minutes of the Senate's time to thank Senator ERNEST HOLLINGS.

I thank him for being an outstanding Senator. I thank him for his service to our country. I thank him for being a friend. I have been honored to call him my colleague for almost 40 years.

The man who is destined to become a legend in the political history of South Carolina politics was a New Year's Day baby. He was born on January 1, 1922. After graduating from the Citadel, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II. This combat veteran, who served in North Africa and in Europe, was awarded seven campaign stars and was discharged with the rank of captain.

After the war, he earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1947 and then began his extraordinary career in public service in 1947. That was the year in which he earned his law degree.

In 1947, at the age of 26, he was elected to the South Carolina State Legislature where he served until 1954, while 1947 was the year in which I was sworn in at the West Virginia House of Delegates in Charleston, WV.

During his last 3 years in the South Carolina State Legislature, he served as its speaker pro tempore.

In 1954, at the age of 32, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina.

Four years later, in 1958, at the age of 36, he became one of the youngest men ever elected Governor of his beloved State. From what I understand, he was an outstanding Governor. Senator HOLLINGS would be outstanding in any office in which he would ever serve. He earned a reputation as the education Governor because he raised teachers' salaries, launched new and innovative educational programs, including a superb technical training program, and set up a commission that improved the State's higher education system.

In 1966 he was elected to the Senate. Here he has stayed for 38 years. I am glad he stayed. He has been a very colorful Senator, an outstanding and outspoken Senator with a booming voice.

The stentorian voice could be heard, I am sure, throughout this Chamber, without a public address system. When he first came here we had no public address system in the Senate. When I first came here, we had no public address system in the Senate, but we had Senators who could be heard. It was a practice in those days for other Senators to gather closer to the Senator who was speaking. It was also a practice for other Senators to be informed when a new Senator was going to speak. New Senators did not speak the first week or the first month, but only after several months did they speak. Before they spoke, the word went around that so and so was going to deliver his maiden speech or her maiden speech. In those days there was one lady in the Senate, Margaret Chase Smith of Maine. But we didn't have any public address system.

I recall when we started to discuss having a public address system in the Senate, I was opposed to it. I wanted the Senate to remain the Senate of the decades that had preceded our own times.

But he was colorful and he was a Senator who had that booming voice that could be projected and heard in the galleries, and today Senator HOLLINGS does not need a microphone.

He was from the old school of Senators who placed public interest over partisan politics. Oh, that we had more Senators like that, more Senators like Senator HOLLINGS who put first the public's interest, the interest of those people who are watching through that electronic eye just behind the Presiding Officer's desk; the eyes of the people come through that electronic eye, which extends the galleries beyond the capacity that we see here. It extends those galleries out to the outermost parts of the country, north and south, out to the Pacific, out to the great Rocky Mountains, out to the broad prairies, out to the farms, out to the hills of West Virginia, that great medium.

This Senator from South Carolina, unlike so many Senators of today, placed the public interest over partisan politics. And he still does. He never hesitated to criticize a President of his own political party as well as the opposition party when he knew in his heart and in his conscience that President

was wrong. If it were a President of his own party, let it be.

While in the Senate, Senator HOLLINGS has served on the Senate's Budget and Appropriations Committees, served as chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, served as chairman of a number of Senate subcommittees. Just as he had been a loyal and proud servant of his own State of South Carolina, he has been a loyal and proud servant of our country. In the Senate, he has been a forceful advocate of a responsible energy policy. In fact, as early as 1967, Senator HOLLINGS was warning that our country faced a future of energy crises, and he was calling for a national energy policy.

He authored legislation to create the Department of Energy and the Automobile Fuel Economy Act that requires the miles-per-gallon sticker on new cars.

He has been a determined advocate of a cleaner and healthier environment. In this effort, he formulated legislation to protect our marine environment, sponsored legislation to prevent the dumping of polluting materials in the ocean, and authored the Coastal Zone Management Act to protect our coastal waters and tidelands. He is the recognized legislative ''father'' of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA.

In the Senate, Senator HOLLINGS continued promoting technical training as he fought to establish trade schools that specialize in retraining workers and offer alternatives for people who choose not to pursue a university degree.

In the Senate, Senator HOLLINGS has tenaciously opposed trade deals that threaten American jobs. Oh, if there were more like him. His fights in this area have involved opposing Presidents, opposing Presidents whom he charged were ''giving away the store'' in our trade treaties. He has fought to protect and increase Social Security benefits for our elderly Americans.

Concerned about the widespread poverty across the South, in 1968, he undertook a series of ''hunger tours'' that highlighted the issue. He later authored a powerful study, ''The Case Against Hunger: A Demand for a National Policy'' that advocated programs to address the persistence of abject poverty in the United States. Putting his words into action, he helped lead the congressional effort to establish the Women, Infants, and Children—WIC—nutritional assistance program, and he helped to advance the Nation's community health centers, which provide primary and preventive health services in underserved communities.

Long before the Bush administration's record-breaking budget deficits, long before today's incredible $7 trillion national debt, Senator HOLLINGS was an eloquent and powerful advocate of budget discipline. I did not always agree with his efforts, such as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law, but I never questioned Senator HOLLINGS's dedication to trying to restore fiscal sanity to America's deficit addictions.

Although he has long been a Senator of power and influence, during the great majority of his time in this Chamber, he remained the junior Senator from his State. Even after serving 36 years in the Senate, he was still outranked by his colleague from South Carolina, Senator Strom Thurmond, making Senator HOLLINGS the longest serving junior Senator in history, whatever that means. I have often wondered, having been a junior Senator and being a senior Senator now, what we mean by ''junior Senator''? Well, we know what it means, but that is all.

It was at the age of 80 that Senator HOLLINGS finally became the senior Senator from South Carolina. He had earned it. He had earned it just as he has earned the respect and the gratitude of the people of South Carolina and the men and the women in this Chamber.

Now, unfortunately, my friend and colleague is leaving us. Again, I will not say farewell to him. I will only thank him for his service and wish him well in his private life.

I will always remember and cherish our years of working together on the Appropriations Committee and for the best interests of our great country.

It isn't enough that we say in our hearts
That we like a man for his ways;
And it isn't enough that we fill our minds
With psalms of silent praise;
Nor is it enough that we honor a man
As our confidence upward mounts;
It's going right up to the man himself
And telling him so that counts.

Then when a man does a deed that you really admire,
Don't leave a kind word unsaid,
For fear to do so might make him vain
Or cause him to lose his head;
But reach out your hand and tell him, ''Well done'',
And see how his gratitude swells;
It isn't the flowers we strew on the grave,
It's the word to the living that tells.

Now, unfortunately, my friend and colleague—a strong colleague on the Appropriations Committee, where we two have served all these many years—is leaving us. Again, I will not say farewell to Senator HOLLINGS. I will only thank him for his service and wish him well in his private life. I will always remember and cherish our years of working together.

I shall always remember, too, that loyal, dedicated, devoted helpmate, Peatsy, who stood always at his side, always there to be his best confidant. Yes, Erma and I will miss Peatsy.

In closing, then, let me speak just a few words from the ''Character of the Happy Warrior'' by William Wordsworth, because I think they represent my feelings toward ERNEST FRITZ HOLLINGS:

Who is the happy Warrior? Who is he
That every man in arms should wish to be?

* * * * *

'Tis, finally, the Man, who, lifted high,
Conspicuous object in a Nation's eye,
Or left unthought-of in obscurity,—
Who, with a toward or untoward lot,
Prosperous or adverse, to his wish or not—
Plays, in the many games of life, that one
Where what he most doth value must be won:
Whom neither shape or danger can dismay,
Nor thought of tender happiness betray;
Who, not content that former worth stand fast,
Looks forward, persevering to the last,
From well to better, daily self-surpast:
Who, whether praise of him must walk the earth
For ever, and to noble deeds give birth,
Or he must fall, to sleep without his fame,
And leave a dead unprofitable name—
Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;
And, while the mortal mist is gathering, draws
His breath in confidence of Heaven's applause:
This is the happy Warrior; this is he
That every man in arms should wish to be.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I am happy to yield to the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the junior Senator from Pennsylvania, I be recognized to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

POLISH VISA WAIVERS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise very briefly to offer another unanimous consent request. This is a unanimous consent request on a piece of legislation that Senator MIKULSKI and I introduced earlier this year regarding Polish visa waivers.

A visa waiver is a provision given in law to allow people from a country with which the United States has good relationships to come into this country for a temporary period of time as visitors, tourists, without having to obtain a visa. In other words, this waives the visa requirement that is generally imposed on people coming from other countries to America. I believe we have done this with 27 other countries because of the unique relationship we have with them and the bond that the countries have with the U.S.

Poland, unfortunately, has not been granted that status. If you look at the continent of Europe and at the great allies that we have on the continent of Europe, obviously, the two that come to mind—in my mind at least—are the Brits and the Italians. But Poland has shown, since its release from the Soviet Union's sphere of influence, a remarkable affinity for the United States and has shown tremendous strides and advances both in terms of democracy, economy, and in their culture. It is very much a country that is leaning and facing west. It is, to me, a real injustice to the people of that country, who have been our steadfast supporters, particularly in the most recent

conflict in Iraq, that we would not present them the opportunity we do virtually every other country in Europe.

Senator MIKULSKI agrees, I think, with the statements I have made, and she has said so on the floor of the Senate. We have been working in the past couple of months to clear this legislation so it can pass the Senate and be sent to the House, with the hope, at this late date, of becoming law but, if not, accelerating the opportunity for it to become law next year. Even at this late date, the hope is that once the bill would get to the House, there would be the kind of support we have seen in the Senate to pass it. The support is nearly unanimous.

As we all know, at this point in time in the Senate, nearly unanimous isn't good enough. We need unanimous consent, or all Members of the Senate to agree. I can speak on behalf of the Republican side of the aisle. I have spoken to all Senators, or their offices, and every Republican Senator has agreed to allow this bill to clear the Senate and to pass today. We were willing to pass this bill before we broke in October. We were willing to give this bill a chance to become law and be signed by this President. I am hopeful that he would sign this legislation.

But I have been informed that in spite of the good efforts of Senator MIKULSKI, we may not be able to clear this legislation on the other side of the aisle. That is a great disappointment to me and I know to Senator MIKULSKI. I know it is a great disappointment to many Polish Americans—9.3 million Polish persons. Over 100,000 Poles per year come to this country to visit relatives and friends. Yet we cannot extend this, I argue, minimal courtesy to those who have allied with us and have shown their good hand of friendship toward us.

Mr. President, I will ask unanimous consent, in the hopes that maybe even later after this consent request, which I am told will be objected to, others will reconsider, and perhaps we can later tonight, or tomorrow, or Saturday, or however long we will be here, be able to work through this problem and get unanimous consent on this vitally important piece of legislation for not just the 9.3 million Poles in this country, but for all of us in America who would like to extend a further hand of friendship and accord to the people of Poland who have been such steadfast allies of our great country.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar 715, S. 2844.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. I must say for the record that there are Members who strongly support this bill—Senator MIKULSKI and others. However, on behalf of others, I must object. Therefore, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. SANTORUM. Thank you, Mr. President. I know the Senator from Oklahoma intends to speak.

At this point, I ask unanimous consent that an explanation of this issue be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2844—DESIGNATING POLAND AS A VISA WAIVER COUNTRY—CALENDAR NO 715

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

Designates Poland as a visa waiver country. Citizens visiting the U.S. within a 90-day period would not need to apply for a visa.

WHY SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION?

Since the founding of the United States, Poland has proven its steadfast dedication to the causes of freedom and friendship with the United States. In addition, Polish History provides pioneering examples of religious tolerance.

The United States is home to 9 million people of Polish ancestry, including 429,000 in Florida, 854,000 in Michigan, 240,000 in Minnesota, 576,000 in New Jersey, 433,000 in Ohio, 824,146 in Pennsylvania, and 497,000 in Wisconsin. Polish Immigrants have contributed greatly to the success of industry and agriculture in the United States.

Since the demise of communism, Poland has become a stable, democratic nation. Poland has adopted economic policies that promote free markets and economic growth.

Poland demonstrated its commitment to global security by becoming a member of NATO. Poland also just recently became a member of the EU.

Poland was a staunch ally to the U.S. in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Poland has committed 2,300 soldiers to help with ongoing peace efforts in Iraq.

In 1991, Poland unilaterally repealed the visa requirement for U.S. citizens traveling to Poland for less than 90 days. And today, more than 100,000 Polish citizens travel to the United States annually.

POLISH VISA REFUSAL RATE

Refusal rate can be an inaccurate measure because it is based on decisions made by consular officers rather than the actual behavior of non-immigrants. It does not reflect the propensity of nationals from that country to overstay their visas.

Nonetheless, Poland's visa refusal rate is declining dramatically, from around 43% in FY 03 to approximately 30% in FY 04.

Polish citizens who apply for a visa have on average, a one and a half minute interview. This obviously is not enough time for a consular officer to make a decision on whether or not they will overstay their visas. In other western European countries, the average interview is five minutes.

Consular Officers still have a 1980s view of Poland, a country in serious economic trouble and under tyranny. This is an unfair view as Poland in now a stable, democratic nation that promotes free markets and economic growth.

Warsaw airport is in the pilot program for airport screening, so most Poles who would travel to the U.S. under Visa Waiver would face an INS determination of whether they will be admitted before they get on a plane.

Poland's refusal rate does not reflect a high propensity for terrorism. The State Department has given no indication that the potential for terrorism in Poland significantly exceeds that of the 27 countries currently participating in the Visa Waiver Program.

IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT OUR STRONG ALLY AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME

Poland was a staunch ally to the U.S. in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Poland has committed 2,300 soldiers to help with ongoing peace efforts in Iraq.

Though a staunch ally, Poland has legitimate concerns about our appreciation of their efforts. President Aleksander Kwasniewski reiterated these concerns when Poland was not included as an ally in Iraq during the Presidential Debate.

As Lech Walesa said, this would be a very symbolic gesture for both the government and the people of Poland. We owe the Poles our appreciation for their camaraderie and sacrifice in a pivotal point in our history. This legislation would go a long way in showing our appreciation for their alliance with us.

CURRENT PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES IN THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, as I said before, I hope we can get agreement. I know there are one, or maybe more, Senators on the other side of the aisle who have found a concern with this. I ask that while this is somewhat unusual in the way we put forth this legislation, it is vitally important for us to send a very strong and positive signal to one of our strongest allies in the world that we stand with them and accept them as one of our closest and dearest allies, and we will treat them accordingly, with respect to the visitation of Polish people who visit relatives and friends in the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Oklahoma is to be recognized for 25 minutes.

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, if the Senator from Oklahoma comes, I will yield the floor quickly to him. At this moment, under the current circumstances, I had sought to be recognized and I do so for the purpose of speaking for not more than 12 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that I may be recognized for no more than 12 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator is recognized.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, there is an old Chinese curse that says, ''May you live in interesting times.'' A Senate equivalent of that saying could very well be: May you lead the Senate in interesting times. If so, the Senate leadership of Senator TOM DASCHLE would certainly qualify. He led the Senate with a very quiet integrity during some of the most difficult times in American history.

In 1994, Senator DASCHLE became Senate Democratic leader by a single

vote. No sooner had he become Democratic leader than he was forced to deal with the Republican revolution of 1994, including House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his short-lived ''Contract With America.'' I never read it, never signed it, and was not a disciple of it.

While he served as the Democratic leader for nearly a decade, there was a period of 17 months in which he went from minority leader to majority leader and back to minority leader.

He was the Senate Democratic leader during the first impeachment of an American President in 131 years. He was the Senate Democratic leader on September 11, 2001, when America experienced the worst terrorist attack in the history of this great land. One month later, a bioterrorist attack on his Senate office in the Hart Building exposed 20 of TOM DASCHLE's staffers to deadly anthrax spores.

As the Senate Democratic leader, Mr. DASCHLE has had to deal with three different Republican leaders. During these turbulent circumstances, he remained reassuring and inspiring. TOM DASCHLE's soothing personality and his mild-mannered demeanor were comforting under very trying circumstances.

Looking back, it seems strange that many people once considered this likable, soft-spoken young man to be too likable and too soft spoken to be an effective Senate leader. I am pleased and proud to say that we were wrong. I say ''we'' because many people will recall that I initially opposed his candidacy for Senate Democratic leadership. But after TOM DASCHLE was elected leader, I was impressed as I found him to be an engaging man with whom to work, a most interesting man, a leader who has a way of putting other people at ease, even in troubled as well as in pleasant times.

He was always working to seek a consensus. He was always listening. He was one of the best listeners I have ever met during my 46 years in this body.

Even in the Senate's darkest moments, he retained his sense of optimism, always preferring to see the glass as half full rather than half empty. And that optimism was infectious. Therefore, 2 years later, it was my pleasure to nominate TOM DASCHLE for reelection as Senate Democratic leader. In nominating him, I announced:

> I was totally wrong about this young man. He has steel in his spine, despite his reasonable and modest demeanor.

As a former Senate leader myself, I can say that a Senate leader who can bring together and develop a consensus on tough controversial measures must have the patience of Job and the wisdom of Solomon.

As a former Senate Democratic leader, I want to express my gratitude to Mr. DASCHLE for the service that he rendered to this Chamber, to our Nation, and to our political party.

During the interesting times in which he led the Senate, Senator DASCHLE was always working for the common good. Because of his principled—let me say that again—because of his principled opposition to the Bush administration, critics denounced and demonized him as an obstructionist. If placing the national good over blind obedience to any President makes a Senator an obstructionist, then let me say that our democracy—indeed, all democracies—need more TOM DASCHLE's.

Senator DASCHLE stayed above it all, as he refused to engage in the gutter politics of his opponents. He always retained and maintained the dignity that has characterized him as a man and as a Senator. But then this mild-mannered South Dakota Democrat, the only South Dakotan ever to be elected to the Senate leadership, has always served the people of his State and the people of our Nation proudly and honorably, with diligence, sincerity, and distinction.

His entire career in public service has been based on standing up for the common good. He has been a true friend of rural America, especially America's farmers. Among the many measures he promoted to benefit American farmers, Senator DASCHLE pushed the development and the commercialization of alternative agricultural products.

He was an aggressive advocate of health issues, having authored legislation that expanded health services in rural areas.

As a veteran himself, having served as an intelligence officer in the Strategic Air Command of the U.S. Air Force, TOM DASCHLE was a powerful advocate for American veterans. In 1991, he won his 11-year struggle for legislation to assist Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

I am sorry that I must now say goodbye to this decent man and this outstanding Senator, especially in such circumstances. And he is a decent man. He was always good to me. He was always listening. He always listened to whatever I had to suggest to him—always listening and always tried to be helpful. So many times he spoke good words concerning me. He was always asking about my wife Erma: How is your wife? How is your wife Erma?

But as anyone involved in politics knows, political life has its defeats as well as its victories, its sorrows as well as its joys, and we must accept them as they come, always looking forward, not backward, and knowing that the future will present other opportunities to serve our Nation.

I hope that Senator DASCHLE will continue a life of public service because our Nation will always need men of his background and experiences but, most importantly, his wisdom, his integrity, and his optimism.

Let me say on behalf of Erma and myself that we are so grateful to Senator DASCHLE and his lovely wife for their many courtesies extended to us, their many kindnesses which we will never forget. I am confident that despite the happenings of November 2, Senator DASCHLE still sees the glass as half full rather than half empty.

And so my wife Erma and I extend our best wishes to Senator DASCHLE and his wife Linda in all of their future endeavors.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for as much time as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL SELECTION PROCESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, recently there has been a lot of discussion about, not just the role of the judiciary in our democracy, but the process by which judges are selected. To me, this all boils down to something that Daniel Webster once said when he opined that ''justice is the greatest desire of man on Earth.'' It is, in fact, the judges, the ones who wear the black robe, the men or women who serve on local or State or Federal benches who are the ones with whom we identify that common yearning for justice.

Unfortunately, here in the Senate over the last couple of years, we have gone through an experience that not only reeks of injustice but also of unfairness and, indeed, rises to the level of unconstitutionality when it comes to the filibuster used against President Bush's judicial nominees.

Never, before these last 2 years, has a nominee for a Federal court, whether it is the Federal district court or circuit court or the United States Supreme Court, been blocked by the use of a filibuster when there was a bipartisan majority of the Senate who stood ready to confirm that judge—never before the current Congress, dating back now 2 years.

We all know the judiciary plays a critical role in our form of government. As high school students, or perhaps even earlier, we learn that our three branches of government play important but distinct roles in our constitutional democracy. It is the judiciary, which at one time in our Nation's history has been called the least dangerous branch, that has produced some of the most dangerous decisions, at least so far as it concerns our right to self-government. What I mean by that is when we see courts strike down the Pledge of Allegiance because schoolchildren cannot say the words ''under God'' when they pledge allegiance to the flag; when we see county clerks, indeed, when we see judges themselves

authorize the issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples on TV and across our country; and when we see courts, on the basis of lawsuits that have been filed, tell military bases that they cannot grant access to their facilities to the Boy Scouts of America, we know these are not a product of a vote of the people.

In each of those instances it is the act or the dictate of a judge, a judge that I submit has lost any tether, any sort of anchor with the fundamental premises upon which the power of a judge is granted.

We want to make sure in this country, I believe, whether we are Democrats, Republicans or independents, that our judges are not politicized. In other words, we want to make sure when we walk into a courtroom when our case is decided that the judges have not already made up their minds before hearing what the facts are. We want to make sure that that judge does not have some sort of political or personal agenda which makes it impossible for them to be fair.

But what we have seen over the last couple of years is a political situation of the judicial selection process where good men and women who are highly qualified to serve as Federal judges at the Federal district court level and at the circuit court level have been not only obstructed by this unconstitutional filibuster process, which has never before been used in America history—what we have seen is also character assassination. We have seen individuals who spent a lifetime creating a reputation and developing a career as a judge totally smeared by various interest groups whose desire it is to politicize not only the judicial selection process but the decisionmaking process by judges. And that is wrong.

We know, in addition to the other important judicial vacancies that exist around this country which we have been unable to fill because of the filibuster, that in all likelihood during President Bush's second term of office he will have the opportunity to nominate one or more nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court. I am sorry to say these nominees will undoubtedly be savaged by some of these same interest groups who are bound and determined to politicize not only the act of judging—that quest for justice—but in fact the selection process itself. Unfortunately, these kinds of venomous politics are something we have come too often to expect when it comes to selecting these important members of the judiciary.

I firmly believe we are a big and diverse country. We have people who come from different places across the planet, who pronounce their name in different ways, who have different traditions, creeds, beliefs. And the great thing about this country is we can all live here in this one place and we can argue for what we strongly believe in. We can defend those views when they are attacked. But in the end, we settle those disputes—maybe not change someone's mind but we settle the dispute at least for a while by having an election.

On November 2 of this year, 60 million people not only chose to reelect President George W. Bush, but I believe in part cast their votes for the kind of judicial nominees this President has nominated in the past and which he can be expected to nominate in the future.

Men and women are drawn to service in the judiciary because they believe in that quest for justice, and they want to play an important role in making sure that desire for justice, that quest for justice, is satisfied, at least as much as is humanly possible, in courtrooms all across this country.

But we know—at least in the past, based on sad experience—there are those who will not be satisfied with an election; that people will not put their grievances and their anger behind them but will continue to pursue these policies of destruction and character assassination when it comes to the President's judicial nominees. Unfortunately, these angry individuals have not come to accept what the vast majority of Americans have agreed is the way we should work; that is, we do our best, we fight our best fight, we get our voters out, and then we have an election and we resolve those differences at the election.

We have seen time and time again how these tactics have been used shamelessly to smear some of the President's judicial nominees. It is only logical to expect some of these same tactics, notwithstanding what I have said, will be used again.

What we have seen in this Senate—and I believe the American people cast a vote, at least in part, on November 2—is, as I have said, unconstitutional filibusters. And what I believe the American people cast a vote on on November 2, particularly when it came to the Senate minority leader race, the race in South Dakota, was a repudiation of obstructionism and the unconstitutional use of the filibuster to block the President's nominees who, if allowed the simple dignity of an up-or-down vote, would have been confirmed as I speak.

The Constitution makes clear what the role of the Senate is. That role is to provide advice and consent. Yes. The Judiciary Committee, on which I am honored to serve, has a responsibility to review the credentials and background and experience, the temperament of these nominees to make sure they understand they are not just another branch of the legislature which is at liberty to enact through judicial edict their personal or political or any other agenda. Our job is to make sure they respect the separation of powers which makes the judiciary a distinct and unique branch which is supposed to interpret the law, not make the law.

Unfortunately, we have seen an obstinate minority in this body that has denied this Congress the ability to provide that advice and consent; that is, trying to elevate the de facto requirement under the Constitution for confirmation to 60 votes by claiming that the Senate rule which requires 60 votes to cut off debate trumped the Constitution.

You might ask, How is that possible? The Constitution is the fundamental law of the United States of America, and all other laws passed, including those of Congress, are inferior to that law. If the act of Congress is inferior to that law and when it conflicts, it must fall, surely a Senate rule that purports to require a supermajority vote of the Senate to confirm judges must fall when there is conflict with the U.S. Constitution.

The Constitution provides that in specific but limited instances a supermajority vote is required for passage, notably the ratification of treaties and notably the amendment of the Constitution itself. But nowhere in the Constitution is it provided that to confirm a judge, more than a 51-vote majority is required.

That is why over these last 2 years we have heard Members on this side of the aisle time and time again come to the Senate and say not only is this filibuster unfair, but, indeed, blocking an up-or-down vote by a bipartisan majority of this body is, in fact, in violation of the fundamental law of our land.

In order to be suited by virtue of temperament to serve in elected office, you have to be an optimist by nature, and I am. It is my sincere hope, it is my sincere request and entreaty to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that these tactics stop. They must stop not only for the good of the Senate but out of respect to the President who received almost 60 million votes on November 2 and out of respect for the Constitution itself. What has happened these last 2 years is wrong, it is unfair, and, indeed, it is unconstitutional.

Should President Bush have the opportunity to nominate one or more judges to vacancies on the U.S. Supreme Court, it is my sincere hope we will have learned something from the mistakes of the past. We will have also learned there is a political penalty to be paid for obstructing judges, for treating them unfairly and in an unconstitutional fashion.

As an astute observer not only of the human condition but also of politics in general, I am confident that all of my colleagues in the Senate, all 100, paid close attention to the verdict of the American people on November 2 when it came to a referendum on whether these unconstitutional, unfair obstructionist tactics should continue or end. It is my hope we all got the same message and that, indeed, we will treat the President's nominees fairly, that we will do what the Constitution requires, that we ask the questions, make sure they are qualified by virtue of experience, education, and temperament, that they understand what the role of

the judge is, and that they are not just a legislator wearing a black robe and with lifetime tenure.

I believe on November 2 the American people rejected the tactics of obstructionism and demonization of the President's nominees. Frankly, I worry that the good men and women who have been nominated by the President to serve in these important positions, after those behind them see how they have been treated, or I should say mistreated, how long can we expect other good men and women, when called by the President, will answer the call only to know they will be smeared, strung out before the world and, indeed, then, obstructed by an unconstitutional process?

It is my hope we will have learned something over these last 2 years and to repudiate these tactics.

I will say something to my constituents and the people who may be listening who have contacted my office in very sincere concern for what they have seen played out on the Senate floor and in the judicial confirmation process.

I say to all of them, I appreciate your passion. I appreciate your concern. I appreciate your interest in the instruments of the Government that ultimately the people of this country control. We are going to need the involvement, the attention, the passion of all of the people and, indeed, we are going to need to appeal to our better angels in the Senate and in the Senate Judiciary Committee when it comes to the next nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court.

We all remember, whether it is the confirmation process by which Judge Bork was blocked, by which Clarence Thomas was ultimately confirmed—after going through a process that no one should have to go through—my hope is we will have learned that is not the way the Senate should conduct itself and that we will resolve among ourselves and resolve among the American people and to the people we represent that we will treat the President's judicial nominees fairly, that we will treat them with dignity, and that we will provide the up-or-down vote the U.S. Constitution demands when it comes to the confirmation of the President's judicial nominees.

I am not suggesting for a minute that anyone violate their conscience. Indeed, any Senator with a sincere belief that an individual judge should not be confirmed should come to the Senate, as no doubt they will, and explain to their colleagues why they feel so strongly, why they conscientiously object to this nominee and invoke their conscience. Every Senator should do that, and I trust they will.

But no one, no Senator has the right, no group of Senators has the right, no minority has the right to tyrannize the majority of the Senate when we stand ready in a bipartisan fashion to cast a vote, up or down, for a judicial nominee.

I sincerely hope we will not have only learned from the mistakes of the past when it comes to obstruction of the President's judicial nominees, but we will conduct ourselves with the kind of dignity the American people have come to expect from Senators and that we will conduct ourselves uprightly, with fairness and dignity, and treat all we come in contact exactly the same way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I intend to speak on another matter at some point. I see several of my colleagues are in the Senate. Senator LEVIN, I believe, wishes to speak for a short time. I see Senator BOND is in the Senate, as well.

I will take 5 minutes to say I have deep respect for my colleague from Texas. I like him and I am pleased he is a Member of this body. I have deep disagreement with what he has said, and I will take this moment to respond to it.

There is a newfound passion, apparently, for providing votes for nominees for judgeships. When I say a newfound passion, let me explain that I was here in the 1990s. There were 60 nominees for the Federal court that never got a vote in the Senate by a Republican-controlled Senate. Many of them never even got 1 day of hearings. It was unbelievable what went on with the majority party in this Chamber when the Clinton administration was sending down nominees.

Contrary to what my colleague just indicated, this notion of obstructionism, this is a newfound technique. You create your own reality and debate from that reality. There was no obstructionism. This Senate approved 201 Federal judges; 201 of the nominations for Federal judgeships that were sent down here by this President. We held up about 10 of them.

Now, the Constitution says something about our obligations. This is not about obstruction. It is not about unconstitutional behavior. It is not anything of the sort. It is about those in the Senate who understand that the Constitution says we have a responsibility when it comes to putting someone on the Federal bench for a lifetime.

When someone sends a name to this Senate as this President did that says, I want this man to serve for a lifetime on the Federal bench—by the way, this person has a record of writing articles saying that his belief is that women are subservient to men—I say, wait a second. It is not somebody I want to sit on the Federal bench for a lifetime. I don't happen to think that sort of thinking represents what I want to put on the Federal bench.

We held up, I believe, 10 nominees and approved 201. We approved 93 percent of the President's requests. We are told this is obstructionism? And now we are told, today, there is a lesson in the South Dakota Senate race as a result of this? This ''obstructionism'' created a result in the Senate race in South Dakota of which we all need to be mindful?

Let me state what the South Dakota Senate race was about. It was not about obstructionism and judgeships. It was about $20 million coming out of the basement of the White House through various orifices and devices, directed at the minority leader in the State of South Dakota in a campaign that in many respects, in my judgment, was shameful. But it was not about obstructionism. It was not about judges because the fact is we approved 201 Federal nominees sent to us by this President. We have been extraordinarily cooperative.

Let me say again, I was here during 8 years of the Clinton administration when 60 nominees were sent down here that never got a vote. Some of them never got one day of hearings. Let me say that on my behalf I want to cooperate with this President. But my colleagues and I have constitutional responsibilities with respect to putting someone on a Federal bench for a lifetime that involves two steps: One, the President proposes a nominee; and, second, under advice and consent, the Senate then makes its judgement. We have a responsibility here. It is a constitutional responsibility.

I have read and reread that Constitution. I am proud of what we have done. We have been extraordinarily cooperative with this President and will continue to be so. But that does not mean all of us walk to this Chamber with ink on our shoes and become a giant rubber stamp to say: Me too. Yes, sign me up. OK, I am fine, I am with you. It is not our role and it is not our responsibility.

When we approved 201 Federal nominees to the Federal court from this President, which was 93 percent of the nominees of this President, I think it strains credibility to somehow call this obstructionism. And it certainly strains our sense of irony to hear those calling us obstructionists when not very long ago there were 60 nominees, some of which never got a day of hearings, and none of which got a vote on the floor of the Senate.

Going forward, I think we ought to understand this: The so-called lesson we were described moments ago about the election in South Dakota, that is all nonsense. It is not what that was about. We believe we have a responsibility to cooperate. We will. We also believe we have a constitutional responsibility to use our heads, our hearts and our minds to make good decisions about the future of this country. We will continue to do that as well.

Incidentally, I have in my hand a record of two votes during the Clinton administration where there were cloture motions that were required for nominees. So this notion that somehow it is the first time ever there was a filibuster, nonsense, that's just not true.

I have records of both votes. It has been done before. It has been done by the majority party. It is just when they do not get 100 percent of their nominees, they do not get a rubber stamp coming out of this Chamber, that somehow they have a problem with that. The American people should not have a problem with it. The Constitution certainly does not have a problem with it, and I do not.

I want to be cooperative, but I do not want to sit and listen to a re-creation of reality that does not square with what we have done in the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I wonder if I could ask unanimous consent to line up speakers. Does the Senator from North Dakota want to do that? And is that agreeable to the Senator from Missouri and the Senator from Oklahoma that speakers be lined up by unanimous consent? When I asked Senator DORGAN to yield to me for 5 minutes, he was wondering if he could then be next in order. But I know Senator BOND is here, too.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me follow Senator BOND.

Mr. INHOFE. Yes. If I could ask the Senator from North Dakota about how much time will he be using?

Mr. DORGAN. I intended to use 20 minutes. I would be happy to follow the Senator.

Mr. INHOFE. I would be close to that amount of time, too, so I will go ahead and wait. If I could lock in after the Senator from North Dakota, that is fine.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me suggest the Senator from Michigan begin, and then be followed by the Senator from Missouri, and then myself, followed by the Senator from Oklahoma. I ask unanimous consent that be the order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE VOTES FOR JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, while Senator DORGAN is in the Chamber, he made reference to the fact there have been cloture votes required on judges throughout the years. I want to expand on the RECORD some of the names of judges where cloture votes were required, in fact, where cloture votes were not agreed to and led to their defeat in a number of instances: Justice Fortas in 1968; now Justice Bryer but then circuit court nominee Steven Bryer in 1980, with two cloture motions; Rosemary Barkett, to the Eleventh Circuit in 1994; Lee Sarokin in 1994, with a cloture motion required; Marsha Berzon in the year 2000; Richard Paez in the year 2000.

Cloture is not a new phenomenon when it comes to the debate over judges. Yet we hear now that suddenly the requirement that there be a cloture vote is something that is new to this Senate. It is not. It has been historically used. It is appropriate, and it is rare.

As Senator DORGAN pointed out, 93 percent of the judges who were nominated by President Bush were confirmed when there were votes that came to the floor of the Senate. Ninety-three percent of these judges were confirmed. And the comparison to that of the Clinton years, where so many judges could not even get a hearing, where there was a filibuster in the Judiciary Committee because of the refusal to grant judges a hearing, is quite a contrast. We do not hear much about that. Instead, hearing that the refusal to have an up-or-down vote and a requirement for cloture is somehow labeled obstructionism is altogether out of line, as far as I am concerned, and inaccurate historically, inappropriate, and needs to be contested.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, that is not why I came to the floor, although it relates to why I came to the floor this afternoon because I came here to pay tribute to a dear friend, our Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota. This sadness is only tempered by the belief that TOM DASCHLE will continue to play a vital role in our Nation's public life in the future.

TOM DASCHLE has had a distinguished career as a legislator on behalf of the interests of the people of South Dakota and all of the people of our Nation. He has fought for a fair share for the farmers of his State and for farmers around the country. He has been in the forefront of rural health, veterans' health, a fair tax system, and a very broad range of other issues.

He has been as a leader of the Democrats in the Senate, both as majority leader and minority leader, through one of the most difficult periods of the Senate's history where TOM DASCHLE has made his mark. He has been a remarkable leader. As a principled and tireless advocate for the issues he believes in, he has led by example. On countless difficult and contentious issues, he has led by carefully listening to all sides. Time and time again, on complex and challenging legislation, he has led by tireless negotiation and by building consensus. And, where appropriate, he has been able to organize Democrats to insist on our rights as a minority in the Senate.

It is, indeed, a bitter irony of the most recent election that TOM DASCHLE, who is a legislator to the core, and a man of compromise and soft-spoken wisdom, a seeker of dialogue, solutions, and consensus, was caricatured as an obstructionist. In the time-honored tradition of Senate leaders of both parties, he stood tall when principle required it. In reality, though, it was TOM DASCHLE's style to reach across the aisle, time and time again, in an effort to legislate in the Nation's best interest. Often he worked closely with the Republican leader in some of the Senate's finest and most difficult hours.

In the face of a very difficult impeachment trial that tested this Senate, in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks, and when he himself was targeted in the anthrax attack, as in countless other instances, TOM DASCHLE demonstrated his talent for calm, inclusive, and wise leadership.

As this session of Congress ends in the next few days, the people of South Dakota will be losing a vigorous, effective, and committed Senator. Democrats in this body, indeed, all Senators, will be losing a great leader. And all Americans will be losing a voice of reason, judgment, and wisdom. I will be losing a friend and a confidante. TOM DASCHLE is a beautiful human being and a nonpareil leader. His good nature will enable him to overcome this momentary defeat so that the contributions he makes to public life will soon flower in a different place.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SHELBY be recognized for 10 minutes following me, and that Senator BREAUX be recognized for 15 minutes thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOHN BREAUX

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it has been a pleasure to work with the Senator from Louisiana. We have appreciated his leadership on many issues not only important to Louisiana but to our energy future and important to navigation in the heartland, which is something that is vitally important for all of us.

LEADERSHIP AT THE CIA

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about an old-fashioned virtue: doing what you said you were going to do. That is a test a lot of people apply in politics. They say if you tell us what you are going to do when you get elected, are you going to do it?

It seems to me in the intelligence field we have an example of that. The reaction is somewhat surprising. We have had, I think, 128 or 130 hearings in the Intelligence Committee since I joined it in January 2003. One of the lessons we learned is that, while there are many outstanding dedicated men and women in the CIA and throughout the intelligence community, the system is broken; it didn't give us the adequate or accurate prediction of the scope of the terrorist danger to the U.S. before 9/11. We went into Iraq with the Director of Central Intelligence so confident of the intelligence analysis

that we would find weapons of mass destruction that he advised the President it was a ''slam dunk.''

We now find out that while there was great danger in Iraq, it was very different from the danger that the CIA had assessed. The estimates were really faulty. We have seen this. The CIA and the intelligence community, as I said, have outstanding, dedicated people; but they are not focused properly on doing the job that the new worldwide threat of an unrelenting, vicious, terrorist war directed at us and all free-minded people presents. So everybody came to the conclusion there needed to be a new direction.

The President nominated one of the Members of Congress who had done a great deal of oversight of the CIA and actually had served in the clandestine service himself, Porter Goss of Florida. Everybody said they wanted change. Porter Goss told the President and the Congress in his confirmation hearings that we are going to make some changes. He went over to the CIA. He is making some changes. What a surprise. The critics are now saying he is making changes at the CIA. I am a little bit confused about what they thought he was going to do. If he didn't make changes at the CIA, that is when I think we should be challenging him.

Something has to change. I have spoken with Director Goss, and I know our chairman, Senator ROBERTS, has. We both have confidence in his ability, because it appears to us that Director Goss is doing exactly what he told Congress he would do, and that is to make changes in order to improve the CIA.

Why are we surprised or critical that there is a change with new leadership? Obviously, changing means there are going to be some people who are going to be displaced. We thank them for their service and wish them well. But why are we arguing over the fact that some people are going to be removed or replaced?

Director Goss testified at his confirmation hearing that he would make changes that emphasize the CIA's missions and capability and focus on delivering a better product to the President and Congress. That is because, as I said, we have had report after report, including the Senate's inquiry that we spent a lot of time putting together, that shows failures at many levels within the CIA, resulting in an inadequate product presented to us and the administration. The status quo is not acceptable.

Director Goss has a very big challenge ahead of him. We need to give him room to address it. Change is tough, people don't like it, but it is necessary. Take two aspirins and call me in the morning. Sit back and take a deep breath and don't get upset because he is making changes.

There are some critics who are going after him tooth and toenail. I believe the New York Times had a headline today that said ''New CIA Chief Tells Workers to Back Administration Policies.'' Wait a minute. That is not what he said. I have the copy of the statement Director Goss made. He said that we will support the administration, but he says we will provide intelligence to support it. We don't come out and argue for it. He said that as agency employees, we do not identify with, support, or champion opposition to the administration or its policies. We provide the intelligence as we see it and let the facts alone speak to the policymaker. In other words, their support is by providing the best intelligence estimates available.

Now, Michael Scheuer, who wrote that anonymous book and made headlines with the ''Imperial Hubris'' book, criticized timid leadership at CIA. Why are we criticizing the DCI for shaking up the management? If the Director of CIA is making mistakes, or if he is going down the wrong path, we on the Intelligence Committees here and in the House are going to be monitoring the situation. If we see there is a problem, we are in a position to call him on it or to point out remedies that are needed. But, so far, I see a man willing to take on an entrenched and some might stay constipated bureaucracy.

Many of the senior intelligence officials to quit have been with the agency for decades. It is a shame we are going to lose that experience, but some would say—and I agree—new blood is needed at the CIA.

I am encouraged that Director Goss is willing to shake things up at the CIA. I hope he employs the same vigor in getting the rest of the intelligence community to work together and share information with each other.

Some of the people who are leaving and whining, I question their mettle. There are thousands of soldiers and marines in Afghanistan and Iraq, including special forces, who are yelled at every day by their sergeants, not to mention being shot at and living in the mud. I am glad they all have the fortitude to say: I am not going to quit because I am yelled at or somebody doesn't like what I am doing.

Perhaps these CIA officers should remember their mission and work with the DCI as the quiet service, keep their mouths shut, and work within the system to provide the best intelligence for the administration, for the Congress, and for the warfighters who need to rely on it and whose lives depend upon it.

Parochialism is one of the CIA's biggest problems. These career CIA officers, while having valuable experience, also carry the baggage of being resistant to change. The status quo may be comfortable to them, but it is dangerous to the country.

We on the Intelligence Committee have heard CIA officers say that everything is just fine, no changes are needed. Those people are clearly in a state of denial.

We on the Intelligence Committee take our oversight responsibilities seriously and will, of course, address legitimate concerns over how Director Goss is running the intelligence community. We appointed and confirmed him to make difficult changes, and I don't think it is appropriate to jump to conclusions or second-guess his management style.

I thank the Chair and my colleagues. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I believe I was to be recognized for 20 minutes following the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). That is correct.

Mr. DORGAN. And two additional Senators as well.

TAX CODE OVERHAUL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this morning in the newspaper we read a report of that which we know, that the administration is going to propose a Tax Code overhaul. I think almost every American would believe that it is worth overhauling the Tax Code. The Tax Code is so complicated, and it desperately needs an overhaul.

The headline reads: ''Bush Plans Tax Code Overhaul. Changes Would Favor Investment, Growth.''

It says:

> The Bush administration is eyeing an overhaul of the tax code that would drastically cut, if not eliminate, taxes on savings and investment . . . .

I want to read just for a moment an op-ed piece that appeared in the Washington Post. It is an op-ed piece written by I believe the second richest man in the world, Warren Buffett. Warren is a charming, delightful man. I had the opportunity to get to know him some. He has been incredibly successful as an American businessman. He wrote an op-ed piece about taxes and the tax burden that I want to read into the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent to print his entire op-ed piece in the RECORD. It is entitled ''Dividend Voodoo.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, May 20, 2003]

DIVIDEND VOODOO

(By Warren Buffett)

The annual Forbes 400 lists prove that—with occasional blips—the rich do indeed get richer. Nonetheless, the Senate voted last week to supply major aid to the rich in their pursuit of even greater wealth.

The Senate decided that the dividends an individual receives should be 50 percent free of tax in 2003, 100 percent tax-free in 2004 through 2006 and then again fully taxable in 2007. The mental flexibility the Senate demonstrated in crafting these zigzags is breathtaking. What it has put in motion, though, is clear: If enacted, these changes would further tilt the tax scales toward the rich.

Let me, as a member of that non-endangered species, give you an example of how the scales are currently balanced. The taxes I pay to the federal government, including the payroll tax that is paid for me by my employer, Berkshire Hathaway, are roughly the

same proportion of my income—about 30 percent—as that paid by the receptionist in our office. My case is not atypical—my earnings, like those of many rich people, are a mix of capital gains and ordinary income—nor is it affected by tax shelters (I've never used any). As it works out, I pay a somewhat higher rate for my combination of salary, investment and capital gain income than our receptionist does. But she pays a far higher portion of her income in payroll taxes than I do.

She's not complaining: Both of us know we were lucky to be born in America. But I was luckier in that I came wired at birth with a talent for capital allocation—a valuable ability to have had in this country during the past half-century. Credit America for most of this value, not me. If the receptionist and I had both been born in, say, Bangladesh, the story would have been far different. There, the market value of our respective talents would not have varied greatly.

Now the Senate says that dividends should be tax-free to recipients. Suppose this measure goes through and the directors of Berkshire Hathaway (which does not now pay a dividend) therefore decide to pay $1 billion in dividends next year. Owning 31 percent of Berkshire, I would receive $310 million in additional income, owe not another dime in federal tax, and see my tax rate plunge to 3 percent.

And our receptionist? She'd still be paying about 30 percent, which means she would be contributing about 10 times the proportion of her income that I would to such government pursuits as fighting terrorism, waging wars and supporting the elderly. Let me repeat the point: Her overall federal tax rate would be 10 times what my rate would be.

When I was young, President Kennedy asked Americans to ''pay any price, bear any burden'' for our country. Against that challenge, the 3 percent overall federal tax rate I would pay—if a Berkshire dividend were to be tax-free—seems a bit light.

Administration officials say that the $310 million suddenly added to my wallet would stimulate the economy because I would invest it and thereby create jobs. But they conveniently forget that If Berkshire kept the money, it would invest that same amount, creating jobs as well.

The Senate's plan invites corporations—indeed, virtually commands them—to contort their behavior in a major way. Were the plan to be enacted, shareholders would logically respond by asking the corporations they own to pay no more dividends in 2003, when they would be partially taxed, but instead to pay the skipped amounts in 2004, when they'd be tax-free. Similarly, in 2006, the last year of the plan, companies should pay double their normal dividend and then avoid dividends altogether in 2007.

Overall, it's hard to conceive of anything sillier than the schedule the Senate has laid out. Indeed, the first President Bush had a name for such activities: ''voodoo economics.'' The manipulation of enactment and sunset dates of tax changes is Enron-style accounting, and a Congress that has recently demanded honest corporate numbers should now look hard at its own practices.

Proponents of cutting tax rates on dividends argue that the move will stimulate the economy. A large amount of stimulus, of course, should already be on the way from the huge and growing deficit the government is now running. I have no strong views on whether more action on this front is warranted. But if it is, don't cut the taxes of people with huge portfolios of stocks held directly. (Small investors owning stock held through 401(k)s are already tax-favored.) Instead, give reductions to those who both need and will spend the money gained. Enact a Social Security tax ''holiday'' or give a flat-sum rebate to people with low incomes. Putting $1,000 in the pockets of 310,000 families with urgent needs is going to provide far more stimulus to the economy than putting the same $310 million in my pockets.

When you listen to tax-cut rhetoric, remember that giving one class of taxpayer a ''break'' requires—now or down the line—that an equivalent burden be imposed on other parties. In other words, if I get a break, someone else pays. Government can't deliver a free lunch to the country as a whole. It can, however, determine who pays for lunch. And last week the Senate handed the bill to the wrong party.

Supporters of making dividends tax-free like to paint critics as promoters of class warfare. The fact is, however, that their proposal promotes class welfare. For my class.

Mr. DORGAN. It reads:

Let me, as a member of that non-endangered species, give you an example of how the scales are currently balanced.

He means with the Tax Code. Again, this is the second richest man in the world.

The taxes I pay to the federal government, including the payroll tax that is paid for me by my employer, Berkshire Hathaway, are roughly the same proportion of my income—about 30 percent—as that paid by the receptionist in our office. My case is not atypical—my earnings, like those of many rich people, are a mix of capital gains and ordinary income—nor is it affected by tax shelters (I've never used any). As it works out, I pay a somewhat higher rate for my combination of salary, investment and capital gains income than our receptionist does. But she pays a far higher portion of her income in payroll taxes than I do.

His point is that he and the receptionist pay about the same percentage of their income. Understand, this is the second richest man in the world and his receptionist in his office.

Then he says:

Now the Senate says that dividends should be tax-free to recipients. Suppose this measure goes through and the directors of Berkshire Hathaway (which does not now pay a dividend) therefore decide to pay $1 billion in dividends next year. Owning 31 percent of Berkshire, I would receive $310 million in additional income, owe not another dime in federal tax, and see my tax rate plunge to 3 percent. And our receptionist? She'd still be paying the 30 percent, which means she would be contributing about 10 times the proportion of her income that I would to such government pursuits as fighting terrorism, waging wars and supporting the elderly. Let me repeat the point: Her overall federal tax rate would be 10 times what my rate would be.

I read that into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because I thought it was a fascinating description by Warren Buffett, one of the richest men in the world, about the issue of deciding that dividends should get extraordinarily preferential tax treatment. In fact, some say we should eliminate the tax on savings and investment, therefore, exempting interest, dividends, and capital gains from tax.

We have a lot of people who do different things. Some people work hard. Some people invest and clip coupons. Some people get up and shower in the morning. Some people work hard in difficult jobs, labor jobs and others that require them to shower at night. Some people work outside. Some people work indoors. Some people have income from wages. Some people have income from dividends or earnings or royalties of some type.

So the question is how should the Tax Code treat all of this? I ask this question: Which is more worthy, work or investment? Or are they equally worthy? And if so, if work is as worthy as investment, then why would one decide to treat investment income with such preferences in the Tax Code? And why would one decide to tax work and exempt investment? Why would one decide to say we are going to take out this activity called work and sock it with a tax, and we are going to take out this activity called investment and make it tax exempt? What is the value system that says let's tax work but exempt investment?

I think the value system, although I do not subscribe to this, is one that says the most important element in this business cycle of ours, in this free enterprise system, is investment.

Investment is very important, there is no question about that. But so, too, is work. Let me read something I put in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 1996 in the Senate. It was about a fellow who I think is a hero. I have only met him once. I did not know him at all at that point. I read about him in the Minneapolis Tribune as I came through the Minneapolis Airport one morning. His name is Robert Naegele, and this relates to the point of value of work relative to value of investment.

Robert Naegele and his wife Ellis did something very extraordinary, something that surprised me when I read it in the Minneapolis Star Tribune that morning at the Minneapolis Airport. He owned a company called Rollerblade, a very successful company, the largest company producing inline skates in America, rollerblades.

Most people know about rollerblades. I happen to like to rollerblade. I enjoy rollerblading. So he owned and was chairman of this company called Rollerblade.

He sold the company after it was very successful, and he made an enormous amount of money. Just before Christmas in the year 1996, just after he sold this company and made a substantial amount of money, he decided he was going to return some of the profits from the sale of that company to the employees who worked in that company. He did not tell any of the workers about it. They began opening what they thought were Christmas cards from the previous owner of this company, Mr. Naegele and his wife.

It turns out it was, in fact, a Christmas card with a check. The check was computed on the basis of the number of months these people had worked for the company. It was an amount of money that he wanted to return to the employees as a result of the profit he had made from selling this company that made rollerblades.

The checks were as high as $20,000 to those who had worked there a long period of time. He said: By the way, I have prepaid the taxes on this bonus. So this is a check that is free and clear. I have paid the taxes on it for you. He said: I did this because while I was very fortunate to run a very successful company, I understand that this company was successful because of the wonderful men and women who worked there. They worked in the plant. They worked in shipping. They worked in manufacturing. They worked in the finance area. They made this company. They were this company. They helped make me successful, and I made a lot of money. But I want to share it with those workers.

I thought, what a wonderful story. What a heroic thing to do, to finally recognize something that has been so lost in this country in recent years: the value and the worth of the workers who perform the work, who make these companies.

These days, employees are too often treated like a wrench: Use it, use it up, throw it away; it is just another tool. Mr. Naegele understood an employee is not just another tool. An employee is a part of the personality and productivity of that company. The work is as important as the investment. It is workers and management. It is workers and investors. All of it together makes a company and makes a company successful. Very seldom do you see that ethic exist these days in how people look at these companies. But I put something in the Senate RECORD on January 10, 1996, paying tribute to this fellow.

I tell that story today because it describes the value of work and the understanding of what work contributes to this country, to the innovation of its business community, and to the capability of what America can offer its employees in the free enterprise system.

The question of how we tax is very important. We must build roads, we must provide for our country's common defense, we must build schools and educate children, we must provide health care to those who cannot provide for themselves—there are things we must do. So we must pay a tax.

The question of how we impose that tax burden on the American people is very important. And this ethic, somehow this notion, this value system that says, oh, by the way, let's tax work and exempt investment, is one that I think relates directly to values.

What is the value system that tells us work is less worthy than other enterprises? Work is not less worthy than other enterprises. It is an important part of what has helped build this country.

I do not diminish at all entrepreneurs and investors. They are an important part of this. But so, too, is the important labor force in this country.

I taught economics for a brief period in college. Samuelson, Econ. 101, you teach the streams of income and what generates the streams of income. You teach the business cycle—all of these issues. Nothing has really changed very much over the years except there is a change with respect to those who want to create a new reality here, suggesting that somehow there is one element of this system of capitalism that is so much more important than the others. I do not believe that is the case. I believe all of this fits together like the picture of a puzzle. A significant part of America's progress has been the worker and the ethic of work and the value of work.

We will work together to overhaul this country's tax system. But I will not be a part of a system that says let's decide to impose a burden on the receptionist in the office that is 10 times the burden we will impose on the world's second richest man. That is not a value system that makes sense to me.

Oh, some will come here and say: But we have to do that to incentivize growth. That doesn't incentivize growth. That retards fairness, but it doesn't incentivize growth.

We have a lot to do to fix this tax system of ours. I proposed in the past and will again a way with respect to the current income tax system to remove the burden of some 70 to 80 million Americans from even having to file a tax return. We don't need to have the streets clogged on April 15 for people to get to the post office to get their tax returns postmarked. We can and should dramatically simplify this tax system. But we should not take a giant step in the direction of deciding there are some who will pay a substantial amount more than others, in reverse order here, with the highest amounts being paid by those who are least able to afford it, and the lowest amounts being paid by those who are most able to afford it.

We are blessed to be a part of this great country. We could have been born anywhere. We could live anywhere. We share this planet with 6 billion people and, through God's grace, somehow we ended up here. There is not another place like it. It is our job to take what we have inherited and make it better.

They say we inherit this from our folks and borrow it from our children. This great democracy of ours, including the progress over two centuries now that I am very proud of, requires nurturing and constant attention. Yes, one of the controversial and difficult areas has always been, How do you raise the revenue to do that which is necessary in our Government?

We can debate about how large government should or should not be. My colleague from Oklahoma will follow me today. He is working, probably today—I suspect almost every day for months and months, on this question of, How do we construct a new highway program? What amount of money is necessary? With what formula shall it be distributed? That is really important work. That is an investment in the infrastructure of this country that is very important.

When he and others get a bill that we can finally get to the floor and create, I hope a 6-year program—then we have to figure out how we pay for that just as we have to pay for everything else. The question isn't whether there should be a tax system. There is a system by which we collect taxes. The question is how should that system be constructed so that it is fair to all Americans.

I look forward to a debate this coming year in which we talk about tax reform and changing our tax system because I think this is a system that is ripe for change. But it is critically important that we have a discussion about the tax burden and what is fair.

The President announced today he is going to have a commission, which is a good thing. I hope that all viewpoints will be involved in that commission. You can get a commission to propose almost anything here in this town. I saw a few of the names on that commission, and I certainly think it needs some more energy and some more thought from other points on the compass.

But I would say to the President, I think the Congress will welcome a debate about overhauling the Tax Code. But if it is proposed that we decide, for example, that dividends, interest and capital gains income shall be eliminated from the tax rolls, we will welcome that debate with a very aggressive discussion about what is the value of work and why should we diminish the value of work.

I indicated earlier today about the ''good enough'' description, by Ma Ferguson, the former Governor of Texas. I will not recall that story again, but if a 5.25-percent tax rate is good enough for companies who move their jobs overseas, why is it not good enough for all Americans? If a zero-percent tax rate is good enough for those earning dividends, why is it not good enough for the wages of workers.

Let me just show you, if you exempt investment income from taxation, the top 10 percent get most of the benefit—$463 billion in realized dividend, capital gain and interest income. The bottom 90 percent have far less.

So you see, if you eliminate dividends, for example, from taxation, a massive amount of the tax breaks goes to the same old corner that it always goes, those who have the most.

Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys used to have a line in their 1930s song:

The little bee sucks the blossom
And the big bee gets the honey.
The little guy picks the cotton
And the big guy makes the money.

Every time we focus on tax reform we find the same thing, especially in recent years.

Let me again say I am all for changing our Tax Code in ways that are thoughtful. We ought to simplify it. But we ought to resist efforts that will make it more unfair and strive to move

towards efforts that will make the burden fair to all Americans. That has certainly not been the case in recent years. My hope is when we next see a proposal dealing with America's Tax Code that we will see something that represents some semblance of fairness. Otherwise there is likely to be a debate breaking out in the Senate, which would be a very healthy thing, in my judgment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I have a number of things to address. I have been listening with great interest to my very good friend from North Dakota. I bow to his superior knowledge in economics. I was not aware that he was a professor of economics, or taught economics. They say confession is good for the soul. I will say to my friend from North Dakota, I went to nine different colleges and universities, all of them night school where I was stationed when I was in the military. I remember once I got out I backed a truck up to the University of Tulsa and shoved off all my transcripts, and they looked at it and said: You are an economist. So that is where I got my background in economics.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator will yield for a moment, I would say I was actually not a professor. I did teach economics at the college briefly, but I was able to overcome that experience.

Mr. INHOFE. Well, good.

I would like to make a couple of comments. That is not what I am here to talk about today. But this President has a commitment to do something about our tax system. I know there is a lot of class warfare that goes on and people are always talking about taxes and that the poor people are paying all the taxes. It is kind of interesting that this President wants to make a dramatic change in the tax structure. When I go back to my State of Oklahoma, no matter where I go the people are all united in saying they really want to have something different.

The interesting thing is, I was riding yesterday with a CPA from Oklahoma and said: If we are successful in dramatically simplifying the Tax Code, why would you support that because you might be out of work?

He said: I would gladly do it. I can always find something else. It is unfair and it is a system that needs to be cleaned up.

I would only caution people who are watching what is going on in this Chamber, when we get into a discussion of changing the Tax Code, every time there is someone who suggests that you lower the marginal rates of taxation, they assume that this is an unjust burden on the lower income people.

In fact, when this President did it he was lowering the tax rate on people who paid taxes. Obviously, if you don't pay taxes, you can't lower the rate. That is what he was faced with.

Also, we learned a lesson following World War I when they raised taxes. It brought a lot of revenue into the system to fight World War I. When it was over, they decided they would go ahead and reduce the taxes because they did not need the revenue anymore. They were shocked to find out when they reduced the taxes that the revenue increased.

Then again, a very smart President, one I admired very much, was the President of the United States by the name of Kennedy. When President Kennedy was in office we were expanding a lot of the things in the social programs in this country. He said we have to have more money, and we have to raise more revenue to take care of these programs. John Kennedy was a Democrat, not a Republican. He said the best way to raise revenue was to reduce marginal rates. So he reduced marginal rates, and sure enough, that opened it up and revenue increased.

Another person came in the White House, Ronald Reagan, in 1980. He said the same thing. He actually reduced the top bracket rate from some 95 percent down to about 25 percent; and all other brackets, too. Everybody got in on that good deal. The largest tax reduction in the history of America successfully reduced taxes and increased revenue.

The evidence of that, if you look at the total revenue that came from marginal rates in the 1980s, was $244 billion. In 1990, it was $466 billion. It almost doubled in that decade, that 10-year period. It was the largest reduction of taxes in this Nation's history.

I hope those who will be engaging in class warfare and are going to be talking about how this is unfair and how the rich need to be paying more taxes keep in mind that the people who are paying the taxes are middle-income Americans. These are the people who need the relief. They need to have more opportunities to do more with the money. That is how you increase revenues.

I hear a lot of people complaining about this President and the fact we have the deficit. Obviously, we have the deficit for three reasons.

No. 1, we had a recession. This President inherited a recession. That started in March of 2000. With the economic activity low, you have to use the formula that for each 1-percent increase in economic activity it produces $46 billion in new revenue. So it was way down.

No. 2, he had succeeded President Clinton where he had cut the defense spending down to the bone with the myth floating around that somehow the cold war was over; we didn't need a military anymore. We were down to about half the Army divisions, down in tactical airwings, and half in ships, down 300 from 600. Then we realized we were in a more hostile world. By the time President George W. Bush had to start rebuilding the military, our modernization programs had stopped.

Then 9/11 came along. Here we are in a war.

I can tell you that the three factors which caused the deficit are factors that we are overcoming as we are speaking. But you might as well hold your breath for a while because the war is going to last a while.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

DON NICKLES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am so pleased that I have a chance a say a few good words about my colleague, DON NICKLES. It is hard to talk about DON NICKLES. I remember him when he was in the State senate. I believe DON NICKLES at that time was the president of the College Republicans in Oklahoma. I remember going to Ponca City and giving a speech at his invitation. Afterwards, he showed just an incredible interest in politics. This was back in the 1970s. He ran for State senate. I believe it was in 1978. And he won.

Midway through that term, in 1980, a seat opened and he decided he was going to run for the U.S. Senate. Everybody laughed. Who is this kid, anyway? He was about 30 years old. He still looks like he is about 35 years old. At that time he looked like he was about 18 years old.

He ran and defeated some of the real heavyweights in the State. Then he came and served in the Senate.

I understand that in those early years they wouldn't let him ride the Members' elevators because they didn't believe he was a Member. They thought he was a page.

Nonetheless, DON NICKLES started proving himself. I watched him mature in this job. As the years went by, every time a 6-year period ended, he would talk about dropping out. But we talked him into running.

Finally, he decided he needed to do something else with his life and do what is in the best interests of his family.

But he grew with the ability to offer expertise that I haven't seen in the Senate since I have been here, and I have been here for 10 years. I have watched DON NICKLES as he matured, as he gained knowledge in areas and expertise in not just one isolated area but in all areas. When he stands up to talk, everybody is quiet. They want to listen to him because they know he knows what he is talking about.

I can recall when ELIZABETH DOLE was first elected. We were making a tribute to DON NICKLES about 3 months after she was here. She said: I have watched him talk about the budget. I have watched him talk about how you finance Government. I have watched him go through all these very difficult things, and I have been here 3 months and I have to confess I don't even know what he is talking about. I said: ELIZABETH, don't feel bad. I have been here 10 years and I still don't know what he is talking about.

DON NICKLES developed that level of expertise that other people do not. It is because he studies. He works.

He is going to be sorely missed by a lot of people around here because of what he had to offer and because of the contributions he has made.

I am 15 years older than DON NICKLES. I have been his junior Senator. I guess it is now time I become senior Senator.

I will miss his expertise, his charm, his humor, and most of all I will miss him because he is my brother. I will miss him dearly. Don, it is going to be goodbye to you but hang around. We look forward to working with you and accepting your advice because I know it will be there when we need it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. INHOFE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2997 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CPL. JOSEPH L. NICE

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marine LCpl. Joseph L. Nice from Nicoma Park, OK, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on August 4, 2004. This fourth-generation soldier died defending the freedom he enjoyed and fighting to ensure it for others.

Lance Corporal Nice moved to Nicoma Park, OK from Newark, NJ, in 1998. He was a gifted young man—a musician, artist and sportsman, who used these gifts in the marching band and on the soccer team at Choctaw High School. From the age of 5, he had longed to follow in the footsteps of his father, his grandfathers, and his uncle in serving in the military. After weighing this tradition and putting on hold his plans to study law, Joseph Nice decided to join the Marine Corps in June 2003.

Lance Corporal Nice was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force stationed at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA. His unit was deployed to Iraq in February 2004, where Lance Corporal Nice and his fellow Marines faced daily attacks in the Anbar province. During one of these attacks on August 4, 2004, Joseph Nice was killed.

I represent the State of Oklahoma in paying my condolences to the family of this American hero. A friend of his said about him: ''If you had a problem, he was always there for you.'' Through his service in Iraq, LCpl Joseph Nice demonstrated his worthiness to receive this highest compliment. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends today.

ARMY SPC. SONNY G. SAMPLER

Mr. President, we also pay homage to Army SPC Sonny G. Sampler from Oklahoma City, OK, who died in the name of freedom in Iraq on 8 July 2004. He moved to Oklahoma City from Altus, OK and began attending John Marshall High School.

Specialist Sampler saw the Army as an opportunity for focus and direction and joined in 2001. He was deployed to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division based in Schweinfurt, Germany. In serving his country, Sonny Sampler did not shy away from his other duties. In the words of Maj. Gen. Douglas Dollar, ''This young man was willing to go to a strange land and fight for people he didn't know.'' It is the same young man who sold some belongings to pay for a flight from Germany back to the United States at Christmas to surprise his mother. Such a family man is to be much valued.

Specialist Sampler was tragically killed when he was searching the Iraqi National Guard Headquarters for survivors, following an allied attack. When the ruins underwent an attack by insurgents, Sonny Sampler and five other U.S. soldiers died. He was 23 years old.

Our thoughts and prayers are with this American hero's family and friends at this very difficult time. We should never cease to be proud of this man.

SGT DANIEL LEE GALVAN

Mr. President, we also pay homage to Sgt Daniel Lee Galvan, who joined the Army to realize his childhood dream of working with helicopters. Earlier this year, Sergeant Galvan made the ultimate sacrifice for his country—his life. Sergeant Galvan was a dedicated defender of America who followed his father into the military. For this service and his sacrifice, I am proud to honor him in the Senate today.

Daniel Galvan was born in Fort Ord, CA, but later moved to Moore, OK, where he joined the Army reserve after high school but enlisted in 1996 to fulfill what he saw as his calling to be a soldier. Though he knew a career in the military would enable him to provide for his family, the paycheck was never his primary motivation. In the words of his wife, Sonya, ''He joined because he believed in the cause. He believed in the military. And he was proud to wear the uniform and honored to be an American.'' Sergeant Galvan was a helicopter crew chief with the 2nd Battalion (Assault), 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Light), based out of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

On August 12, 2004, the Black Hawk helicopter that was transporting Sergeant Galvan and fourteen other soldiers in Afghanistan developed mechanical problems and crashed near the Pakistani border. The fourteen others were wounded, but Daniel Lee Galvan, an honorable Oklahoman and example for us all, paid the ultimate price. Sergeant Galvan left behind his wife as well as two children, his daughter Audrey, 13, and his son Joseph, 11. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family for the loss of such a special man.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I ask that we pay tribute to Sergeant Galvan and the men and women like him, who know the true meaning of service and sacrifice. These men and women have tasted freedom, and wish to ensure that freedom for those who have never experienced it. I honor the memory of our sons and daughters who have died for this noble cause, and especially the memory of Oklahoma's son, Daniel Lee Galvan.

CPL NATHANIEL T. HAMMOND

Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of a brave young American who gave his life defending the Nation. He felt a call to serve his country, to be part of something bigger than himself, and for that call he paid the highest price.

Cpl Nathaniel T. Hammond was assigned to the Marine Reserves' 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division in Chicago. Nathan wasn't a native Oklahoman—he was born and raised in Brighton, MO, where he graduated from high school in 1998 and then joined the Marines, but he lived in Tulsa and had trained with the Anti-Tank Training Company, a Marine Reserve unit, in Broken Arrow.

On November 8 in Babil province, Iraq, he was killed in an insurgent attack. He gave his life for the freedom of millions of Americans, and also for the peace and prosperity of the Iraqi people only now beginning to recover from decades under a totalitarian regime.

Corporal Hammond had a long-held desire to serve the military as a member of the Special Forces, but even as a member of the Marine Reserve, he was ''doing what he wanted to do and what the loved to do,'' according to a childhood friend and fellow soldier. His parents have described how Nathan evinced the selfless attitude toward service to country that is so evident in all our military men and women.

We are all glad Nathan Hammond was willing to serve. His loss is grievous to all of us. Our thoughts are with his parents and the rest of his family back in Missouri. At the same time, we recognize his valor and commitment. It is for men like Nathan Hammond that I am proud to be a part of this great country. He was a special soldier, a true Oklahoman, and a true American.

PFC NACHEZ WASHALANTA II

Mr. President, I honor the memory of a courageous young Oklahoman who died while defending his Nation. Marine PFC Nachez Washalanta II grew up in the great State of Oklahoma, went to school in Ardmore and Silo, and joined the Marines in April 2002.

The road wasn't always smooth for Wash, as his fellow Marines called him. He grew up in a foster home with four other boys, and got his GED instead of graduating from high school. Eventually, Private Washalanta found a home with the United States Marine Corps. He was the driver of a light-armored

vehicle, and although he sometimes complained that he joined the Marines to fight and not to drive, he got his chance in Iraq.

Private Washlanta was a member of the 1st Light-Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force from Camp Pendleton, CA. He paid the ultimate price. When you think about these five great Oklahomans, as well as others around the country, and some 1,100 who have lost their lives, it is a shame that so many people in America do not understand what these soldiers understand.

Mr. President, I have the honor of being, I guess, the second or third ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Consequently, I may have made more trips over to Iraq and Afghanistan than anyone else. I am always approached by these young people. They say: Why is it, Senator, that the people back home don't appreciate what we are doing? These people are dedicated, and they know exactly what they are doing. Unfortunately, we have a media that tries to demean everything they are doing. And I give the assurance to these young people that even though it might be that the networks, CNN, and the New York Times and the Washington Post do not know and appreciate what they are doing, we do, the real people of America. And they are heroes.

I think most of our young people realize our country is facing the greatest risk it has ever faced. This is not conventional warfare. This is not something that is predictable. Sometimes I say I look back wistfully at the days of the Cold War where we had two superpowers, and they were predictable. We were predictable, they were predictable. This is totally unpredictable, but it is a war that has to be won. I pay homage not just to those Oklahomans I mentioned today, but all who are there and many who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom right here in this country.

SGT MORGAN W. STRADER

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the life of a brave young man from Brownsburg, IN. Sgt Morgan W. Strader, 23 years old, died on November 12. After completing his enlistment, Morgan voluntarily extended his service, choosing to accompany his unit back to Iraq—a selfless choice that would cost him his life. Morgan was shot while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. With his entire life before him, Morgan risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Before moving to Crossville, TN, Morgan attended school in Brownsburg. Morgan graduated from high school and followed in his grandfather's footsteps by joining the military. Morgan's father, Gary, told the Indianapolis Star that ''He was a Marine from the day that he was born . . . His grandfather was in the Army during Korea. He latched onto that and loved it.'' It was clear that from a young age, Morgan felt compelled to serve his country in the Armed Forces, just as his grandfather had done.

Morgan was the thirty-seventh Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was assigned to the Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, Regimental Combat Team-1, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA. This brave young soldier leaves behind his father and stepmother, Gary and Janet; his mother and stepfather, Linda and Timothy; his grandparents, Onza and Estelle Morgan; his grandfather, William Strader; his sisters, Amber, Jessica and Rachel; and his brothers, Brian, Chris and Matthew.

Today, I join Morgan's family, his friends and the entire Hoosier community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over this loss, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is his courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Morgan, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Morgan was known for his dedication to family and his love of country. When looking back on Morgan's life, his father, Gary, recalled to the Indianapolis Star a conversation that he had with his son shortly before his departure for a second tour in Iraq. Gary was trying to convince his son that he had done his part and his service was complete. Morgan told his father upon deciding to reenlist, '' Dad, the guys in my unit aren't experienced in this . . . I need to help them.'' Morgan died in the same fashion in which he had lived by putting the well-being of others before his own. Today and always, Morgan will be remembered by family members, friends and fellow Hoosiers as a true American hero and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Morgan's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: ''We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.'' This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Morgan's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Morgan W. Strader in the official record of the U.S. Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families like Morgan's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, ''He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces.''

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Morgan.

FAREWELL

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President and colleagues, the last time anyone does anything in their career or in their life, I think it is a time for a certain degree of sadness and a certain degree of nostalgic remembrance of the times past. This evening will probably be my last opportunity to address this body as a Member, as a Member of the Senate, representing my great and wonderful State of Louisiana.

While some would say, well, it has to be a very difficult time to speak for the last time on the floor of the Senate, looking back at all the great memories, I look back with nothing but great pleasure over the many years I have spent in the Senate as well as in the House of Representatives.

I have been very honored to serve and be elected seven times to the other body, serving 14 years as a Member of the House, representing southwest Louisiana—it was a great and wonderful time—and then moving on to the Senate 18 years ago, representing the entire State of Louisiana.

So when you look back over those years, I think a lot of people would say: Well, it is your last speech, and it must be a very nostalgic time, and you really are sad. I am not. I am pleased. I am happy. I am overwhelmed with the opportunity that was presented to me for those 32 years in the Congress to serve the people of Louisiana in one capacity or another, both in the House, as well as in this Chamber.

Thirty-five years ago, I, with my wife, came to Washington for the very first time as a young staff person, legislative assistant, having just gotten out of law school. I worked in the Seventh Congressional District office for then-Congressman Edwin Edwards. It was a great learning period for me.

Shortly after serving as a staff person, there was a vacancy that was created, and I ran for that vacancy as a young 28-year-old member of the Bar Association in my State. I ran for Congress and had a slogan I remember back then, when I was 28, when I was running for Congress for the first time. My slogan was: ''Experience makes the difference.''

Most of the people I was running against were old enough to be my grandfather or grandparent, certainly old enough to be my parent. Yet I had the audacity to print the slogan on a bumper sticker that ''Experience makes the difference.''

Of course, it aggravated the heck out of all the people I was running against because they said: How dare someone 28 years old talk about experience making the difference; He has none.

Well, I was the only person running who ever worked in a congressional office in Washington. I was the only person who had ever run a congressional office in the district. And I was the only lawyer who was running. I told the people in that first race that we were electing someone to go to Washington and make laws, and I was the only lawyer running. Therefore, they should vote for me.

That went over fairly well for a period of time until all of my opponents realized 98 percent of the people were not lawyers, and about 100 percent of them hated lawyers. So as soon as they started articulating that different viewpoint on the function of lawyers, I started going down in the polls, and thank goodness the election was only a couple weeks later.

To make a long story short, we were elected back in 1972 and came to Washington. I came with my wife Lois and two very small children, John, Jr., and Bill Breaux. I remember we had to rent a U-Haul truck to come to Washington. I had never had an opportunity to be up here. We came up, and I will always remember this: When we left Louisiana, my two sons did not want to go. My youngest son, the night before we left, when he was saying his prayers, said: Goodbye, God. We are moving to Washington.

My oldest son, who was about 4 or 5 at the time, ran away to a neighbor's house and crawled under the house. In Louisiana, the houses are built off the ground. He ran under the house and would not come out. And we had my mom Katie, my dad Ezra, my father-in-law Lloyd, and my mother-in-law Doris who were all there watching us get into the U-Haul to go to Washington, and I had to crawl under the house and literally drag John, Jr., out from under the house and make him get into the U-Haul truck so we could move to Washington. I finally got him here.

We came to Washington. I will always remember we came here on a Saturday. I wanted to go to see the Capitol because I knew it was going to be such an impressive place. I remember that night the Marine Corps Band was playing, how they do in the springtime. They have concerts. They used to do that on the front steps. And they were having a concert. I thought they were playing the concert for me.

We were so delighted as a family to be able to see our first impressions of the U.S. Capitol, with the playing of the band on a wonderful evening. It was a great memory then, and it is still a great memory 35 years later.

In those days when I was in the House, we had an arrangement, if you will. In those days when I arrived here, Carl Albert was Speaker of the House. And then Tip O'Neill became the Democratic leader and Speaker of the House, and Bob Michel was the Republican leader. And Tip O'Neill and Bob Michel probably differed as much as any two people you could possibly know in terms of philosophy in how Government should work. Tip O'Neill was an FDR liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, and Bob Michel was from Peoria, IL, a middle America Republican. They did not agree on how Government should work necessarily from a philosophical standpoint, but they knew how to make Government work.

They spoke more in one day back then than some of the leaders later on spoke in a year because the House changed to a position where now many times leaders do not speak to each other. I would suggest that government was not any worse off when you had a Tip O'Neill and a Bob Michel traveling together, playing golf together, drinking in the evening and having a cocktail together, playing golf together, betting on sporting events together, which I know they did because they had a relationship that allowed them to find out, What do we have to do to accomplish what we both realize is best for this country? They were able to do that in a way that I thought was incredibly effective.

Hale Boggs swore me in to the House of Representatives, a truly great majority leader. I learned a great deal from him and had a great deal of respect for everything he taught me and taught so many.

That was back then. My two sons, who were crawling and saying their prayers before bed, are both 38 years of age. My oldest daughter, Beth, is 34 and is married to a wonderful person named Jeff Shepardson; and now we have three beautiful grandchildren, Anna Kate, Campbell, and C.J. Shepardson, age 2. Also, my youngest daughter, Julie, is now 28.

So after you have been here a while, you wake up one day and say where has all the time gone and how fast it went. I think about that often, but I also think about all of the wonderful things I have been privileged to witness, watch, and participate in, in those 32 years in Congress. It has been a real privilege and pleasure. I have had the honor of serving with three great Senators, including Russell Long, when he was the senior Senator from Louisiana and I was a House Member. I remember coming over to see Russell when I first got into the House of Representatives. I wanted to come and pay my respects. I had been in Congress about a week. So I came over to the Senate and walked up in the Senate office building to see Russell Long. I remember getting on the elevator and it went up to the second floor. The door opened and Senator Jim Eastland from Mississippi got on. He looked at me—and I was on the Members elevator, which shows you the audacity I had even then. He looked at me and said, ''Hey, boy, what are you doing here?'' I said, ''I am a Congressman and I am going to see Russell Long.'' He said, ''You're not a Congressman.'' I said, ''Yes, sir, I am.'' He looked at me and walked off the elevator. Those Members are so wonderful to look back on, and it is interesting to see how things have developed.

I learned a great deal from Russell Long. He taught me how to work with people. He could get more done in the evening over a bottle of bourbon than we can get done by having months and months of hearings and hours of debate because he knew how to bring people together. He had an incredibly great personality and sense of history of where he came from. And he learned from his father who also served in this body.

I also served with Bennett Johnston, a great person who could work both sides of the aisle. He became chairman of the Energy Committee and senior member of the Appropriations Committee. Bennett was outstanding. It was interesting because we never had a cross word politically. A lot of Members, I think, have natural competition between Members of the same State, particularly if they are in different parties. I have had the fortune to serve only with members of the Democratic Party in the Senate. Bennett and I had a wonderful working relationship. He would take the lead on some things, and I would try to take the lead on others. It was a wonderful relationship.

In the last several years, it has been MARY LANDRIEU, who I have seen develop into one of the greatest politicians and greatest leaders of our State. She comes from a great tradition, a long tradition of outstanding public servants in the State of Louisiana, particularly in the city of New Orleans. She learned from the masters, and the masters were her parents, brothers and sisters. They were all involved and they do a wonderful job in representing our State in so many different capacities.

So I have had a wonderful opportunity to serve with people from my State who have been friends and outstanding colleagues, along with all of the other folks that we have had the opportunity to serve with. I have looked at meeting people in Congress not just as colleagues who were elected to public office, but I looked at each one of them as a potential friend. I learned a long time ago that you have to understand where people come from to appreciate what they are all about. I think many times we take a position automatically that we don't like someone because of where they are from or what party they are in, without delving into their backgrounds, why they say what they say, and who helps develop those ideas.

I remember when I was in the House, I served on the Public Works Committee with Bella Abzug, who many thought was the most liberal person in the Congress. I remember Bella Abzug telling me, you know, where I come from, in my congressional district, they think I am too conservative. She

had the type of district that encouraged her and helped her and pushed her to represent the people as they wanted to be represented in the Congress of the United States. So if you understand where people come from and understand their background and who they represent, I think it helps you understand how people of different positions can be friends, because they are truly trying to represent their States the best they can. It is not just because of their politics but because of where they are from.

Let me say one other thing that I think we need to pay attention to in this body, the Senate. That is, we should not let outside forces dictate to us how we treat each other and how we work together. Many times, when Democrats have a caucus lunch on Tuesday right outside this Chamber, Republicans are having theirs separate from us at the same time. Many times, we hear people call in from the outside who are in public relations, PR men and women and pollsters, who spend an inordinate amount of time telling us how we can take actions that will show how the other side is wrong and we are right. Right across the hall, the Republicans are hearing some of the same type of public relation firms arguing to them how they can posture themselves to be able to blame the Democrats for failure.

Back in the old days, we used to do all this together. People would stand up and give their position, and the other side would give theirs and find out we are trying to accomplish the same thing, coming at it from slightly different venues and in a slightly different direction. I always feel that if you only listen to yourself, you are only going to hear an echo and you are never going to disagree. That is why it is so important to hear the other side, listen to what the other side has to say, understand what they say. You don't have to agree with them, but I think you are a better person if you understand and your position becomes stronger if you know what the other side is going to argue. It makes your position better and stronger.

But you also must realize that neither party has a monopoly on the truth. Both sides have good ideas. The real answer to this body and the House, and for democracies everywhere, is trying to take the best of what both sides can offer and blend them in a package that simply makes Government work for all of us. People back home are not so much concerned about who wins and loses as they are about whether we are getting the job done. Congress does not have to be like a Super Bowl. In the Super Bowl, you have to have one team that is going to win and one that will lose. If there is a tie, they have a playoff and go into overtime until one team wins and one team loses. There is nothing wrong with the Congress trying to find ways to reach agreement and blending the best from both sides and coming up with something so that everybody wins. Then we can argue and fight over which team won. That way, I can go back to Louisiana and tell them look what I did, and somebody from Texas or Illinois can go back to their State and say look what I did. And that is fine, because we can argue about success and not debate over failure and whose fault it was. The American people would be better served if the debate here could be a debate about how we accomplish something as opposed to why we didn't get anything done.

I leave with a great deal of appreciation for everybody who helped me, including my staff, many of whom are in the gallery. They helped me every day over and above the call of duty. I also thank the people on the floor with me, including Diana Bostic and so many of the friends we have worked with, like Lula, who was with Senator Long before, and all of the other people. This has been a joint venture, to say the least. I leave with a great deal of optimism.

I am not leaving because I am unhappy or because I am mad. I have enjoyed every single minute of it. I have to admit that some minutes I have enjoyed more than others, but by and large it has been a great and wonderful experience. I give nothing but the very best to my colleagues and wish them nothing but the very best in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

JOHN BREAUX

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am fortunate enough to have been here to hear my colleague from Louisiana give his farewell speech. It was my good fortune to have served with him both in the House and in the Senate. He is one of the favorites of both sides of the aisle. It is an amazing tribute to JOHN and his political career that he does have so many friends in the Senate. From the liberal wing to the conservative wing, Republicans, Democrats, North, South, East and West, you like JOHN BREAUX. You like him because he is a genuine person and also because he comes from a State that is a lot of fun and he is a lot of fun. Some of my best memories of JOHN are his hard work here and then his hard play at home.

When he would invite us to New Orleans for a Democratic leadership conference and other meetings and show us his major city in his home State, it was always a treat.

Then occasionally he would export a little bit of Louisiana to Washington and to the site of the Democratic Convention, and it was always a sellout event. People wanted to be there. JOHN never let them down. I saw him at the Los Angeles Convention where he gave a little party—and I use that term advisedly. It was not little at all, it was a big party. He was dressed in a costume for Mardis Gras that would have put Elvis Presley to shame. It was an amazing array of gold and sequins, the likes of which I have never seen. He looked so much at home in that outfit.

I said to him: How do the people back in Louisiana take to that kind of dress?

He said: You know, they would throw me out of office if I didn't do these things. They expect that of me.

I also went down to New Orleans with him and saw him in a musical performance with a zydeco band. He has musical talent most people don't know about.

I tell you these things because people who follow the Senate, hear the speeches, look at positions on issues and look at the party labels, forget that behind each and every one of us is a real life story.

I love the story of your family coming to Washington, JOHN. It is a beautiful story of packing up the kids and your first impression. Every one of us has that story to tell. There are new Senators coming and saving up those stories in their own minds for the day they stand behind that desk to say what it means to be one of the few Americans given a chance to serve in this great Chamber.

We are going to miss JOHN BREAUX and all that he brought to the Senate and all he brought to this Nation. He has been a problem solver. He has tried to reach across the aisle over and over to create bipartisan coalitions. Sometimes I was with him; sometimes I was not. It did not make any difference because it was a good-faith effort on JOHN BREAUX's part to serve his State and this Nation.

He has had a great career in the House and the Senate. His departure will leave a gap in terms of quality that many of us will work hard to fill. JOHN, I am honored I could serve with you and that I could hear your parting remarks this evening. I wish you and your family the very best.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about our departing colleagues. I am going to start with the senior Senator from South Carolina, the senior Senator after many years of waiting in the wings, and that is Senator FRITZ HOLLINGS.

I first got to know FRITZ HOLLINGS after I came to the Senate in 1986. My wife Annette and I have worked with FRITZ and his wife Peatsy. We have traveled around the United States with them. We have been with them in their home. We visited them in Charleston. We traveled around the world with them.

He is a unique individual, to say the least, but he has had, as the Presiding Officer knows, a distinguished career as a State Senator in his native South Carolina and then lieutenant governor

and Governor of his State before he came to the Senate I believe in 1966.

He has had a distinguished career as chairman of the Commerce Committee for many years and as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee and chairman for many years, and ranking member now, of the Appropriations subcommittee dealing with State-Justice.

FRITZ, we are going to miss you. We are going to miss your humor. We are going to miss your frankness. We are going to miss your wisdom. And we are going to miss your wife Peatsy about whom we all care and love. You have invited a lot of us to visit you in Charleston. I hope you add some more rooms to that house there because a lot of us will be coming to see you. You have been a great American.

In addition to public service to his State and to the Nation, FRITZ HOLLINGS was a young graduate of the Citadel in his hometown of Charleston before the Second World War, and he served with distinction as an officer in Europe for a long time through many battles.

I respect you, FRITZ. I commend you for your service, and I look forward to visiting you both here and in Charleston in the years to come.

DON NICKLES

One of my other colleagues we all care about and work with is DON NICKLES of Oklahoma. He came here as a very young man in 1980. He has been here 24 years. He was the whip, assistant majority leader. He was right here on this floor. He spent many days, many hours trying to herd us together as one of our leaders. He is now at the moment the chairman of the Budget Committee, and that is a feat in itself. He is a senior member of the Finance Committee.

We wish you had stayed around, but you chose to leave the Senate on your own volition. DON, we will see you, we will miss you, and I commend you for your service to the Nation and to your great State of Oklahoma.

JOHN BREAUX

JOHN BREAUX was just on the floor a few minutes ago. I first met JOHN BREAUX when I came to the House of Representatives in 1978. He had preceded me, although he is a little younger. He was a young man in the House of Representatives. He was very involved and was one of the first people I met there.

He tried to work with both sides, the Democrats and Republicans. He has been involved in the forging of a lot of compromises—meaningful ones—over the years. He has represented his State of Louisiana both as a Congressman and as a Senator well, I believe, for many years. JOHN, we wish you and your wife Lois the best. We know you are not going to go very far, but you have a lot of friends in the Senate on both sides of the aisle, and you know that.

TOM DASCHLE

TOM DASCHLE will be leaving us. He served this Nation well. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence officer. He served as a staffer, and then he was in my class in 1978 as a member of the House of Representatives. That is where I first met TOM and worked with him and respected him. Sometimes we would be on other sides of the issues, but nevertheless, I always thought in his dealings with me and others he was a very honorable, decent person.

He is a relatively young man. He served us well, I thought, as majority leader. He was always fair and up front with us. He will go on to good things, I am sure. I wish TOM and his wife Linda the best.

BOB GRAHAM

Senator BOB GRAHAM is a friend of mine, a Democrat, a former Governor of Florida for two terms. He came to the Senate in 1986 when I did. We worked together on many committees, but we worked closely together on the committee you serve on today, Mr. President, and that is the Intelligence Committee.

I was the chairman of the committee and then he became the chairman when the Democrats got control of the Senate, and I was the vice chairman. I found BOB GRAHAM to be working day in and day out, to be a very upfront man, a very honorable man, a man of his word. I certainly wish him well in whatever he does in the future.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

My friend Senator CAMPBELL, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, you talk about somebody unique. He is a unique American. He is a Native American. He is proud of who he is. He has represented the State of Colorado, both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, very well. I wish him the very best. He will certainly not go away in the future.

ZELL MILLER

Senator ZELL MILLER, the colleague of the Presiding Officer, is a distinguished Senator from Georgia. He served as Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, I believe, State senator, and then Governor of Georgia for at least two terms. He came to the Senate and distinguished himself. He is someone for whom I have a lot of respect, for his integrity, for his forthrightness, for his grit, for his perseverance, and also his foresight.

ZELL, we will miss you in the Senate. But we will see a lot of you. I hope to visit you in north Georgia. You tell me what a beautiful place it is, and it is not too far from my State of Alabama, so I hope you have a room for us there. We will come see you, especially when the apples are ready to pick and you are ready to show us around.

JOHN EDWARDS

We have also Senator EDWARDS from North Carolina. I first met JOHN EDWARDS 6 years ago when he came to the Senate. He is a very accomplished lawyer, a very engaging person. He was the Democratic nominee, as we all know, for Vice President of the United States. JOHN EDWARDS is a young man, a man with a lot of talent, and I am sure we will hear from him in some respect, political or otherwise, in the future as life goes on.

PETER FITZGERALD

Senator PETER FITZGERALD from Illinois is a very young man, one of the youngest men to come to the Senate. He chose to serve only one term. I think he has been involved in some of the big issues of the day. He is a man of integrity. He is a man who wants to do the right thing. He is always going to be involved in the issues of the day, as he has been.

PETER, we wish you and your family the best as you go back into the private sector where you have excelled and done things so well and for so long.

We are going to miss all these Senators, on both sides of the aisle, because collectively they bring a lot of experience and a lot of wisdom to the Senate. They have served, as I said, with distinction and honor here.

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to take some time today to pay tribute to one of my closest and best friends in the U.S. Senate, our Democratic leader, TOM DASCHLE.

It is hard to put into words how much I will miss Senator DASCHLE when he leaves the Senate at the end of this session. Senator DASCHLE and I were both first elected to the Senate in 1986. He immediately became a friend, and that friendship has only grown stronger over the years. Senator DASCHLE had already served South Dakota in the House of Representatives for many years when he came to the Senate, so he was able to help show me the ropes when I first arrived in Washington in 1987. His advice and counsel were given freely. But what really drew me to TOM were his genuine delight in seeing and greeting friends, staff and colleagues; his selfless passion for serving the people of South Dakota; and, above all his wonderful, self-effacing sense of humor. Put simply, Senator DASCHLE was able to take on issues very seriously without taking himself too seriously.

Over the years, we have served together on the Agriculture, Finance and Indian Affairs Committees. We have fought side-by-side in numerous battles to serve the interests of the people of the Dakotas.

On the Agriculture Committee, Senator DASCHLE was a tireless advocate for the interests of the northern plains producers we both represent. We fought together for targeted farm assistance to ensure that scarce Federal dollars for commodity programs would most benefit average size family farms. We fought together against concentration in the agriculture industry. We fought together against unfairly traded imports of Canadian grain. We fought for disaster aid time and time again. And we joined to make sure a new farm bill was enacted in 2002.

It is safe to say that without the active leadership and support of Senator

DASCHLE, we would not have had a new farm bill in 2002. And if we had not written the bill in 2002, I firmly believe that mounting budget pressures would have made it virtually impossible to write good legislation in 2003 or 2004. So family farmers all across this country, many of whom might not ever have heard of TOM DASCHLE, have lost a champion.

On the Finance Committee, Senator DASCHLE fought passionately for better health care for all Americans. We fought together to strengthen the Medicare program and improve payment rates for rural health care providers. We fought to preserve the Medicaid program, which provides a health care safety net for the most vulnerable among us. We fought to create the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which expanded health coverage for children who otherwise would have no insurance. And Senator DASCHLE again and again took the lead on trying to reform our health care system to make health care affordable and accessible. So average workers all across the country who worry about losing their health coverage or skyrocketing health costs have lost a champion.

And Senator DASCHLE took a special interest in working on behalf of Native Americans. He has fought to bring attention to the terrible epidemic of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome among Native Americans. And he has led the fight to secure increased resources for the Indian Health Service to help end the health care rationing that occurs on too many reservations. He also has been a strong proponent of the tribal colleges. His efforts have helped put a college education within reach of many Native Americans who might not otherwise get the opportunity. Finally, Senator DASCHLE stood up and gave a voice to the thousands and thousands of individual Indians seeking a full accounting of their trust assets and fought to make sure that the Federal Government fulfilled its trust obligation. So Native Americans all across the country have lost a champion.

As Democratic leader, he continued to work on all these issues. And because he was leader, he delivered real results for real people, time and again. That was especially the case when it came to causes important to South Dakota. Senator DASCHLE tirelessly used his clout to ensure that South Dakota's interests were protected.

But Senator DASCHLE's role as a Senator and as a leader cannot be summed up in a simple listing of the causes and issues he championed, often without fanfare or great recognition. The job of leader has often been compared to herding cats. It is not easy, but Senator DASCHLE did an outstanding job. Senator DASCHLE was a strong leader—and a great Senator—because he didn't just listen to people, he heard their concerns. He didn't just propose compromises, he built consensus. It took enormous patience, great flexibility, strong persuasive skills—and a liberal dose of good humor and humbleness. It also meant that much of what Senator DASCHLE accomplished was done quietly behind the scenes. Too often, he did not get the public credit he deserved for the painstaking hours he spent building consensus and moving issues forward to benefit the American people. Instead, he quietly stepped back and let others take credit.

You cannot be successful as a Senator, and especially as a leader, if other Senators cannot trust you. Senator DASCHLE may at times have left our colleagues on the other side of the aisle frustrated by his mastery of Senate rules and political tactics. But they always knew he was someone they could deal with in good faith. They always knew they could trust his word. And they always knew he would work hard to achieve the result he had committed to.

At the end of the day, that is the ultimate measure of Senator DASCHLE's values—the values he and I learned growing up in the Dakotas. He was honest, fair and hard working. He gave credit to others. And he genuinely respected his colleagues and enjoyed their company. South Dakota, the Senate, and the Nation are losing a true champion, in every sense of the word.

As Senator DASCHLE goes on to other things, my wife Lucy and I wish all the best to TOM and his wife, Linda.

BOB GRAHAM

Mr. President, as the 108th Congress draws to a close, the Senate will lose one of its most distinguished and accomplished members, Senator BOB GRAHAM. Few Senators have had such an outstanding career in public service. BOB GRAHAM served as a Florida State legislator between 1967 and 1978; as Governor between 1978 and 1982; and as U.S. Senator from 1987 to 2004. I am honored that Senator GRAHAM and I were in the same class following our elections to the Senate in 1986.

Throughout his years in public service, Senator GRAHAM has taken a leadership role in protecting our environment, advocating on behalf of seniors and children for adequate health care, working to make certain that our children achieve their highest potential in schools, and making certain that our country lives up to its obligations to veterans and active duty military personnel.

Early in his career as Governor of Florida, Senator GRAHAM launched one of our Nation's most significant efforts to protect the environment through the Save Our Everglades Program. In 2000, Senator GRAHAM achieved his goal of restoring the Florida Everglades through an unprecedented partnership among Federal, State, and local officials along with private industries. This initiative was a significant step to ensure protection of a critical wetland environment, the Florida water supply and endangered species. Senator GRAHAM's efforts were key to preservation of one of America's most important and environmentally sensitive natural treasures.

Throughout his career in public service, Senator GRAHAM has also taken a leadership role on behalf of public education. Long before the enactment of the No Child Left Behind Act, Senator GRAHAM worked to improve Florida public schools by making certain that children have the highest quality public education system. He advocated on behalf of rigid student testing for competency in academic courses, worked to reduce class size, to improve the learning environment through new school construction and to provide more opportunities for higher education assistance for college students.

Through our years together in the Senate, I was privileged to work with Senator GRAHAM closely on health care and Social Security issues. As a colleague for 10 years on the Senate Finance Committee, I noted, with admiration, his concern for the health care needs for the elderly, especially the need to strengthen Medicare and provide a prescription drug benefit for the elderly. Senator GRAHAM authored Medicare reform legislation to provide a prescription drug benefit and other preventative health care benefits. His Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 was cosponsored by one third of the Senate.

When it came to Social Security and Medicare, Senator GRAHAM took a long view. He missed no opportunity to urge all of us to make a priority of ensuring the long-term solvency of these two crucial programs. His concern was not just the current needs of his Florida constituents, but the importance of these programs for the income and health security of generations to come.

Last, Senator GRAHAM assumed a leadership role on behalf of our Nation's veterans and active duty military personnel in his capacity as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. While he focused considerable attention to the needs of our aging veterans population, working tirelessly to increase funding for VA medical care, he has also been sensitive to the needs of veterans living in rural America. Senator GRAHAM supported my efforts to improve access to VA medical care for rural veterans and to improve the quality of care for veterans at the Fargo VA Medical Center and through the expansion of outpatient clinics in rural communities. For this understanding and support for rural veterans, North Dakotans will be forever grateful.

There are many achievements by Senator GRAHAM that I could cite throughout his career in public service. The few accomplishments that I have noted demonstrate remarkable dedication to our country—dedication to improving the lives of our children, the elderly and our veterans. Senator GRAHAM represents the finest example of a dedicated and compassionate public servant. I hope that Senator GRAHAM's career will inspire young Floridians and other young people

across our Nation to service for our country. I have been privileged to serve with Senator GRAHAM and thank him for his distinguished service to our country.

TOM DASCHLE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about the man from which I have stood across this aisle the past 2 years—TOM DASCHLE.

TOM, as we all know, is a good and decent man. He has a big heart for the people of South Dakota, for every Member of this body, and for all of the American people.

He has devoted his life to public service—from serving as an intelligence officer in the Air Force to serving four terms in the House to serving three terms in the United States Senate.

That is seven times TOM DASCHLE has been reelected statewide in South Dakota.

TOM has been such a successful leader, because he has always put others first. This selflessness, this sacrifice is the quality that I admire most about TOM.

Every year TOM returned to South Dakota for an ''unscheduled driving'' tour. He would travel without staff or a schedule—going wherever the road and the people of South Dakota would take him.

This driving tour helped him travel to each of South Dakota's 66 counties—which he did every year.

But, most importantly, it was his way of staying in touch with the people who sent him time and time again to Washington to represent them.

TOM has served as the Democratic Leader for 10 years now. And those have been no easy 10 years for the Senate or for America.

The Senate itself has switched hands and back again. And we have helped lead the Nation through wars and recession and the horrific September 11th attacks.

But throughout this Congress and throughout his career, TOM DASCHLE has handled his job with grace and dignity. And I have always seen in him a gentle, yet stirring passion.

I wish TOM and Linda and their family all the best in the many years to come.

JOHN EDWARDS

Mr. President, JOHN EDWARDS came to the Senate just 6 years ago. Yet he has won us all over as friends for his sunny disposition, his positive attitude, his intelligence, and his hard work.

JOHN can make anyone smile. He forms a personal bond with nearly everyone he meets. No doubt this quality comes from the fact that he always remembers his roots.

The first member of his family to go to college, JOHN grew up the son of two textile workers, moving from town to town.

This upbringing shaped JOHN EDWARDS. It instilled in him a burning desire to improve the world and a strong commitment to populist values.

He became a lawyer. And with ardent trial advocacy, hard work, and genuine concern for others, he scored astounding success.

A terrible tragedy—the death of a child—marked a deciding point in his life. He did not let it destroy him. Never forgetting the terrible pain, JOHN turned tragedy into triumph.

He set out to change America for the better. A political unknown, he faced long odds, but he overcame them.

In the halls of the Senate, JOHN has won new laws to protect patients, increased funding for public schools, and improvements to our banking system.

He and Elizabeth, Catherine, Emma Claire, and Jack have been delightful additions to our Senate family.

And our prayers are with them as they strive to overcome the difficulty of Elizabeth's recent diagnosis of breast cancer.

JOHN EDWARDS has already played a vital role in American public life. And whatever he chooses to do next, we wish him and Elizabeth and their entire family all the best for a bright future.

DON NICKLES

Mr. President, Senators follow many different paths on their way to this Chamber. Some come from the professions, others from a life in public service.

Few have lived the American dream the way DON NICKLES has.

At age 20, DON NICKLES was paying his way at Oklahoma State University, living in a trailer home, working as a janitor, and raising his growing family.

A few years later, he returned to his hometown. There he pulled his family business from the verge of bankruptcy. Pretty soon his neighbors elected him to the Oklahoma Senate.

Then, in 1980, at the age of 31, when few expected it, he became a U.S. Senator.

DON did not let his early success go to his head. He worked hard to keep our country a place where men and women can dream big and live those dreams.

In the Senate, he has been a friend to taxpayers, an opponent of overbearing regulation, a voice for traditional values, and an ardent advocate for Oklahoma.

DON NICKLES has worked to keep America a land of opportunity—a place where everyone has a valued place and nobody lacks the opportunities to succeed.

Through all of his hard work, through all of his toil, he has always put family first. He and Linda have been married for 36 years. And they have raised four wonderful children.

In DON's favorite Bible chapter, Galatians 5, the Apostle Paul lists a godly man's attributes. A godly man, says Paul, work hard and live a life of ''love, joy and peace . . . kindness, goodness, faithfulness.''

I could not think of a better description of DON NICKLES. He has had an amazing career—and I take comfort in that he is just hitting his stride.

We all wish DON and his family the best in what will certainly be a bright future.

FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. President, FRITZ HOLLINGS is a passionate advocate for the people of South Carolina, a true statesman, and a fine gentleman. He is one of the most senior members of our body and, to all of us, he is a friend, a mentor and a guide. He has devoted his life to public service.

FRITZ HOLLINGS has always shown courage, conviction, and an ability to get things done. His work has touched every corner of our country and every American's life.

FRITZ helped our Nation confront its spiraling budget deficits, maintain a strong posture against the Soviet Union, integrate our schools, and create the WIC program. His work has helped protect our coastal ecology, preserve our oceans, and defend our transportation networks from terrorists attack. And, when a family eats dinner without interruption, free from never-ending telemarketing calls, well, we can all thank FRITZ for that too.

On trade, on spending, on taxes, on military issues, and on Senate pay, he has never been afraid to speak his mind, even when his own party, or sometimes even most of the Senate, disagrees with him. In the end, he has always been a winner thanks to his grace and honor. A summary of FRITZ' legislative achievements reads an astounding eight single-spaced pages. He's always campaigned on the creed that: ''Performance is better than promise.'' And he has lived up to it.

We'll all miss FRITZ: His friendship, his principles, and his willingness to tell it like it is. We wish FRITZ and Peatsy all the best and want them to know that they will always have a home, a family and a place in the history of the United States Senate.

BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. President, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL is a man of many talents. He is an Indian chief, a Korean war veteran, a champion quarter horse trainer, an Olympic judo competitor, a rancher, and a jewelry designer.

After his service in the military and a series of athletic victories, BEN settled down to run his ranch and design jewelry. But, by pure accident, politics entered his life. Colorado, the Senate, and America would never be the same.

In 1982, BEN attended a meeting to support a friend's bid for Sheriff. He made a stunning impression and walked away drafted as a candidate for the Colorado State legislature. BEN served the people of Colorado there and in the House of Representatives. And 12 years ago, they elected him to the Senate.

More than 20 years after that fateful evening, BEN has left an indelible mark on the Senate. He has taken the lead on critical agricultural issues, fought excessive spending, argued for a balanced budget, and sponsored Federal drought relief for farmers. From drug

policy to natural resources conservation, he has advocated for Colorado interests, and he has brought home what the people of his State elected him to do. He has also sponsored or co-sponsored 54 Indian-related bills that became law. And he is the first American Indian ever to chair the Senate Indian Affairs committee. Without him, the spectacular Museum of the American Indian that graces our National Mall would not have become a reality.

BEN is as leader who stands firm by his beliefs and works hard for the people of Colorado and Americans everywhere. We wish him and his wife, Linda, all the best for the future.

JOHN BREAUX

Mr. President, the people of Louisiana first sent JOHN BREAUX to serve in this Capitol in 1972. He was only 28 years old. For the next 32 years, he would serve as one of the most respected and admired public servants—from both sides of the aisle—anywhere in American government.

JOHN BREAUX has been a superb United States Senator. He is not inextricably wedded to one ideology or one party's line. He is thoughtful. He is independent. He is deliberative. He is experienced. He always wants to do the right thing for Louisiana and for America.

What I admire most about John is his consensus-building skills. He never gives up on bringing people together. In fact, he has helped bring this body together on landmark pieces of legislation over the past two decades—from welfare reform to health insurance reform to balancing the budget.

I have enjoyed working with JOHN to reform Medicare. We proposed the first Breaux-Frist reforms in 1999. And we followed up with Breaux-Frist II in 2001. And we toiled together on the Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, which JOHN so ably chaired. Breaux-Frist laid the foundation for bipartisan work to come and, ultimately, the most comprehensive and meaningful improvements to Medicare since the program's creation.

JOHN's departure is bittersweet for me—as I am sure it is for every member of this body. We will miss him as a leader we all love and all can work with. But he still has many of his best years ahead—which he will no doubt enjoy spending with Lois and their wonderful and growing family.

PETER FITZGERALD

Mr. President, PETER FITZGERALD has devoted his life to public service.

He first ran for office before the ink on his law degree had dried. And, in the last 6 years, we have come to know Peter as a man of integrity, as a man of honor, and as a friend.

In the Illinois Senate, he was a staunch opponent of corruption. He often had to go it alone. But he still got results.

He continued his mission in the United States Senate—where he arrived in 1998 as our youngest member.

In only 6 years, he has made his mark. He helped uncover the devastating corporate fraud and accounting scandals. And he helped us pass tough new regulations to prevent them from reoccurring.

He has been an ardent advocate for Illinois farmers and businesses, always working to make sure that markets are open and barriers are low.

Whether working to appoint honest federal prosecutors or taking a hard look at major federally-supported projects, he has always stood for doing the right thing.

PETER has made sure that we have tax relief that helps families and creates new jobs. And he has helped protect our children with tough new child safety seat laws.

Our Senate family will miss PETER, Nina, and Jake. They have each enriched our lives, their State, this Senate, and our country. And we wish them all the best in the future.

BOB GRAHAM

Mr. President, during his first campaign for the United States Senate in 1986, People Magazine compared BOB GRAHAM's mind to a Florida thunderstorm; resolute and impossible to deflect.

But as a member of this body for 18 years, BOB GRAHAM has shown that while he may have the energy of a lightning storm, his works are guided with far greater purpose and direction.

In 40 years, BOB has never lost a statewide election. He is one of Florida's most beloved politicians. And that is for good reason.

Always looking for ways to connect with his constituents, Senator GRAHAM uses his ''workdays'' to toil alongside everyday Floridians to understand the problems they face.

A true American patriot, he has consistently put country before party.

On the Senate Intelligence Committee he has helped us tackle the monumental task of overhauling America's intelligence agencies. We will all miss his knowledge, his expertise, and his ability to clarify difficult issues.

BOB and his wife, Adele, have been treasured members of the Senate family—as much for who they are as for what they have done. For a couple who has accomplished so much in their lives together, that's saying something.

I want to thank Senator GRAHAM for his valued contributions to our body and to our country. And we wish him and Adele the best in all their future endeavors.

ZELL MILLER

Mr. President, ZELL MILLER commands a certain respect. He has guts. He has integrity. He speaks simple truths. He is as good and honest a man as I know.

ZELL is the type of leader that takes a stand and doesn't yield an inch of ground—no matter how hard the political winds blow.

America saw this first-hand with his unwavering support of President Bush in the most recent election.

At the Republican Convention, ZELL described the President perhaps better than anyone in our own party. He said the President is: ''a God-fearing man with a good heart and a spine of tempered steel.''

Those same words also describe Senator MILLER.

As a former Marine, ZELL has never wavered in his support of the men and women in uniform who defend our liberty—or the values he shares with them. And he has worked hard and steadfast to end the unprecedented filibuster of judicial nominees.

More than anything, ZELL loves his wonderful wife, Shirley, and their family. Of course, by family, I also include Gus and Woodrow, his two Labrador Retrievers.

ZELL will always be a touchstone of good ole' common sense for this body. He will forever remind us that all we need to do is what is right—nothing more, nothing less.

ZELL MILLER is one of the most colorful Senators ever to grace the halls of this Capitol. And he and Shirley have been two of the most valued members of the Senate family.

We will miss them both, sorely, as a special part of our daily lives.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. FEINGOLD. 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. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, we are.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on Tuesday the President announced the nomination of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be the next U.S. Secretary of State.

I admire Dr. Rice's obvious intellectual gifts and her communication skills. I also believe that the President has the right to appoint Cabinet officers who reflect his ideology and his perspective. Barring serious concerns about a nominee's qualifications or ethical record, and in keeping with Senate practices and precedents, my inclination is to give the President substantial deference in his Cabinet choices.

But I am deeply troubled by the signal that this nomination appears to send—a signal suggesting that the modest moderating influence of the State Department over the last 4 years will disappear, and that the next 4 years will be guided even more closely by the voices that shouted loudest in the first term, and that led our country into seriously flawed foreign policies. Our country cannot afford to continue down the foreign policy path that was forged during the first term of the Bush administration.

Over the past 4 years, we have witnessed the greatest loss of a very valuable type of American power in our history: our power to lead, to persuade and to inspire. As Joseph Nye has pointed out, this power will not convert the extremists who oppose us no

matter what. Those people must be eliminated, pure, and simple. But it can thwart their plans, by denying them new recruits, undermining their appeal and their message, and unifying, rather than dividing, Americans and the rest of the international community. Rather than bolstering this asset, which has helped to make us the most powerful country on earth, we have squandered it.

In March, the Pew Research Center found that one year after the start of the war in Iraq, ''discontent with America and its policies has intensified rather than diminished'' across the world. Majorities in Pakistan, Jordan, Morocco and Turkey believe that the U.S. is exaggerating the terrorist threat, doubt the sincerity of the U.S. war on terrorism and say that it is an effort to control Mideast oil and dominate the world. The Center found that:

> At least half the people in countries other than the U.S. say as a result of the war in Iraq they have less confidence that the United States is trustworthy. Similarly, majorities in all of these countries say they have less confidence that the U.S. wants to promote democracy globally.

Our motives are questioned, our public justifications and explanations viewed with skepticism, and our post-9/11 public diplomacy efforts have missed the mark, substituting pop music broadcasts, brochures and videos for the kind of respectful dialogue and engagement that could convince generations of angry young people that their humiliation is not our goal.

We have had over 3 years since September 11, 2001, to think strategically about how to win the fight against terrorism. But we have little to show for this time.

We have relied upon a doctrine that fails to recognize that our enemies do not rely on explicit state sponsorship of terrorism. By focusing almost entirely on possible state sponsors of terror, the administration failed to realize that our terrorist enemies operate effectively in weak and failing states and without the backing of national governments. This is a new enemy waging a new war against us, but the administration appears still to be stuck in an old cold war mindset.

We have muddled our language and our focus by conflating other priorities with the fight against terrorism, costing us credibility around the world and shattering the unified and resolved global coalition that emerged to support us in the aftermath of 9/11. By choosing to fight the war in Iraq in such a divisive and astronomically expensive fashion, we have diverted resources away from the fight against the terrorist networks that seek to destroy us and undermined our ability to win the hearts and minds of many whose support we will need to succeed in the long run.

We have recognized the dangers of nuclear proliferation in an age of terrorism, but have then pursued policies that may well create incentives for states to develop nuclear weapons as quickly as possible.

We have developed essentially no measures of success or failure when it comes to one of our most urgent priorities, as the 9/11 Commission underscored—preventing the continued growth of Islamist terrorism. In fact, we do not even know where we stand today in this vital struggle.

We have not given any serious thought to how to avoid the mistakes of the cold war, when we gave a free pass to forces of repression and brutality, as long as they did not come with a Communist bent. Those mistakes, as we all know, helped to make Afghanistan the brutally repressive terrorist haven that it was on 9/11.

We have not made an adequate investment in bolstering our diplomatic resources and engagement around the world. From Northern Nigeria to Eastern Kenya, we have virtually no presence. In Somalia, despite knowing that al-Qaida-linked terrorists have operated in the country, we simply failed to develop any policy at all.

While the administration's policy was failing on all of these fronts, the President's team was devoting its time and attention to selling the world and the American people a war in Iraq with fundamentally flawed intelligence, manipulative and misleading characterizations, and rosy predictions that provided horribly, dangerously off-the-mark. The administration's Iraq policies in the first term painted a picture of an American government that isn't so sure it rejects torture; that isn't competent and careful enough to properly vet intelligence presented in major speeches and briefings; that willfully rejects the lessons of history and advice of its own experts; that is surprised when disorder results in massive looting; that misleads taxpayers regarding the costs and commitments entailed in its policies; that spends billions upon billions without any effort to budget for these predictable costs; and that is willing to politicize issues fundamental to our national security in the ugliest possible way.

We deserve better. Certainly the brave men and women of the U.S. military who are fighting every day to make this effort in Iraq work deserve better. We do not honor them by accepting lousy, irresponsible policy in the halls and hearing rooms of the Capitol and then leaving them holding the bag on the ground, when policy collides with the hard truth.

The administration's record of the past 4 years suggests a foreign policy careening out of control, driven by ideologies who want to test their theories in the laboratory of the Middle East one minute, by domestic political considerations the next, and by spiteful attempts to punish those who disagree with their methods the next. Where is this going? Who is in charge? No one ever seems to be held accountable for the blunders, the failures, the wildly inaccurate presentations and projections or the painfully ineffective initiatives.

Congress cannot simply accept more of the same, keep our heads down and hope that somehow we will muddle through. The stakes are far too high. Our national security, the stability of the world that our children will inherit, our troops—even our country's honor—are on the line. Congress has an obligation, not to oppose every administration effort, but to reassert our role in steering the ship of state wisely rather than recklessly. I look at our foreign policy over the past 4 years, and I know that America is so much better than this.

I look forward to the opportunity to raise these concerns with Dr. Rice when she testifies before the Foreign Relations Committee, and to receiving some assurance that she will work with Congress to put our country's foreign policy on a better, more effective footing.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN MEMORY OF KOMNINOS ''GUS'' KARELLAS

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart, to mourn the loss of Komninos ''Gus'' Karellas, who was known and loved by so many in the community of Mexico, MO. Though cut tragically short, his was a life surrounded by a strong family and a strong community, and he was a great example of an immigrant who came to America and took advantage of every opportunity this country gave him.

Gus was a native of Greece, and he ran away from home as a teenager with only a few cents to his name. He emigrated to American in 1965 via Oakland, CA, and even though he did not speak English very well then, he managed to succeed against all odds. He ended up in Iowa working at a pizza restaurant, where he met Jimmy and Angelo Aslanidis, who became his good friends. They ended up moving together to Columbia, MO, where Gus worked at the University of Missouri for a short time before the three of them helped start the G&D Steakhouse.

In 1971, Gus Karellas and his wife Mary moved away to help manage a new G&D Steakhouse in Mexico, MO. Gus bought the restaurant one year later and spent nearly every single day there, becoming a familiar fixture to the residents of Mexico for the next three decades. His popularity with people led some of his family to give him the affectionate nickname of ''Governor Gus.''

Guy instilled his strong work ethic in his family, and friends say nothing made him prouder than his children Michael, Nick, Joanna, and Andy, who is an aide in my office. I have come to know Andy very well in the two years he has worked for me, and he is an accomplished young man with an immense sense of pride and gratitude for his family.

Gus was robbed and murdered as he was leaving his restaurant several days ago. Since then, hundreds of people—friends and family, regulars of the restaurant, or even those who just casually knew Gus Karellas—have visited the restaurant, creating a makeshift memorial of flowers, candles, and cards to the man they came to know and love.

Gus Karellas was a loving husband and dedicated father, a good neighbor and good friend to many. He will be missed by all who loved him. May he rest in peace and may God comfort his family and friends in their grief at his loss.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

DON NICKLES

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise tonight to make a quick comment about a dear friend. The greatest thing about serving in the House of Representatives and the Senate is meeting the colleagues we have the opportunity to serve with on both sides of the aisle. As a Member of the House of Representatives, I had the opportunity to get to know a number of the Members of the Senate, one of whom is retiring at the end of this session.

DON NICKLES was elected to the Senate when he was too young to serve in the Senate. He actually had a few months after his election before he was old enough, but he was old enough before he was sworn in. That was back in 1980. He has now served with great distinction in this body for 24 years. He leaves with a record that not many Senators are able to claim after serving in this Senate for whatever period of time they may be here.

DON NICKLES has been a leader in the Republican Party, but most significantly he has been a leader in the Senate. He is a man who has provided strong leadership on any number of issues, whether they are fiscal issues as chairman of the Budget Committee and a longtime member of the Budget Committee, which is where I first got to know him in our conferences between the House and the Senate, or whether it is on energy or social issues, DON NICKLES possesses all the assets that America holds dear.

He is a strong family man. He is a hard-working individual. He is a man of faith. He is a man who when he looks you in the eye and tells you something, you can go to the bank with it.

I am going to miss DON NICKLES. I will miss his quick wit. I am going to miss his being able to stand up in the Senate and quickly take on anybody on either side of the aisle with respect to whatever the issue may be or whatever the rule may be that applies to the issue that comes up.

I marveled at his ability to, off the top of his head, take on folks on the other side of the aisle relative to a particular issue and to point out issue by issue and point by point what must be done. That is a unique capability and something that must be studied and learned.

My predecessor, one of the folks who held my seat many years before I got here, was the master of that. That is Richard Russell. DON NICKLES knows the rules just as well as Richard Russell did.

I will miss DON in a number of respects off of this Senate floor. He is a close personal friend. He and his wife Linda are dear friends of Julianne and me. I will have to find somebody else to get money off of on the golf course because I have known DON so long now that I have come to spend the money before I play golf.

He is a terrific guy both in the Senate as well as outside the Senate. He is a man of great integrity. He is the kind of Senator who every citizen of Oklahoma should and has been proud of for his 24 years of service to the Senate.

I went back to his hometown a couple of months ago, his hometown of Ponca City, OK, a very small town in America. DON was a football hero. As in my home State of Georgia and my hometown, football is huge in Ponca City. They still remember DON as a high school fullback and linebacker.

His old coach was there that night to talk about DON and some of the things he did during his high school career. It is those foundations that people all across America build upon to come to the Senate.

The things that were said about DON back then could still be said about him today; that is, what a dedicated person he was, what a hard-working person he was, and what a student of the game he was, just like he has been a student of the Senate.

No one there was surprised at what a great job DON had done as a Member of the Senate and what a success he was, what a success he will be once he leaves. DON had the right kind of foundation and the right kind of instincts and the right kind of family stability, support, and love to make sure he did the right kind of job in the Senate, and he will continue to be successful when he leaves here.

To DON and to Linda, we say thanks for the service to our country. My children and my grandchildren are going to benefit from the service of the Senate of DON NICKLES. That is something for which I will forever be grateful.

Just as importantly, I have been a better Senator than I would have been otherwise because of DON NICKLES. In future years, because of what I have learned from DON NICKLES, I will be a much better Senator.

DON, we appreciate your service to our country. Thank you. God bless you and Linda.

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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

VICKI COX

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I want to mention a staffer of mine. She is not a Senator but she is very important in my office, Vicki Lee Cox; Vicki Lee, as she was when she came to work with me in 1978 when I was elected to the House of Representatives. Her father was a naval officer in the Naval Academy. She lived around the world. She was born in Pensacola, FL, grew up part of her life in the San Diego area, the San Francisco area, and in Newport, RI. I have worked with her for 26 years, day in and day out. I tried to get her not to retire because these are very important employees. They make your office go. They make us look better than we should, day to day. They make things work in the office.

Vicki, we will miss you in the office. We hope you will not be far off because we might need to bring you back to help us out from time to time as we get in a bind.

We wish you and your husband Dale the very best, but we have a job opening for you if you want to change your mind. God bless you, and we enjoyed the 26 years.

PROTOCOL AMENDING THE EXISTING TAX CONVENTION WITH THE NETHERLANDS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I thank my Senate colleagues for passing the resolution providing advice and consent to the Protocol amending the existing U.S. Tax Treaty with the Netherlands through the unanimous consent procedure.

In spite of legislative hurdles that arose during the process, this Protocol will be enacted, and will bolster the economic relationship between the United States and a country that is already both a good friend and a critical

trade and investment partner. As the United States considers how to create jobs and maintain economic growth, it is important that we try to eliminate impediments that prevent our companies from fully accessing international markets. In the case of taxes, we should work to ensure that companies pay their fair share while not being unfairly taxed twice on the same revenue. Tax treaties are intended to prevent this double taxation so that companies are not inhibited from doing business overseas.

As the United States moves to keep the economy growing and to increase U.S. employment, international tax policies that promote foreign direct investment in the United States such as this Protocol, are critically important. I have received communications from several corporate employers. The foreign entities indicate that this Protocol will provide them with incentives to ''insource'' to the United States. The domestic companies indicate that this Protocol will provide overall advantages and benefits. For the benefit of my colleagues, I am attaching to my statement several of these communications.

I thank my colleagues again for agreeing to pass this important measure.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the material I made reference to be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FOREIGN TRADE COUNCIL, INC.,
Washington, DC, October 22, 2004.

DEAR SENATOR: I am writing to express our strong support for the passage of the Tax Protocol with the Netherlands and to urge you to enact the agreement this year. Further delay in the passage of this agreement will subject U.S. companies to double taxation and adversely affect their global competitiveness. Foreign trade is fundamental to the economic growth of U.S. companies. Tax treaties are a crucial component of the framework that is necessary to allow that growth.

The National Foreign Trade Council, organized in 1914, is an association of some 300 U.S. business enterprises engaged in all aspects of international trade and investment. Our membership covers the full spectrum of industrial, commercial, financial, and service activities, and the NFTC therefore seeks to foster an environment in which U.S. companies can be dynamic and effective competitors in the international business arena. To achieve this goal, American businesses must be able to participate fully in business activities throughout the world. As global competition grows ever more intense, it is vital to the health of U.S. enterprises and to their continuing ability to contribute to the U.S. economy that they are free from excessive foreign taxes or double taxation and impediments to the flow of capital that can serve as barriers to full participation in the international marketplace.

This is why the NFTC has long supported the expansion and strengthening of the U.S. tax treaty network. The Senate has an excellent record in this area; ratifying tax agreements with Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Barbados during this Congress. The NFTC testified in support of these agreements and of the Netherlands Protocol.

Senator Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, recently sent a Dear Colleague letter encouraging all Senators to support passage of the Dutch Protocol in the post-election session. I hope that the full Senate can act favorably on this agreement in the time that remains in this session and reaffirm the historic opposition of the U.S. to double taxation.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. REINSCH,
President.

AIR PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS, INC.,
Allentown, PA, October 26, 2004.

Re Ratification of the Protocol to the Income Tax Treaty with the Netherlands.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUGAR: On behalf of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., I would like to thank you and the Committee for the prompt consideration and attention that you have given to the proposed protocol to the income tax treaty with the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This protocol is very important to Air Products and the United States economy. It is very important to us that the Senate ratify the protocol as soon as possible.

Air Products is a United States company with global headquarters in Allentown, Pennsylvania. It serves customers in technology, energy, healthcare and industrial markets worldwide with a unique portfolio of products, services and solutions, providing atmospheric gases, process and specialty gases, performance materials and chemical intermediates. The company has annual revenues of $7 billion, operations in over 30 countries, and over 18,000 employees.

Air Products has operated in the Netherlands for over thirty years, and it has substantial operations in the Netherlands. Air Products also owns some of its other European operations through the Netherlands. Air Products generates substantial cash flow from these operations. The current 5 percent withholding tax rate discourages Air Products from repatriating this cash back to the U.S. This is especially true because Air Products is currently in an excess foreign tax credit position. The proposed protocol would remove this barrier to repatriating cash. This would benefit not only Air Products but the U.S. economy as a whole. The protocol would remove this repatriation barrier for all U.S. companies with Dutch holdings, and foreign companies would have a greater incentive to invest in the U.S. The sooner the Senate ratifies the protocol, the sooner these benefits will begin.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Senate consider ratification of the proposed protocol as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding Air Products' views on the proposed protocol, please contact me or Charles Stinner, our International Tax Director (610–481–2978).

Sincerely,

KENNETH R. PETRINI,
Vice President—Tax.

SUNOCO, INC.,
Philadelphia, PA, October 26, 2004.

Re Ratification of Protocol to United States-Netherlands Income Tax Treaty.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUGAR: On behalf of Sunoco, Inc., I am writing to urge the prompt ratification of the protocol to the Netherlands Income Tax Treaty signed on March 8, 2004. As you are aware, the proposed protocol makes significant changes to the existing income tax treaty between the United States and the Netherlands. These changes include the elimination of source-country withholding on certain intercompany dividends, modernization of anti-treaty shopping provisions, coordination of the countries' pension rules and the provision of clear rules for investments using partnerships.

The changes negotiated in the protocol are important to the successful business operations of many companies, including Sunoco, and a failure to promptly ratify the protocol will have a detrimental impact on the conduct of business by many multinational corporations. Moreover, in a report dated September 30, 2004, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that ratification of the protocol would cause a negligible change in Federal budget receipts during the fiscal period 2005–2014.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Sunoco believes that the protocol to the Netherlands Income Tax Treaty should be promptly ratified, and urges you to support its ratification.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this issue in more detail or if we can provide additional information, please contact the undersigned at (215) 977–6795. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. MCGOLDRICK,
Director, Tax Administration.

MARY KAY,
Dallas, TX, October 29, 2004.

Re Dutch tax treaty.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
U.S. Senate,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: With the year fast running out, Mary Kay Inc urges you to ratify the US-Netherlands Tax Treaty. The new protocol has a zero percent withholding rate on dividends, which allows our company to repatriate more money for domestic investment. This increase in funds provides Mary Kay Inc with the funds to expand its US plant, increase research and development, which is accomplished in the United States and hire more US based employees.

Please ask Senator Frist to schedule the treaty as soon as possible, before time runs out.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LUNCEFORD,
Senior Vice President.

SUN MICROSYSTEMS, INC.,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2004.

Senator RICHARD LUGAR,
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUGAR: On behalf of Sun Microsystems, Inc., I am writing to express our appreciation of your efforts to seek prompt ratification of the recent Protocol to the U.S.-Netherlands income tax treaty. We urge that these efforts continue so that this important new chapter in America's relationship with the Netherlands can commence before this year terminates.

As reflected in your Dear Colleague letter of October 20, 2004, your recognition of the importance of prompt ratification of the Protocol is most welcome. Compared to other U.S. tax treaties with major trading partners, the current treaty between the United States and the Netherlands is antiquated and contains obstacles to the free flow of trade between the two countries that will be eliminated by the new Protocol. There will be direct benefits to our company and to our employees.

Timely and quick action in bringing needed reform this year to the U.S.-Netherlands

treaty will help keep the American economy growing.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER G. HANKIN,
Senior Director of Federal Affairs.

ABN AMRO ASSET MANAGEMENT,
The Netherlands, October 29, 2004.

Chairman LUGAR,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUGAR: On behalf of ABN AMRO Bank N.V., business unit Asset Management, I am writing to join the many other members of the U.S. business community that have expressed their appreciation of your efforts to seek prompt ratification of the recent Protocol to the income tax treaty between the United States and the Netherlands.

We urge that these efforts continue so that this important new chapter in America's relationship with the Netherlands can commence this year.

As reflected in your letter of October 20, 2004, your recognition of the importance of prompt ratification of the Protocol is most welcome. Compared to other U.S. tax treaties with major trading partners, the current treaty between the United States and the Netherlands is antiquated and contains obstacles to the free flow of trade between the two countries that will be eliminated by the new Protocol.

Treaty advancements reflected in the new Protocol not only eliminate barriers to trade and investment between the two countries, but also resolve uncertainties that target abusive use of the treaty, and promote improved cooperation in international enforcement. Prompt ratification of the new Protocol will promote closer ties with one of our longstanding major trading partners, encourage growth of the US economy and jobs, and support better international tax enforcement efforts.

Quick action in bringing this needed reform to the U.S./Dutch trade relationship will help keep the American economy growing.

Sincerely,

MAURICE BUIJNSTERS,
VP Global Head of Tax.

RICHARD DE HAAS,
Senior Tax Officer.

CHEVRONTEXACO,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2004.

Re Netherlands Protocol.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: I am writing to express ChevronTexaco Corporation's strong support for early ratification of the Protocol amending the existing tax treaty with the Netherlands. A strong tax treaty network is critical for U.S. businesses, such as ChevronTexaco, to compete in the global marketplace. We appreciate your efforts on tax treaties generally, and on this Protocol in particular.

We urge the Senate to ratify the Protocol before year end so that it may enter into force on January 1, 2005. Delaying ratification until 2005 would delay entry into force until January 1, 2006 and would delay the important reductions to withholding tax rates.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will ratify the Protocol in 2005 and we appreciate your efforts to ensure this.

Sincerely,

LISA B. BARRY,
V.P. and General Manager, Government Affairs.

TIMEWARNER,
Washington, DC, November 1, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your continuing leadership in securing quick ratification of several important bilateral tax treaties this year. Bilateral tax treaties are an important means for reducing double taxation and eliminating foreign withholding taxes on our royalties, interest, and dividends.

In this regard, I want to underscore the importance of ratifying the U.S.-Netherlands bilateral tax treaty before Congress adjourns for the year. This treaty, like the previous ones the Senate has ratified, provides important tax savings to Time Warner that we will be able to reinvest and use to expand our business in the United States.

The Netherlands has already ratified this agreement. I offer our company's full support in helping to urge your Senate colleagues to agree to quick ratification of this treaty this year.

Sincerely,

ROBERT M. KIMMITT.

ALLIANT ENERGY CORPORATION,
Madison, WI, November 12, 2004.

Senator RICHARD LUGAR,
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUGAR: Thank you for your continuing leadership in securing quick ratification of several important bilateral tax treaties this year, Bilateral tax treaties are an important means for reducing double taxation and eliminating foreign withholding taxes on our royalties, interest, and dividends.

In this regard, I write to underscore the importance of ratifying the U.S.-Netherlands bilateral tax treaty before Congress adjourns for the year. This treaty, like the previous ones the Senate has ratified, provides important tax savings to Alliant Energy that we will be able to reinvest and use to expand our business in the United States.

The Netherlands has already ratified this agreement. I offer Alliant Energy's full support in helping to urge your Senate colleagues to agree to quick ratification of this treaty this year.

Sincerely,

ERROLL B. DAVIS, Jr.,
Chairman & CEO.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Arlington, VA, November 15, 2004.

Re Ratification of Dutch Tax Treaty.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: The American Chemistry Council urges ratification of the bilateral tax protocol between the United States and the Netherlands.

The ACC represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. Council members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. The business of chemistry is a $460 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is the nation's largest exporter, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports.

We commend your efforts as Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee that resulted in negotiation of the tax protocol with the Netherlands. The treaty would enhance the ability of U.S. companies to compete in the important Dutch market, and if history is a guide, the treaty would create U.S. jobs within the chemical industry and among our suppliers and customers, and it would encourage foreign companies to establish or expand manufacturing facilities in the U.S. Moreover, the information-sharing provisions of the treaty would aid the IRS and Treasury Department in identifying international tax-avoidance schemes that reduce federal tax receipts and impugn the motives of U.S. companies whose global operations represent a major element of an expanding U.S. economy.

Accordingly, we urge ratification of the Dutch Treaty during the time remaining in the 108th Congress. Timely ratification would result in early realization of treaty benefits, and aid companies in capital planning and business expansion.

Please call if we can answer questions or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. VAN VLACK,
Executive Vice President.

DUPONT FINANCE,
Wilmington, DE, October 29, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD G. LUGAR,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS: On March 8, 2004, the United States and the Netherlands signed the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income. We at DuPont would urge the Senate to ratify this Protocol before Congress adjourns.

As you learned during testimony on September 24th, the Protocol brings the existing Convention, concluded in 1992, into closer conformity with current U.S. tax treaty policy. Of particular interest to DuPont, considering the Company's manufacturing sites in the Netherlands, is the elimination of withholding taxes on certain types of cross-border direct dividends. This element of the Protocol creates a powerful tool for repatriating earnings the Company would then be able to devote to our priorities in the United States. In addition, the Protocol's reciprocal treatment of pension funds for international employment assignees allows DuPont employees to gain valuable experience through U.S.-Netherlands exchanges without jeopardizing the status of their retirement benefits.

DuPont also appreciates the benefits the new Protocol would offer the U.S. government. Among them, the improved communications measures between U.S. and Dutch tax authorities coupled with the assistance in the collection of taxes; and the modernized Limitation on Benefits article, designed to deny treaty-shoppers the benefits of the Convention.

The enhancement of economic ties between the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the form of the pending Protocol will promote the growth of trade and investment between the two countries to the benefit of both economies. As such, it is DuPont's hope that deliberations on the Protocol will be completed this year.

Sincerely,

MARSHALL G. MCCLURE.

DEBT LIMIT INCREASE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I speak about the vote that took place yesterday to raise the statutory limit of our

Nation's indebtedness. It is terribly unfortunate that for the third time in three years this administration has run up against the Federal debt limit, thereby forcing once again an increase in the National debt from $7.384 trillion to $8.184 trillion.

I think it is a mistake for this body to give the administration what is essentially an $800 billion check to continue its irresponsible fiscal policies.

For quite some time now, the Treasury Department has been forced to halt payments owed to federal retirement accounts and take other extraordinary measures in order to keep the government from defaulting. And now we are in a position where the Treasury Department has said that Congress must increase the debt ceiling by the end of this week or the government will default on its obligations. What this says is that the government is living far beyond its means.

Just several years ago, when President Clinton was President, the National debt was shrinking, not growing. In 1997, the debt held by the public was $3.745 trillion. By FY2001, it decreased by more than $400 billion to $3.296 trillion. Former President Clinton made it a goal to pay off the debt by 2013, so that America would be debt free for the first time since 1835. He recognized that eliminating the debt would strengthen our economy, allow investments in education and other critical priorities, and ensure that Social Security could meet the challenges to come when the baby boomers retire.

By contrast, under the Bush administration, the debt limit was raised by $450 billion in 2002 and $984 billion in 2003. And now, this year, in 2004 it will increase by $800 billion. I find it astounding that just four years ago we were having compelling conversations in the Senate Banking Committee with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan about what would happen if we paid off the debt too quickly. And now, here we are about to pass another increase of $800 billion to the National debt.

This new increase will bring the grand total to more than $2 trillion under President Bush—the largest total debt limit increase recorded under any President. Now instead of being eliminated, we are expecting the debt held by the public to reach $6.5 trillion by 2011.

When President Bush first came to office he assured the nation that if we adopted his tax cuts, we would not only see job growth, but we would still be able to eliminate the publicly held debt by 2008. Instead, we have seen 1.5 million private-sector jobs lost, making this the first Administration since Herbert Hoover to actually lose jobs. In just 4 years, we have gone from a projected 10-year surplus of $5.6 trillion to a 10-year deficit of over $3 trillion. And now we are about to once again, for the third year in a row, increase the debt.

If additional debt is going to be accumulated, the administration and the majority could at the minimum ensure that we are adequately investing in our children's education, the country's infrastructure, health care, the solvency of Social Security, and other vital national priorities. But that does not appear to be the case considering that we are seeing across the board cuts in the upcoming omnibus bill, and this Administration continues to push for policies that push us further in the red without any real results.

The administration's reckless policies will pass the burden of paying for them onto future generations, and unfortunately, the administration has shown absolutely no regard for the hardship this will cause. We often discuss the so-called ''death tax'', this administration's reckless fiscal policies are forcing a ''birth tax'' on every child born today.

What do I mean by the term ''birth tax''? Simply this: a child born today is born owing his or her country $25,000. That is that child's share of the national debt. This is unconscionable. We have a responsibility as lawmakers to leave our country better off tomorrow than it is today. With policies like this, I am afraid that this administration and its supporters are failing to meet this fundamental moral responsibility to our country and to future generations.

Also deeply troubling is that in order to cover increased borrowing, the U.S. is going deeper into debt to foreign countries. Japan, China, the United Kingdom, and Caribbean Banking Centers are now the largest foreign holders of U.S. Treasury Debt.

We have borrowed over $720 billion from Japan, over $174 billion from China, and even tens of billions of dollars from South Korea. During the term of the President's first four years, we have seen our foreign debt holdings increase 83 percent from just over $1 trillion to over $1.8 trillion. This is especially dangerous because these countries can collect their debt when it suits them, which could potentially puts our nation in a very difficult economic situation.

I find it astounding that the administration and the majority of this Congress have not put forward any plan to reduce the alarming increase in our nation's debt—an increase largely caused by their reckless tax and budget policies. Indeed, their only known plans to permanently extend tax breaks for the affluent and drain at least $1 trillion from Social Security—would only make our current problems worse.

I strongly believe that increasing the debt limit once again without a plan is a big mistake. We owe it to future generations to do more to ensure that their future is economically sound. I hope that this Administration, and the majority of the Congress begin to enact more responsible fiscal policies before it truly is too late.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, yesterday I voted against legislation that will authorize a massive increase in the Federal debt. This bill highlights the gross irresponsibility of our Nation's current fiscal policies. And I hope that, in casting a negative vote along with many of my colleagues, we have helped send a message to the White House that it is long past time to change course.

When President Bush came to office, we were expecting to run a surplus over the next ten years of $5.6 trillion. Instead, we now project a deficit of $3.5 trillion. That is a reversal of more than $9 trillion.

President Bush promised that he would not raid the Social Security trust fund. But, instead, under the Bush budget, we will spend every last penny of Social Security surpluses over the next 10 years, all $2.4 trillion. These surpluses won't be saved. They won't be used to help us keep our promise to working Americans. They will be diverted for tax breaks and other spending programs. This is not what the President promised. It is the opposite.

In effect, the administration's policies are using payroll taxes paid by working Americans, and using them to finance tax breaks for the most fortunate among us. I think that is wrong.

The past few years have been marked by unprecedented fiscal recklessness. The 2004 deficit, even including the Social Security surplus, is $413 billion. That is a record. Last year, the deficit was $377 billion. That was another record. The budget is spinning out of control, and few in the administration seem to care.

Unfortunately, as bad as things have been in recent years, the outlook for the long term is even worse. The baby boomers are about to retire. And by 2050, 81 million Americans will be on Social Security—about double the current level. We need to prepare for that. We need to save for it. Instead, we are doing the reverse. We are putting ourselves deeper and deeper in debt.

In 2001, gross Federal debt stood at $5.8 trillion. By 2014, that debt will have skyrocketed to almost $15 trillion.

With more debt, of course, comes higher interest costs. The 10-year cost of Federal interest payments has gone up from $622 billion in 2001, to $2.4 trillion.

All this debt, and all these interest payments, have consequences. They reduce the capital available for productive investment. They increase interest rates. They slow economic growth. And they lower the standard of living for American families.

Another consequence of all this debt is that our Nation is slowly losing its economic independence. Foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury debt has increased 83 percent under this administration. Today, the U.S. owes China more than $170 billion. We owe Japan more than $700 billion. Increasingly, our Nation is dependent on these countries to bolster our economy and to maintain the value of the dollar. But if

those countries and other foreign investors pull out in the face of rising fiscal imbalances, as has happened elsewhere, the consequences for our economy could be very serious.

In my view, the current course of fiscal policy is not only unwise and dangerous, it is ultimately unsustainable. We can't go on like this. Either our leaders here in Washington will face reality and reverse course, or the markets will punish us until we do. Either the dollar will collapse, or interest rates will rise substantially, or inflation will rise, or all these problems will hit at once.

When that might happen is anybody's guess. But you can't reverse the basic laws of economics. Sooner or later, the piper gets paid.

So, I think we have made a mistake by increasing the debt limit so substantially. Needless to say, we must protect the full faith and credit of the United States. But we do not need a debt limit extension of this magnitude. And we should not have approved it yesterday. Instead, we should have passed a much smaller increase, in order to put real pressure on the Congress next year to finally get serious about the need for fiscal discipline.

Next year we will begin perhaps the most important domestic policy debate in a generation when we take up President Bush's call to privatize Social Security. At that point, Congress will have to make a decision. Either we will keep our promise to American workers, or we will break that promise and cut earned benefits. I think we should keep our promise and protect benefits. But we can only afford to do that if we quickly reestablish some measure of fiscal discipline. Increasing our debt by $800 billion is not the way to do that and, in my view, is a serious mistake.

So for all these reasons, I cast my vote no yesterday. For the sake of our economy, for the sake of our future, and for the sake of our values as a Nation, we must restore fiscal discipline. And we must do it soon.

JUSTICE FOR MARINE CORPS FAMILIES VICTIMS OF TERRORISM

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to describe legislation that I plan to introduce in the 109th Congress. I have been asked to pursue this legislation on behalf of the 158 families of the brave servicemen who died when the terrorist faction Hezbollah—with the support of the Government of Iran—sent a suicide bomber into the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983, killing 241 U.S. servicemen—18 sailors, 3 soldiers, and 220 Marines.

This legislation will provide an explicit private right of action for United States citizens against state sponsors of terrorism in our Federal courts, and will ultimately allow victims of such acts to collect court-ordered damages against state-sponsors of terrorism. The specific provisions of the legislation have been drafted to harmonize existing statutory law with the recent direction of the District of Columbia circuit in *Cicippio-Puleo* v. *Islamic Republic of Iran*, 353 F.3d 1024 (D.C. Cir. 2004), which held that ''neither 28 U.S.C. §1605(a)(7) nor the Flatow Amendment to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act . . ., nor the two considered in tandem, creates a private right of action against a foreign government.'' 353 F.3d 1024, 1032–33 (D.C. Cir. 2004).

In 1996, I supported the legislation that ultimately was enacted into the statutes that I have just cited. These statutes have been interpreted by the D.C. Circuit in *Cicippio-Puleo* to provide the following:

No. 1, 28 U.S.C. §1605(a)(7) provides an exception to sovereign immunity for state sponsors of terrorism and permits Federal courts to hear claims seeking money damages for personal injury or death against such nations and arising from terrorist acts they commit, or direct to be committed, against American citizens or nationals outside of the foreign state's territory; and No. 2, 28 U.S.C. §1605(a)(7)(note), also known as the ''Flatow Amendment,'' named for New Jersey student Alisa Flatow, who was killed when Palestinian Islamic Jihad bombed a Gaza bus on which she was riding, imposes liability upon an official, employee, or agent of a foreign state that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, only if that official, employee or agent is acting in their ''official capacity.''

On October 23, 2004, in Philadelphia, I was privileged to take part in a memorial service held in honor of the servicemen killed in the 1983 Beirut attack. Some of the family members of those killed attended the event. Their moving comments about how they have been denied the ability to seek legal redress, despite clear findings implicating Hezbollah and Iran in the attacks, were both poignant and persuasive. It is vitally important to victims' families that they have a private right of action against the state sponsor itself, not just its officials, employees or agents acting in their official capacity. These victims and their families deserve not simply a day in court, but also the ability to recover damages against terrorist states that commit, direct, or materially support terrorist acts against American citizens or nationals. The former, in isolation, is a hollow right—in legal terms, a right without a remedy. The D.C. Circuit in *Cicippio-Puleo* tells us that only Congress can provide such a remedy. That is my intent.

I ask unanimous consent that the October 23, 2004, remarks by Lynn Smith Derbyshire, the sister of deceased Marine CPT Vincent Smith and a leader of the families advocating for this legislation, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF LYNN SMITH DERBYSHIRE, BEIRUT MEMORIAL SERVICES, OCT. 23, 2004

We are here today to honor the men who died in Beirut, Lebanon on this day 21 years ago. As families, we believe that our first duty is to remember. Thank you for coming to help us commemorate the lost.

As you know, in 1996 Congress passed legislation that gave victims of state sponsored terrorism, and their families, the right to sue those nations in a United States Court. This legislation did two things: It gave us a path to pursue justice and compensation, and it provided a way to hold rogue nations accountable for their crimes, and thereby deter more terrorism. The problem with the existing legislation, however, is that it has loopholes. And the U.S. Government is using these loopholes to continually torpedo the efforts of the families to collect damages, and penalize terrorist states.

On October 23, 1983—21 years ago today—Hezbollah, at the behest of the government of Iran, sent a suicide bomber into the Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut Lebanon, killing 241 U.S. servicemen.

One of the young Marines who was killed that day was a blond, blue-eyed, bowlegged helicopter pilot, named Captain Vincent Smith. He had just turned 30. He had a wife named Ana, a 3-year-old son named Ian, and dog named Whiskey. Vince had a penchant for practical jokes, an infectious laugh and a contagious grin. He sang in the church choir with his velvety tenor voice, he loved to water-ski, and throw the football with his brothers on crisp fall afternoons—like this one, and have cookouts on the deck with his friends.

Vince was my brother. He was my protector, my confidant, and my friend. And I loved him deeply. Twenty-one years after his death there is still a hole in my heart and in my life, and in my family. I miss him more every day.

I have learned over the past 21 years that one does not ''get over'' the murder of a brother. Whoever said that time heals wounds was an idiot—and whoever said that never had a wound like this. My wound cannot completely heal, because every time there is another terrorist attack, the hole in my heart is ripped open again:

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut, the Achille Lauro, the murder of Robert Stetham of TWA flight 847, Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, the U.S.S. *Cole*, Madrid, and even this morning, a car bomb outside of Baghdad killed 10 and wounded 42.

And who here can ever forget that fateful day: September 11, 2001.

One after the next, after the next, these events have sliced open my scar-tissued heart, and I must grieve the brother I loved so dearly over and over again. All of these events bring me to my knees. And when I am on my knees I pray for justice—not revenge—justice.

I do not want vengeance. I do not want the sisters and mothers of young vibrant Iranian soldiers to have to weep at the closed casket of their brothers and sons as I did, knowing that his body is not even whole inside the box. I do not want anyone to discover as I have that this kind of grief is an incessant pain-and it hurts all over. I would not wish the last 21 years of agonizing sorrow on a rabid dog. No. I do not want vengeance.

But I do want justice. And I do want the terrorism to stop.

In March 2003, the Beirut families brought suit against the country of Iran for the murder of our beloved brothers and sons and fathers and husbands. We proved in a court of law, that Hezbollah was carrying out the direct will of the Iranian government. Iran is guilty of the murder of my brother, and of

Freas Kreischer's son, and Shirla Maitland's brother.

That day in court was a moral victory for us. There was a tremendous sense of relief to finally be able to name the guilty party. But it's a hollow victory if Iran is not somehow held accountable. Terrorists continue to terrorize because they can. We have not held them accountable for their crimes, and so they laugh and build more bombs. There has been no justice, so there can be no healing.

And it is galling that my own government continues to allow Iran to get away with murder—literally.

It's a simple rule: one that the parent of any small child can grasp. If your child hits another child with a stick, you have to take the stick away, and give your child consequences. If there are no consequences, the child will keep hitting kids with sticks, because he has figured out that it gives him power.

I want the cruelty and senselessness of terrorism to stop. And there is only one way to do that. We have to take away the stick. There must be consequences.

Senator Specter, thank you for introducing a bill that will finally allow families like mine and Freas Kreishcher's and Shirla Maitland's, to pursue rogue nations in the courts and to threaten them by threatening their assets. Their Achilles heel is financial. If we take away enough of their money, they will not be able to afford to build more bombs. And then perhaps you will be spared the agony of losing your brother or your son. If that happens, perhaps this gaping, bleeding wound in my heart will finally be able to heal.

Senator Specter, I want to thank you, on behalf of the families of the Marine Corps Barracks, Beirut bombing victims, for coming to our aid. Thank you for being willing to champion our cause in the Congress by sponsoring this bill. And Senator, I urge you to do everything in your power to enact this bill into law with the utmost haste.

Thank you very much, sir.

COUNCIL ON OCEANS POLICY AWARENESS

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, recently, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy made a series of far-reaching recommendations to help keep our oceans viable for future generations. While the Senate as a whole will not address these recommendations this Congress, I hope we may be able to work on these critical issues next year.

In the meanwhile, my home State of North Carolina has already begun to make real the recommendations of the Commission. For instance, North Carolina public schools have begun fostering formal ocean education in K–12 schools, after the State mandated inclusion of ocean curricula in middle school.

North Carolina is also leading the Nation in heeding the call for improved scientific understanding of the oceans. Of particular pride is the success of the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing System, or SEACOOS, an umbrella organizations of institutions that is building a regional ocean monitoring and prediction system for the southeast States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Through the leadership of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, SEACOOS aggregates ocean information from federal and non-Federal sources for display and redistribution. This information system supports many uses, from search and rescue and hazardous spill response to providing information for recreational boaters and fishermen. This collaborative effort among dozens of institutions is a model of teamwork that will enable rapid development of a relevant, user-driven multi-purpose system.

As part of the larger IOOS system, SEACOOS will improve the decision-making process for coastal managers, severe weather response teams, and so many others in whose decisions coastal conditions are a factor. Through its scientific contributions to data collection and analysis, SEACOOS will advance the Nation's needs in such broad areas as: marine operations, e.g. shipping and offshore operations like drilling and mining; natural hazard mitigation, e.g. storm forecasting, surge prediction, tsunami warning; climate change and its effects, e.g. interannual variability in water temperature, salinity, nutrients, storminess, plankton species and abundance, fish species and abundance; national security, e.g. toxin trajectories, detection of covert operations; public health, e.g. unsafe biological activity, rip currents, harmful algal blooms; ecosystem health, e.g. changes in food web structure; and sustainable use of marine resources, e.g. fish stock assessments.

Among so many throughout the southeast who have made SEACOOS possible, I especially want to note and thank Harvey Seim, Associate Professor of Marine Science at UNC Chapel Hill. Professor Seim has been the visionary and leader in building this collaborative initiative. His dedication to advancing scientific knowledge that serves the public interest embodies the best spirit of higher education and the academic research enterprise that makes our nation great.

In keeping with the recommendations of the commission, SEACOOS is a model worthy of replicating around the country. It is consistent with the Integrated Ocean Observing System that is called for in the commission report. IOOS is a national, interagency program that the commission recommends be fully funded and implemented to provide a multipurpose ocean information system for the Nation. Legislation to authorize IOOS has already been unanimously passed by the Senate, S. 1400 and companion bills are pending in the House. I look forward to continued congressional support and continued success as we increase our knowledge and understanding of our oceans.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On September 19, 1998, in Chicago, IL, three men were allegedly attacked by two men who made anti-gay remarks.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HAYWOOD COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DAY

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, this past September marked a devastating hurricane season for many States. My home State of North Carolina was ravaged by not one, but four hurricanes this fall. Western North Carolina was particularly hit hard by Hurricanes Frances and Ivan, which destroyed homes, washed away roadways, and even took lives. Out of this ruin came the challenge of rebuilding and piecing together homes, lives, and communities. As I visited the devastation in Western North Carolina, I found encouragement in the selfless hearts of North Carolinians who went to great lengths to help those struggling through the wreckage left behind. There are many who came together during this crisis. I would especially like to thank the first responders who answered the call of duty. Our first responders are there for us in times of need, and they literally are on the front lines defending our homeland.

On November 21, 2004, the Town of Clyde and the Town of Canton are honoring all those who were involved in the rescue and emergency operations following the devastation which occurred as a result of the hurricane season. November 21, 2004, has officially been declared by those towns as ''Haywood County Emergency Operations Appreciation Day.''

I would like to commend the efforts of these men and women who are members of the following departments who brought the community together after such devastation: Haywood County Sheriffs Department, North Carolina Highway Patrol, North Carolina Probation and Parole, North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement, North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, Waynesville Police Department, Canton Police Department, Maggie Valley Police Department, Haywood County Emergency Management, Waynesville Fire Department, Cruso Volunteer Department, Clyde Fire Department, North Carolina National Guard, Canton Fire Department, North Canton Fire Department, Maggie Valley Fire Department, Lake Junaluska Fire Department, Crabtree Fire Department, Fines Creek Fire Department, Jonathan Creek Fire Department, Saunooke

Fire Department, Center Pigeon Volunteer Fire Department, Lake Logan Fire Department, Enka/Candler Fire Department, Haywood County Rescue Squad, Haywod County EMS, Blue Ridge Paper Emergency Response Team and Clyde Police Department.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTH DAKOTA STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE in the State of South Dakota. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the work of his South Dakota staff.

The people of South Dakota have benefitted greatly over the years from the work of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes on behalf of South Dakota constituents. They served as the eyes and ears for Senator DASCHLE, maintaining contacts in South Dakota communities, attending meetings on projects and sitting down with individual constituents to discuss matters of importance.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota. Their long hours of service, many of them spent driving on country roads, sitting in coffee shops or walking through drought-stricken corn and wheat fields, underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to serve the people of South Dakota.

Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our state. Whether attending economic development outreach meetings, sacrificing holidays and weekends to travel with Senator DASCHLE across South Dakota, or tending to the many casework issues facing our constituents, Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff has done a superb job.

It is my hope that these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's South Dakota staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current South Dakota staff includes:

Beth Smith, Betty Daschle, Jody Jordan, Maeve King, and Virginia Newquist in the Aberdeen office; Ace Crawford, Armon Gaddy, Dorothy Christensen, Jackie Heier, Georgeann Johnson, Rose Larson, and Sheila Lane in the Rapid City office; Bill Idema, Gene Dwyer, Jeff Wilka, Jenn Dolan, Mark Gerhardt, Mary Peters, Michele Seaton, Nicole Deak, Stephanie Devitt, Stephanie Koster Hoyme, Steve Dick, and Steve Erpenbach, Senator DASCHLE's State director, in the Sioux Falls office.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

HONORING THE WASHINGTON STAFF OF SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to a group of men and women who have served over the past 26 years as staff for Senator TOM DASCHLE here in Washington, both in his personal office and those who served him as Democratic leader in the Senate for the past 10 years. Every member of the Senate understands that our success rests, in part, with the men and women we choose to work with us on a daily basis in our offices. I join my colleagues in providing the most heartfelt appreciation for the public service career of Senator DASCHLE and that appreciation extends to the extraordinary work of his staff here in Washington.

The people of South Dakota, members of the Senate Democratic Caucus, and the institution of the Senate have benefitted greatly over the years from the hard work and dedication of Senator DASCHLE's staff. These men and women worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Whether it be his personal staff or his leadership staff, every single person has been dedicated to making our State a better place to live, and to making our Nation safe and secure.

Some of Senator DASCHLE's staff provided over two decades of dedicated service to the people of South Dakota and came with him to join his leadership staff. Their long hours of service underscored Senator DASCHLE's commitment to lead our caucus and to serve the people of South Dakota and this Nation unselfishly. Senator DASCHLE's staff truly reflect the tireless work ethic, dedication, and professionalism that he has exemplified to all the citizens of our State.

While each and every member of Senator DASCHLE's staff is dedicated, committed, and hard working, I think three long-serving members of his Washington staff should be recognized separately. Those senior staff members are Pete Rouse, who served in Senator DASCHLE's leadership office as chief of staff, Nancy Erickson, his deputy chief of staff in the Capitol, and Laura Petrou, the chief of staff in his personal office. All three of these dedicated individuals served the State of South Dakota and the Senate Democratic Caucus unselfishly and with distinction.

It is my hope that all of these valued members of Senator DASCHLE's staff recognize the importance of their work and the great appreciation that many in South Dakota hold for them for their great service.

Senator DASCHLE's current personal and leadership staff in Washington includes: Aaron Fischbach, Amber Danter, Bart Chilton, Brad Wolters, Brendan Hilley, Brian Hanafin, Chris Bois, Chris VandeVenter, Chris Wagner, Christiana Gallagher, Chuck Marr, Cindy Harris, Clint Highfill, Danny Franklin, Darcell Savage, Denis McDonough, Grant Leslie, Jane Loewenson, Jeff Nussbaum, Jennifer Duck, Jeri Thomson, Jessica Leonard, Jessica Scheufele, Jim Oleske, Joan Huffer, Jody Bennett, Jonathon Lehman, Kate Knudson, Kate Leone, Kelly Fado, Lara Birkes, Larkin Barker, Laura Petrou, Lisa Thimjon, Liz Dahan, Mark Childress, Matthew Varilek, Michelle Singer, Molly Rowley, Nancy Erickson, Nancy Hogan, Nick Bauer, Nick Papas, Pat Griffin, Pat Sarcone, Pete Rouse, Phil Schiliro, Phillip Assmus, Randy DeValk, Reid Cherlin, Sam Mitchell, Sarah Feinberg, Ted Miller, Tim Mitrovich, Todd Webster, Tom McIntyre, and Wizipan Garriott.

The work of Senator DASCHLE and his staff will be remembered by South Dakotans, and all the Senators and staff who have served with them, for many years to come. I want to thank them for their work and service and wish them all the very best.

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMERS UNION RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to submit the text of the attached resolution by the South Dakota Farmers Union commemorating 26 years of service by United States Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 26 YEARS OF SERVICE BY UNITED STATES SENATOR THOMAS A. DASCHLE

Whereas, Senator TOM DASCHLE has distinguished himself as more than a reliable friend to South Dakota Farmers Union and the cause of family-based agriculture, but more so as a true hero to our cause; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE performed his duties faithfully to better the lives and opportunities of all South Dakotans, and conducted exemplary public service to South Dakotans with the assistance of his highly resourceful, talented and dedicated staff in his offices in Washington, D.C., Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE championed the cause of ethanol since his first campaign for the U.S. Congress, and is chiefly responsible for its emergence as America's answer to energy independence because of his relentless pursuit of government support for its production and marketing; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE earned his reputation as America's most important Member of Congress for the advancement of legislation important to South Dakota Farmers Union, the National Farmers Union and family-based agriculture because of his sincere interest in promoting America's rural economy and because of his generous nature and approachability to all citizens seeking his assistance in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE wisely used his influence and leadership powers to the benefit of South Dakota, resulting in unprecedented cooperation from urban states to help

advance the causes and unique, critical needs of rural states and agriculture in the form of federal funds and programs for agriculture, disaster aid, health care, education, energy needs, air transportation, highway maintenance, railways and water development; and

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's powerful resources and status as Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader gave South Dakota unprecedented influence to pass legislation which was of the greatest benefit to all South Dakotans, especially to rural communities, farms and ranches; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE was responsible for the allocation of unprecedented federal funds to South Dakota throughout his tenure in the United States Congress, and that Senator DASCHLE's last term ended with victories for South Dakota, including his quest to produce $2.9 billion in disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers, against the longstanding resistance and indifference of the majority party in Congress and the White House; and,

Whereas, Senator DASCHLE's great influence and power on behalf of South Dakota and rural America will be missed in the unfinished battles for a Renewable Fuels Standard, a mandatory Country of Origin Labeling law, fair trade policies which are not predatory to South Dakota agriculture, sufficient drought relief, rural water development and a progressive agricultural agenda which supports a strong rural economy, as well as the fights to preserve social security and Medicare, lower prescription drug costs, and make health care coverage affordable and available to all Americans;

Now, therefore, we resolve that the Delegates of the 89th Convention of South Dakota Farmers Union commends and highly appreciates the lifetime dedication and service of Senator THOMAS A. DASCHLE to improve the economy and the quality of life in South Dakota and throughout the United States.

TROUBLING SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I express my concerns about the troubling situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

As my colleagues know, in September 2002, rebellion broke out in Côte d'Ivoire, eventually dividing the country between the north, where rebels known as the Force Nouvelle established themselves, and the south, where President Laurent Gbagbo's government continued to exercise its authority. The Economic Community of West African states, or ECOWAS, helped to negotiate a ceasefire, and in January 2003 international efforts to mediate the crisis culminated in the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement of early 2003, which provided for an interim Government of National Reconciliation to move the country toward new elections. The United Nations established a peacekeeping mission and over 6,000 troops from around the world deployed to monitor the ceasefire and help the parties implement the peace accord—further evidence of international will to help the people of Côte d'Ivoire regain a stable footing and reestablish a just and peaceful unified government.

Throughout these diplomatic efforts, 4,000 French soldiers have served as the backbone of the international presence that has worked to guarantee the peace. Much as the United Kingdom played a pivotal role in stabilizing Sierra Leone, France made an admirable commitment to the people of Côte d'Ivoire. And despite the friction between France and the U.S. on other important global issues, we have continued to work closely and cooperatively to resolve this crisis.

But over the many months that have passed since the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement was signed, progress toward implementing the accords has stalled, as both parties failed to take constructive steps to move the country toward lasting stability. Then, on November 4, President Gbagbo broke the ceasefire agreement, and in an apparent bid to find a military solution, launched air raids on rebel positions in the north. On November 6, the Ivorian forces bombed a French position, killing nine French soldiers and an American aid worker, and wounding dozens more. France retaliated by destroying the Ivorian air force. What followed was an orchestrated campaign, conducted largely via broadcasts on state-controlled media outlets, to encourage citizens to participate in a rampage of anti-French violence and looting.

I am heartened by the unity and resolve of the international community in confronting this crisis, and by the rejection of Ivorian efforts to justify the bombings and to vilify France. U.N. peacekeepers performed bravely in trying to protect the zone of confidence during the recent hostilities. South African President Thabo Mbeki moved quickly to reach out to all parties and open the door to dialogue that could diffuse the situation, though sadly, his efforts were not embraced by all parties. On November 15, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing an arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire, and indicating that a travel ban and asset freeze will be applied to anyone from among the government or rebel ranks found to be an impediment to progress on implementing the peace accords. I welcome this resolution and its insistence on accountability from all parties to Côte d'Ivoire's conflict.

In addition to accountable, constructive leadership, there is a desperate need for grassroots reconciliation efforts. The tensions that came to a boil in 2002 have, sadly, been simmering for some time. In the 1990s, some pursued a deliberate effort to promote a divisive, destructive, xenophobic brand of nationalism in the country, and if a lasting peace is to take hold and the people of Côte d'Ivoire are to be free from fear of a return to violence and chaos, a great deal of work must be done to lessen ethnic tensions and build confidence and trust in Ivorian communities. In recent days, French nationals have been the targets of ugly invective, but in the recent past it has been northern Ivorians, immigrants, and Muslims who have been demonized. I urge the administration to make combating ethnic and regional divisions a major focus of U.S. efforts in Côte d'Ivoire. Even as we work with the international community to hold leaders accountable for their actions, we must also assist in laying the groundwork for peace among the people themselves.

The downward spiral in Côte d'Ivoire is especially troubling because the country had, not long ago, been a beacon of stability and important economic engine in a deeply troubled region. After all of the suffering in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and all of the costly efforts launched to bring stability back to West Africa, the international community cannot afford to lose Côte d'Ivoire to perpetual crisis.

PROBLEMS IN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concern over recent news reports detailing turmoil inside the Central Intelligence Agency since the arrival of the new Director, Porter Goss, and former members of his staff in the House of Representatives.

As a senior member of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs with oversight responsibility for homeland security and the committee responsible for drafting the legislative reform on intelligence now in conference, I am deeply concerned about the impact the new leadership at the CIA may have on our national security.

Since the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, the Congress has been engaged as never before in efforts to reform our intelligence collection capability in terms of our ability to improve the technical means to collect and share critical information in a timely fashion. The key component to that reform is human capital. Time and time again in outside commissions, reports to the Congress, and in hearings, we have been told that our intelligence and law enforcement communities lack sufficient qualified personnel to collect and analyze information. I introduced legislation, S. 589, the Homeland Security Federal Workforce Act, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support last year and is now in the House, to help rectify that problem. Other Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have also introduced legislation to improve our intelligence and law enforcement workforce.

This is why I am so disturbed by the news reports that senior members of the CIA are being forced to resign, are being pressured to fire subordinates, and there are fears that they may even be asked to tailor their analysis to support the administration's policies, according to the November 17, 2004, New York Times. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. AKAKA. Among those who have been forced out or retired recently are the Deputy Director of the CIA, the Deputy Director of Operations, the second ranking member of the clandestine service, and the former head of the CIA bin Laden unit. Other resignations, retirements, or reassignments may follow.

Apparently, Director Goss brought with him at least 4 former staffers from the House of Representatives and inserted them into senior positions at the agency where they have begun to force these resignations.

This is troubling for two reasons: First, we cannot afford to lose any intelligence personnel, especially seasoned officers, in the midst of the war on terrorism. We have so few people we cannot fully staff the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, TTIC, that the President created to provide a coordinated counterterrorism response to the 9/11 attacks. Secondly, our intelligence staff have been working 24/7 since the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq began. They need morale boosters, not the morale downers that come from the forced resignations of well-respected leaders.

So desperate is the personnel situation that the intelligence reform bill, S. 2845, now in conference, authorizes the establishment of a National Intelligence Reserve Corps for the temporary reemployment of former intelligence community employees during periods of emergency.

Some would argue that the CIA is a ''damaged agency'' that needs to be reformed through ''hard love.'' Perhaps that is the case. Perhaps the operations directorate needs to be given new direction. I understand that both President Clinton and President Bush, in his first term, were focused on reforming the clandestine operations through the efforts of Director Tenet and that those reforms were yielding results. But if those results are insufficient, more needs to be done.

If a ship needs to change course and requires a new crew, the new crew needs to knows both how to pilot a ship and how to plot a course. So far, the current upheaval at the Central Intelligence Agency makes me worry that the current new crew may not measure up to that challenge. I would like to be proved wrong because our national security depends on it.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the New York Times, Nov. 17, 2004]

NEW C.I.A. CHIEF TELLS WORKERS TO BACK ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

(By Douglas Jehl)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Porter J. Goss, the new intelligence chief, has told Central Intelligence Agency employees that their job is to ''support the administration and its policies in our work,'' a copy of an internal memorandum shows.

''As agency employees we do not identify with, support or champion opposition to the administration or its policies,'' Mr. Goss said in the memorandum, which was circulated late on Monday. He said in the document that he was seeking ''to clarify beyond doubt the rules of the road.''

While his words could be construed as urging analysts to conform with administration policies, Mr. Goss also wrote, ''We provide the intelligence as we see it—and let the facts alone speak to the policymaker.''

The memorandum suggested an effort by Mr. Goss to spell out his thinking as he embarked on what he made clear would be a major overhaul at the agency, with further changes to come. The changes to date, including the ouster of the agency's clandestine service chief, have left current and former intelligence officials angry and unnerved. Some have been outspoken, including those who said Tuesday that they regarded Mr. Goss's warning as part of an effort to suppress dissent within the organization.

In recent weeks, White House officials have complained that some C.I.A. officials have sought to undermine President Bush and his policies.

At a minimum, Mr. Goss's memorandum appeared to be a swipe against an agency decision under George J. Tenet, his predecessor as director of central intelligence, to permit a senior analyst at the agency, Michael Scheuer, to write a book and grant interviews that were critical of the Bush administration's policies on terrorism.

One former intelligence official said he saw nothing inappropriate in Mr. Goss's warning, noting that the C.I.A. had long tried to distance itself and its employees from policy matters.

''Mike exploited a seam in the rules and inappropriately used it to express his own policy views,'' the official said of Mr. Scheuer. ''That did serious damage to the agency, because many people, including some in the White House, thought that he was being urged by the agency to take on the president. I know that was not the case.''

But a second former intelligence official said he was concerned that the memorandum and the changes represented an effort by Mr. Goss to stifle independence.

''If Goss is asking people to color their views and be a team player, that's not what people at C.I.A. signed up for,'' said the former intelligence official. The official and others interviewed in recent days spoke on condition that they not be named, saying they did not want to inflame tensions at the agency.

Some of the contents of Mr. Goss's memorandum were first reported by The Washington Post. A complete copy of the document was obtained on Tuesday by The New York Times.

Tensions between the agency's new leadership team, which took over in late September, and senior career officials are more intense than at any time since the late 1970's. The most significant changes so far have been the resignations on Monday of Stephen R. Kappes, the deputy director of operations, and his deputy, Michael Sulick, but Mr. Goss told agency employees in the memorandum that he planned further changes ''in the days and weeks ahead of us'' that would involve ''procedures, organization, senior personnel and areas of focus for our action.''

''I am committed to sharing these changes with you as they occur,'' Mr. Goss said in the memorandum. ''I do understand it is easy to be distracted by both the nature and the pace of change. I am confident, however, that you will remain deeply committed to our mission.''

Mr. Goss's memorandum included a reminder that C.I.A. employees should ''scrupulously honor our secrecy oath'' by allowing the agency's public affairs office and its Congressional relations branch to take the lead in all contacts with the media and with Congress. ''We remain a secret organization,'' he said.

Among the moves that Mr. Goss said he was weighing was the selection of a candidate to become the agency's No. 2 official, the deputy director of central intelligence. The name being mentioned most often within the C.I.A. as a candidate, intelligence officials said, is Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden of the Air Force, the director of the National Security Agency, which is responsible for intercepting electronic communications worldwide. The naming of a deputy director would be made by the White House, in a nomination subject to Senate confirmation.

In interviews this week, members of Congress as well as current and former intelligence officials said one reason the overhaul under way had left them unnerved was that Mr. Goss had not made clear what kind of agency he intended to put in place. But Mr. Goss's memorandum did little to spell out that vision, and it did not make clear why the focus of overhaul efforts to date appeared to be on the operations directorate, which carries out spying and other covert missions around the world.

''It's just very hard to divine what's going on over there,'' said Senator Ron Wyden, Democrat of Oregon, who said he and other members of the Senate intelligence committee would be seeking answers at closed sessions this week. ''But on issue after issue, there's a real question about whether the country and the Congress are going to get an unvarnished picture of our intelligence situation at a critical time.''

Mr. Goss said in the memorandum that he recognized that intelligence officers were operating in an atmosphere of extraordinary pressures, after a series of reports critical of intelligence agencies' performance in the months leading up to the Sept. 11 attacks and the war in Iraq.

''The I.C. and its people have been relentlessly scrutinized and criticized,'' he said, using an abbreviation for intelligence community. ''Intelligence-related issues have become the fodder of partisan food fights and turf-power skirmishes. All the while, the demand for our services and products against a ruthless and unconventional enemy has expanded geometrically and we are expected to deliver—instantly. We have reason to be proud of our achievements and we need to be smarter about how we do our work in this operational climate.''

LIFTING HOLD ON NOMINATION OF DEBORAH MAJORAS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, last May, I announced my intention to object to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to take up the nomination of Deborah Majoras to be the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, FTC. I did so because despite several requests, I had received no assurance from Ms. Majoras that under her leadership, the FTC would take any steps to address anticompetitive practices that drive up gasoline prices nationwide and particularly in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon consumers typically pay some of the highest gasoline prices in the Nation.

Today, I received a letter from Ms. Majoras describing how she is moving forward on certain commitments she made to me concerning the FTC's policies for the oil and gasoline industry.

In particular, she committed to consult with outside experts to get to the bottom of the differences between the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and the FTC on the impacts of the FTC oil merger policies on gasoline prices. Ms. Majoras' letter states that she is working to do this by conducting a public review of the GAO report on the Effects of Mergers and Market Concentration in the U.S. Petroleum Industry. Following that review, Ms. Majoras also promises to share her views with me on the GAO report.

Ms. Majoras' letter indicates she is making a good-faith effort to take a fresh look at the issues raised by the GAO report. In light of this and the other actions Ms. Majoras has initiated to get to the bottom of the reasons why consumers in my part of the country are paying such high gasoline prices, I will no longer object to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to take up Ms. Majoras' nomination. I will, however, continue to closely monitor the FTC actions under Ms. Majoras' leadership to ensure gasoline consumers are not overpaying at the pump.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this statement along with Ms. Majoras' letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2004.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN, In response to your recent inquiries, I want to assure you that I am working to implement the actions that I laid out in my letter of June 10, 2004. For example, we are working on the public review by outside economic experts of the findings in the GAO Report, *Energy Markets: Effects of Mergers and Market Concentration in the U.S. Petroleum Industry* and the criticisms of that report. As you know, it is common for economists to submit their work for peer review and discussion, and I believe that such an assessment would be useful. Given your interest in the report, I plan to share my views with you about the findings and conclusions of this public discussion once we have completed that process.

Here at the FTC, we are working at full throttle to protect American consumers; I look forward to working cooperatively with the Congress in the coming session on these efforts.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH PLATT MAJORAS.

COMMENDING SECRETARY POWELL AND STATE DEPARTMENT ON MANAGING INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FOR U.S. TERRITORIES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as our colleagues on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will attest, it takes years of experience to understand some of the nuances of Federal law and policy applicable in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Yet, our current Secretary of State has shown remarkable knowledge of the sometimes complex issues arising from official international activities of local territorial governments.

In responding to international issues arising from Federal-territorial relations in the case of Puerto Rico, Secretary Powell has articulated sound principles that are relevant to Federal policy with respect to the other territories as well. Specifically, the record should reflect the success of measures adopted by the Department of State to ensure that local government officials in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico do not take official actions inconsistent with the reservation of foreign relations powers to the federal government under the U.S. Constitution.

The Department of State has tried to show flexibility and include territories in international programs and activities when appropriate, as it does in the case of other domestic political subdivisions. However, Department of State oversight and regulation of all official international activities by local territorial governments is necessary to preserve the constitutional allocation of powers within the U.S. Federal system, especially as it relates to administration of territories with a political status defined by Federal statute rather than the U.S. Constitution itself. In the case of Puerto Rico, Federal authority in all official international matters is consistent with the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act (64 State. 319), and required by the status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a territory subject to the authority of Congress under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution. All powers of the local government remain subject to the supremacy of Federal law.

The Department of State acted in the national interest and in the best long-term interest of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico by not acquiescing in actions by U.S. citizen officials of the local government seeking international recognition and treatment for Puerto Rico that are reserved for sovereign nations. The Department must continue to adhere to the simple rule that the Commonwealth should not be permitted to act officially in the international sphere in a manner that would not be permitted for other political subdivisions, whether State, county, city or territorial, unless otherwise specifically provided by Congress.

By confirming the correct application of Federal law and policy in his cable to our embassies, Secretary Powell has given diplomatic expression to the principles of federalism that apply to Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. This ''Powell Doctrine'', if you will, ends the ambivalence and ambiguity that have existed about these issues for too long. The Secretary of State applied the correct legal doctrine in these matters, based on the principle that the Federal Government conducts the foreign policy of the United States and all its citizens, which includes the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico under its current status.

The actions taken by the Department of State in this matter do not affect the process of self-determination as to the ultimate political status of Puerto Rico. Rather, this is a matter of confirming and in a proper manner implementing Federal powers and responsibilities beyond the realm of local politics regarding the status of the territory, until informed self-determination recognized under Federal law and policy leads to status resolution. Of course, neither local government powers nor the terms for political status resolution can be determined unilaterally by local law or political processes, because in each case Federal law is supreme and only changes in Federal law can change the status or define the extent that local governments can exercise sovereignty as to local matters.

For making these realities clear, and doing so in an impartial and entirely fair way, it is appropriate to commend our Secretary of State and the men and women of the U.S. State Department.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I extend my appreciation to my fall 2004 class of interns: Sonja Loges, Colleen Coffey, Lauryn Douglas, Cheri Rolfes, Sarah Helgen, Katie Callahan, Milan Dalal and Deborah Sundquist. Each of them has been of tremendous assistance to me and to the people of Iowa over the past several months.

Since I was first elected to the Senate in 1984, my office has offered internships to young Iowans and other interested students. Through their work in the Senate, our interns have not only seen the legislative process, but also personally contributed to our Nation's democracy.

It is with much appreciation that I recognize Sonja, Colleen, Lauryn, Cheri, Sarah, Katie, Milan and Deborah for their hard work this fall. It has been a delight to watch them take on their assignments with enthusiasm and hard work. I am very proud to have worked with each of them. I hope they take from their fall a sense of pride in what they have been able to accomplish, as well as an increased interest in public service and our democratic system and process.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD TINBERG AND ROBERT BELL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend two college professors in Massachusetts for the national recognition they have won today. Professor of English Howard Tinberg at Bristol Community College in Fall River was named an Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year, and Robert Bell, professor of English at Williams College in Williamstown, was

named an Outstanding Baccalaureate College Professor of the Year.

The awards were presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Four professors were recognized at each level of higher education—community college, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral/research—for their outstanding teaching, their commitment to undergraduate students and their contribution to teaching as a profession.

Howard Tinberg teaches literature and composition, and is renowned for involving his students in researching the use of literacy in families and communities. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Writing Center at Bristol Community College and the Center for Teaching and Learning on the campus. He also serves as editor of the national journal. Teaching English in the Two-Year Colleges.

Robert Bell's approach to teaching is grounded in his personal connections to his students and the exploration of literature through the details of the author's language. In 1994, he founded a mentoring program for new faculty members, the Project for Effective Teaching, which brings teachers together for weekly discussions, symposia and conferences.

The Professors of the Year Program was created in 1981 and is the only national program specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. This year's winners were selected from a pool of nearly 300 teachers nominated by their provosts and academic vice presidents and supported by colleagues, former students, and current students.

Massachusetts is proud of the national recognition earned by these two distinguished educators who have dedicated their careers to improving the learning and lives of their students and colleagues, and I congratulate them for their impressive leadership.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING AKO ABDUL-SAMAD

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the extraordinary work of one of my Iowa constituents. This year, Ako Abdul-Samad, a Des Moines-based activist, received the prestigious 2004 National Caring Award for his work with at-risk youth in urban areas throughout Iowa. His organization, Creative Visions, was founded in 1996 after gang violence killed a young woman in suburban Des Moines. By working with both community leaders as well as gang leaders, Ako has helped many youth overcome their troubled past.

I am proud to call Ako Abdul-Samad not only a fellow Iowan, but also a friend. Since 1996, his organization has aided countless Iowa youth. Without his remarkable efforts and compassion, the urban areas of Iowa would not be the same. His progressive vision of today's youth places a positive outlook not only for the youth of today, but also the youth of the future.

Mr. President, I ask that the following magazine article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Caring Magazine, Dec., 2004]

In 1996, a young woman from an outlying suburb of Des Moines, Iowa, was killed when caught in gang crossfire—a tragedy frequently played out in all too many American cities and towns. The community was outraged, and many people approached local activist Ako Abdul-Samad and asked what could be done. He replied, ''Let's talk with the kids you're talking about. Let's hear what they need.''

And so Chuck Johnson, president and CEO of Pioneer Hi-Bred and president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Glenn of the Des Moines Labor Institute met with Abdul-Samad for hours along with 14 of Des Moines' top gang leaders. Then Abdul-Samad met with the gang members alone, discussing an idea he had to build an organization to help at-risk youth.

Of the 14 gang leaders who showed up that day, six bought into Abdul-Samad's idea. And thus Creative Visions was born. The only thing the newly birthed organization asked of the six gang members who stayed on was to stop all of their illegal activity. ''We didn't ask them to denounce their gang or to shed their gang colors,'' says Abdul-Samad. ''And for two months we all worked out of my house—with members of the Crips, Bloods, Gangsta Disciples, and Vice Lords coming and going, much to my neighbors' wary curiosity.

''After the two months, we met again with the president of Pioneer Hi-Bred, among others. The gang members walked in wearing their colors, and then shortly into the meeting they all got up and walked out. I kept on talking, and it seemed like they weren't coming back, so I began to apologize to the president and attendees. Just then, all of them walked in again dressed in business suits ready to give their individual presentations. Tears streamed down my face.''

In the eight years that have since passed, only one of the six original gang members who agreed to work with Abdul-Samad returned to his former ways, and now even he is starting to put his life back together again.

From that small but powerful beginning, Abdul-Samad estimates that Creative Visions has probably taken more guns and drugs off the street than any other organization in the Midwest. Their secret? Very simple, really. Give the so-called ''lost-to-the-streets'' youth and young adults a customized, holistic program of self-development, and you will see them transform into self-sufficient, productive citizens. The seeds for Creative Visions were planted 15 years before its formal founding. ''I had a contract to visit and work in the prisons statewide,'' says Abdul-Samad. ''One day I was in the intake center where all the prisoners come once they are sentenced. I met a 16-year-old who was about to serve an adult sentence, and before I left he asked me to tell his dad and uncles when I saw them that he was OK. I thought he meant when I got back to Des Moines to look them up. But no, he said his dad was in one state prison and his uncles were in another. Then I learned that all of them had been to El Dora, a well-known boys' training school that supposedly helped troubled youth avoid a life of crime. Obviously, we were failing to turn young lives around.''

Abdul-Samad began to research the problem. He resigned his prison contract and went to work for a Des Moines organization called Urban Dreams, where he worked with kids already at El Dora. ''But I wanted to catch the kids before they got to that institution,'' explains Abdul-Samad. ''And I was tired of hearing people say we can fix kids. You can't 'fix' a child or an adult. You can provide resources for them to fix themselves because if the motivation to change doesn't come from their own heart, it doesn't work.''

It was at that time that the young woman in Des Moines was killed in the crossfire, providing a catalyst to test Abdul-Samad's concept. ''With Creative Visions we showed the kids we were willing to give them an opportunity,'' Abdul-Samad affirms. ''We gave them a new family to belong to. We gave them an opportunity to have a building—that gave them ownership because they put the graffiti on the walls. Every young person who was here in 1996 was involved in all aspects of Creative Visions. We didn't do one program without their input. We would do focus groups until we got it right. And they saw me walking the talk.''

And then came 1997 and a personal tragedy that tested Abdul-Samad's faith and ability to continue to ''walk the talk.'' In December his only son, ''Little Ako,'' was shot to death by a young man named Rodney. ''When I went to the hospital, it was full of young people waiting to see what I would do,'' Abdul-Samad recalls. ''The police declared it an accidental shooting. My family wanted me to press charges and send the killer to jail. And the gang members wanted to kill Rodney. I will tell you now that the walk became very difficult for me. I worked hard at just trying to think straight. Sometimes I wouldn't know what I was doing.

''I prayed for guidance. Within a week, I called a press conference and had Rodney and his mother there. And I forgave Rodney in public. I said that I've already lost my son and that it would do no good to lose another young man. I said if I could forgive him, who had the right not to? And then I took Rodney home with me for the next four or five days.

''I think this is what the fate of Creative Visions, because the kids and young adults now saw me walk the talk despite my personal pain. They saw I was willing to keep on giving, no matter what it cost. And not only me. There was another staff person whose son was shot and killed in a street not far from our office. The kids could see that there are people who work here that are in pain, but they keep on going.'' Lest one label Abdul-Samad and his co-workers ''role models,'' he is quick to correct the term: ''We don't use the term 'role model;' we use 'goal model.' Too many times we put our role models upon pedestals; we don't allow them to be human, which hinders their giving. We think a 'goal model' allows someone to make mistakes, to learn from those mistakes, and to grow. As goal models we 'model' setting goals, striving to reach those goals, and making those goals a reality.''

Certainly part of what makes Creative Visions work is its peer counselors—some of whom are former gang members, drug addicts, and dealers themselves. They are especially able to form trusting relationship with young people who know they have ''been there, done that.''

Like many dedicated to a life of service, Abdul-Samad's reward is not accolades. ''A reward is when a young street person, whom everyone else had given up on, goes through our program and then walks in the door one day and shows you their diploma, or tells you they've gone back to school, or shares

the career path they've chose to pursue. Nothing is more rewarding than to watch someone who is struggling and wearing a look of despair suddenly transform. You can begin to see hope in their eyes and the beginning of a smile.''

There are many aspects of inner-city life that are not pretty. Abdul-Samad and his coworkers come face to face with often grim and gritty circumstances that most people would not want to even hear about, much less confront. Teen pregnancies, venereal diseases, drug overdoses, stabbings, are all part of the realities Creative Visions' counselors face each day. Abdul-Samad credits his relationship with God with helping him get through his pain. He also copes through the pen—often writing poetry at 3 a.m., which relaxes him and had led to the release of his first book, *A Deeper Truth/Relevations From the Soul*.

Abdul-Samad has spent most of his 53 years giving to others. Even as a child he tended to wounded animals or fixed broken bicycles and then gave them away to neighborhood kids. By the time he was 18, he was aligned with an organization that fed 300 children each morning—long before the school system began offering free breakfasts. ''This was all during the 1960s, a good time in which to have grown up because of all the consciousness-raising going on—women's rights, civil rights, human rights,'' says Abdul-Samad. ''Anyone young who got caught up in the counter-culture movement at that time couldn't help but identify with people who were struggling.''

After eight years, the vision Ako Abdul-Samad conceived and built is flourishing. Almost two dozen programs are now operating through his center, from computer classes to 12-step meetings. Since its inception, Creative Visions has attracted and helped more than 6,500 men, women, and at-risk children and youth. Now calls are coming in from cities around the United States—and other countries including Mexico, the Netherlands, and Nigeria—also interested in starting similar organizations.

Abdul-Samad knows that many of the battles he undertakes won't be won in his lifetime. But his philosophy is to plant a seed, and he has planted many.●

REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and share with my colleagues the compassion and dedication of Reverend Cecil Williams in honor of his 40 years of community service to the San Francisco community.

Reverend Williams has been Pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church since the early 1960s. He has built a community congregation of over 10,000 members and is recognized as a national leader on the leading edge of social change.

Reverend Williams has led Glide Memorial Church to be a political voice for equal rights and a safe haven for the oppressed. His congregation has lent its support to those who speak out on national issues of importance, such as the Vietnam war, nuclear weapon development, affirmative action and HIV/AIDS prevention.

When Reverend Williams joined Glide Memorial Church in the 1960s, he transformed it into a sacred space that honors diversity, expression, and the celebration of life.

I would like to share a couple examples of Reverend Williams' tremendous work. In the 1960s, Reverend Williams launched a free meal program at Glide that expanded in the 1980s to providing three meals a day to the hungry and homeless. The program currently serves over 1 million meals a year to members of the larger San Francisco community.

In the 1990s, feeling the need to reach out to those involved in drug abuse, Reverend Williams took his message against drugs into the community, using a bullhorn in front of housing projects to call addicts and dealers out to recovery.

As Reverend Williams begins his 40th year at Glide Memorial Church, he is now serving as Glide's CEO and Minister of National and International Ministries. He continues to bring forth new ideas on how to battle the problems inflicting the San Francisco community, including poverty, drug abuse, violence and despair. He is a respected and revered leader who brings together people searching for acceptance, social justice and spiritual growth.

I hope you will all join me in celebrating the remarkable service of Reverend Cecil Williams for the past 40 years at Glide Memorial Church. I wish him many more years of rewarding experiences to the San Francisco community and beyond.●

IN TRIBUTE TO RHODE ISLAND BROADCASTING LEGEND SALTY BRINE

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a great Rhode Islander who passed away on Election Day: Walter L ''Salty'' Brine.

Salty Brine was a local broadcasting legend one might even say he was the voice of Rhode Island. For half a century, he hosted the morning program on WPRO-AM. It was Salty's voice that thrilled three generations of schoolchildren on snowy mornings with the announcement, ''No school, Foster-Glocester!''

Salty's show was the soundtrack of a Rhode Island morning. The sound of his voice conjures up the following scene: It is dark outside, a bowl of steaming oatmeal is on the kitchen table, there is a mad scramble to locate a missing mitten before the school bus arrives.

Salty would preside over the recounting of the news and the weather. His wife Mickie would call in and give a report on what birds were at the birdfeeder. We would be on the edges of our seats waiting for him to say our school was closed. I suppose it is fair to say that Rhode Islanders associate Salty Brine with that singular elation aroused by a snow day. Salty was the ultimate bearer of good news.

Of course, Salty's career encompassed much more than reading the rollcall of school closures. From 1958 to 1968, he hosted a children's television program called ''Salty Brine's Shack,'' which costarred his collie Jack and ended reliably with the admonition, ''Brush your teeth and say your prayers!'' Having lost a leg in a train accident when he was a boy, Salty was a firm support and wonderful example for youngsters who were coping with a similar disability. Salty would demonstrate how the loss of a limb really would not set them back one bit.

Many charitable endeavors benefited from Salty's talent, energy, and good name. He was especially involved in the Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and was a board member, appropriately enough, of Save the Bay. Cardi's Furniture for whom he had recorded a trademark commercial—honored Salty for his service to our community just last year.

Born in 1918, Salty's life was framed by Red Sox World Series victories. This is entirely appropriate, as Salty was an ardent and devoted fan and even had aspired to be a ball player. Just last August, on Rhode Island Day at Fenway Park, Salty Brine was given the well-deserved honor of throwing out the first pitch.

Like the Big Blue Bug and Mr. Potato Head, Salty Brine, with his skipper's hat, was a Rhode Island icon, a one-of-a-kind and endearing institution that bound all Rhode Islanders together in a single fond experience. He was so much a part of our landscape that the legislature renamed a Narragansett State beach after him. The Salty Brine Beach endures as a permanent affirmation of our affection for our Salty.

Salty Brine was married to his first wife, Marion, known to all as Mickie, for 56 years. She died in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Roseanna, and his son Wally, who co-hosts the ''Loren & Wally Morning Show'' on WROR-FM in Boston.

Rhode Island will miss him.●

RETIREMENT OF VEE BURKE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I commend Ms. Vee Burke for her years of public service as a member of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. She has demonstrated an enormous capacity for public service and tremendous insight on social policy. In over 30 years working for the CRS, Vee has proven herself to be a true expert in the field of public welfare.

Through her hard work and dedication, Vee has provided background reports and thoughtful analysis of low-income programs, especially welfare reform. Members need timely and clear information in order to make informed policy decisions. Vee has provided such information for many years. Her ability to immerse herself in the specific details of each program assured the completeness of her reports, and her consistent presence from one year to the next was essential in maintaining an overview of the larger welfare system that the individual programs collectively represent.

At the end of this month, Vee will be retiring from CRS. While she will be

missed, she has certainly earned the right to move on to the next phase of her life. The legacy she leaves behind will be difficult to match. Having been honored for her outstanding performance numerous times, it is clear that Ms. Burke has earned the respect of her colleagues within CRS, congressional Members and staff, and the larger research and policy community as a whole. Though many of them will never know her name, her knowledge and commitment to public service has affected the lives of millions of Americans. It is with the deepest respect and admiration that I thank Ms. Burke here today and wish her the best in all of her future ventures.●

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today, on behalf of the residents of Clatsop County, OR, I pay tribute to public servants who are usually referred to here in the U.S. Senate as nameless and faceless bureaucrats. I express my gratitude to the dedicated staff of the National Park Service staff at the newly designated Lewis and Clark National Historic Park—in particular, the superintendent, Chip Jenkins.

Fort Clatsop and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park, which sits in the northwest corner of Oregon, serves as the exclamation mark to the Lewis and Clark expedition across this vast continent. Established in 1958, this unit of the national park system has grown to be one of the most popular tourist attractions along the northern Oregon Coast. For 46 years, this park has endeavored to tell the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and its impact on the settlement of the Pacific Northwest.

In preparation for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Bicentennial festivities, Chip Jenkins and his staff at the Fort have served as a driving force in planning, facilitating and coordinating region-wide efforts to help tell the tale of Lewis and Clark in the great Pacific Northwest. Along with many key members of the community, Chip's vision and leadership abilities have culminated in the recent passage of the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Designation Act, which brings several State parks from both Oregon and Washington in partnership with the National Park Service to tell a comprehensive story of the Lewis and Clark experience at the mouth of the magnificent Columbia River. This Act was recently signed into law by President Bush on October 30, 2004.

Chip has made such an impact on the State of Oregon that the Oregon Business magazine recently named him one of Oregon's top 50 Great Leaders. Well known in his community for his role at Fort Clatsop, Chip still finds time for involvement in other local organizations and efforts such as the Astoria Children's Museum.

Mr. President, I offer my words of appreciation for Chip Jenkins and his staff at the Lewis and Clark National Historic Park for their dedication to the public good. With the peak of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebrations coming in the summer of 2005, there is still much work to do. But I am confident that they will succeed and leave a legacy lasting well beyond this season of celebration. While the public servants of our many Federal agencies are often faceless and nameless to us in Congress, they are considered friends and partners in the communities they serve.●

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD WOOD

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Richard Wood, CEO of Wawa Inc., and to commend him and his company's commitment and dedication to Delaware and surrounding States. As CEO of Wawa, Richard Wood has instilled in his associates the wisdom to do the right thing, and this core value enables the company to place a high priority on local community involvement. I thank him for all that he and his associates have done to make Delaware a better place.

The company began in 1803 and was incorporated in 1865 as the Millville Manufacturing Company. Millville's owner, George Wood, lived in Philadelphia and brought his family to Wawa, a rural town in Delaware County, PA. The original house where his family lived had a red tile roof, and is now the site of Wawa's present headquarters, hence the name ''Red Roof'' for Wawa's corporate offices. In 1902, George Wood took an interest in dairy farming and started a small milk processing plant in Wawa, specializing in the home delivery of milk. By the 1960s, the grandson of George Wood, Grahame Wood, recognized the changing economic trends and had the vision to expand by selling milk in convenience stores. In April 1964, the first Wawa Food Market was opened in Folsom, PA.

One of the founding principles of Wawa is a commitment to the local communities that they serve. Today Wawa's core value of ''people helping people'' guides Wawa and its employees to give back to those in need. Just some of Wawa's charitable causes include support for children's health, cancer research, AIDS research, domestic violence, heart disease and hunger. A few of the organizations benefiting from the Good Neighbor program include: Food Bank of Delaware, Contact Delaware, AIDS Delaware, The United Way and The Salvation Army.

Wawa has made a tremendous difference in its efforts to raise funds to help eliminate Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. SIDS, the unexplained death of an apparently healthy infant, is the leading cause of death in infants between one month and one year of age. This deadly syndrome has impacted the lives of countless Delaware families.

Since 1997, Wawa and the CJ Foundation for SIDS have held Walk-a-Thons on the second Sunday in September. Walks are held at 12 locations in their five trading areas: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. With the strong support of Wawa area managers, supervisors and store personnel, Wawa has raised more than $1.5 million over the last 8 years. Not only have Wawa customers, vendors and associates given generously of their time to make the SIDS walks an enormous success, but countless Wawa associates volunteer to work the phone banks in New York City each year for the benefit of the CJ Foundation for SIDS Radiothon. Howard Stoeckel, President, and Harry McHugh, Senior Vice President, have both spoken on the Radiothon on behalf of Wawa and their involvement in the fight against SIDS.

Money raised at the Wawa Walk-a-Thons is used to fund research to find the cause of SIDS and to educate parents on how to reduce the risk of SIDS. Proceeds from the walks have helped volunteer grassroots SIDS organizations expand to regional professional non-profits. Thousands of families have greatly benefited from the national ''Cribs For Kids'' program, which receives funding from the Wawa Walk-a-Thons. This program distributes cribs to low-income families to help them provide a safe sleep environment for their babies.

Throughout all this, one steady influence has been the leadership of Richard Wood, Wawa's CEO, who leads by his example in defining Wawa's culture and values. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Richard graduated in 1956 from St. Paul's School, Concord, NH. He went on to receive his B.S. in Commerce from the University of Virginia in 1961, and an LLB from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1964. After graduating from law school, Mr. Wood served as a law clerk for one year in the Federal Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the Honorable Francis L. Van Dusen. He then joined the law firm of Montgomery, McCracken, Walker and Rhoads in Philadelphia, PA. In June of 1970, Mr. Wood joined Wawa, Inc. as General Counsel. He served in various capacities until becoming President in June 1977 and Chief Executive Officer in January 1981. Richard and his wife Jean reside in Wawa, PA.

Richard serves on several boards, including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce CEO Council for Growth, Pardee Resources Company, and QuikTrip Corporation. He has served as director for many organizations, including: Greater Philadelphia First, CoreStates Bank, N.A., Sheetz, Inc., Convenience Store, Foundation for Education and Research, Globe Ticket Company, Millville Savings & Loan Association, Overbrook School for the Blind, The Home of the Merciful Savior, The Philadelphia City Institute, Philadelphia Charity Ball, Inc.,

Crime Prevention Association, Upland Country Day School, Board of Managers of the Assemblies and Ludwig Institute. Richard was also past Board Chairman of the National Association of Convenience Stores, PQ Corporation, Riddle Memorial Hospital, and Gulph Mills Golf Club (past President).

Richard Wood will be retiring as Wawa's CEO at the end of 2004, and will assume the position of Chairman of the Board of Wawa Inc. I rise today to recognize Richard Wood and thank him for his compassion and leadership, and for the tremendous contributions he and the associates at Wawa have made to Delaware. I thank them for their commitment to strengthening all the communities that they serve.●

TERRY R. CARLSTROM

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Terry R. Carlstrom, a distinguished and respected steward of our Nation's natural and cultural resources. Terry is retiring after more than four decades of dedicated public service in the U.S. Department of the Interior, including 8 years as Director of the National Park Service's National Capital Region. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of service and contributions to protecting and enhancing our national treasures.

Throughout his career, Terry has distinguished himself for his leadership and commitment to public service and to managing some of our Nation's most precious natural and cultural resources. Beginning as a young forester at Bridger National Forest in Wyoming in the early 1960s, Terry also served in the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before joining the National Park Service in 1972. He quickly advanced to positions in senior management in the National Park Service including Chief of Planning for the Denver Service Center Western Team and the Alaska Regional Office, Associate Regional Director for Professional Services in the National Capital Region and, most recently, as Regional Director.

During his 22-year tenure in the National Capital Region, I had the opportunity to work closely with Terry and members of his staff on a number of National Park initiatives in the State of Maryland and the broader Washington metropolitan region including land acquisitions at Monocacy Battlefield, the renovation of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the restoration of historic structures in the C&O Canal National Historical Park, at Fort Washington, and the restoration and joint management of Glen Echo Park in Montgomery County. Terry was also responsible for the difficult task of overseeing the construction and dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, the Korean Veteran War Memorial, and the World War II Memorial, among other monuments. I know firsthand the extraordinary leadership and expertise Terry brought not only to the National Parks and Monuments in this region, but equally important, to building and encouraging one of the finest, most professional teams of Federal employees in the Nation.

The legacy of Terry Carlstrom's 41-year career can be seen in our national parks across the country and especially here in the National Capital region but it can also be seen in the people who have been fortunate enough to come to know him. He has earned the admiration and respect of his colleagues in the National Park Service as well as the visitors to the parks he has worked to improve. It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands unwavering dedication to the citizens and country they serve. Throughout his career, Terry has exemplified this commitment to his country and to his fellow citizens. I want to extend my personal congratulations to Terry on his very distinguished career and join with his friends and coworkers in wishing him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO A DISTINGUISHED IOWA EDUCATOR, ANGIE KING

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of the great joys of my job as Senator is working closely with talented, dedicated Iowans from all walks of life. I take a moment to salute one of those exceptional people, one of Iowa's most distinguished public educators, Angie King.

Angie King has dedicated her life to children and public education, first as a classroom teacher, later as two-term president of the 32,000-member Iowa State Education Association, and, until her retirement this week, as a senior staff member of that Association.

The fact is that, as an educator-leader, Angie King speaks with a special authority that can only come from decades of experience on the front line as a classroom teacher. For 21 years, she taught elementary students in the Des Moines public schools. Of all the titles Angie King has held in the course of her career, she prizes none more highly than the simple title of ''teacher.''

Angie King, as a teacher, leader and advocate is one reason why Iowa public schools are among the most respected and highest achieving in the United States. The marketplace claims that you get what you pay for. But in Iowa, when it comes to teachers, we get far, far better than we pay for. Despite modest salaries, my state is blessed with an extraordinary cadre of talented teachers. And most folks in Iowa know this and appreciate it. We hold our teachers in special esteem. And we're grateful for the long hours—and the generous hearts that they bring to their jobs.

For many people, there is a defining moment in their careers. For Angie King, that moment came one day in 1972 when she missed a staff meeting at her elementary school. The next day, she discovered she has been elected in absentia to serve as a local representative of the Des Moines Education Association. Some people are born leaders; some people pursue leadership; and some people have leadership thrust upon them. That's what happened to Angie King. But she embraced her new role and responsibilities with energy and excellence.

As an association representative, she became more interested in the world of education beyond the four walls of her own classroom. She became a tireless activist, going on to serve as vice president of the Des Moines Education Association, a charter member of the ISEA Women's Caucus, an elected member of ISEA's executive committee, and, in 1985, chair of the ISEA Political Action Committee.

In 1990, Angie King was elected to serve the first of two terms as president of the Iowa State Education Association. She was one of a handful of women in history to be elected ISEA president, and the first elementary school teacher to hold that office.

In her farewell address at the conclusion of her second term in 1994, Angie King shared one of her favorite quotes from Albert Camus: ''In the midst of winter I find there is in me an invincible summer.'' ''That simple statement,'' she told the ISEA Delegate Assembly, ''captures the very essence of who we are and what we do. In every child there is an invincible summer. It is our responsibility to nurture it and to foster it. And in each one of us there is, too, an invincible summer. It's what keeps us going back day after day, year after year, in the midst of sometimes very cold and dreary conditions.''

Since 1994, Angie King has served as the political action specialist for the Iowa State Education Association. With her retirement this week, she concludes a distinguished career in public education spanning three and a half decades.

Angie King has made a real difference as a dedicated teacher, leader, and champion of public education. I know that she is looking forward to spending time nurturing the garden she has neglected while nurturing the children of Iowa. I am deeply grateful for her service, and I wish her all the best in the years ahead.●

THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the members of the Metro St. Louis Chapter of the Project Management Institute, in celebration of the chapter's 10th anniversary.

The Metro St. Louis chapter of PMI is dedicated to providing its members with services and forums to further the field of project management within the St. Louis region.

Internationally, PMI supports over 125,000 members in 140 countries. PMI members practice and study project

management in many different industry areas, including aerospace, automotive, business management, construction, engineering, financial services, information technology, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications.

Over time, PMI has become, and continues to be, one of the leading professional associations in project management. PMI's professional certification of Project Management Professional, or PMP, is highly respected across numerous industries. Professionals who have earned this credential are recognized daily for their value-added contributions to the organizations they serve.

The St. Louis chapter was founded on October 14, 1994, as the 71st chapter of PMI. At that time, the chapter had 24 charter members. Today, the St. Louis chapter is recognized as one of the fastest growing national chapters with over 600 members, more than 100 of whom have become certified PMPs. The chapter's board members and volunteers host monthly dinner and educational meetings, and they provide ongoing support for special events including national speaker presentations and PMP certification workshops.

The members of the St. Louis chapter are working professionals from regional businesses that include Fortune 500 companies, Federal, State and local government agencies, as well as mid-to-small size companies, start-ups and not-for-profits. Their efforts are important to the overall success of the region. I am honored to share their accomplishments with my colleagues, and I wish them all the best for the future.●

ST. LOUIS HURLING CLUB NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to pay special tribute to the St. Louis Hurling Club on their National Championship of the North American Gaelic Athletic Association, Junior-C Division on September 3, 2004.

The St. Louis Hurling Club was founded in the Summer of 2002 by Paul C. Rohde, Daniel D. Lapke, and Patrick O'Connor. Their vision included introducing the sport of hurling to the greater metropolitan area of St. Louis, MO., creating opportunities to play the sport, and developing strong St. Louis representation in nationwide competition.

In just 2 short years the St. Louis Hurling Club has expanded to a four-team league, and has become the second-largest club of primarily American-born hurlers in North America. In just the first year of existence, the Gaelic Athletic Association extended the rare invitation to the St. Louis Hurling Club to join twenty-one other cities to the North American County Board. In September 2004, the St. Louis Hurling Club traveled to Colorado and returned with the National Championship by defeating clubs from Milwaukee and Seattle.

Paul Rohde, Daniel Lapke, and Patrick O'Connor are to be commended for their vision, leadership, and introduction of the ancient Irish sport as well as the continued growth of Irish culture to St. Louis. MO. Again, I wish to congratulate the St. Louis Hurling Club on their National Championship and wish them future success as they continue to evolve.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the bill (S. 1301) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit video voyeurism in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1113) to authorize an exchange of land at Fort Frederica National Monument, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1284) to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to increase the Federal share of the costs of the San Gabriel Basin demonstration project.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1417) to amend title 17, United States Code, to replace copyright arbitration royalty panels with Copyright Royalty Judges, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1446) to support the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the Spanish colonial and mission-era missions in the State of California and to preserve the artworks and artifacts of these missions, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1964) to assist the States of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in conserving priority lands and natural resources in the Highlands region, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3936) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the principal office of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to be at any location in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, rather than only in the District of Columbia, and expressing the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for that Court and those it serves and should be located, if feasible, at a site owned by the United States that is part of or proximate to the Pentagon Reservation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4516) to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program of research and development to advance high-end computing.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4593) to establish wilderness areas, promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for the high quality development in Lincoln County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 434. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain parcels of National Forest System land in the State of Idaho and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes.

S. 437. An act to provide for adjustments to the Central Arizona Project in Arizona, to authorize the Gila River Indian Community water rights settlement, to reauthorize and amend the Southern Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 1982, and for other purposes.

S. 1146. An act to implement the recommendations of the Garrison Unit Tribal Advisory Committee by providing authorization for the construction of a rural health care facility on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, North Dakota.

S. 1241. An act to establish the Kate Mullany National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

S. 1466. An act to facilitate the transfer of land in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 1727. An act to authorize additional appropriations for the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978.

S. 2042. An act for the relief of Rocco A. Trescota of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

S. 2302. An act to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

S. 2484. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to simplify and improve pay provisions for physicians and dentists and to authorize alternate work schedules and executive pay for nurses, and for other purposes.

S. 2486. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance housing, education, and other benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2965. An act to amend the Livestock Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 1999 to modify the termination date for mandatory price reporting.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 145) to correct the enrollment of H.R. 1417, without amendment.

At 4:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5363. An act to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2005.

H.R. 5364. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 5505 Stevens Way in San Diego, California, as the ''Earl B. Gilliam/Imperial Avenue Post Office Building''.

H.J. Res. 111. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 430. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of early diagnosis, proper treatment, and enhanced public awareness of Tourette Syndrome and supporting the goals and ideals of National Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month.

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–9807. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 03–05, relative to the U.S. Army Depot Support Activity-Far East, Seoul, Korea; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–9808. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 98–05, relative to the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Colorado; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–9809. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 03–02, relative to 2000 Operation and Maintenance, Navy appropriation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–9810. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a supplemental update of the Budget; referred jointly to the Committees on Appropriations and the Budget.

EC–9811. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled ''Forest Service and Community Partnership Enhancement Act''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9812. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation ''to establish a system for withholding or disclosing information obtained through the animal identification system established by the Secretary, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9813. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pine Shoot Beetle Hose Material from Canada'' (Doc. No. 00–073–2) received on October 25, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9814. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bees and Related Articles'' (Doc. No. 98–109–2) received on October 25, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9815. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bacillus Pumilus Strain QST 2808; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL#7684–4) received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9816. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL#7683–5) received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9817. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pyraclostrobin; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL#7681–9) received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9818. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thifensulfuron-methyl; Tolerance Actions'' (FRL#7683–2) received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9819. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to resource management of a contract a private contractor to manage activities on Federal lands within the Stanislaus National Forest; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–9820. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Quality Control of Aviation Critical Safety Items and Related Services'' (DFARS Case 2003–D101) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9821. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Indian Incentive Program'' (DFARS Case 2002–D033) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9822. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Berry Amendment Changes'' (DFARS Case 2003–D099) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9823. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Definition of Terrorist Country'' (DFARS Case 2003–D098) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9824. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Acquisition Plans—Corrosion Prevision and Mitigation'' (DFARS Case 2004–D004) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9825. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Personal Services Contracts'' (DFARS Case 2003–D103) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9826. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Consolidation of Contract Requirements'' (DFARS Case 2003–D109) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9827. A communication from the Chief of Naval Personnel, Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the notification of a decision to convert to contractor performance a function of the Department of Defense performed by 290 DoD civilian employees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9828. A communication from the Director for Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost for planning, design, construction, and installation for the renovation of Wedges 2 through 5 of the Pentagon; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9829. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to purchases from foreign entities in Fiscal Year 2003; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9830. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9831. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the authorization to wear the insignia of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9832. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, the report of a retirement; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9833. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the approval to wear the insignia of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9834. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the Findings and Recommendations from the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans' Affairs; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9835. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the authorization to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9836. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the authorization to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9837. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Partnership Agreement—8(a) Program'' (DFARS Case 2004–D015) received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9838. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the government-wide progress report and the DoD supplement required by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9839. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the discontinuation of service in acting role for the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9840. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, Department of Defense, received on October 26 , 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9841. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination rejected, withdrawn, or returned for the position of Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9842. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management and Comptroller, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9843. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9844. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9845. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy for the position of General Counsel, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9846. A communication from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Under Secretary of the Navy, Department of Defense, received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9847. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2003 Environmental Quality Program Annual Report''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9848. A communication from the Principal Deputy for Personnel and Readiness, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the approval to wear the insignia of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–9849. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury , transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endorsement and Payment of Checks Drawn on the United States Treasury'' (RIN1510-AA99) received on October 13, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9850. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Community Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9851. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed for the position of Associate General Counsel for Human Resources Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9852. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9853. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan ; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9854. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a transaction involving U.S. exports to Malaysia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs .

EC–9855. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 51380'' (44 CFR 65) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9856. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 51375'' (44 CFR 65) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9857. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 51373'' (44 CFR 65) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9858. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 51388'' (44 CFR 67) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9859. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations; 69 FR 51382'' (44 CFR 67) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9860. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspension of Community Eligibility; 69 FR 53835'' (44 CFR 64) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9861. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's strategic plan for fiscal years 2003 through 2008, the Board's annual performance plan for fiscal year 2004, and the Board's annual performance budget for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–9862. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Progress Report to Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9863. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amended Service Obligation Reporting Requirements for State Maritime Academy Graduates'' (RIN2133-AB61) received on October 18, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9864. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Options for Transmitting Certain Information Collection Responses to MARAD'' (RIN2133-AB64) received on October 18, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9865. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amended Service Obligation Reporting Requirements for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Graduates'' (RIN2133-AB66) received on October 18, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9866. A communication from the Senior Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazardous Materials; Compatibility with the Regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Correction; Final Rule'' (RIN2137-AD40) received on October 18, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9867. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, East Central Region, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tire Advertising and Labeling Guides'' received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–9868. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of Exxon and Stripper Well oil overcharge funds; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9869. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coal Production Fees'' (RIN1029–AC46) received on October 13, 2004; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–9870. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Mariana Fruit Bat

and Guam Micronesian Kingfisher on Guam and the Mariana Crow on Guam and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands'' (RIN1018–AI25) received on October 13, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9871. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Interim Rule for the Beluga Sturgeon (Huso buso)'' (RIN1018–AU02) received on October 13, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9872. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of General Counsel, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation and Accompany Revisions to NRC Enforcement Policy'' (RIN3150–AH55) received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9873. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the status of the Commission's licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9874. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program'' (RIN1660–AA17) received on October 14, 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–9875. A communication from the Acting Director, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prototypes Used Solely for Product Development, Testing, Evaluation, or Quality Control Purposes'' (RIN1505–AB32) received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9876. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to trade and investment opportunities in Libya; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9877. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update for Calendar Year 2005'' (RIN0938–AM93) received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9878. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Treatment as Qualified Dividend Income for Purposes of Section 1(h)(11)'' (Notice 2004–70) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9879. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2004 Base Period T-Bill Rate'' (Rev. Rul. 2004–99) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9880. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordinated Issues: Transfer of Sale of Compensatory Options or Restricted Stock to Related Persons'' (UIL:9300.28–00) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9881. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Applicable Federal Rates—November 2004'' (Rev. Rul. 2004–102) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9882. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appeals Settlement Guidelines: Intermediary Transactions Tax Shelters'' (UIL:9300.16–00) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9883. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordinated Issue: Notice 2002–21 Tax Shelter'' (UIL9300.19.00) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9884. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores—August 2004'' (Rev. Rul. 2004–101) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9885. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Information Reporting and Other Guidance Distributions with Respect to Securities Issued by Foreign Corporations'' (Notice 2004–71) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9886. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Information Reporting Under Section 6050P for Discharges of Indebtedness'' (RIN1545–AY35) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9887. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update of Revenue Ruling 96063 901(j) List'' (Rev. Rul. 2004–103) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9888. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''October–December 2004 Bond Factor Amounts'' (Rev. Rule 2004–100) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9889. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Section 1397E—Allocation of National Limitation for Qualified Zone Academy Bonds for Year 2004'' (Rev. Proc. 2004–61) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9890. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Classification of Certain Foreign Entities'' (Notice 2004–68) received on October 22, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9891. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9892. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Representative Payment Under Titles II , VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act'' (RIN0960–AF83) received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–9893. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates'' (RIN1400–AB94) received on October 13, 2004; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–9894. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–9895. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–9896. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cost-of-Living Allowances (Nonforeign Areas); Methodology Changes'' (RIN3206–AK29) received on October 25, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–9897. A communication from the Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's report of the Office of Inspector General for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC–9898. A communication from the Chairman, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordinated and Independent Expenditures by Party Committees'' received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–9899. A communication from the Chairman, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coordinated and Independent Expenditures by Party Committees'' received on November 4, 2004; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–9900. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary for Health, Veterans' Health Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''VA Research: Serving Our Nations' Veterans''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–9901. A communication from the Office of Registration Policy and Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Presumptions of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Service Involving Detention or Internment as a Prisoner of War'' (RIN2900–AM09) received on October 26, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 346. A bill to amend the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act to establish a governmentwide policy requiring competition in certain executive agency procurements (Rept. No. 108–415).

By Mr. BENNETT, from the Joint Economic Committee:

Special Report entitled ''The 2004 Joint Economic Report'' (Rept. No. 108–416).

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. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2995. A bill to permanently extend the income tax deduction for college tuition expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2996. A bill to provide for an additional place of holding court in the northern district of New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2997. A bill to amend section 1928 of the Social Security Act to encourage the production of influenza vaccines by eliminating the price cap applicable to the purchase of such vaccines under contracts entered into by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2998. A bill to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2999. A bill for the relief of Heilit Martinez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 3000. A bill to postpone the extension of normal trade relations to the products of Laos; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TALENT:

S. 3001. A bill entitled the ''Hybrid HOV Access Act''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3002. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to provide a support system for members of the Armed Forces who incur severe disabilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3003. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 3004. A bill to amend chapter 99 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that certain coal industry health benefits may not be modified or terminated; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3005. A bill to allow State Homeland Security Program grant funds to be used to pay costs associated with the attendance of part-time and volunteer first responders at terrorism response courses approved by the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM of Florida:

S. 3006. A bill to amend the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 3007. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the founding of America's National Parks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban 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. INHOFE:

S. Res. 470. A resolution honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. Res. 471. A resolution authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Paul Simon; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. Res. 472. A resolution to honor the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 473. A resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the Presidential run-off election on November 21, 2004; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. Con. Res. 147. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. Con. Res. 148. A concurrent resolution honoring the life and contribution of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of the Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. Con. Res. 149. A concurrent resolution commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 282

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 282, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to require the Statistics Commissioner to collect information from coeducational secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs.

S. 2163

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to establish a national health program administered by the Office of Personnel Management to offer health benefits plans to individuals who are not Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2395, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow self-employed individuals to deduct health insurance costs in computing self-employment taxes.

S. 2553

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2553, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and for other purposes.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, and local public health agencies.

S. 2657

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2657, a bill to amend part III of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of programs under which supplemental dental and vision benefits are made available to Federal employees, retirees, and their dependents,

to expand the contracting authority of the Office of Personnel Management, and for other purposes.

S. 2889

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2889, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, to America's lands, waterways, and skies and the great importance of the designation of the American bald eagle as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2978

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2978, a bill relating to State regulation of access to hunting and fishing.

S. RES. 269

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 269, a resolution urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt that opened on November 15, 2003.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2995. A bill to permanently extend the income tax deduction for college tuition expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

S. 2995

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF TUITION DEDUCTION.

(a) REPEAL OF TERMINATION CLAUSE.—Section 222 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to payments made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

(c) PROVISION MADE PERMANENT.—Title IX of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (relating to sunset of provisions of such Act) shall not apply to section 431 of such Act.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2997. A bill to amend section 1928 of the Social Security Act to encourage the production of influenza vaccines by eliminating the price cap applicable to the purchase of such vaccines under contracts entered into by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, there was a lot of hysteria a short time ago about the flu vaccine and the fact it was not available to a lot of people. There are several problems. One, the flu vaccine production currently takes approximately 6 months. I am introducing a bill that will expedite that and will have the sense of the Senate to steer the NIH research dollars toward the development of faster technology. They are using egg cultures to grow this vaccine when it can be done through the cells of silk moths. It will take more research to get there and we will encourage them to do that.

Second, the bill removes price controls for the purchasing of the flu vaccine. This happened during the Clinton administration. We should have learned during the Nixon administration that price controls in reality do not work. The result of this has been that we do not have many companies now that are willing to get in there and take the risk and develop and manufacture these vaccines. As soon as they do, they find out there is no profit at the other end because of price controls.

Lastly, we allow investment tax credits.

I have long been dedicated to quality healthcare for my constituents in Oklahoma and across America. I supported the Medicare bill of 2003 to give a voluntary prescription drug benefit to seniors. I have championed the rural health care providers, who received some of the greatest benefits of the Medicare bill. In 1997, I was one of few Republicans to vote against the Balanced Budget Act because of its lack of support for rural hospitals. Back then, I made a commitment to not allow our rural hospitals to be closed, and I am pleased we finally addressed that important issue in the Medicare legislation. I also cosponsored S. 816, the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act, to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries to health care in rural regions.

I am a strong advocate of medical liability reform and am an original cosponsor of S. 11, the Patients First Act, to protect patients' access to quality and affordable health care by reducing the effects of excessive liability costs. There are solutions to alleviate the burden placed on physicians and patients by excessive medical malpractice lawsuits, and I am committed to this vital reform.

I have also worked with officials from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to expand access to life-saving Implantable Cardiac Defibrillators. I supported legislation to increase the supply of pancreative islet cells for research and cosponsored a bill to take the abortion pill RU–486 off the market in the United States.

The federal government invests in improving hospitals and healthcare initiatives, and I have fought hard to ensure that Oklahoma gets its fair share. Specifically, over the past three years, I have helped to secure $5.2 million in funding for the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, the Oklahoma State Department of Health planning initiative for a rural telemedicine system, the INTEGRIS Healthcare System, the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, St. Anthony's Heart Hospital, the Hillcrest Healthcare System, and the Morton Health Center.

The unexpected influenza, flu, vaccine shortage beginning last month highlights the need to encourage the production of flu vaccine in America. As you know, on October 5th, Chiron, a California-based biotechnology company, notified U.S. health officials that its plant in Liverpool, England had been shut down due to vaccine contamination. Almost 50,000 doses of flu vaccine were thrown away, which created a severe shortage for Americans just as the flu season began.

In light of the current shortage, I have examined why America found itself unable to accommodate the public demand for the flu vaccine. As we have seen, once a vaccine shortage strikes, a rapid response is difficult and often impossible. Thirty years ago, more than a dozen American companies were in the flu vaccine business. Today only two companies make the vaccine for America, and only one in an America-based company. This is no coincidence. High liability costs, tedious production, price caps, and the complicated United States tax code have kept the market bare.

In October, President Bush signed the JOBS bill, which curbed the billion-dollar lawsuits that have crippled the flu vaccine industry. By adding flu vaccine to the list of vaccines protected by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, VICP, a no-fault alternative must be used for resolving vaccine injury claims. I am encouraged with this progress, but more can be done to prevent a shortage in the future.

My bill supports allocating a greater percentage of the National Institutes of Health budget to develop faster and safer vaccine production technology. The ever-changing nature of the flu virus results in a complicated production process. The dominant strain of the flu virus mutates each year, requiring a different vaccine for every flu

season. Because harvesting the flu vaccine currently takes at least six months and requires tens of thousands of fertilized eggs susceptible to contamination, this process must begin nearly a year before the flu season begins.

Research should be focused on developing new technologies to allow us to produce more vaccine—in the same season—when we encounter a shortage. A company in Connecticut is developing a flu vaccine relying on cell lines from silk moths. This type of innovative research promises to shave at least one month off of production time and significantly reduce cost.

My bill includes a sense of the Senate on the importance of allocating a greater percentage of the National Institutes of Health, NIH, research dollars to developing new technology in flu vaccine production. The encouragement of safer and faster flu vaccine production technology is a prudent use of existing Federal research dollars through the National Institutes of Health.

Furthermore, my bill removes the suffocating price controls that have discouraged companies from producing the flu vaccine. The Vaccines For Children program, VFC, enacted under the Clinton administration, imposed a price cap on all vaccines purchased through Federal contracts. From a shortsighted perspective, these regulated prices may expand access to vaccines. However, in the long run this policy devastates the vaccine production industry and decreases the availability of vaccines. This occurred in 1998 when manufacturers of tetanus diphtheria vaccine refused to bid on Government contracts. Consequently, this vaccine is no longer available to children through the VFC program.

Similarly, the CDC purchased nearly 12 percent of the flu vaccine this season, and significant quantities were purchased through the Department of Defense, the Veteran's Administration and Medicare. The price controls imposed from Federal government purchasing create a high-risk, low-reward business market. Price controls destroy any profit incentive. Manufacturers avoid this artificial environment and will continue to as long as the government over steps its bounds.

The harmful effect of government price controls is especially pronounced in the flu vaccine market because the vaccine has a single-season shelf life. The difficulty of predicting the demand for vaccines each year exposes companies great risk. A slight drop in demand can force them out of the market. Financial losses—from 7 million extra doses in 2002 and 4.5 million extra in 2003—compelled Wyeth Pharmaceutical Company to end its flu vaccine manufacturing.

In addition to lifting price controls, the government can loosen its grip on the flu vaccine market by reforming its complicated tax code. Fortunately, the JOBS bill made headway in simplifying the current United States international tax rules. To further offset the heavy penalties within the United States tax code, my bill gives a tax credit to companies, new and old, that construct facilities to manufacture flu vaccine.

Currently, ten American companies produce the 47 FDA-approved vaccines. An investment tax credit will encourage these existing companies to expand their production to cover the flu vaccine and will invite start-up companies to join the industry. This will better equip the United States market to prevent and deal with a shortage in the future.

Scientific experts consider vaccination to be the most effective medical intervention, and we live in an age of unprecedented vaccine development and implementation. We cannot continue to overregulate the flu vaccine industry and hope companies will hang on and produce vaccines regardless of profit. The current national flu vaccine shortage reveals the need to act.

My bill would steer NIH research dollars towards cutting-edge technology, remove suffocating price controls, and free American companies to enter the flu vaccine industry with an investment tax credit. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in supporting this vital legislation.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2998. A bill to promote the development of the emerging commercial human space flight industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I want to introduce two bills today. One of them is about a program nobody seems to know about. That is the space launch program. I don't know whether it is in the State of Texas or where they are doing this. But in Oklahoma, in Burns Flat, we have been very active in trying to get the Commercial Space Launch Program going. This is an opportunity for people to go into suborbital launch vehicles using a hybrid technology of a combination rocket injection engine. We are doing this. There have been several of them so far.

I have been a commercial pilot now for almost 50 years—47 years, I guess. I have a natural interest in this. I have had occasion to fly an airplane around the world. I have watched it from all levels.

I see the excitement in people's faces saying, I can fly in space.

We have this program which nobody knows about. It is a program that will allow people to get into things such as a Learjet that has a rocket on that will actually launch them, take them up and give them the experience of travel in space.

There have been some problems with this, however. There are some problems with people being able to do this with the company putting these programs together incurring responsibilities and liabilities.

It is very similar to the program we have been concerned with in the oil industry to try to expand it and keep people from being able to have frivolous lawsuits. That is what we are up against here.

We have introduced a bill that is designed to allow participation in this emerging space launching activity for a greater number of people.

The FAA will now have sole regulation authority for the suborbital hybrid vehicles. It will be appropriately considered. We are not taking any risk here. This is just to allow the private sector to enjoy this type of thing.

I will be introducing today S. 2998 with the idea of making this a reality and giving this privilege to a lot of people and allowing us to develop technology.

It is interesting. A lot of people go to an event every year in Oshkosh, WI. I have gone for 27 consecutive years. We go up there to see all of the new technology, what people are putting together in their experimental aircraft, airplanes they are making in their garages and basements. A lot of technology we are now using in the space program was actually started right there in someone's garage. That is essentially what we want to get at with the Commercial Space Launch Act we introduce today.

By Mr. TALENT:

S. 3001. A bill entitled the ''Hybrid HOV Access Act''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing this bill, which will allow more owners of hybrid electric vehicles, or HEVs, to have access to HOV lanes on Federal highways. For all of us who have a desire to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and encourage the use of renewable energy, this bill represents a step forward towards achieving those goals.

The language that is currently in the highway bills passed by the House and the Senate allows hybrid vehicles that achieve a 45 mile-per-gallon fuel economy highway rating to use HOV lanes. Any hybrid that achieves that kind of fuel economy certainly deserves to get that status, because it is a very impressive fuel economy rating and represents a substantial improvement over non-hybrid vehicles. What the 45 mile-per-gallon standard fails to take into account, however, is that many larger hybrid vehicles achieve a much larger fuel economy improvement over their internal combustion engine counterparts, and thus save more energy, than smaller vehicles which manage to meet the standard but are a less drastic improvement over their non-hybrid counterparts.

To illustrate this, take the 2005 model Honda Civic HEV, which gets just over 45 miles-per-gallon. This represents less than a 40 percent improvement over the comparable internal

combustion model. The 2005 Ford Escape HEV, on the other hand, is a truck, so it gets fewer miles per gallon than a Civic, between 35 and 40. However, this is a 75 percent improvement over its internal combustion engine counterpart, and in addition, the Escape HEV emits 3–4 tons fewer greenhouse gases every year than the nonhybrid.

There is no reason to discriminate against these larger, American-made hybrids like the Ford Escape. They are truly engineering marvels and are so clearly beneficial for the environment. The bill that I have sponsored will give states the discretion to open up their HOV lanes to hybrid vehicles that achieve a substantial increase in fuel economy relative to comparable gasoline vehicles, or achieve a substantial increase in lifetime fuel savings relative to comparable gasoline vehicles. It creates a minimum standard of improvement necessary for hybrids, but gives states the option of increasing the requirements. This bill also allows states to open HOV lanes to single occupancy advanced lean burn vehicles that achieve at least a 25 percent increase in fuel economy relative to comparable gasoline vehicles and that are certified to Clean Air Act Tier 2 standards.

I am hopeful that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can agree that we should do all we can to encourage the use of renewable energy in our country, and hybrid vehicles are an important part of that. The people who drive these vehicles are doing their part to help clean up the air and increase energy conservation, and we should give more people an incentive to buy these vehicles by giving them access to HOV lanes. Thank you, Mr. President.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3003. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the City of Henderson, Nevada, certain Federal land located in the City, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today for myself and Senator ENSIGN to introduce the Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act, which enhances the ability of a rapidly growing community to diversify its economy, gainfully employ its residents, and achieve fiscal sustainability.

The bill I am introducing today would convey 547 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the city of Henderson, NV, for development as an employment and business center.

BLM has designated this parcel for disposal because of its urban surroundings and its isolation from other public land, which renders it difficult for the agency to manage.

The parcel is located in a rapidly growing area of the city, but is impacted by aircraft noise and overflights from the nearby Henderson Executive Airport that make it unsuitable for residential use.

But rather than cringing from these impediments, the city of Henderson sees opportunity. The city's land-use planning department envisions a business center that provides diverse employment opportunities for the region, while helping to pay for public infrastructure in nearby residential areas.

This bill establishes the conditions to make that vision come true.

The bill would convey the land to the city by patent. The city would then subdivide and sell lots at fair market value. As in previous conveyances of Federal land designated in the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act for disposal, 85 percent of the proceeds from sales would return to the BLM's Special Account for acquiring environmentally sensitive land. Five percent of the proceeds would fund the State of Nevada's general education program. And the city of Henderson could use the remaining 10 percent to cover expenses associated with subdividing the property and providing infrastructure.

Henderson, NV, is a new and rapidly growing city. Its leaders are dedicated to making the city a national model of logical development, diversified employment, and fiscal sustainability. This bill establishes the conditions needed to realize that vision.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3003

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 ''Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITY.—The term ''City'' means the City of Henderson, Nevada.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—The term ''Special Account'' means the special account established under section 4(e)(1)(C) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2345).

(4) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Nevada.

(5) TRANSITION AREA.—The term ''Transition Area'' means the approximately 547 acres of Federal land located in Henderson, Nevada, and identified as ''Limited Transition Area'' on the map entitled ''Southern Nevada Limited Transition Area Act'' and dated November 16, 2004.

SEC. 3. SOUTHERN NEVADA LIMITED TRANSITION AREA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Notwithstanding the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), on request of the City, the Secretary shall, without consideration and subject to all valid existing rights, convey to the City all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Transition Area.

(b) USE OF LAND FOR NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the conveyance to the City under subsection (a), the City may sell any portion or portions of the Transition Area for purposes of nonresidential development.

(2) METHOD OF SALE.—The sale of land under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) through a competitive bidding process; and

(B) for not less than fair market value.

(3) COMPLIANCE WITH CHARTER.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (4), the City may sell parcels within the Transition Area only in accordance with the procedures for conveyances established in the City Charter.

(4) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Of the gross proceeds from the sale of land under paragraph (1), the City shall—

(A) deposit 85 percent in the Special Account;

(B) retain 10 percent as compensation for the costs incurred by the City—

(i) in carrying out land sales under paragraph (1); and

(ii) for the provision of public infrastructure to serve the Transition Area, including planning, engineering, surveying, and subdividing the Transition Area for nonresidential development; and

(C) pay 5 percent to the State for use in the general education program of the State.

(c) USE OF LAND FOR RECREATION OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.—The City may elect to retain parcels in the Transition Area for public recreation or other public purposes consistent with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.) by providing to the Secretary written notice of the election.

(d) NOISE COMPATIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—The City shall—

(1) plan and manage the Transition Area in accordance with section 47504 of title 49, United States Code (relating to airport noise compatibility planning), and regulations promulgated in accordance with that section; and

(2) agree that if any land in the Transition Area is sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed by the City, the sale, lease, or conveyance shall contain a limitation to require uses compatible with that airport noise compatibility planning.

(e) REVERSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any parcel of land in the Transition Area is not conveyed for nonresidential development under this Act or reserved for recreation or other public purposes under subsection (c) within 20 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the parcel of land shall, if determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, revert to the United States.

(2) INCONSISTENT USE.—If the City uses any parcel of land within the Transition Area in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses specified in this section—

(A) at the election of the Secretary, the parcel shall revert to the United States; or

(B) if the Secretary does not make an election under paragraph (1), the City shall sell the parcel of land in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 3004. A bill to amend chapter 99 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that certain coal industry health benefits may not be modified or terminated; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to make very clear that Congress fully protected the health insurance benefits

of miners and their families when we passed the Coal Act in 1992. Unfortunately, we have recently seen bankruptcy courts disregard the Coal Act and absolve companies of their obligations to provide health benefits for workers and retirees. This is unacceptable. And the bill I am introducing today reiterates that the bankruptcy code does not supercede the Coal Act.

This year another company has abandon promises it made to workers and retirees in West Virginia. Horizon Natural Resources sought and received a court ruling that releases it from its contracts with union miners and allows it to avoid honoring health care benefit obligations for over 2,300 retired miners. This is a morally bankrupt corporate strategy, and is inconsistent with the Coal Act passed by Congress in 1992.

The Coal Act was needed in 1992 to prevent some companies from walking away from their clear contractual obligations and agreements with their workers. One of the provisions of that bill was written especially with the intent of not allowing companies to simply reorganize as a way to get out of their obligations to their workers. Unfortunately, too many companies are increasingly using bankruptcy courts to achieve the same results.

It should not be necessary for me to introduce this bill today. Congress has already spoken on this subject. The law is clear: Coal Act retirees are entitled to full benefits provided under the statute. No judge should rewrite the law to take those benefits away. However, because judges are legislating from the bench, it will be helpful for Congress to reiterate our intention to protect the health benefits of coal miners and their families.

I recognize that the 108th Congress is coming to a close. But I am introducing this legislation today because this issue is extremely important to all of those who are being victimized by the bankruptcy courts. I hope that early next year my colleagues will join me in this effort to protect the miners, retired miners, and families who are simply seeking the benefits they were promised in exchange for years of hard work.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 3005. A bill to allow State Homeland Security Program grant funds to be used to pay costs associated with the attendance of part-time and volunteer first responders at terrorism response courses approved by the Office for State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Stabenow-Craig Rural and Part-time Firefighter Training Fairness Act. This bill would ensure that our part-time and rural firefighters are not being treated as second class citizens. I want to thank Senator CRAIG for his hard work on this very important issue, and Senators LEVIN, CRAPO, ROCKEFELLER, and JEFFORDS for their support of this bill.

Mr. President, many part-time and volunteer firefighters in rural and small communities across the country are not attending Office of Domestic Preparedness-approved terrorism response training courses because Federal guidelines do not allow them to be reimbursed for the time they are away from their full-time jobs. Our bill would simply direct the ODP to allow part-time and volunteer first responders, to receive a reasonable stipend when they participate in ODP-approved terrorism response courses.

The Federal Government should not penalize rural and small communities and their firefighters from receiving training necessary to respond to a terrorist attack. In several counties in northern lower Michigan, State Homeland Security Grant funds sit unused because their fire departments are composed entirely of volunteer or part-time firefighters. Last year, the State of Michigan set aside $9 million in Homeland Security grants to prepare firefighters, including ODP training courses, to respond to terrorist incidents. However, this grant money is being underutilized since 72 percent of the firefighters in Michigan are volunteer or part-time and are not attending terrorism response training sessions.

All firefighters need the capability to respond to all types of emergencies. When Americans call 9–1–1, the fire department doesn't send only their full-time firefighters, they send everyone regardless of their status. Most part-time firefighters in rural areas hold full-time jobs in addition to serving and protecting their communities. It is unreasonable to expect them to take leave from their regular jobs, and forgo their pay from their full-time jobs, to attend terrorism response training courses that include incident command, civil action management, and radiological response.

Mr. President, many of our small, rural communities face the same homeland security challenges as larger cities with more resources. For example, Michigan has a long international border with Canada, and many of these small and rural border communities rely on part-time and volunteer firefighters. These responders must be capable of protecting these borders against the same terrorist threats that urban areas face. When there is an accident in the future and, God forbid, if there is a terrorist attack, we're not going to send only full-time firefighters to save people's lives.

This bill was included as a bipartisan amendment to the Senate version of the fiscal year 2005 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, but was removed by the House Republican leadership in conference. This issue is too important for Congress to ignore, and I am going to keep fighting until our volunteer and part-time firefighters are treated fairly and receive the terrorism response training they need.

Mr. President, I'm pleased to note that the change in Federal guidelines this bill requires will not cost the Government any funding. It will not affect the distribution of State Homeland Security grants. It will just enable communities that have been awarded these grants to use them to pay their firefighters a reasonable stipend when they leave their full-time jobs and attend these terrorism response course. This is a matter of fairness to ensure that those that we rely on to respond to emergencies have the training they need.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3005

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 ''Rural and Part-time Firefighter Training Fairness Act''.

SEC. 2. STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated to the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness for grants to States and local governments may be used by such States and local governments to provide a reasonable stipend to part-time and volunteer first responders who are not otherwise compensated for travel to or participation in terrorism response courses approved by the Office for Domestic Preparedness, which stipend shall not be considered compensation for purposes of rendering such first responder an employee under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 470—HONORING THE LIFE OF ASTRONAUT LEROY GORDON COOPER, JR.

Mr. INHOFE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 470

Whereas Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., was born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as a colonel in the United States Air Force and was selected as one of the original Project Mercury astronauts in April of 1959;

Whereas the 7 original Project Mercury astronauts helped to inspire generations of scientists and engineers;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper piloted the Faith 7 spacecraft on the final operational mission of Project Mercury from May 15 to May 16, 1963, he traveled a total of 546,167 statute miles and became the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper served as command pilot on the 8-day 120-orbit Gemini 5 mission that began on August 21, 1965, he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new

space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes;

Whereas Gordon Cooper was the first man to go into space for a second time;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as backup command pilot for the Gemini 12 mission and as backup commander for the Apollo 10 flight;

Whereas Gordon Cooper logged 222 hours in space and retired from the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1970;

Whereas the special honors Gordon Cooper received during his lifetime included the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal, and the John F. Kennedy Trophy; and

Whereas Gordon Cooper passed away at his home in Ventura, California, on October 4, 2004, at the age of 77: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, many people may not be aware of Oklahoma's significant history in aviation, or that I am the only commercially licensed pilot in the Senate and have a passion for flying.

Since 1910, beginning with Charles F. Willard who only flew a few hundred yards in a south Oklahoma City field, Oklahomans have been flying.

The following year, Clyde Cessna, an automobile dealer from Enid who later formed the Cessna Aircraft Company, flew his mono-wing airplane near Jet, OK.

Such early flights in Oklahoma continued and in 1929 perhaps one of the most notable aviation events occurred in Waynoka, Oklahoma, where Charles Lindbergh stopped on the first transcontinental passenger air and rail service.

By 1931, Wiley Post, from Maysville, OK, gained international recognition when he flew around the world in a little over eight days. In July 1991, I had the honor of recreating Post's trip on its 60th Anniversary.

However, Oklahoma's aviation history does not stop there. On November 2, 1929, 26 licensed women pilots founded what was known as the Ninety-Nine Club, or the Ninety-Nines. It was called so at the suggestion of its first president, Amelia Earheart, because of the 117 licensed women pilots in America who were contacted about joining the club, only 99 actually joined. The South Central Section of the Ninety-Nine Club comprising several states including Oklahoma, has through the years, issued several publications and in 1962, Mary Lester of the Oklahoma Chapter created a new version of the Club's publication, the Ninety-Nine News. Currently, the Ninety-Nine Club is an international organization of licensed women pilots from 35 countries, with its international headquarters at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City.

Today I rise to introduce a resolution to honor the life and work of another Oklahoman in this long line of aviation who served our country by fearlessly dedicating his life to space travel and exploration.

Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., frequently called ''Gordo'', who passed away at his home on October 4, was often known as the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space. He was born in Shawnee, OK on March 6, 1927 and joined the Marines during World War II. He then transferred to the Air Force in 1949 and graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956.

After graduating, Cooper became attracted to the space program as an elite test pilot for the Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California. During his career, he logged more than 7,000 hours of flying, including 4,000 hours flying jets. He also flew commercial and general aviation planes and helicopters.

Cooper seemed to be born in the right place at the right time—with the right abilities. In 1958, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, NASA, announced its new endeavor, Project Mercury, with three goals in mind: to place a spacecraft carrying a person into orbital flight around the Earth, to investigate a person's performance capabilities and his/her ability to function in space, and to recover the person and spacecraft safely. NASA began searching for people, especially military test pilots, who were willing and capable of enduring such a dangerous mission. They focused on finding military test pilots because they seemed to experience similar conditions to those of space.

On April 1, 1959, it was announced that Cooper was chosen, along with Alan Shepard, Gus Grissom, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Walter Schirra, Jr., and Deke Slayton not only as one of the seven Project Mercury astronauts, but as one of America's first astronauts. These seven men made history with this project as they laid the groundwork for future space flights.

On May 15 and 16, 1963, Cooper piloted *Faith 7*, the flight that ended the operational phase of Project Mercury. During this mission, he orbited the Earth 22 times and logged more time in space than all previous five Mercury astronauts combined. He also became known as the first American astronaut to sleep in orbit, as well as on the launch pad.

Shortly thereafter, Cooper received the NASA Distinguished Service Medal from President John F. Kennedy at a White House ceremony.

In August 1965, Cooper commanded the 8 day *Gemini 5* mission with Charles Conrad. On this mission, Cooper set a new space endurance record, covering 120 revolutions and 3,312,993 miles in 190 hours, 56 minutes and 3 seconds and became the first man to make a second orbital flight.

Overall, during his two space flights, Cooper logged 225 hours, 15 minutes and 3 seconds. He also served as backup command pilot for *Gemini 12* and backup commander for *Apollo X*. He was the last American astronaut to orbit the Earth for an entire orbit by himself.

After receiving an honorary Doctorate of Science degree from Oklahoma City University in 1967, Cooper retired from the Air Force and NASA as a colonel in 1970. However, his involvement with space did not end after his retirement. He served as a consultant to several companies related to aerospace, electronics, and energy fields, and was vice president for research and development for Walt Disney Enterprises, Inc. Cooper also devoted part of his life to studying UFOs, and wrote Leap of Faith based on his experiences as a pilot and astronaut.

Even though we have lost this great American hero, his legacy and passion for exploring space live on through continued space ventures such as the Ansari X Prize. The famed $10 million X Prize was recently awarded to the team of *SpaceShipOne*, whose pilot, Brian Binnie, broke an August 22, 1963 altitude record by going 69.6 miles above Earth's surface, ironically, on October 4, the same day of Cooper's passing.

I am pleased that my good friend and colleague Congressman CASS BALLENGER has led the way in honoring the life and service of this great space pioneer. I know that Mr. BALLENGER shares my passion of aviation and space exploration and hope that we will continue to build on the progress and sacrifice made by men like Gordon Cooper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 471—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. DURBIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 471

Resolved, That there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of tributes and other related materials concerning the Honorable Paul Simon, late a Senator from the State of Illinois.

SENATE RESOLUTION 472—TO HONOR THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROSE REVOLUTION

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 472

Whereas, on November 23, 2004, the people of Georgia will celebrate the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent;

Whereas following the resignation of President Eduard Shevardnadze, Interim President Nino Burdzhanadze worked diligently to restore order and to prepare Georgia for a new Presidential election;

Whereas after a free, fair, and democratic election was held, Mikheil Saakashvili was

sworn into office on January 25, 2004, as President of Georgia;

Whereas President Saakashvili visited the United States Congress earlier this year and delivered a strong message of peace, stability, democracy, political reform, and economic opportunity;

Whereas Georgia is a small but strategically situated country located in the Caucasus, and is of additional interest to the United States because of the oil and gas pipelines now being constructed from Baku, Azerbaijan to the port of Ceyhan, Turkey;

Whereas Georgia has also become a key player in the global war on terrorism by combating members of al Qaeda and other Muslim terrorist organizations, denying them sanctuary in remote areas such as the Pankisi Gorge, and working with the United States to help train border guards;

Whereas Georgia has recently increased its commitment of troops in Iraq and its contributions to help build peace and democracy in Afghanistan and Kosovo;

Whereas the United States supports Georgia's efforts to peacefully reestablish government control, security, and political stability in regions such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the United States congratulates the Government of Georgia on the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Adjara and welcomes the restoration of democracy and political stability in that region; and

Whereas the United States supports representative democracy, political stability, economic growth, and peace in Georgia and throughout the Caucasus region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent, and for their commitment to democracy, peace, stability, and economic opportunity;

(2) commends President Mikheil Saakashvili for his vision of, and commitment to, a peaceful and democratic Georgia, the rule of law, an open market economy, regional cooperation, and closer integration into western institutions;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratic government of Georgia; and

(4) supports continued assistance to the people and Government of Georgia to help them consolidate the democratic process in their country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO ENSURE A DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 21, 2004

Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2004 Presidential election in Ukraine and of a genuinely democratic political system are prerequisites for that country's full integration into the Western community of nations as an equal member, including into organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the Copenhagen Document;

Whereas the election of Ukraine's next President will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the Ukrainian authorities commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas the second round of the Presidential election takes place against the backdrop of past elections and improprieties in the first round of the election, which did not fully meet international standards;

Whereas it is the duty of government and public authorities of Ukraine at all levels to act in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing election procedures, and to ensure free and fair elections throughout the entire country, including preventing activities aimed at undermining the free exercise of political rights;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, or detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, and the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry, including organizing supporters, conducting public meetings and events throughout the country, and enjoying unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote and the right to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote, free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas increasing control and manipulation of the media by national and local officials and others acting at their behest raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Ukrainian authorities to free and fair elections;

Whereas efforts by the national authorities in Ukraine to limit access to international broadcasting, including Radio Liberty and the Voice of America, represent an unacceptable infringement on the right of the Ukrainian people to independent information;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials of Ukraine and others acting at their behest to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign have taken place in Donetsk, Sumy, and elsewhere in Ukraine without condemnation or remedial action by the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas numerous substantial irregularities have taken place in recent Ukrainian parliamentary by-elections in the Donetsk region and in mayoral elections in Mukacheve, Romny, and Krasniy Luch;

Whereas intimidation, violence, and fraud during the April 18, 2004, mayoral election in Mukacheve, Ukraine, represent a deliberate attack on the democratic process;

Whereas in the period leading to the first round of the Presidential election, the government power structures used state resources such as schools, state factories, hospitals, and public transport systems to force students, state workers, and citizens who rely on state services for their livelihood to campaign against their will for the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was notable partisan engagement of security services, military, and local police in support of the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was a failure of national and local state-owned and private electronic media to provide impartial and fair coverage of, or access to, opposition candidates;

Whereas some election commission members affiliated with opposition candidates were dismissed from their duties just prior to election day;

Whereas there was collaboration with a foreign government to allow a foreign President to appear in Ukraine and express his opinions on one of the candidates just days before election day, in an effort to influence the vote, and a military parade, which was held in Kyiv 3 days prior to the election, was clearly an effort to intimidate voters; and

Whereas in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine that occurred on October 31, 2004, international observers noted fraud and other significant problems, including poorly maintained voter lists, which resulted in people being denied their right to vote, as well as many additional names on voter rolls for which no accounting could be made, prevalent interference by unauthorized persons into the electoral process, and credible reports of busing of voters among oblasts and polling stations for the purpose of multiple voting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine since the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991;

(2) recognizes that a precondition for the full integration of Ukraine into the Western community of nations, including as an equal member in institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;

(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Ukraine;

(4) urges the Government of Ukraine to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by local or national officials or others acting at their behest;

(5) urges the Government of Ukraine to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratic elections and to address issues previously identified by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in its final reports on the 2002 parliamentary elections and the 1999 Presidential elections, such as illegal interference by public authorities in the campaign and a high degree of bias in the media;

(6) urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the second round of the 2004 Presidential election;

(B) free access for Ukrainian and international election observers;

(C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;

(D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

(E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels, including selective tax audits and other regulatory procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations, and libel suits;

(F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies;

(G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;

(H) remedies to all improprieties reported in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine, including—

(i) the replacement at a polling station of any Territorial Election Commission member found to have engaged in fraud;

(ii) a complete review of voter lists in each polling station in order to correct inaccuracies;

(iii) equal time on state media and equal access to private media for the two runoff candidates; and

(iv) immediate prosecution of individuals who have violated the election law;

(7) further calls upon the Government of Ukraine to guarantee election monitors from the ODIHR, other participating states of the OSCE, Ukrainian political parties, representatives of candidates, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(8) urges the President to fully employ the diplomatic and other resources of the Government of the United States to encourage the Government of Ukraine to ensure that the election laws and procedures of Ukraine are faithfully adhered to by all local and national officials, by others acting at their behest, and by all candidates and parties, during and subsequent to the Presidential campaign and election-day voting;

(9) strongly encourages the President to clearly communicate to the Government of Ukraine, to all parties and candidates in Ukraine, and to the people of Ukraine the high importance attached by the Government of the United States to this Presidential campaign as a central factor in determining the future relationship between the two countries;

(10) strongly encourages the President to consider visa bans and other targeted sanctions on those responsible for encouraging or participating in any efforts to improperly influence the outcome of the election, whether through direct or indirect involvement; and

(11) pledges its enduring support and assistance to the people of Ukraine for the establishment of a fully free and open democratic system, the creation of a prosperous free market economy, the establishment of a secure independence and freedom from coercion, and Ukraine's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 147—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, IN PARTICULAR THE PERIODIC NATIONAL AND WORLD BOY SCOUT JAMBOREES

Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 147

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and received a Federal charter on June 15, 1916, which is codified as chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas section 30902 of title 36, United States Code, states that it is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues;

Whereas, since the inception of the Boy Scouts of America, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts currently uses more than 1,200,000 adult volunteers to serve more than 4,700,000 young people;

Whereas the Department of Defense and members of the Armed Forces have a long history of supporting the activities of the Boy Scouts of America and individual Boy Scout troops in the United States, and section 2606 of title 10, United States Code, authorizes the Department of Defense to cooperate with and assist the Boy Scouts of America in establishing and providing facilities and services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents, at locations outside the United States;

Whereas sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 of title 10, United States Code, authorize the Department of Defense to sell, and in certain cases donate, obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities; and

Whereas, under section 2554 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense is authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as Boy Scout Jamborees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its long-standing statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148—HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTION OF YOGI BHAJAN, A LEADER OF THE SIKHS, AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE SIKH COMMUNITY ON HIS PASSING

Mr. BINGAMAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 148

Whereas the Sikh faith was founded in the northern section of the Republic of India in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, who preached tolerance and equality for all humans;

Whereas the Sikh faith began with a simple message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, all created by one creator who manifests existence through every religion;

Whereas the Sikh faith reaches out to people of all faiths and cultural backgrounds, encourages individuals to see beyond their differences, and to work together for world peace and harmony;

Whereas Siri Singh Sahib Bhai Sahib Harbhajan Singh Khalsa Yogiji, known as Yogi Bhajan to hundreds of thousands of people worldwide, was born Harbhajan Singh Puri on August 26, 1929, in India;

Whereas at age 8, Yogi Bhajan began yogic training, and 8 years later was proclaimed by his teacher to be a master of Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, yoga postures, sound, chanting, and meditation;

Whereas during the turmoil over the partition between Pakistan and India in 1947, at the age of 18, Yogi Bhajan led his village of 7,000 people 325 miles on foot to safety in New Delhi, India, from what is now Lahore, Pakistan;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan, before emigrating to North America in 1968, served the Government of India faithfully through both civil and military service;

Whereas when Yogi Bhajan visited the United States in 1968, he recognized immediately that the experience of higher consciousness that many young people were attempting to find through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, and in response, he began teaching Kundalini Yoga publicly, thereby breaking the centuries-old tradition of secrecy surrounding it;

Whereas in 1969, Yogi Bhajan founded ''Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO)'', a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation dedicated to serving humanity, improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on nutrition and health, interpersonal relations, child rearing, and human behavior;

Whereas under the direction and guidance of Yogi Bhajan, 3HO expanded to 300 centers in 35 countries;

Whereas in 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhajan the title of Siri Singh Sahib, which made him the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere, and subsequently the Sikh seat of religious authority gave him responsibility to create a Sikh ministry in the West;

Whereas in 1971, Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated in the State of California and recognized as a tax-exempt religious organization by the United States, and in 1972, Yogi Bhajan founded the ashram Sikh Dharma in Española, New Mexico;

Whereas in 1973, Yogi Bhajan founded ''3HO SuperHealth'', a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West;

Whereas in June 1985, Yogi Bhajan established the first ''International Peace Prayer Day Celebrations'' in New Mexico, which still draws thousands of participants annually;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan traveled the world calling for world peace and religious unity at meetings with leaders such as Pope Paul VI; Pope John Paul II; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; the President of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Mikhail Gorbachev; and two Archbishops of Canterbury;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan wrote 30 books and inspired the publication of 200 other books through his teachings, founded a drug rehabilitation program, and inspired the founding of several businesses;

Whereas Sikhs and students across the world testify that Yogi Bhajan exhibited dignity, divinity, grace, commitment, courage, kindness, compassion, tolerance, wisdom, and understanding;

Whereas Yogi Bhajan taught that in times of joy and sorrow members of the community should come together and be at one with each other; and

Whereas before his passing on October 6, 2004, Yogi Bhajan requested that his passing be a time of celebration of his going home: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes that the teachings of Yogi Bhajan about Sikhism and yoga, and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved the personal, political, spiritual, and professional relations between citizens of the United States and the citizens of India;

(2) recognizes the legendary compassion, wisdom, kindness, and courage of Yogi Bhajan, and his wealth of accomplishments on behalf of the Sikh community; and

(3) extends its condolences to Inderjit Kaur, the wife of Yogi Bhajan, his 3 children and 5 grandchildren, and to Sikh and ''Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO)'' communities around the Nation and the world upon the death on October 6, 2004, of Yogi Bhajan, an individual who was a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace, and a compassionate human being.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, Senators DOMENICI and CORNYN, to introduce a resolution honoring the life of Yogi Bhajan. Yogi Bhajan, the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the West, died in Española, NM, on October 6, 2004, at the age of 75. Born Harbhajan Singh Puri on August 26, 1929, in Northern India, now Pakistan, he began yogic training at age 8 and was proclaimed a master of Kundalini Yoga by age 16. After the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947, his family migrated to New Delhi, India, where he continued his education. after graduating from Punjab University in economics, he worked for India's Internal Revenue Service and later became head of customs at the New Delhi Airport.

Yogi Bhajan introduced thousands around the world to Sikhism, a religion that carries the message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, and reaches out to people of all backgrounds to work together for world peace. When he came to North America in 1968, he recognized that the experience sought by many young people through drugs could be alternatively achieved through Kundalini Yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, chanting, and meditation among other components. Breaking the centuries old tradition of secrecy surrounding Kundalini Yoga, he began teaching it publicly. Soon after, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO), a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation with 300 centers in 35 countries, dedicated to improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on matters of health and heart. He later founded 3HO SuperHealth, a successful drug rehabilitation program, blending ancient yogic wisdom of the East with the modern technology of the West. SuperHealth was accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization and received its highest commendation. In 1973 it distinguished itself as being in the top 10 percent of all treatment programs throughout the United States. In 1989 Yogi Bhajan met with then President Mikhail Gorbachev and established addiction treatment programs in Russia based on the 3HO SuperHealth model. Currently a pilot project of SuperHealth is being formed by the Punjab State Government in India. He taught Yoga in Toronto and Los Angeles and finally founded a Sikh Dharma community in Española, NM. In 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhajan the title of chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere. About 250,000 Sikhs now reside across the United States, including a community of about 500 families in Northern New Mexico.

Yogi Bhajan wrote 30 books and inspired 200 more through his teaching, and inspired the founding of several businesses, including Akal Security Inc. He had an inclusive view of the world's major religions and considered all of them valid. Throughout his lifetime, he traveled the world and met with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. In June 1985, Yogi Bhajan established the first International Peace Prayer Day Celebration in New Mexico that stills draws thousands of participants annually.

After the events of 9/11/01, Yogi Bhajan reached out to Sikhs across America, encouraging and helping them to educate their fellow citizens about Sikhs, and to work with law enforcement and community leaders to help them protect Sikh populations. His efforts have helped contribute to the opening of some major law enforcement agencies to Sikh employees, including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Yogi Bhajan established links to human rights advocates nationwide, working to make sure that the issue of Sikh identity is understood and respected. When Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Phoenix 5 days after 9/11 because of his beard and turban, Yogi Bhajan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there.

Yogi Bhajan is survived by his wife, Inderjit Kaur; two sons, Ranbir Singh and Kulbir Singh; a daughter, Kamaljit Kaur; and five grandchildren. He will be missed by his family, followers and his friends, and his contribution to the cause of world peace will be remembered and celebrated for generations to come.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 149—COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES FOR ITS DEDICATION AND HARD WORK DURING HURRICANES CHARLEY, FRANCES, IVAN, AND JEANNE

Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. BREAUX) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 149

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as well as 1,480 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the evacuation of millions of residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Hurricane Research Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Florida conducts the research needed to improve hurricane forecasts and went on flights in and around hurricanes to gather and improve data that goes into the National Hurricane Center's forecasts, watches, and warnings to protect lives and property;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey developed, carefully monitors, and continues to improve the National Weather Service's operational hurricane model used to determine where the storms are likely to go;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeoro- logical Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expediently after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(3) commends the employees of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the Hurricane Research Division;

(4) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. on various nominations (names to be released later in week) at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on ''FDA, Merck and Vioxx: Putting Patient Safety First?''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending Committee matters, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on the Water Problems on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management support of the committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on the status of financial management reform within the Department of Defense and the individual services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 18, 2004, at 2 p.m. on the Science Behind Pornography Addiction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 149, introduced earlier today by Senator HOLLINGS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 149) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 149

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service consistently provides critical forecasts and warnings about severe weather to the Nation's citizens;

Whereas 4 hurricanes, Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne, recently hit the State of Florida, an event which has not occurred since 4 hurricanes struck Texas in 1886;

Whereas Hurricane Jeanne was the fourth hurricane in 6 weeks to hit the United States mainland;

Whereas the employees of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center and the employees of key Southern Region Weather Forecast Offices worked tirelessly and under great pressure to provide the most up to date information to the public, the media, and emergency management officials during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the employees of the National Hurricane Center conducted approximately 1,128 live television and radio interviews as

well as 1,480 telephone briefings to the media and others during Hurricane Frances;

Whereas the forecasts and information from the National Hurricane Center provided notice for the evacuation of millions of residents in the line of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and warnings to the residents of Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Hurricane Research Division at the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in Miami, Florida conducts the research needed to improve hurricane forecasts and went on flights in and around hurricanes to gather and improve data that goes into the National Hurricane Center's forecasts, watches, and warnings to protect lives and property;

Whereas the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, New Jersey developed, carefully monitors, and continues to improve the National Weather Service's operational hurricane model used to determine where the storms are likely to go;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine and Aviation Operation's Hurricane Hunters logged over 300 hours of operational hours of flight time through and above the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi, logged 739 hours of flight time through and around the storms to assist the National Hurricane Center in tracking Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Hurricane Liaison Team, a joint National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency partnership, provided support to the 25 different media outlets operating out of the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hydrometeorological Prediction Center provided rainfall forecasts and hurricane track guidance to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas the National Weather Service's National Data Buoy Center, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard, worked expediently after Hurricane Charley to fix data buoys that proved critical for forecasts of Hurricane Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service provided storm surge predictions and hydrographic information support to Federal partners before, during, and after Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service provided images of Hurricane Frances every 5 minutes over a 4-day period, an unprecedented number of images for hurricane tracking;

Whereas the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, and Taunton provided up-to-the-minute local details for residents throughout Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas employees from other offices within the Southern Region provided additional support to key Weather Forecast Offices directly impacted by Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas more than 7,000 watches, warnings, advisories, and other statements were issued by key local Weather Forecast Offices during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

Whereas the Southeast River Forecast Center provided critical river flooding forecast information to Federal, State, and private partners during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne and accurately predicted the amount of excessive rainfall over the Southeastern United States several days in advance; and

Whereas the hurricane season continues through November, and all these employees continue tracking new tropical depressions approaching the United States coast: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the employees of the National Weather Service, especially the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Tropical Prediction Center/National Hurricane Center, Hydrometeorological Prediction Center, and National Data Buoy Center; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Aircraft Operations Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron of the 403rd Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Mississippi; the Hurricane Liaison Team; the National Ocean Service; and the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(2) commends the Southern, Eastern, and Central Region Weather Forecast Offices of San Juan, Miami, Tampa Bay, Key West, Melbourne, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Morristown, Charleston, Morehead City, Wilmington, Wakefield, Taunton, Lake Charles, New Orleans, Jackson, Nashville, and Houston for their extraordinary dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne;

(3) commends the employees of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, especially the Hurricane Research Division;

(4) thanks the commercial and media meteorologists for their contributions in disseminating the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration forecasts and warnings to the public; and

(5) expresses its support for the ongoing hard work and dedication of all who provide accurate and timely hurricane forecasts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ASTRONAUT LEROY GORDON COOPER, JR.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 470, which was submitted earlier today by Senator INHOFE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 470

Whereas Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., was born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as a colonel in the United States Air Force and was selected as one of the original Project Mercury astronauts in April of 1959;

Whereas the 7 original Project Mercury astronauts helped to inspire generations of scientists and engineers;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper piloted the Faith 7 spacecraft on the final operational mission of Project Mercury from May 15 to May 16, 1963, he traveled a total of 546,167 statute miles and became the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper served as command pilot on the 8-day 120-orbit Gemini 5 mission that began on August 21, 1965, he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes;

Whereas Gordon Cooper was the first man to go into space for a second time;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as backup command pilot for the Gemini 12 mission and as backup commander for the Apollo 10 flight;

Whereas Gordon Cooper logged 222 hours in space and retired from the Air Force and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1970;

Whereas the special honors Gordon Cooper received during his lifetime included the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Distinguished Service Medal, and the John F. Kennedy Trophy; and

Whereas Gordon Cooper passed away at his home in Ventura, California, on October 4, 2004, at the age of 77: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS IN HONOR OF THE LATE SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 471, submitted earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 471) authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Paul Simon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as we approach the first anniversary of the death of Senator Paul Simon, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my late friend and colleague.

At the age of 19, Paul Simon became the Nation's youngest editor-publisher when he accepted a Lion's Club challenge to save the Troy Tribune in Troy,

IL. From that start, he build a chain of 13 newspapers in southern and central Illinois.

Paul Simon served the State of Illinois and the United States for decades. He is the only individual to have served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Paul highly valued education and the youth of our Nation. In addition to his work in Congress to strengthen public education in America, he started the public affairs reporting program at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield. He later became the founder and director of the Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL, and taught there for more than 6 years.

Weeks before his death, Paul made the rounds to Washington and the editorial boards in Chicago. He was promoting an idea to create a new scholarship program which would send American students overseas to study and invite their foreign counterparts to come to America to learn. As Paul explained it, this opportunity to learn would help an often hostile world to understand us and help the next generation of American leaders to understand the world we live in. It was Paul Simon's long-term solution to the threat of terrorism: dialogue, education and tolerance—the hallmarks of his public life. In a modest way, we came through for him.

Earlier this year, this Congress established a commission to recommend the framework for an international study abroad program for college students. The program Senator Simon envisioned and worked so hard to create was what he called the Lincoln Fellowships. The program under development is designed to encourage and support the experience of studying abroad in developing countries—in countries whose people, culture, language, government, and religion might be very different from ours.

Shortly after Paul's death, I introduced legislation to name the Federal building located at 250 West Cherry Street in Carbondale, IL, the ''Senator Paul Simon Federal Building.'' In May 2004, this bill was signed into law. Naming this building in Carbondale after Paul Simon will help present and future generations remember and honor a great man who lived in and worked for the people of Southern Illinois and served in our Federal Government with the greatest integrity.

From journalism to Government to education, Paul Simon set the standard for honesty and caring in public life. Paul set a standard for integrity in public life the rest of us can only aspire to. Whether you agreed with his politics or not, you always knew you could trust Paul. He didn't apologize for dedicating his public life to the less fortunate. He believed and taught those of us who worked with him that honesty and caring were the real standards for public service. He was genuine in his politics, in his life, and in his values.

I wouldn't be a Senator today if it weren't for Paul Simon. He believed in me, he inspired me, and he was a true friend.

Today I am introducing a resolution to authorize the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of Senator Simon. This resolution will authorize the collection and printing of these materials in an official Senate document. The compilation of the tribute statements made by my Senate colleagues will serve as a lasting testament to our former colleague.

Through these small measures, Congress has paid tribute to the lasting legacy of our friend, Paul Simon. His dedication to public service serves as an example for all Americans.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 471) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 471

Resolved, That there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of tributes and other related materials concerning the Honorable Paul Simon, late a Senator from the State of Illinois.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF CONFEDERATED TRIBES COMMENDING INEZ SITTER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 423 and S. Res. 441, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the resolutions by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 441) expressing the sense of the Senate that October 17, 1984, the date of the restoration by the Federal Government of Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, should be memorialized.

A resolution (S. Res. 423) commending Inez Sitter for her service to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, en bloc, the preambles be agreed to, en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measures be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 441 and S. Res. 423) were agreed to, en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to, en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 441

Whereas the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), which was signed by the President on October 17, 1984, restored Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians;

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians historically inhabited land now in the State of Oregon, from Fivemile Point in the south to Tenmile Creek in the north, west to the Pacific Ocean, then east to the crest of the Coast Range, encompassing the watersheds of the Coos River, the Umpqua River to Weatherly Creek, the Siuslaw River, the coastal tributaries between Tenmile Creek and Fivemile Point, and portions of the Coquille watershed;

Whereas in addition to restoring Federal recognition, that Act and other Federal Indian statutes have provided the means for the Confederated Tribes to achieve the goals of cultural restoration, economic self-sufficiency, and the attainment of a standard of living equivalent to that enjoyed by other citizens of the United States;

Whereas by enacting the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Restoration Act (25 U.S.C. 714 et seq.), the Federal Government—

(1) declared that the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians were eligible for all Federal services and benefits provided to federally recognized tribes;

(2) provided the means to establish a tribal reservation; and

(3) granted the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians self-government for the betterment of tribal members, including the ability to set tribal rolls;

Whereas the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have embraced Federal recognition and self-sufficiency statutes and are actively working to better the lives of tribal members; and

Whereas economic self-sufficiency, which was the goal of restoring Federal recognition for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, is being realized through many projects: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that October 17, 1984, should be memorialized as the date on which the Federal Government restored Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

S. RES. 423

Whereas the United States, and subsequently the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, have operated a school at Hartshorne, Oklahoma, called the Jones Academy for more than 100 years, a facility that, since 1952, has provided residential services to predominately at-risk children from more than 20 Indian tribes throughout the United States who attend local, public school academic classes;

Whereas for approximately half that time, Mrs. Inez Sitter has been a vital part of that school and its efforts to educate American Indian children;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter came to the school in an administrative post in March of 1944 and progressed through various administrative capacities to be the Administrative Assistant at the school;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter formally retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1983, after 39 years of service;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter immediately thereafter assumed the position as the Study Hall/Tutorial Coordinator for Jones Academy, the Library Services Coordinator, and the Director of the critically important Foster Grandparents program at the school, positions she has held to this day;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter, who is a member of many civic organizations, including the Hartshorne Edgewood United Methodist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the American Legion Auxiliary, is known throughout the community for her extra work with students, including mentoring, tutoring, and preparation of homework and term assignments;

Whereas for such work she gained a position of advocate for the children of Jones Academy and the de facto position of liaison with the local public school in Hartshorne;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter, who resided with her family on campus, became a surrogate parent for hundreds of Jones Academy children;

Whereas Mrs. Sitter has been described by a colleague as ''87 years young, and only 95 pounds, but with 60 years of service to the children of Jones Academy and the people of Hartshorne, the State of Oklahoma, and these United States''; and

Whereas the Bureau of Indian Affairs, recognizing her selfless and outstanding contributions, awarded Mrs. Sitter its Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Assistant Secretary Dave Anderson on August 3, 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends Mrs. Inez Sitter for her outstanding service to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the State of Oklahoma, and the United States.

ELDER FALLS PREVENTION ACT OF 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 785, S. 1217.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1217) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment and an amendment to the title, as follows:

(Strike the part printed in black brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. 1217

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 ''Elder Fall Prevention Act of 2003''.

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

[The Congress finds as follows:

[(1) Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among individuals who are over 65 years of age.

[(2) By 2030, the population of individuals who are 65 years of age or older will double. By 2050, the population of individuals who are 85 years of age or older will quadruple.

[(3) In 2000, falls among elderly individuals accounted for 10,200 deaths and 1,600,000 emergency department visits.

[(4) Sixty percent of fall-related deaths occur among individuals who are 75 years of age or older.

[(5) Twenty-five percent of elderly persons who sustain a hip fracture die within 1 year.

[(6) Hospital admissions for hip fractures among the elderly have increased from 231,000 admissions in 1988 to 332,000 in 1999. The number of hip fractures is expected to exceed 500,000 by 2040.

[(7) Annually, more than 64,000 individuals who are over 65 years of age sustain a traumatic brain injury as a result of a fall.

[(8) Annually, 40,000 individuals who are over 65 years of age visit emergency departments with traumatic brain injuries suffered as a result of a fall, of which 16,000 of these individual are hospitalized and 4,000 of these individuals die.

[(9) The rate of fall-induced traumatic brain injuries for individual who are 80 years of age or older increased by 60 percent from 1989 to 1998.

[(10) The estimated total cost for non-fatal traumatic brain injury-related hospitalizations for falls in individuals who are 65 years of age or older is more than $3,250,000,000. Two-thirds of these costs occurred among individual who were 75 years of age or older.

[(11) The costs to the Medicare and Medicaid programs and society as a whole from falls by elderly persons continue to climb much faster than inflation and population growth. Direct costs alone will exceed $32,000,000,000 in 2020.

[(12) The Federal Government should devote additional resources to research regarding the prevention and treatment of falls in residential as well as institutional settings.

[(13) A national approach to reducing elder falls, which focuses on the daily life of senior citizens in residential, institutional, and community settings is needed. The approach should include a wide range of organizations and individuals including family members, health care providers, social workers, architects, employers and others.

[(14) Reducing preventable adverse events, such as elder falls, is an important aspect to the agenda to improve patient safety.

[SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

[Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

[''PART R—PREVENTION OF ELDER FALLS

[''SEC. 399AA. PURPOSES

[''The purposes of this title are—

[''(1) to develop effective public education strategies in a national initiative to reduce elder falls in order to educate the elders themselves, family members, employers, caregivers, and others who touch the lives of senior citizens;

[''(2) to expand needed services and conduct research to determine the most effective approaches to preventing and treating elder falls; and

[''(3) to require the Secretary to evaluate the effect of falls on the costs of medicare and medicaid and the potential for reducing costs by expanding education, prevention, and elderly intervention services covered under these two programs.

[''SEC. 399AA–1. PUBLIC EDUCATION.

[''Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administration on Aging within the Department of Health and Human Services shall—

[''(1) oversee and support a three-year national education campaign to be carried out by the National Safety Council to be directed principally to elders, their families, and health care providers and focusing on ways of reducing the risk of elder falls and preventing repeat falls; and

[''(2) provide grants to qualified organizations and institutions for the purpose of organizing State-level coalitions of appropriate State and local agencies, safety, health, senior citizen and other organizations to design and carry out local education campaigns, focusing on ways of reducing the risk of elder falls and preventing repeat falls.

[''SEC. 399AA–2. RESEARCH.

[''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary shall—

[''(1) conduct and support research to—

[''(A) improve the identification of elders who have a high risk of falling;

[''(B) improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk and protective factors;

[''(C) design, implement, and evaluate fall prevention interventions to identify the most effective of the numerous potential strategies available;

[''(D) improve strategies that are proven to be effective in reducing falls by tailoring these strategies to specific elderly populations;

[''(E) conduct research in order to maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions;

[''(F) expand proven interventions to prevent elder falls;

[''(G) improve the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of elderly fall victims; and

[''(H) assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings;

[''(2) conduct research concerning barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the prevention of elder falls (such as medication review and vision enhancement);

[''(3) conduct research to develop, implement, and evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among very high risk elders living in nursing homes, assisted living, and other types of long-term care facilities; and

[''(4) evaluate the effectiveness of community programs to prevent assisted living and nursing home falls by elders.

[''(b) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

[''(1) conduct research and surveillance activities among community-dwelling and institutionalized elders through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

[''(2) conduct research related to elder fall prevention in health care delivery settings and clinical treatment and rehabilitation of elderly fall victims through the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; and

[''(3) ensure the coordination of the activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

[''(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to qualified organizations and institutions to enable such organizations and institutions to provide professional education for physicians and allied health professionals in elder fall prevention.

[''SEC. 399AA–3. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

[''Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, shall carry out the following:

[''(1) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be carried out by the National Safety Council and other qualified organizations in the following areas:

[''(A) A multi-State demonstration project assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screening and referral programs.

[''(B) Programs designed for community-dwelling elderly individuals that shall utilize multi-component fall intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and reduction when possible, vision enhancement, and home modification strategies.

[''(C) Programs targeting newly-discharged fall victims who are at a high risk for second falls, which shall include modification projects available to various living settings (in accordance with accepted building codes and standards) and which are designed to maximize independence and quality of life for elders, particularly those elders with functional limitations.

[''(D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop technology to prevent falls and prevent or reduce injuries if falls occur.

[''(2)(A) Provide grants to qualified organizations and institutions to design, implement, and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies in residential and institutional settings.

[''(B) Provide one or more grants to one or more qualified applicants in order to carry out a multi-State demonstration project to implement and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies designed for multi-family residential settings with high concentrations of elders, including identifying high risk populations, evaluating residential facilities, conducting screening to identify high risk individuals, providing pre-fall counseling, coordinating services with health care and social service providers and coordinating post-fall treatment and rehabilitation.

[''(C) Provide one or more grants to qualified applicants to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of the demonstration projects in this section.

["SEC. 399AA–4. REVIEW OF REIMBURSEMENT POLICIES.

[''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall undertake a review of the effects of falls on the costs of the medicare and medicaid programs and the potential for reducing costs by expanding services covered by these two programs. This review shall include a review of the reimbursement policies of the medicare and medicaid programs in order to determine if additional fall-related education, prevention, and early prevention services should be covered or reimbursement guidelines should be modified.

[''(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report describing the findings of the Secretary in conducting the review under subsection (a).

["SEC. 399AA–5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

[''In order to carry out this title, there are authorized to be appropriated—

[''(1) to carry out the national public education provisions described in section 399AA–1(1), $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006;

[''(2) to carry out the State public education campaign provisions of section 399AA–1(2), $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006;

[''(3) to carry out research projects described in section 399AA–2, $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006;

[''(4) to carry out the demonstration projects described in section 399AA–3(1), $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006; and

[''(5) to carry out the demonstration and research projects described in section 399AA–3(2), $8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006.''.]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Keeping Seniors Safe From Falls Act of 2004''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among individuals who are over 65 years of age.

(2) In 2000, falls among older adults accounted for 10,200 deaths and 1,600,000 emergency department visits.

(3) Hospital admissions for hip fractures among the elderly have increased from 231,000 admissions in 1988 to 332,000 in 1999.

(4) Annually, more than 64,000 individuals who are over 65 years of age sustain a traumatic brain injury as a result of a fall.

(5) The total cost of all fall injuries for people age 65 and older was calculated in 1994 to be $27,300,000,000 (in 2004 dollars).

(6) A national approach to reducing falls among older adults, which focuses on the daily life of senior citizens in residential, institutional, and community settings, is needed.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 393B (as added by section 1401 of Public Law 106–386) as section 393C and transferring such section so that it appears after section 393B (as added by section 1301 of Public Law 106–310); and

(2) by inserting after section 393C (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

"SEC. 393D. PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to develop effective public education strategies in a national initiative to reduce falls among older adults in order to educate older adults, family members, employers, caregivers, and others;

''(2) to intensify services and conduct research to determine the most effective approaches to preventing and treating falls among older adults; and

''(3) to require the Secretary to evaluate the effect of falls on health care costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the most effective strategies for reducing health care costs associated with falls.

''(b) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) oversee and support a national education campaign to be carried out by a nonprofit organization with experience in designing and implementing national injury prevention programs, that is directed principally to older adults, their families, and health care providers, and that focuses on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls; and

''(2) award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, for the purpose of organizing State-level coalitions of appropriate State and local agencies, safety, health, senior citizen, and other organizations to design and carry out local education campaigns, focusing on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls.

''(c) RESEARCH.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) conduct and support research to—

''(i) improve the identification of older adults who have a high risk of falling;

''(ii) improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk and protective factors;

''(iii) design, implement, and evaluate the most effective fall prevention interventions;

''(iv) improve strategies that are proven to be effective in reducing falls by tailoring these strategies to specific populations of older adults;

''(v) conduct research in order to maximize the dissemination of proven, effective fall prevention interventions;

''(vi) intensify proven interventions to prevent falls among older adults;

''(vii) improve the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of elderly fall victims; and

''(viii) assess the risk of falls occurring in various settings;

''(B) conduct research concerning barriers to the adoption of proven interventions with respect to the prevention of falls among older adults;

''(C) conduct research to develop, implement, and evaluate the most effective approaches to reducing falls among high-risk older adults living in long-term care facilities; and

''(D) evaluate the effectiveness of community programs to prevent assisted living and nursing home falls among older adults.

''(2) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary, either directly or through awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, shall provide professional education for physicians and allied health professionals in fall prevention.

''(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary shall carry out the following:

''(1) Oversee and support demonstration and research projects to be carried out by qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, in the following areas:

''(A) A multistate demonstration project assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screening and referral programs.

''(B) Programs designed for community-dwelling older adults that utilize multicomponent fall intervention approaches, including physical activity, medication assessment and reduction when possible, vision enhancement, and home modification strategies.

''(C) Programs that are targeted to newly discharged fall victims who are at a high risk for second falls and which are designed to maximize independence and quality of life for older adults, particularly those older adults with functional limitations.

''(D) Private sector and public-private partnerships to develop technology to prevent falls among older adults and prevent or reduce injuries if falls occur.

''(2)(A) Award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, to design, implement, and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies in residential and institutional settings.

''(B) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to 1 or more qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, in order to carry out a multistate demonstration project to implement and evaluate fall prevention programs using proven intervention strategies designed for multifamily residential settings with high concentrations of older adults, including—

''(i) identifying high-risk populations;

''(ii) evaluating residential facilities;

''(iii) conducting screening to identify high-risk individuals;

''(iv) providing pre-fall counseling;

''(v) coordinating services with health care and social service providers; and

''(vi) coordinating post-fall treatment and rehabilitation.

''(3) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and institutions, to conduct evaluations of the effectiveness of the demonstration projects described in this subsection.

''(e) STUDY OF EFFECTS OF FALLS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the effects of falls on health care costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the most effective strategies for reducing health care costs associated with falls.

''(2) REPORT.—Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of the Keeping Seniors Safe From Falls Act of 2004, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the findings of the Secretary in conducting the review under paragraph (1).''.

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human

Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults.''.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass the Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act of 2004 (S. 1217) that Senator ENZI and I introduced. Falls are a serious public health problem that affects millions of seniors each year. This bill focuses on public education, research, and demonstration projects to help reduce falls by older adults.

The facts are staggering. One out of every three Americans over age 65 falls every year. In 2000, over 10,200 seniors died and approximately 1.6 million seniors visited an emergency department as a result of a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among seniors, accounting for 64,000 traumatic brain injuries and 340,000 hip fractures each year. Falls can be financially disastrous for families, and falls place a serious financial strain on our health care system. By 2020, falls by older adults are estimated to cost the health care system more than $32 billion.

These facts do not begin to tell the story of what falls can mean for older adults and their loved ones. Falls don't discriminate. Kay Graham was the victim of a fall. Many of us have friends or relatives who have fallen. A fall can have a devastating impact on a person's physical, emotional, and mental health. If an older woman loses her footing on her front porch steps, falls, and suffers a hip fracture, she would likely spend about two weeks in the hospital, and there is a 50 percent chance that she would not return home or live independently as a result of her injuries.

Two years ago, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Aging on the problem of falls among older adults. The subcommittee heard testimony from Lillie Marie Struchen, a 91-year-old woman who had recently fallen in her bathroom when she slipped on the tile. Lillie Marie could not reach the panic button in her apartment, and it took her some time before she could get to her feet and call for help. Lillie Marie was lucky. She recovered from her fall and returned to her normal routines. She shared with the subcommittee some steps that she and her family have taken to prevent future falls, knowing that she may not be so lucky next time.

These falls, like the ones that Lillie Marie and thousands of others suffer from each year, can be prevented. With some help, there are simple ways that seniors can improve the safety of their homes and make a fall far less likely. Home modifications like hand rails in the bathroom, rubber mats on slippery tile floors, and cordless telephones that seniors can keep nearby can make a big difference. Well-trained pharmacists can review medications to make sure that two drugs do not interact to cause dizziness and throw a senior off balance.

That's what this legislation is about—getting behind our Nation's seniors and giving help to those who practice self-help. This bill creates public education campaigns for older adults, their families, and health care providers about how to prevent falls. It expands research on falls by older adults to develop better ways to prevent falls and to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of elder victims. This legislation also requires an evaluation of the effect of falls on health care costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the potential for reducing health care costs associated with falls.

Reducing the number of falls will help seniors live longer, healthier, more independent lives. I want to acknowledge the leadership of the National Safety Council on this issue. I also thank Senator ENZI for working with me in such a bipartisan manner to move this bill forward. The support of Senator GREGG and Senator KENNEDY was also vital in getting this bill through the Senate. I hope that our colleagues in the House will take swift action to pass this important bill this year.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1217), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The title was amended so as to read:

A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults.

HONORING THE 10 COMMUNITIES RECEIVING THE 2004 ALL-AMERICAN CITY AWARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-American City Award.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 452 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 452) designating December 13, 2004, as ''National Day of the Horse'' and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to the economy, history, and character of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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, and that any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 452

Whereas the horse is a living link to the history of the United States;

Whereas without horses, the economy, history, and character of the United States would be profoundly different;

Whereas horses continue to permeate the society of the United States, as witnessed on movie screens, on open land, and in our own backyards;

Whereas horses are a vital part of the collective experience of the United States and deserve protection and compassion;

Whereas because of increasing pressure from modern society, wild and domestic horses rely on humans for adequate food, water, and shelter; and

Whereas the Congressional Horse Caucus estimates that the horse industry contributes much more than $100,000,000,000 each year to the economy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2004, as ''National Day of the Horse'', in recognition of the importance of horses to the security, economy, recreation, and heritage of the United States;

(2) encourages all people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to the economy, history, and character of the United States; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in

order for the Judiciary Committee to be discharged from further consideration en bloc of the following and the Senate proceed en bloc to their immediate consideration: S. Con. Res. 123 and S. Res. 436.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and resolution be agreed to, en bloc, the preambles be agreed to, en bloc, and that any statements relating to the measures be printed in the RECORD, and the consideration of these items appear separately, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 123) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 123

Whereas Alexander Hamilton dedicated his life to serving his adopted country as a Revolutionary soldier, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, Representative to the Continental Congress, member of the New York State Assembly, first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and Inspector General of the Army;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a poor teenage immigrant to New York from the West Indian Islands of Nevis and St. Croix;

Whereas in the early days of the Revolutionary War Alexander Hamilton was commissioned as a captain and raised and trained his own New York artillery regiment and served valiantly in the battles of Long Island and Manhattan;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton quickly captured the attention of General George Washington who made him his aide-de-camp and confidant throughout the most difficult days of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1781, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton of the Continental Army led a bold attack of New York troops during the siege of Yorktown, the decisive and final battle of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1782, Alexander Hamilton was elected as a member of the Continental Congress from New York;

Whereas as a private citizen Alexander Hamilton served many philanthropic causes and was a co-founder of the New York Manumission Society, the first abolitionist organization in New York and a major influence on the abolition of slavery from the State;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a strong and consistent advocate against slavery and believed that Blacks and Whites were equal citizens and equal in their mental and physical faculties;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was one of the first members of the founding generation to call for a convention to drastically revise the Articles of Confederation;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton joined James Madison in Annapolis, Maryland in 1786 to officially request that the States call a constitutional convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 from New York, where he played an influential role and was the only delegate from New York to sign the Constitution;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the primary author of the Federalist Papers, the single most influential interpretation of American constitutional law ever written;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the most important individual force in achieving the ratification of the Constitution in New York against the strong opposition of many of the delegates to the ratifying convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading voice of the founding generation in support of the controversial doctrine of judicial review, which is the backbone for the role of the Supreme Court in the constitutional system of the United States;

Whereas on September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed by President George Washington to be the first Secretary of the Treasury;

Whereas as Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton salvaged the public credit, created the first Bank of the United States, and outlined the basic economic vision of a mixed agricultural and manufacturing society supported by a strong financial system that would underlie the great economic expansion of the United States for the next 2 centuries;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading proponent among the Founding Fathers of encouraging a strong manufacturing base for the United States in order to create good paying middle-class jobs and encourage a society built on merit rather than class or skin color;

Whereas in pursuit of this vision Alexander Hamilton founded The Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures which in turn founded the town of Paterson, New Jersey, one of the first industrial centers of the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton proposed and oversaw the creation of the Coast Guard for law enforcement in territorial waters of the United States;

Whereas in 1798, President John Adams called upon Alexander Hamilton to raise an army in preparation for a possible war with France and, as Inspector General of the Army, he trained a powerful force of well-equipped soldiers who were able to help deter war at this vulnerable stage in the founding of the United States;

Whereas throughout the founding era Alexander Hamilton was the leading advocate of a strong national union led by an efficient Federal Government with significant protections for individual liberties;

Whereas on July 11, 1804, Alexander Hamilton was fatally wounded in a duel in Weehawken, New Jersey at the hands of Vice President Aaron Burr; and

Whereas Alexander Hamilton died in Manhattan on July 12, 1804, and was eulogized across the country as one of the leading visionaries of the founding era: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the great importance of the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton to the United States of America on the bicentennial of his death;

(2) recognizes the tremendous significance of the contributions of Alexander Hamilton to the United States as a soldier, citizen, and statesman; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to share in this commemoration so as to gain a greater appreciation of the critical role that Alexander Hamilton had in defense of America's freedom and the founding of the United States.

S. RES. 436

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies that a prevent or family will ever endure during a lifetime;

Whereas a supportive environment, empathy, and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one; and

Whereas April is National Child Abuse Prevention month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates the second Sunday in the month of December 2004 as ''National Children's Memorial Day''; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe ''National Children's Memorial Day'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROSE REVOLUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 472, which was submitted earlier today by Senator MCCAIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 472) to honor the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, 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. 472) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 472

Whereas, on November 23, 2004, the people of Georgia will celebrate the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent;

Whereas following the resignation of President Eduard Shevardnadze, Interim President Nino Burdzhanadze worked diligently to restore order and to prepare Georgia for a new Presidential election;

Whereas after a free, fair, and democratic election was held, Mikheil Saakashvili was sworn into office on January 25, 2004, as President of Georgia;

Whereas President Saakashvili visited the United States Congress earlier this year and delivered a strong message of peace, stability, democracy, political reform, and economic opportunity;

Whereas Georgia is a small but strategically situated country located in the Caucasus, and is of additional interest to the United States because of the oil and gas

pipelines now being constructed from Baku, Azerbaijan to the port of Ceyhan, Turkey;

Whereas Georgia has also become a key player in the global war on terrorism by combating members of al Qaeda and other Muslim terrorist organizations, denying them sanctuary in remote areas such as the Pankisi Gorge, and working with the United States to help train border guards;

Whereas Georgia has recently increased its commitment of troops in Iraq and its contributions to help build peace and democracy in Afghanistan and Kosovo;

Whereas the United States supports Georgia's efforts to peacefully reestablish government control, security, and political stability in regions such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia;

Whereas the United States congratulates the Government of Georgia on the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Adjara and welcomes the restoration of democracy and political stability in that region; and

Whereas the United States supports representative democracy, political stability, economic growth, and peace in Georgia and throughout the Caucasus region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution, the peaceful and bloodless protests that followed parliamentary elections deemed to be fraudulent, and for their commitment to democracy, peace, stability, and economic opportunity;

(2) commends President Mikheil Saakashvili for his vision of, and commitment to, a peaceful and democratic Georgia, the rule of law, an open market economy, regional cooperation, and closer integration into western institutions;

(3) supports the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and democratic government of Georgia; and

(4) supports continued assistance to the people and Government of Georgia to help them consolidate the democratic process in their country.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO ENSURE A DEMOCRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 473, which was submitted earlier today by Senator MCCAIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 473) urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the Presidential run-off election on November 21, 2004.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 473) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the establishment of a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the 2004 Presidential election in Ukraine and of a genuinely democratic political system are prerequisites for that country's full integration into the Western community of nations as an equal member, including into organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has accepted numerous specific commitments governing the conduct of elections as a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including provisions of the Copenhagen Document;

Whereas the election of Ukraine's next President will provide an unambiguous test of the extent of the Ukrainian authorities commitment to implement these standards and build a democratic society based on free elections and the rule of law;

Whereas the second round of the Presidential election takes place against the backdrop of past elections and improprieties in the first round of the election, which did not fully meet international standards;

Whereas it is the duty of government and public authorities of Ukraine at all levels to act in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing election procedures, and to ensure free and fair elections throughout the entire country, including preventing activities aimed at undermining the free exercise of political rights;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires a period of political campaigning conducted in an environment in which administrative action, violence, intimidation, or detention do not hinder the parties, political associations, and the candidates from presenting their views and qualifications to the citizenry, including organizing supporters, conducting public meetings and events throughout the country, and enjoying unimpeded access to television, radio, print, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and effective opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights, including the right to vote and the right to seek and acquire information upon which to make an informed vote, free from intimidation, undue influence, attempts at vote buying, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires the full transparency of laws and regulations governing elections, multiparty representation on election commissions, and unobstructed access by candidates, political parties, and domestic and international observers to all election procedures, including voting and vote counting in all areas of the country;

Whereas increasing control and manipulation of the media by national and local officials and others acting at their behest raise grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Ukrainian authorities to free and fair elections;

Whereas efforts by the national authorities in Ukraine to limit access to international broadcasting, including Radio Liberty and the Voice of America, represent an unacceptable infringement on the right of the Ukrainian people to independent information;

Whereas efforts by national and local officials of Ukraine and others acting at their behest to impose obstacles to free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair political campaign have taken place in Donetsk, Sumy, and elsewhere in Ukraine without condemnation or remedial action by the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas numerous substantial irregularities have taken place in recent Ukrainian parliamentary by-elections in the Donetsk region and in mayoral elections in Mukacheve, Romny, and Krasniy Luch;

Whereas intimidation, violence, and fraud during the April 18, 2004, mayoral election in Mukacheve, Ukraine, represent a deliberate attack on the democratic process;

Whereas in the period leading to the first round of the Presidential election, the government power structures used state resources such as schools, state factories, hospitals, and public transport systems to force students, state workers, and citizens who rely on state services for their livelihood to campaign against their will for the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was notable partisan engagement of security services, military, and local police in support of the government-backed candidate;

Whereas there was a failure of national and local state-owned and private electronic media to provide impartial and fair coverage of, or access to, opposition candidates;

Whereas some election commission members affiliated with opposition candidates were dismissed from their duties just prior to election day;

Whereas there was collaboration with a foreign government to allow a foreign President to appear in Ukraine and express his opinions on one of the candidates just days before election day, in an effort to influence the vote, and a military parade, which was held in Kyiv 3 days prior to the election, was clearly an effort to intimidate voters; and

Whereas in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine that occurred on October 31, 2004, international observers noted fraud and other significant problems, including poorly maintained voter lists, which resulted in people being denied their right to vote, as well as many additional names on voter rolls for which no accounting could be made, prevalent interference by unauthorized persons into the electoral process, and credible reports of busing of voters among oblasts and polling stations for the purpose of multiple voting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine since the restoration of Ukraine's independence in 1991;

(2) recognizes that a precondition for the full integration of Ukraine into the Western community of nations, including as an equal member in institutions such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is its establishment of a genuinely democratic political system;

(3) expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights in Ukraine;

(4) urges the Government of Ukraine to guarantee freedom of association and assembly, including the right of candidates, members of political parties, and others to freely assemble, to organize and conduct public events, and to exercise these and other rights free from intimidation or harassment by local or national officials or others acting at their behest;

(5) urges the Government of Ukraine to meet its Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratic elections and to address issues previously identified by the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in its final reports on the 2002 parliamentary elections and the 1999 Presidential elections, such as illegal interference by public authorities in the campaign and a high degree of bias in the media;

(6) urges the Ukrainian authorities to ensure—

(A) the full transparency of election procedures before, during, and after the second round of the 2004 Presidential election;

(B) free access for Ukrainian and international election observers;

(C) multiparty representation on all election commissions;

(D) unimpeded access by all parties and candidates to print, radio, television, and Internet media on a non-discriminatory basis;

(E) freedom of candidates, members of opposition parties, and independent media organizations from intimidation or harassment by government officials at all levels, including selective tax audits and other regulatory procedures, and in the case of media, license revocations, and libel suits;

(F) a transparent process for complaint and appeals through electoral commissions and within the court system that provides timely and effective remedies;

(G) vigorous prosecution of any individual or organization responsible for violations of election laws or regulations, including the application of appropriate administrative or criminal penalties;

(H) remedies to all improprieties reported in the first round of the Presidential election in Ukraine, including—

(i) the replacement at a polling station of any Territorial Election Commission member found to have engaged in fraud;

(ii) a complete review of voter lists in each polling station in order to correct inaccuracies;

(iii) equal time on state media and equal access to private media for the two runoff candidates; and

(iv) immediate prosecution of individuals who have violated the election law;

(7) further calls upon the Government of Ukraine to guarantee election monitors from the ODIHR, other participating states of the OSCE, Ukrainian political parties, representatives of candidates, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unobstructed access to all aspects of the election process, including unimpeded access to public campaign events, candidates, news media, voting, and post-election tabulation of results and processing of election challenges and complaints;

(8) urges the President to fully employ the diplomatic and other resources of the Government of the United States to encourage the Government of Ukraine to ensure that the election laws and procedures of Ukraine are faithfully adhered to by all local and national officials, by others acting at their behest, and by all candidates and parties, during and subsequent to the Presidential campaign and election-day voting;

(9) strongly encourages the President to clearly communicate to the Government of Ukraine, to all parties and candidates in Ukraine, and to the people of Ukraine the high importance attached by the Government of the United States to this Presidential campaign as a central factor in determining the future relationship between the two countries;

(10) strongly encourages the President to consider visa bans and other targeted sanctions on those responsible for encouraging or participating in any efforts to improperly influence the outcome of the election, whether through direct or indirect involvement; and

(11) pledges its enduring support and assistance to the people of Ukraine for the establishment of a fully free and open democratic system, the creation of a prosperous free market economy, the establishment of a secure independence and freedom from coercion, and Ukraine's assumption of its rightful place as a full and equal member of the Western community of democracies.

ORDER FOR PRINTING MAIDEN SPEECHES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all maiden speeches by new Senators from the 108th Congress be printed as a Senate document, provided further that Senators have until the close of business tomorrow, Friday, November 19, to submit such statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR PRINTING TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as individual Senate documents, a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Senators of the 108th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: No. 940, No. 941, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Navy.

I ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

EN BLOC

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brigadier General John H. Folkerts, 4060

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright, 5759

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE NAVY

PN2021 NAVY nominations (457) beginning ARMAND P ABAD, and ending MATTHEW P ZENTZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 7, 2004.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the following nominations be discharged from their respective committees and that they be placed on the calendar. From the Foreign Relations Committee, three nominations to the United Nations that are at the desk: PN 1847, PN 1846, PN 1975; from the HELP Committee, seven nominations: PN 1722, PN 1651, PN 1623, PN 1624, PN 2046, PN 1654, and PN 1509.

I finally ask unanimous consent the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, November 19. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1047, the miscellaneous tariffs bill, provided that there be 30 minutes divided with Chairman GRASSLEY in control of 10 minutes, Senator BAUCUS in control of 10 minutes, Senator FEINGOLD for up to 8 minutes, and Senator KOHL for up to 2 minutes; provided further that at the conclusion of that time the Senate proceed to the cloture vote on the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will vote on cloture on the miscellaneous tariffs conference report. It is our expectation that cloture will be invoked by a large margin, and I hope we will complete our work on this measure in short order. Also, during tomorrow's session we are continuing to await the Omnibus appropriations conference report from the House of Representatives. Finally, we will also consider the intelligence reform legislation if it becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 19, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar:

EUGENE HICKOK, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

EDWARD R. MCPHERSON, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

ROBERT DAVILA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2006.

LINDA WETTERS, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2006.

JULIA L. WU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 4, 2008.

LAURIE STENBERG NICHOLS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 3, 2010.

CAROL D'AMICO, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar:

YOUSIF B. GHAFARI, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

JANE DEE HULL, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

SUSAN L. MOORE, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 18, 2004:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN H. FOLKERTS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. BRUCE A. WRIGHT

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING ARMAND P ABAD AND ENDING MATTHEW P ZENTZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 7, 2004.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION—FRIEND OR FOE?

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, a friend of mine recently sent me an essay that his granddaughter drafted for her college English composition course on the issue of illegal immigration. I was thoroughly impressed upon reading the article, written by a Ms. Karen Berg—so much so that I have decided to insert it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that other members might be able to review it. I would encourage them all to do so, Mr. Speaker, as it appears to me that this 19-year-old woman has a better grasp of this issue than many people—including opinion leaders on the subject—that I have met.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION—FRIEND OR FOE?

America, since its inception, has been viewed as a land of opportunity for those driven to find freedom from tyrannical rule, as well as those seeking to expand their wealth and influence. Today, little has changed with these motivations but much has changed in regard to the population, infrastructure, and perception regarding the management of U.S. borders. This is a new era, where immigration control needs to be orchestrated more effectively than at any other time in America's history due to diminishing resources, threats of terrorism, and the socio-economic imbalance that can result from unregulated influx. In regard to the later, it is believed that the immense and continuing immigration from Mexico is the single most immediate and most serious challenge to America's national identity. Therefore, the question arises; what are the true economic, social, and resultant political impacts of immigration, and in particular the unique issues and problems posed by contemporary Hispanic immigration.

When Vicente Fox was elected Mexican President, he ended the Institutional Revolutionary Party's, or PRI's, seventy-one year monopoly on executive power, thereby elevating hope for economic development (Wall 3). Fox promised Mexicans an employment boost, as well as the eventual opening of the U.S.-Mexican border. However, if employment opportunities increased, then the need for migration would decrease (Wall 3). In 1994, the United States, Canada, and Mexico implemented NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA promised hundreds of thousands of new high-wage jobs, an increase in living standards, improved environmental conditions in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and transformation of Mexico from a poor developing country into a booming new market for U.S. exports (The Mexican Economy, Agriculture and Environment 1). Mexicans were promised that NAFTA would increase trade and investment inflows which would in return create better jobs, raise wages, and lift millions out of poverty (The Mexican Economy, Agriculture and Environment 2). Although NAFTA did stimulate trade, economic growth did not materialize. Fox had promised a 7 percent per year economic growth, but two and a half years after his inauguration, growth averaged less than 1 percent (Faux 2). From there, NAFTA concentrated economic growth along Mexico's northern border by opening factories called maquiladoras, which processed and assembled goods for the booming U.S. consumer market, thereby doubling Mexican employment (Faux 3). But after the U.S. economy slowed down in 2000, employment in maquiladoras decreased (Faux 3). Since then, hope that NAFTA would enable Mexican prosperity had vanished. Therefore, Mexican workers who could not support themselves in Mexico turned to the United States for greater opportunities. Currently, Fox is trying to convince U.S. President, George W. Bush, to ''liberalize migration, create guest-worker programs, and provide migrants with civil rights and social benefits'' in order to encourage Mexican immigration to the U.S. (Faux 4).

Debate over Mexican illegal immigration to the United States consists of two opposing sides. Supporters of illegal immigration believe it is not fair to prohibit immigrants from entering the United States, since the U.S. was founded by immigrants. Second, illegal immigrants take the low-paying jobs other Americans are not willing to take. They help the American economy because the amount of skilled and unskilled workers created by high levels of immigration contributes to the nation's prosperity (Masci 1). Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve Chairman, states, ''As we are creating an ever more complex, sophisticated, accelerating economy, the necessity to have the ability to bring in . . . people from abroad to keep it functioning in the most effective manner increasingly strikes me as [sound] policy'' (Masci 1). Greenspan reasons that immigrant's work ethic and motivation make them the cornerstones of America's economic prosperity. Finally, illegal immigrants provide cheap labor to employers, thereby lowering the cost of goods and services.

Opponents of Mexican illegal immigration believe that even though the United States was founded by immigrants, immigration of the past is not the same as it is today. First, Mexican immigrants are not here legally. Second, most Mexicans do not take the dangerous journey across the border to become American citizens, but rather to help provide for their families in Mexico. Also unlike former immigrants, Mexican illegal immigrants are able to remain in contact with their home localities because of the close proximity of the two countries (Huntington 2). Opponents of illegal immigration also believe the United States doesn't need a million illegal immigrants each year to ensure a strong economy. The majority of illegal immigrants are not well educated entrepreneurs, but rather, ''poorly educated people who take low-skilled jobs for little money,'' says Dan Stein, executive director for the Federation for American Immigrant Reform (Masci 1). Illegal immigration opponents also reject the argument that illegal immigrants are willing to do the jobs that most Americans wouldn't do. In parts of the country where there are small amounts of immigrants, low wage jobs are filled by native born residents (Masci 1).

After analyzing the history, causes, and contrasting sides of illegal immigration, one might wonder if Mexican illegal immigration hurts the United States. The conclusion made, from extensive research in specific areas, is Mexican illegal immigration is a detriment to the United States. But, the reasons why illegal immigration hurts the United States still need to be addressed.

First, many discussions of immigration fails to take into account the attitude towards immigration in the sending countries. For example, the Mexican media and political elite portray the United States negatively, and therefore dissention between the two countries in regards to immigration is amplified. Second, manipulation of American politics might occur through Mexican immigrants that become influential in American government. Third, if the United States continues to allow illegal immigrants to take advantage of government provided benefits in states like California, there is a possibility the entire country will have similar economic misfortunes in the future. Finally, since Mexican illegal immigrants have monopolized specific areas of employment, Americans have difficulty pursuing and acquiring those jobs—especially with the prospect of guest-worker programs which would intensify their monopoly.

In Mexico, the media and political elite pay close attention to illegal immigration to the United States, and have created a one-sided, unfavorable portrayal of the United States. The United States' attempts to control their borders are presented as ''racist, xenophobic, and anti Mexican'' (Wall 1). Mexican citizens even blame the U.S. for the deaths of illegal aliens who die crossing the border, and Mexican politicians have called the U.S. border a ''slaughterhouse, or modern Nazi zone'' (Wall 1). In Mexico, all political parties support immigration to the United States, amnesty, and government benefits for Mexicans in the United States, regardless of migratory status (Wall 2). Common slogans Mexicans use to justify illegal immigration are: ''Mexican illegal aliens are not criminals, they only do the work the gringos won't do,'' and ''they are obliged to cross the border'' (Wall 2). Because the Mexican media and political elite portray illegal immigration to the United States in this manner, dissension between the two countries is amplified.

Throughout history, Mexican-Americans had always been viewed as an embarrassment. They were a sign of Mexico's economic failure, or ''exiles who had thrown in the towel'' (Castaneda 2). The last president of the PRI, Ernesto Zedillo, declared that, ''we will not tolerate foreign forces dictating laws to Mexicans,'' referring to Mexican immigrants in the United States (Wall 3). However, towards the end of the PRI's reign, Mexican-Americans became a sign of opportunity—an opportunity for the Mexican government to gain influence in the United States over migration policy, and therefore keep the gates open for continued immigration (Wall 3).

After Vicente Fox was elected, he stressed a greater importance associated with Mexican immigration to the United States. His intentions are not only to govern Mexicans resident in the United States, but also American citizens of Mexican ancestry (Wall 3). In essence, Fox intends to manipulate American politics through Mexican immigrants that become influential in the American government. Thereby, naturalized American

citizens' political power could possibly be diluted, resulting in more favorable immigration and trade regulations for Mexico.

The state of California is already on its way to bankruptcy, and the inability to control illegal immigration is doing more than ''some damage'' to the state's weakening budget (Coleman 1). More than half of the Mexican undocumented workers do not have taxes withheld from their wages, and are able to take advantage of expensive taxpayer-supported government benefits (Izumi 1). The result of this has escalated economic troubles in California creating a ''welfare and healthcare state'' benefiting non-Californians (Coleman 1). According to the Auditor General, Mexican illegal immigration costs California taxpayers $3 billion annually (Izumi 2). This cost estimate includes benefits like education, health-care, social services, and criminal justice.

If the United States allows this situation to propagate to other states, the entire country will likely have similar economic misfortunes as California. Evidence of this is already beginning to show. Harvard Professor George Borjas claims illegal immigration costs American taxpayers $133 billion annually just in wage depression and job loss (Wooldridge 1).

Mexican illegal immigrants have monopolized jobs that don't require skilled labor—through acceptance of low wages and ethnic camaraderie—preventing unemployed Americans from pursuing and acquiring those jobs. Even though U.S. employers hire illegal immigrants for reduced wages, the average American wage still exceeds the average Mexican wage by a factor of ten—thereby creating an incentive for Mexicans to find jobs in the U.S. (''Wages and Poverty'' 1). Also, communities of legal immigrants create immigration networks for illegal immigrants so they can conveniently enter the United States, and find jobs and housing easily (''Illegal Immigration'' 1). These combined factors result in a situation where job competition prevents Americans from obtaining jobs that don't require skilled labor.

However, this monopoly could be intensified if the Bush administration follows through with the implementation of guest-worker programs. Under these programs, illegal immigrants would be granted a three-year renewable permit allowing them legal rights to work in the United States (Eccleston 2). Guest-worker programs were proposed in response to Vicente Fox's request for legalizing Mexican immigrants in the United States, and the assumed shortage of unskilled workers—especially in agriculture (Briggs 2). However, Mark Krikorian of The Washington Post, believes guest-worker programs cause severe social and economic problems for the U.S., as well as pose a threat to America's agricultural competitiveness. ''By artificially inflating the supply of labor, the government's interference in the labor market keeps wages low, resulting in slowed mechanization, and stagnating productivity in fruit and vegetable production'' (1). Two reasons why guest-worker programs intensify the monopoly illegal immigrants have on low paying-employment opportunities are: they increase the amount of illegal immigrants to the United States because many of the participants elect to stay in the U.S., and more illegal immigrants are encouraged to come in the hope that amnesty programs will be enacted again in the future (Briggs 2).

Throughout time, legal and illegal immigrants have crossed America's border in search of opportunity. Recently, however, Mexican illegal immigrants are migrating to the United States in increasingly larger numbers in order to take advantage of the opportunities America has to offer. The economic, social, and political results of illegal immigration—in particular, the unique issues and problems posed by contemporary Hispanic immigration—are detrimental to the United States.

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TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN AMO HOUGHTON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the gentleman from New York, my colleague in the New York delegation, AMO HOUGHTON. After eighteen years of distinguished service, AMO is leaving the Congress. AMO was widely known as one of the most thoughtful and highly regarded members in the House from both sides of the aisle. He was also a tireless representative for his constituents in the western portion of upstate New York.

As the fifth-ranking Republican on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, AMO has been an invaluable member for the entire State of New York. After the tragedy and destruction of September 11, 2001, AMO was instrumental in enacting the Liberty Zone Act, which provided $5 billion in tax breaks and incentives to help New Yorkers rebuild lower Manhattan.

He has also been a leader in furthering U.S. diplomacy around the world. He is a member of the International Relations Committee where he is Vice Chairman of its Subcommittee on Africa. He was appointed Co-Chairman of the Canada—U.S. Interparliamentary Group, serves as Chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, and was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the Congressional Delegate to the 58th General Assembly of the United Nations. Additionally, he sponsored the Clean Diamond Trade Act, which was signed into law last year. The bill requires that the President ban the import of rough diamonds coming from any country that has not made an effort to control their trade in diamonds in accordance with the internationally negotiated ''Kimberley Process.''

I would also like to recognize that AMO's service to our country goes all the way back to his youth. At just 18 years old, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was trained and deployed as part of a Marine Security Detachment on the cruiser USS *Macon* in the Atlantic theater. HOUGHTON was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps as a Private First Class in 1945.

Mr. Speaker, I think the record is clear that AMO HOUGHTON has been a devoted patriot whose service will be missed by his constituents as well as all of us who had the pleasure of working with him. We wish you all of the best in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. PETE MANETTO'S SERVICE TO OUR NATION DURING D-DAY 1945

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Pete Manetto served in 1st Signal Company, 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One during the D-Day invasion (Red One). He shares his D-Day memories for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

I remember the stormy sea at 0600, as I climbed down the rope ladder of the U.S.S. *Chase*. I struggled with my balance nearly falling into the water, but managed to land in the landing craft. The sight of the armada on that morning was one of the most impressive, that I could recall. I turned and caught the sight of a nervous expression on the face of the coxswain as he pushed away from the beach. Shortly after this the craft was hit with enemy fire.

There we were on the beach with no one in control of us. We were met with the sight of rows of dead GIs; among them was a member of the MP, who I remember being very jovial the night before. There were many who were wounded, and the scene of the beach caused fear to appear on the faces of many of my acquaintances. I cannot remember being fired

upon at this point, but remember one of my company fellows, named Bush, going into the water to retrieve some valuable equipment.

It was around noon when BG Andrews of the 5th Artillery was passing the silent 88mm emplacement. The General was forced to take shelter with a couple of GIs and myself, who were attached to the 36th infantry unit. As the enemy fire rained down on our position, SGT Tate, our wire chief sergeant, spotted us and approached our position. We were lying in front of our fox trench hole, while SGT Tate was providing us with news, encouragement, and instructions. Sergeant Tate was not able to finish, because a tremendous, noisy, whirlwind came upon us. When I was able to recover, I noticed SGT Tate on the ground in agony, after receiving a wound just below the shoulder. We called for medics and in minutes SGT Tate was taken away. This was the last time I saw SGT Tate during the war.

Shortly after this I was ordered to run my assault wire to the Juno or English beach to link up with the infantry. Along my way I encountered more realities of the battle, I saw a wounded pathfinder officer who was comatose, and being cared for by two GIs. I continued to move down the beach. About a mile from the pathfinder officer, I came across two medics who were drained mentally. They requested any information that I could offer them to help. The next time I saw these men was on my return trip after completing my assignment. They were victims of an apparent mortar attack, which I surely would have been part of if I had stayed much longer than I had. When I returned, I learned that headquarters was up a hill. As I climbed the hill, the first line of walking wounded was descending the hill. I saw wounds of all sorts, from wounded arms and legs, to those who suffered serious eye injuries. As I approached the command post two more sights served as educating reminders: two GIs were laid on the ground facing skyward. One of them was missing the middle of his torso, the other was beheaded.

Once I completed the setup of the communication line, I was given the first accumulation of information that was obtained from captured prisoners. After giving this information to the general officer, I was chastised for my lack of protocol for saluting a superior, which was a great hazard, because of possible snipers, and observing enemy intelligence. All that day and night I felt as though I was in a dwarfed position, as we continued to troubleshoot problems with the telecommunication lines. COL Picket's command post was to my left. Colonel Picket was sitting on the ground gathering and relaying information on the failed landing of amphibious vehicles to the high seas. As we sat on the ground working on the gathered information, we heard the sound of oncoming planes. The famous duo of German planes came over the horizon, and began to strafe our position. I hugged the ground as bullets hit the ground near me, but thankfully far enough away. Besides the ammunition from the German aircraft, we were in danger of being hit from our own anti-aircraft ammunition, because we were aiming at the low flying planes.

This was my true baptism of fire. I was a real GI by June 7th 1944. In retrospect, these 24 hours were to make me a mature GI! June 6th 1944, what a memory.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF CARDINAL JAMES A. HICKEY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, we rise today in honor and remembrance of Cardinal James A. Hickey, a humble leader, friend and guide to many, whose spiritual journey focused on civil rights and the struggle of the oppressed and poor. His significant contribution served to uplift the lives of countless individuals and families, here in Cleveland, and far beyond.

Throughout his entire vocation, Cardinal Hickey was a tireless advocate on behalf of those held back by racism and poverty. In 1974, he was named Bishop of the Cleveland Catholic Dioceses. During his six-year tenure here, Cardinal Hickey worked with community leaders and organizations on vital issues such as the peaceful integration of the public schools, and he also worked to stop banks from red-lining urban neighborhoods. He strongly encouraged leaders of neighborhood parishes to become involved with the issues affecting their congregations. Cardinal Hickey led by example, and led with a consistently kind and humble nature. When he was named Archbishop of Washington, DC in 1980, he again worked to establish strong bonds with local community leaders to address the needs of the growing population of citizens struggling with poverty and AIDS. He led the charge to create and implement social programs to address the needs of the poor, with a special focus on children, the elderly and refugee individuals and families. While in Washington, Cardinal Hickey worked closely with Americans of Hispanic heritage, and advocated on behalf of their collective and individual struggles here in America, and in El Salvador as well. His twenty-year tenure in Washington, DC, where he was named Cardinal in 1988, reflected a man who became a powerful representative of the poor and homeless. Throughout the metropolitan area of Washington, Cardinal Hickey directed the efforts that established sixteen parish missions, housing for dependent elderly, housing for independent elderly, and countless educational, legal and medical services for the homeless, individuals suffering from AIDS, refugees, and the poor.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Cardinal James A. Hickey, whose compassion, guidance and good works uplifted the lives of countless individuals—in Michigan where he was first ordained, here in Cleveland, in Washington, DC, and in Latin America. His leadership and advice were consistently sought by national and world leaders, yet he felt most at home when working with the people of the neighborhood parishes and missions. Graceful, humble, committed and articulate, the words and deeds of Cardinal James A. Hickey will live on forever in the hearts of the countless families and individuals whom he so greatly served—reflecting his light of hope and justice, today, and for generations to come.

HONORING DR. DAN COLGAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dr. Dan Colgan, Saint Joseph School District Superintendent of Schools. Last Friday, October 8, 2004, Dr. Colgan received the Russell C. Hill Award at the 2004 Learning for Life Conference in Florida. The Russell C. Hill Award is the highest recognition for individuals and organizations making outstanding contributions to character education at the local, State, or national level. The award itself is named after Russell Clinton Hill, a Texas businessman who dedicated himself to the cause of character education.

Learning for Life supports schools and other youth-oriented organizations that strive to prepare young people to take on the complex issues that face our society and nation today. Learning for Life is such a successful program, because it encourages self-confidence, motivation, self-worth, and other positive personal values. A big part of the program's success in the Saint Joseph area is due to the participation of Dr. Colgan and his colleagues on the Pony Express Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a dedicated group of citizens committed to the principles of character development.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dr. Dan Colgan, recipient of the Russell C. Hill Award. Dr. Colgan truly exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to northwest Missouri, and I am honored to call him one of my constituents.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF NICHOLAS L. SKORICH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Nicholas L. Skorich; and

Whereas, Nicholas L. Skorich was a hero to his wife of 56 years, Teresa, and their three children and three grandchildren; and

Whereas, Nicholas L. Skorich was a significant part of the National Football League for fifty years, served in World War II for three years, and was head football coach of Central Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was inducted into six Halls of Fame; and

Whereas, Nicholas L. Skorich will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him because of his loving nature towards his family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the kindness and compassion he showed towards others will stand as a reminder to a truly remarkable person. His life and love gave joy to all who knew him.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Nicholas L. Skorich.

RECOGNITION OF SECOND LIEUTENANT RYAN LEDUC

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of 2LT Ryan Leduc who was recently killed in Rutbah, Iraq.

2LT Leduc was a 28 year old native of Pana, Illinois. He was killed on September 22nd in a non-combat related vehicle accident. Leduc was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.

2LT Leduc was a 1994 graduate of Pana High School, in Pana Illinois. Not enough can be said about the great sacrifice this man made for his country, he made the ultimate sacrifice. He is survived by his fiance, Megan McCabe; his mother, Nola Hector of Pana: and his father, David Leduc of Pana. My thoughts and prayers go out to his families and loved ones.

2LT Leduc gave his life in an effort to improve the lives of others. This sacrifice should never be forgotten. Leduc, along with so many other brave men and women, put their lives on the line day in and day out. My sincere thanks goes out to them all. God bless them, and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING E. WILLIAM IOVANNE, JR., 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLTON AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family and friends in paying tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens and my dear friend, E. William Iovanne, Jr. In recognition of his invaluable contributions to our community, Bill is to be honored with the coveted Charles Carroll of Carrolton Award—the highest honor given to a Catholic layman by the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus. Through his generosity and compassion, Bill has touched the lives of thousands and I cannot think of a more deserving individual for such a prestigious honor.

Each year, this medal is presented by the John Barry Assembly, Knights of Columbus, to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of the church, his or her parish, and the community at large. Throughout his life, Bill has dedicated both his professional and personal time to enriching the lives of others. As a member of the New Haven business community he has earned our respect and as a member of the Wooster Square community he has gained our affection.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut's Fair Haven neighborhood, Bill graduated from Notre Dame High School and pursued a career in the funeral business established by his father. The Iovanne Funeral Home has been a fixture in Wooster Square since 1928. For more than seventy-five years, Bill Iovanne and his family have reached out to families in need, helping them cope with the pain of loss. With a combination of compassion and professionalism, Bill has long been known for making a most difficult period, a bit easier.

Beyond his professional career, Bill is also an active and involved member of our community. Well known for his work with a number of local service organizations, Bill has always demonstrated a unique combination of civic commitment and enthusiastic volunteerism. For anyone who has seen his comic routine pantomiming the late bandleader Louis Prima, which has been lent to numerous fund-raising efforts, his enthusiasm and heart-felt good will is undeniable. The Sacred Heart Academy, St. Michael's Church, the Society of St. Maria Maddalena, the Saint Andrew Apostle Society, Connecticut Hospice, and the Campania Club are just a few of the organizations which have benefitted from Bill's good work. It has been through these efforts that he has made such a difference in the lives of others.

There is one family that I know has been touched by Bill's generosity and spirit: my family. The Iovannes and DeLauros have a long history. For my mother, father, and me, the Iovannes have been trusted friends, steadfast supporters, and always a part of our extended family—the type of people who are always there with a kind word or a helping hand. I cannot thank Bill enough for the special friendship we have shared over the years.

Throughout his life, Bill has embodied the very spirit in which this prestigious award is bestowed. For his innumerable contributions to our community and in recognition of his outstanding generosity to others, I am proud to stand today to join his children: William and his wife Angeline; Richard and his wife Susan; and Beth Ann and her husband Joseph, grandchildren: Christina and Alec, family, friends, and the New Haven community in extending my sincere congratulations to my dear friend, E. William Iovanne, Jr. as he is honored with the Charles Carroll of Carrolton Award. His is a legacy that will continue to touch the lives of others for generations to come.

HONORING RABBI ALLEN B. BENNETT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Congressman STARK to honor the extraordinary contributions of Rabbi Allen B. Bennett of Alameda, California for thirty years of dedicated service to the community. Rabbi Bennett, through his tireless efforts as a religious and community leader in the Bay Area for over three decades, worked not only to improve and enrich the lives of those within his congregation, but has also served in that capacity to become a champion for peace, justice, and the well-being of all.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Rabbi Bennett began his post secondary studies at Western Reserve University, where he earned a degree in psychology in 1968. He then attended the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he earned a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters in 1972 and a Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters as well as rabbinical ordination in 1974. After reaching this milestone, Rabbi Bennett moved to Rochester, Minnesota, where he began a residency program in Clinical Pastoral Education, a certification that would allow him to become a hospital chaplain. As a result, he served in the Rochester area for over three years, first as a resident, and then as the Jewish chaplain for the two hospitals affiliated with the Mayo Clinic as well as Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Israel, the multi-denominational synagogue in Rochester.

Following his time of service and education in Minnesota, Rabbi Bennett entered into a doctoral program at the Graduate Theological Union at the University of California, Berkeley in 1977. There, while pursuing a Ph.D. in theology, psychology, sociology, and anthropology, he taught various Jewish studies courses at Emeritus College at the College of Marin, as well as other Bay Area universities.

In the years that followed, Rabbi Bennett continued and expanded his involvement in the Bay Area Jewish community. In addition to being elected rabbi at San Francisco's Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in 1979, he was later appointed Assistant Director of the Northern Pacific Regional Office of the American Jewish Congress, a capacity in which he served until 1989, at which point he became the Congress' Regional Executive Director. He later served also as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay in Oakland, until becoming the Rabbi at Temple Israel in 1996.

Since that time, Rabbi Bennett's work has been outstanding not only within the Temple at which he currently serves, but has also been a remarkable force for peace and social justice within the community as a whole. In addition to serving the Jewish community, he has been involved in an astounding number of civic and interfaith initiatives and activities on the local, regional, and national levels. Among these activities are his service on the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the Mayor's Committee for a Living Holocaust Memorial, the Conference of Black and Jewish Clergy, the San Francisco Interfaith Coalition on AIDS, and the Coalition for Civil Rights. Furthermore, was the Jewish representative taking testimony at the U.N. sponsored Oakland Hearings on Racism as a Violation of Human Rights, and has also served on the Board of Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group in San Francisco. Rabbi Bennett also currently serves on the Leadership Team and the Race and Community Relations Planning Team of the FAITHS Initiative of the San Francisco Foundation, the Alameda Hospital Ethics Committee and its Institutional Review Board, as Chair of the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Chaplaincy Advisory Board, as Vice President of the Board of Rabbis of Northern California, as Treasurer of the East Bay Council of Rabbis, and the Union for Reform Judaism's Regional Committee on AIDS.

On November 13, 2004, Rabbi Bennett will be honored in Oakland, California for thirty years of truly outstanding service to Temple Israel and the greater Bay Area. This occasion is an opportunity for us to recognize him not only for his service within the faith community, but also for his outstanding leadership on the issues of civil rights, social equality, human

rights, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. By remaining active in and dedicated to these important areas, Rabbi Bennett has contributed immeasurably to Alameda County and the East Bay, and the 9th and 13th Congressional Districts salute and congratulate him for his many years of invaluable service.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE OF ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO, COMMISSIONER TED STRICKLAND

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my appreciation for the many years of dedicated service that Commissioner Ted Strickland has provided to the residents of Adams County, CO. After many years in public office, Ted Strickland has time and again proven his commitment to making Colorado a better place to live, and his presence on the Adams County Board of County Commissioners will truly be missed.

Commissioner Strickland, born and raised in Austin, Texas, settled in Colorado in 1954 after being honorably discharged from the United States Army. His lengthy and distinguished career in public service began with two years in the Colorado House of Representatives and continued with 24 years of service in the Colorado State Senate, including 12 years as President of the Senate. He served as Lieutenant Governor from 1973–1974.

Commissioner Strickland was elected to the Adams County Board of County Commissioners in 1996 and re-elected in 2000. The leadership that he has provided has been instrumental in improving relationships and cooperation with the municipalities within the County. Additionally, his work with Adams County Economic Development has contributed greatly to the growth and progress of the County. His service as a commissioner is distinguished by his business acumen, commitment to improve county facilities and seeing the county recognized as the ''can do county.'' Commissioner Strickland has proven himself to be a true Colorado statesman.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ted for his distinguished service on behalf of the citizens of Adams County, and wish him all the best as I'm sure he will remain an active member of the Adams County community.

IN HONOR OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION AND VIKTOR ORBAN, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956. These men and women of Hungary, armed with the promise of liberty and hope for a better tomorrow, were the first to courageously rise up in defiance of the Soviet occupation. Their historical struggle for freedom continues to inspire those who are not yet free. I also rise today in honor and welcome of Former Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orban, who has journeyed to Cleveland to commemorate the sacrifice, determination and heart of the Hungarian ''Freedom Fighters'' of 1956.

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution marked the beginning of the end of Soviet oppression in Central and Eastern Europe. As the Soviet army blazed a trail of aggression and control, millions of Hungarians fled Europe and sought refuge in America. More than two hundred thousand Hungarians settled in Cleveland, bringing with them the culture and memories of their beloved homeland, and the promise of freedom and democracy.

A leader on the front lines of liberty in Hungary, Former Prime Minister Viktor Orban carried the blazing torch of freedom, passed to him from the generation before. He was one of the founders of the Federation of Young Democrats—one of Hungary's first parties to oppose communist rule. In a speech delivered on June 16, 1989, the words of Former Prime Minister Viktor Orban rang loud and clear along the streets and countryside of Hungary and far beyond, demanding free elections and the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956. Thousands of Hungarian men and women made the ultimate sacrifice so that all could be free. The Hungarian Freedom Fighters of 1956 pierced the darkness of tyranny and sparked the first light of liberty throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The rising light of their quest for freedom and their bravery, heart and sacrifice continues to inspire us all, lending us hope for the dawning of a peaceful new day.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW SCOTT A. GALLAMORE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Scott A. Gallamore of Pleasant Valley, Missouri, 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, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Matthew became an Eagle Scout on August 5, 2004 and he will be recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor in November 2004.

Matthew has been very active with his troop by participating in many Scout activities, earning over 40 merit badges, and serving in a variety of leadership positions. At age 9, Matthew joined the Cub Scouts. He advanced from Cubs to Webelos and then crossed over into the Boy Scouts at age 11, achieving the rank of Arrow of Light. Now 17, Matthew is described by his parents, peers, and community as exemplifying the qualities of citizenship: he is loyal, helpful, trustworthy, thrifty, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, brave, clean, and reverent.

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

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JOSEPH BAUMGARNER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Joseph Baumgarner is a resident of Midvale in Tuscarawas County; and

Whereas, Joseph Baumgarner has devoted his love to his companion, Tammy, and his three children; and

Whereas, Joseph Baumgarner demonstrated a commitment to his country while serving in the Persian Gulf; and

Whereas, Joseph Baumgarner is active with his community and is appreciated by all who know him.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing Joseph Baumgarner for his dedication to the United States, his community, family, and friends.

RECOGNITION OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL FALCON BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the South Central Middle School Falcon Baseball Team of Farina, Illinois.

The Falcons had an outstanding season this year, with a 16–6 record. They placed 1st in Conference and Regional tournaments and took 2nd place at the State Tournament.

The members of the Falcons are: Justin Armstrong, Seth Arnold, Kyle Bischoff, Tanner Bushue, Shane Donoho, Jacob Erwin, Ian King, Ryan Gesell, Tyler Gillet, Isaac Grapperhaus, Brock Johnson, Luke Kulesza, Kyle Monical, Travis Potter, Nathan Powless, Aaron Robb, Treavor Robbins, and Dylan Sill. The team is coached under the leadership of Stephen Phillips and Derick Vincent.

This exceptional group of seventh and eighth graders has shown great sportsmanship, teamwork, and stamina throughout their season. They have made their coaches, fans, and parents very proud.

Congratulations, Falcons, on a terrific year.

HONORING PROFESSOR VINCENT SCULLY, 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF ARTS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the National

Endowment of the Arts in congratulating Professor Vincent Scully as he receives a 2004 National Medal of Arts. One of our Nation's foremost architectural historians, Professor Scully has not only developed a renowned reputation as a historian, but as an educator and mentor as well.

Over the last two decades, the National Medal of Arts has been awarded in recognition of the extraordinary accomplishments of those engaged in the creation and production of the arts in the United States. Both as an educator and author, Professor Scully has deeply influenced the world of architecture by highlighting its social value. Defining architecture as a ''continuing dialogue between generations that creates an environment across time,'' Professor Scully has taught thousands of architects, planners, art historians, and politicians that architecture is not simply the design of a building, but how that design adds to the character of a community or environment.

Professor Scully's illustrious career began when he enrolled at Yale University at the age of sixteen. After completing his undergraduate studies, he accepted a position with the University and, through his unique teaching style, became one of its most popular professors. His standing room only lectures could boast five hundred students—filling the largest lecture hall on campus. In speaking of his former professor, the New Yorker's Paul Goldberger said, ''His thinking has always been based on the notion that architecture is not purely aesthetics, and that the real meaning is how it can be used to make better places.'' It has been through this vision that Professor Scully has had the greatest influence on the arts—passing it on to generations of scholars and students.

For his invaluable contributions to the arts and in recognition of his lifetime of achievement, I am proud to stand today and extend my sincere congratulations to Professor Vincent Scully as he is awarded the National Medal of Arts. His is a legacy which will continue to inspire others for generations to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE KATIE BROWN KIDD

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Maggie Katie Brown Kidd, a loyal and loving wife and mother who has devoted her long and wonderfully blessed life to her family. Mrs. Kidd will be celebrating her 100th birthday with her family on November 26th in my congressional district.

Maggie was born on December 8, 1904 to Lucy and William ''Doc'' Brown of Stephens, Georgia; the eleventh of twelve children. William received the nickname ''Doc'' from his neighbors because of his reputation for helping anyone in need. His neighbors used to tell everyone to ''go see Doc'' if they were ever in trouble. Maggie began to develop a similar reputation as she grew up as she never hesitated from sharing whatever she had, even when she had little.

Lucy and Doc owned a farm in Stephens where the whole family was welcomed when they needed a place to live. Maggie continued this tradition when she took over the farm, offering a home to all of her relatives that needed one. She even helped raise her grandniece. The people who lived close to her farm knew her as a good neighbor. Her parents joined Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Stephens where Rosalyn worshipped and studied when she was a child. She still maintains a membership at the church today.

On November 30, 1940, Maggie married Willie Kidd. They had two children, Rosalyn and John and continued to work on her parent's farm. Maggie and Willie worked the farm until 1961, when she and Willie decreased the size of their farm and began gardening. Willie passed away in 1962 from complications due to diabetes. She lived on the same land until 1989. Now she lives with Rosalyn in Riverdale, GA where she continues to make beautiful quilts when her health permits. She is blessed to have four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and Maggie's family in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dutchess County Historical Society located in Poughkeepsie New York, which is part of the 22nd Congressional District that I proudly serve. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Historical Society. I am pleased to recognize the Dutchess County Historical Society, which has dedicated itself to discovering, preserving, and interpreting the extraordinary history of Dutchess County.

Originally formed in 1914, the Historical Society received its State Charter in 1918. Although it had been the principal repository for all aspects of Dutchess County history for many years, it was not until 1979 that the organization found a permanent home. It was at that time that Society entered into a cooperative agreement with the State of New York to operate the Governor Clinton House in Poughkeepsie as its headquarters, an agreement that has recently been renewed for a third time. The success of this partnership led to the Society being trusted with the responsibility of managing a second historic site, the City of Poughkeepsie owned Glebe House.

During its nine decades the Society has grown and expanded, adding professional staff, new technologies and innovative programs designed to reach a variety of audiences. Known for its publications, the Society has contributed to as many as 14 books on local history, developed a local history curriculum for use in the 4th and 7th grades and, since 1914, published the oldest continuously printed annual in New York State, a ''Year Book'' of articles on local history. In addition to its publications, the Dutchess County Historical Society maintains a collection of archival material, photographs and dimensional objects inclusive of the entire county.

Key components in the ongoing success of this exceptional organization are its educational and community outreach activities. The Society's Board of Directors has made diversity a priority and they have extended their reach into new communities and organizations throughout Dutchess County. Exhibits, lectures, conferences, and tours complete the outstanding array of programming that the Society offers its members and the community at large.

Organizations like the Dutchess County Historical Society play a vital role in preserving and protecting our nations history, one community at a time. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Dutchess County Historical Society and commend its dedicated, professional and caring members for their outstanding efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE RESILIENCE, HOPE AND FAITH OF ST. STANISLAUS PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker we rise today in honor of Pastor Michael Surufka, Father George Kusy, Father Joachim Studwell, and every member of St. Stanislaus parish community, upon the dedication of the restoration of the parish rectory. We also rise in honor of the legacy and memories of Pastor William Gulas, whose life, though tragically taken from us two years ago, continues to rise in our hearts, memories, and in the Slavic Village neighborhood that he so loved.

The restoration of the St. Stanislaus Parish symbolizes the rebirth of faith and hope that was shattered when Father Gulas' life was felled by senseless violence. As the rectory is resurrected, so is the life of Father Gulas. His gentle guidance and support that he freely and openly offered to every parishioner continues to renew faith and inspiration along East 65th Street and far beyond. His willingness to learn the Polish language to better serve this parish community is testament to the unwavering dedication and love he shared with the people of Slavic Village.

Father Gulas led this parish with kindness, compassion and an undying faith in the goodness of all people. His life-long ministry was framed by his service to others and by his unshakeable faith and strong sense of spirituality. His graceful liturgy, outlined with poignancy and wit, captured the minds and hearts of his parishioners. His legacy of renewing the hearts and souls of all those who knew him, extended to the bricks and mortar of St. Stanislaus Church. Today, as we celebrate the renewal of the parish rectory, we pause in remembrance and honor of the man, Father Gulas, who led the colossal effort to renovate the historic and inspirational St. Stanislaus Church.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join us in honor and recognition of the dedication of the newly restored parish rectory of St. Stanislaus Parish. This restoration reflects the unity, strength and faith of this community to rise above the traumatic loss of their beloved Pastor, Father William Gulas. This celebration also reflects the commitment of Pastor Michael Surufka, Father George Kusy, Father Joachim Studwell, and every parishioner committed to carrying on the vital work of Father

William Gulas. The Peace Garden, planned and cultivated by parishioners, serves as a living reminder that hope will rise from the ashes, and that Father Gulas' light continues to offer guidance, inspiration and hope throughout the St. Stanislaus community, today, and for all time.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HILL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Hill, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Robert achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on April 7, 2004 and will be recognized at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor this November.

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

For his Eagle Scout Project, Robert organized a the clean up and repair of a facility used by law enforcement officers for training exercises at Weston Bend State Park.

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

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF LINDSAY CUTSHALL AND JASON ALLEN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of Lindsay Cutshall of Fresno, Ohio and Jason Allen of Zeeland, Michigan; and

Whereas, Lindsay Cutshall and Jason Allen were both caring and loving individuals who were both active in the Rock-N-River Christian Camp, and

Whereas, Lindsay Cutshall and Jason Allen will certainly be remembered by all those who knew them; and

Whereas, through those lives that they touched, the memories of Lindsay Cutshall and Jason Allen will stand as monuments to two truly fine people.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the families and friends of Lindsay Cutshall and Jason Allen.

HONORING THE LIFE OF 1ST LT. MATTHEW LYNCH, USMC

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, there are times in our lives when we fully realize the presence of heros among us. And there are times when we fully realize that we have lost one of those heros; that is the case with Marine 1st Lt. Matthew Lynch, a young man who gave his life for his country in Iraq. It is difficult to memorialize a man who stood as tall in life as Matthew did and harder yet to memorialize a man who stands even taller in death. I believe the words of his father, Bill Lynch, spoken at Matt's funeral speak best to this fallen hero and not only capture the magnitude of the great life Matt lived but the magnitude of the loss to our nation:

''To all Matt's friends, and you are many; I thank you for coming. Saying farewell to our beloved Matthew is the hardest thing I have ever done. At this time, my thoughts alternately fly through my mind like sharp arrows; or slip through my mental fingers like quicksilver; and I cannot hold them fast. Because of this; and because I have only this one time to pay tribute to Matt, and to tell you about his life, I must affix my thoughts to paper, and read them; and for this, I beg your indulgence.

But for now, I borrow from Shakespeare, and tell you that . . . We gather today to praise Matt, not to bury him. And that is because all the things Matt was; Love of family and friends; gentleness, strength, humor, grace, dedication, honor, loyalty, patriotism, humility, and yes, of course, courage . . . can never be buried, because they are eternal, as is now, our beloved Matt.

While we mourn Matt's loss it brings with it an opportunity for us all, in private moments, to reflect on what he was, and perhaps to develop in ourselves, those attributes he had, which we lack; so that the warm light of remembrance which fills this church today, may one day shine on us.

I will speak to you today of Matt's life, and of ironies gentle, and tragic, which at present you know nothing of, and I will tell you of a curious sign I've lately seen which reassures me.

But for now, to understand Matt's life, you are in the right place; because this is where all that he was, began, on a Summer day in 1979, when my wife Angela and I brought our little Matthew Devin Lynch to that very baptismal font, to be baptized. The Gospel that day, I remember vividly, was the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, and I thought that a very propitious beginning. The name Matthew, we knew, came from Hebrew, and meant ''Gift of God.''

And what a gift he was! Cherubic, loving, obedient, and oh yes, very active. As he developed, it was evident that he had extraordinary athletic skills. One day when he was about 3 years old, and bounding about with his brother Tim and their friends, a visitor to our neighbor's patio said to me ''Is that your son?'' ''Yes,'' I replied. ''Do you realize that he is a natural athlete?'' the man said. ''How do you know,'' I asked? ''I am a pediatrician,'' he said, ''I see thousands of kids, and believe me, he is a natural athlete.'' It was a prophecy, which would be fulfilled.

I raised both our sons as athletes, and spent countless hours drilling various skills into them. I always did it with some zany game I had devised . . . Kids learn best when they are having fun. In most of those games, I was the villain, the opponent, the one to be conquered, but I always did it with humor, and they came to love ''the games.''

When they were only 5 or 6 years old, we used to play a game I had devised to build their swimming speed, I called it ''Shark and Minnows.'' In our community pool, I would emplace Matt and Tim near a ladder at one end of the pool. Their mission was to swim to a ladder directly opposite them, and get out of the pool before the shark could catch them. I stood waist deep in the water, at the far end . . . the feared and fearsome Shark.

At first I was a very successful shark, but very shortly, the minnows got much quicker, and the shark caught nothing but air. Soon the Minnows ''can't catch me'' glee, told me that my days as a big fish were over, and that Matt's were just beginning. A few years later, as Matt swam by me, I raised my head, to see if someone was pulling him on a rope.

At that time, Tim, had his eyes on two Jericho High School swim records, and he decided to join the Long Island Aquatic Club, to begin his assault on those records, which he did in fact, later claim. But in the beginning Matt just tagged along. After their first three hour LIAC workout, I asked Matt ''How did it go?'' ''I . . . NEVER . . . want . . . to . . . do that . . . again,'' said Matt. But like everything Matt did, he went back, and excelled . . . a theme you will come to recognize.

Soon, he became one of the elite LIAC swimmers. He also swam right across his high school's record board, eclipsing every individual record, even Tim's, leaving his own name in his wake. He set the country record in the 200-yard individual medley, finished third in New York State in that event and the 100-yard freestyle. He was All County swimmer three years in a row; a County champion in two events each of his last two years.

Baseball was the same. All-County catcher his last two years in high school, nominated for the ''Diamond Award,'' as one of the best players in Nassau County; and as a senior, he tied for the home run record, all of this easily fulfilling the prophecy that stranger had made so many years ago.

He continued this at Duke University. He was the swim team's ''Rookie of the Year,'' and became a mainstay of that team. He was also a catcher on the Duke baseball team for two years, but in his Senior year, carrying out the theme which defines his life, he told his swim coach he wanted to return to his swim team ''family,'' his buddies, and he did. As a Senior, and in his very last race, when his team needed him to step up, we saw him swim one of his best 100-yard freestyle times, then sadly walk off, his career over. Between high school and college, he loved his job as a Jones Beach lifeguard; competed on their competition team, and there too, he excelled, and developed many friends.

''What next?'' I asked him shortly after he graduated from Duke. ''Dad, the Marine Corps, or course.'' ''Are you doing this because Tim and I did it, or because YOU want to do it?'' I asked. ''Dad, I want to do it,'' he replied.

The next few years were difficult for Angela and I. Our Marine sons began to go in harm's way. First, Tim in Afghanistan; then Tim and Matt in Iraq. But they always returned. Last Easter, Matt phoned us to say he was ordered to Iraq a 2nd time, as a replacement for some Lieutenants in another unit who had been wounded. But after 3 months, he again returned, and we were overjoyed. But shortly, he said, ''Mom, Dad, you will think I'm crazy, but my old unit, my buddies are going back to Iraq, and I really want to join them.'' Again, that theme of loyalty, family.

All during our son's deployments, I had been haunted by a specter of Marines in Dress Blue uniforms, walking to our door, bearing terrible news . . . and that specter was rooted in my past.

You see, in 1966, I too was a 1st Lieutenant, then serving a short tour at The Marine Corps District Headquarters in Garden City. One of my duties was casualty calls. That meant when a Marine was wounded or killed, I had to personally notify his next of kin. ''I'll only be here 3 months,'' I thought, ''I should be O.K.''

The next week, my Colonel grimly dropped a Teletype on my desk. ''KIA,'' it started. ''Lt., will you handle this?'' he said. My stomach rolled. My duty that day was to break a mother's heart. I gathered two NCOs, got a priest, and drove to the Marine's home. His mother was getting out of her car . . . she had just returned from the beach . . . she looked at us . . . and dropped like a stone. We took her inside, neighbors came, someone called her husband, ''Come home right now, was all he was told.''

When he arrived he told me that he had immediately punched the wall at work, and would have punched me, had he been at home. ''I just would not have wanted to hear what I knew you were going to say,'' he said.

I told my Colonel we had a dangerous situation, and that someone would eventually get hurt. We had no standing operating procedure for these casualty calls . . . no S.O.P. ''Write one, Lieutenant,'' he said, and I did. I specified NCOs for wounds . . . but always an NCO and an officer for a death. I put my heart and soul into it, trying to devise something, which would give aid and comfort to the bereaved, and protection to our Marines. Years later, I encountered marines from that same office. and we discussed casualty calls by then quite numerous. ''It's no fun,'' they said, ''but at least we have a really good S.O.P.'' ''I know,'' I said, ''I wrote it.''

On August 31, Matt returned with his buddies for a third tour, and, on October 31, he was killed by a roadside bomb. That same day, my wife Angela and I, still unaware, drove to the beach, to walk the boardwalk. It was a gorgeous day, and we spoke of how fortunate we were to have such fine sons, and how proud we were of our two Marines. We passed the beach where Matt worked, and again spoke of him, and then we returned home. I parked the car, we entered our house . . . just as that mother had done almost 40 years ago . . . the day I broke her heart. The door was ajar, and as I heard Angela exclaim, ''Oh No!'' . . . I turned to see two Marines in dress blue uniforms, grimly walking towards us. One an NCO, the other an officer. Each wore the same stony mask I had worn years ago, and in an instant I knew our Matt was gone . . . you see, I'd written that S.O.P.

How ironic that the pain I'd delivered so long ago to someone else; was now visited on my doorstep; and stranger still, that the procedure I'd then written to console others, was now applied to us. The next day, Angela and I took our shattered hearts to this church. It was All Souls Day, and the Gospel that day . . . was according to St. Matthew. ''Wire to wire,'' I thought, ''Saint Matthew.''

Matt, our beloved gift of God died trying to free a people from a vicious enemy, whose unspeakable acts of barbarism, even against their own people, while done in the name of God, reveal them to be Godless; and such evil must be opposed. We revere Matt's service, and while we are saddened, we are not angry. Not at our government, not at our President, and certainly not at the United States Marine Corps, that fine fighting force our Matt was so proud to serve.

The days ahead will be difficult for us. When the last of you have gone, and our door has closed, our ordeal will begin. A bright light has left our home, never to return, and all the sand in Iraq cannot fill the hole in our hearts. But recently, I've noted a sign, although in the strangest place, which suggests reassurance. Now, you may think this forced, contrived, or fabricated for this moment; perhaps the ranting of one whose heart, buffeted too hard by this tragedy, is trying too hard to see, but you are wrong, because I saw this sign long before Matt's death.

Some months ago, I looked down upon a floor tile in our home, and saw clearly what could easily be an artist's rendition of the face of Christ. It stared directly at me. Curious. For weeks, I looked at that visage every day. What to make of it? Eventually, my eyes began to scan around the visage, and recently, I also clearly saw, sheltered in the corner, and under the right shoulder of that visage . . . the perceptible head and face of a very small child. Each had slowly been revealed to me, and until lately I have not known what to make of this; but clearly, the events of this last week suggest to me that Matt, and formerly our little Gift of God, has, as was his custom, made one final return to family and is now, the visage assures me, sheltered, and safely home, and this gives me great comfort.

It is time to close, and I must do this in two ways:

To the heavens I say:

''Lord this is our son Matthew, in whom we are well pleased. He was your precious gift to us, and we return him to you now. Please grant Matt a place of favor, where he may rest comfortably until those of us who have loved him so can join him.''

And finally, to our son Matt, I say those words every Marine longs to hear;

''Well done Marine . . . and Semper Fi!''

CHANGING NATURE OF U.S.-CARIBBEAN RELATIONSHIP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the United States-Caribbean relationship has long been characterized as one of dependency. More specifically, the Caribbean has historically been portrayed as overly reliant on the United States, while having minimal significance to our country beyond general geopolitical concerns. Indeed, the widespread damage wrought by the recent Caribbean hurricanes has necessitated assistance from the U.S. However, a broader look at the current reality points to a highly reciprocal relationship, with the Caribbean proving to be an increasingly important component of the economic and commercial interests of the United States.

A telling indicator of the evolving U.S.-Caribbean relationship is in the area of trade. The Caribbean is now the 13th largest importer to the United States and the 8th largest destination for American exports. U.S. exports to the Caribbean have helped to sustain nearly 500,000 U.S. jobs. While the magnitude of Caribbean trade with the U.S. is changing, so too is the nature of that trade. The Caribbean is not simply a supplier of agricultural products, or an American tourist destination. It is now becoming a significant source of U.S. energy imports. An October 7th story in the New York Times examined this recent ascendancy, with a focus on the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

In the last few years, the Caribbean, led by Trinidad and Tobago, has positioned itself as significant player in energy trade with the U.S. Already an important regional exporter of crude oil, Trinidad is now the leading exporter of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) in the Western Hemisphere. After 9–11, the U.S. sought to find energy sources beyond the Middle East and Persian Gulf. Additionally, rising gas prices, and increasing domestic shortages increased U.S. demand for LNG. Trinidad has impressively stepped in to fill that demand. Since 2001, it has been the leading exporter of Liquid Natural Gas to the United States, accounting for 75 percent of all LNG exports. These exports are projected to further increase over the next decade. Additionally, a planned LNG pipeline from Trinidad to surrounding Caribbean islands will increase the refining capacity of the surrounding region, as well as spur the region's ability to engage in related manufacturing.

Besides Trinidad, other countries in the region have plans to increase their energy market presence. At an October 11th address, Jamaican Commerce, Science and Technology Minister, Phillip Paulwell, stated that three oil and gas systems have been identified in Jamaica for the first time. One of the systems has possible reserves of 2.8 billion barrels of oil (BBO) and 10.6 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of natural gas. With its close proximity to the United States, development of Jamaican energy resources would be a very beneficial endeavor for both nations.

As can be seen, the importance of the Caribbean to the United States has radically evolved over the last several years. This evolution will only be strengthened as we move towards greater regional integration through agreements like the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Future U.S.-Caribbean policy must take into account this new and mutually beneficial dynamic.

A SMALL ISLAND, A BIG EXPORTER OF ENERGY

TRINIDAD IS SUPPLYING MOST U.S. IMPORTS OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

(By Simon Romero)

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, Oct. 7—Cranes are active here again, working around the clock to erect some of the Caribbean's tallest skyscrapers against a backdrop of colonial-era buildings. Traffic snarls throughout this small island country, with imported luxury cars rubbing up against 70's-era gas guzzles left from the last time energy prices soared.

But it is not only the rising price of crude oil that has produced such excitement and activity in Trinidad, the Caribbean's largest petroleum producer and one of the few islands that is thriving these days. Instead, what is transforming the situation here is another fossil fuel: natural gas.

Amid a scramble to meet growing international energy demands and to satisfy an American market where the price of gas has risen to about $7 for each thousand cubic feet from just $2 in 1999, Trinidad has emerged as the Western Hemisphere's leading supplier of liquefied natural gas. It has stealthily outpaced rivals, this year accounting for nearly 80 percent of shipments to the United States, up from virtually nothing five years ago.

Trinidad's leap to the forefront in liquid natural gas—a fast-growing area of the energy industry where companies invest billions to chill the fuel to temperatures around 150 degrees below zero and ship it across the seas in supertankers—has ignited rapid growth here. Economic activity increased 13 percent in 2003 and could grow as

much again this year. The economy has expanded for 10 consecutive years on Trinidad and Tobago, a twin-island nation of 1.3 million with an area nearly the size of Delaware.

Trinidad's gas resources has fueled a web of chemical factories, including nine ammonia plants, and iron and steel complex, and two of the largest methanol plants in the world. The conglomeration of factories, largely in Point Lisas, an industrial site and port south of the capital, Port of Spain, exports most of its production to the United States.

''We've become a highly industrialized nation, something that was a pipe dream a few years ago,'' said Anthony Bryan, former director of the Institute of International Relations at the University of the West Indies on Trinidad.

But some experts here worry that the natural gas boom is taking on the same character as the oil-fueled growth burst of the 1970's, which was followed by a ruinous decade-long bust culminating in a violent coup attempt in 1990 by Muslim militants.

''There's the 'here-we-go-again' phenomenon,'' said Ronald Ramkissoon, chief economist at Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the country's largest financial institution. ''If we're not wise enough to hive away some of the excess money we're getting from this boom, then we stand the risk of getting hit again.''

Weighing over everything are fears about what will happen when the energy bounty runs out. Although Trinidad is envied by other energy producers, it has just 0.5 percent of the world's proven gas reserves, far less than big producers like Qatar and Russia. Unless big new discoveries are made, the Inter-American Development Bank says, Trinidad's existing reserves guarantee only 20 years of gas and oil production at current extraction rates.

For now, though, economic opportunities in Trinidad are luring people and money from elsewhere in the hemisphere. A growing number of Spanish-speaking immigrants from Venezuela and Colombia have moved here recently to fill service jobs in restaurants and other work shunned by Trinidadians. Continental Airlines began flying this summer to Port of Spain directly from Houston, ferrying, energy executives eager to cash in on the bonanza.

Trinidad owes much of its current good fortune to a plan conceived a decade ago by BP and BG, two of Britain's largest energy companies, together with Repsol of Spain and the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, to build the first of four large liquid natural gas plants. That strategy transformed BG, formerly British Gas, into the largest corporate supplier of L.N.G. to the United States. By 1999, the venture was, ready to start exporting gas.

Trinidad quickly leapt ahead of Venezuela, where domestic political quarreling stalled ambitions to exploit ample natural gas reserves.

''I'm reluctant to talk about Venezuela because they're the sleeping giant next door,'' said Frank Look Kin, president of the state-controlled National Gas Company. ''You could say we're doing O.K. with what we've got.''

The importance of natural gas in Trinidad's economy eclipsed that of oil in recent years, with gas output now worth about $4.8 billion a year compared with $1.4 billion for oil, according to the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Bush administration has responded by showering attention on Trinidad, amid concern over a prospective shortage of the fuel, which is used to generate electricity, run industrial processes and heat homes and offices.

President Bush surprised Prime Minister Patrick Manning last December when he came to Washington to meet Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Bush's national security adviser. Instead of limiting the visit to her, the White House granted Mr. Manning an impromptu meeting with Mr. Bush to discuss ways of increasing Trinidad's role in resolving problems in other Caribbean countries like Haiti.

Seeking to further strengthen ties, Spencer Abraham, the energy secretary, declared in a visit here in April that Trinidad was ''a very effective example of how a country with natural gas resources can enter the international marketplace.''

Much noticed here as well was a meeting over the summer between Mr. Manning and Henry A. Kissinger, the former secretary of state. Mr. Kissinger's visit to Trinidad aroused speculation that he might have lobbied the government on behalf of Freeport McMoRan Energy, a New Orleans company that allied itself this year with Trinidad to build a terminal for receiving L.N.G. off Louisiana's coast. Mr. Kissinger is a director emeritus of a mining concern controlled by Freeport McMoRan Energy's parent company.

In responding to questions from local reporters, Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Manning denied that the purpose of their meeting was related to negotiations with the Louisiana company.

Trinidad's aim to cement its position as the leading supplier to the United States fits into its ambition to help guide the policies of large gas-exporting nations. It has held talks with Algeria and Indonesia to interest them in joining the Louisiana terminal venture. And next year, Trinidad is seeking a more active role in the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, a group of more than a dozen nations that also includes Qatar, Iran and Nigeria.

Trinidad, a former British colony that gained independence in 1962, views trade as another priority, with Port of Spain competing against several American cities, including Miami and Atlanta, to be selected as administrative headquarters for the planned Free Trade Area of the Americas.

The government, meanwhile, intends to invest about $700 million to build a pipeline that would transport gas to seven islands in the eastern Caribbean, including Barbados and Martinique. Trinidadian officials hope to persuade Venezuela to prepare its own gas for export to the United States from Trinidad plants.

Despite all the activity concern persists over the energy industry's influence as memories linger of the painful adjustment Trinidad faced in the 1980's after oil prices plummeted. But that has not prevented natural gas from ascending to the heights of the economy after oil production reached a peak in 1978.

As in many developing countries that are rich in resources, there is a perception that the wealth generated from Trinidad's oil and gas is not widely shared, creating big problems for a nation whose population is largely divided between people of African and Indian descent.

Unemployment remains stubbornly high, at around 10 percent. Crime is also a prominent concern, underlined by a spate of kidnappings of wealthy Trinidadians in the last two years. A pressing issue Trinidad faces is how to wriggle more royalties out of the multinational energy producers active in its territory.

''The issue of who gets what and how from our gas and oil needs to be revisited,'' said Winston Dookeran, a member of Parliament and former central bank president.

[In the budget released on Oct. 8, the government laid out a plan to channel substantial energy revenue to social programs and public security. Included are an increase in old age pensions of more than 10 percent, lower taxes on brown sugar and funds to hire 744 police officers.]

Despite a gross domestic product of about $8,000 a person, about a fifth of the population still lives in poverty. On average, Trinidadians are richer than most Caribbean islanders though still poorer than people in nearby Barbados and the Bahamas, where tourism revenue has improved living standards.

Translating its gas reserves into lasting wealth, of course, depends largely on the growth of the liquid natural gas industry in the United States, where more than 30 projects are in planning phases to import the fuel from countries around the world.

''The boom,'' Mr. Dookeran, the former, central banker, said, ''is aligning our interests with those of the U.S. like never before.''

THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THE NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the second anniversary of a very important organization dedicated to fighting prejudice in the United States in a very constructive manner. The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, founded in November 2002 by Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell is, to quote from the statement which the NGLCC submitted to our Financial Services Committee hearing on diversity, "the only national not-for profit advocacy organization specifically dedicated to the economic advancements and opportunities of the American LGBT business community."

The NGLCC carries on this work by its formation of a " broad-based coalition, representative of the various interests of American LGBT owned and friendly businesses, professionals, and students of business to increase economic opportunities among membership, corporate interests and federal, state and local governments."

We hear a great deal in our public debate these days about the importance of people working together, being constructive, avoiding divisiveness etc. This can be overdone—democracy requires the honest airing of differences. But it is also important that these differences take place within a context of recognition of shared values, and the NGLCC plays an extremely important role in this. This organization demonstrates that combating prejudice based on sexual orientation and gender identity is not only not inconsistent with an effort to work for greater unity in our country, but is in fact an essential part of that effort, properly understood.

Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell through their own commitment to advancing our capitalist system, while simultaneously fighting the prejudice which deprives some people of the full chance to participate in that system, play a very important role. To quote further from the statement which they submitted to our Financial Services Committee, "It is the unfortunate experience of millions of LGBT Americans that homophobia and ignorance has

been the silent killer of developing and growing LGBT enterprises and a better quality of life for all LGBT Americans. Too often it is the experience that LGBT Americans feel compelled to remain in the closet to safeguard their personal and professional financial condition . . . That millions of LGBT Americans live half lives in the financial marketplace, and the workplace is simply not in the best interest of a strong, vibrant and competitive American economy.

''It is a universal truth that as human beings, we are at our best when we can represent ourselves as whole and complete individuals, encouraged to contribute with vibrant creative energy the many talents unique to each of us as individuals. That LGBT Americans are shackled by institutionalized discrimination is not only shameful, it is not good business.''

It is not easy to start an organization, and it is particularly difficult when the organization being started is one that seeks to bridge significant gaps that divide people in our society. There are a number of organizations that effectively advocate for the rights of LGBT Americans. There are others that are forceful supporters of the legitimate interests of the business community. I know no other at the national level that exists precisely not simply to show that these two goals are not inconsistent, but that, properly understood, they reinforce each other.

I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Nelson on several occasions, and I am impressed by the quality of their work. I make this statement today on the floor to call attention to this excellent example of how people can work truly to better our country in every way.

Mr. Speaker, Members seeking more information on this useful organization can consult the hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the House Financial Services Committee on diversity and financial services, which was conducted on July 15, 2004.

IN HONOR OF OUR UNITED STATES VETERANS AND HOLLY LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF WESTLAKE, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of all veterans of the 10th Congressional District of Ohio—for their service, bravery, and dedication on behalf of our country. Most significantly, we stand in tribute and remembrance of those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice when they answered the call to duty.

I also stand in honor and recognition of the children and educators of Holly Lane Elementary School. By allowing our students the opportunity to meet and know our veterans, we are presenting them living examples of real heroes. We are giving them a true understanding of the meaning of the words conviction, courage and selflessness. We are offering them the understanding of a vital, living lesson that speaks to our American history and to the preservation of our liberty—the brave men and women who have endured great pain and sacrifice in order to secure freedom and democracy for us all—our United States Veterans.

Every veteran that stands before us today at Holly Lane Elementary School represents the heart and soul of America and reminds us of our quest for justice and peace here at home, and the struggle of those who seek justice and peace around the world. The staff and students of Holly Lane Elementary School reflect the gratitude and respect for our men and women in the armed forces, sentiments that are shared by all Americans. The students of Holly Lane Elementary School also reflect a vision of hope and faith for our future.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, tribute and gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces, past and present. They reflect the quest and struggle for human rights and freedom from oppression, a basic human element that unifies us all. Let us forever remember and honor their ultimate service, great sacrifice and unwavering sense of commitment to the preservation of our American democracy and our freedoms.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, DC yesterday. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of H.J. Res. 110, H. Res. 750, S. 2693, S. 2214, S. 2640, and H. Res. 641.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to offer my congratulations to the Sunnyside Community Services Center on its 30th anniversary.

The residents of New York's 12th Congressional District have been enriched by this institution's outstanding example of community cooperation, which provides valuable social, recreational, and educational services to the seniors and families of Western Queens. Thanks to the exemplary board, staff, and volunteer base of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, this once small organization that started in a church basement has blossomed, and has grown to provide an array of integrated activities and programs to over 12,000 residents, annually.

The center offers these services to ensure that members have the opportunity to fully participate in all aspects of community life, while maintaining their independence and healthy lifestyle. This institution has also become a local economic engine, employing 90 percent of its staff from within the Queens community. The staff runs caregiver programs for frail elderly and homebound seniors, after school programs and camps for elementary and middle-school children, and a variety of educational, social, and recreational activities for active adults.

Over the past 30 years, Sunnyside Community Services Center has expanded its services even further to help meet the challenges faced by emerging immigrant and youth populations that reside in the area today. Their work has reached a significant number of residents of all backgrounds and ages and has allowed them to enjoy an enhanced and comfortable lifestyle.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of the Sunnyside Community Services Center, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize the organization's outstanding service and dedication in addressing the needs of the Western Queens community.

TRIBUTE TO LEXINGTON VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in honor of Veteran's Day; the day our nation sets aside to honor the sacrifice and service of the millions of Americans who risked their lives to protect our country and promote peace. These brave servicemen and women answered the call to defend freedom and serve our country during its time of greatest need. Now, during the month of November, we should repay our gratitude by honoring our commitment to veterans and their families.

As we stand here today and pledge to work for veterans throughout the nation, I am proud to celebrate a recent victory for the veterans of Central Kentucky. Over the last two years, our local veterans fought to keep the Leestown Drive facilities of our Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center open in the face of potential consolidation. Thanks to their commitment, the veterans of Central Kentucky will continue to benefit from the excellent medical services and the unique beauty of this facility.

The Lexington Veterans Affairs Medical Center is a nationally recognized health care center with a number of distinguished awards. Most recently, the facility received a $500,000 award for ''Best Overall Performance'' among VA hospitals in the MidSouth Healthcare Network, and received the first-ever John M. Eisenberg award for patient safety co-sponsored by the National Quality Foundation and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. I am proud that this hospital will continue to serve the community and provide our veterans with the quality service they deserve.

Veterans Day is a time to honor our nation's true patriots for their courage and commitment to this country. These men and women have protected our families over the years, and now it is our turn to take care of them. Let us renew our promise to our veterans and military retirees and honor the sacrifices they have made so that we may live free. As our troops

return home let's treat them with the respect they have earned and continue fighting for a guaranteed stream of benefits for all veterans.

HONORING C. STUART HUNT

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C. Stuart Hunt for his outstanding service, tireless dedication and fruitful endeavors for Western New York.

Mr. Hunt served on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc. from 1991 through 2004. Buffalo Place enjoyed phenomenal growth during his tenure as Chairman from 1994 to 1998. During that time, Buffalo Place Inc. went from a $1.8 million organization to a $3.2 million organization.

Beginning in 1997, under Mr. Hunt's leadership and direction, a strong emphasis was placed on increasing funding for special event production in Downtown Buffalo. The success of the Thursday at the Square concert series positively impacted the Downtown economy, representing $4.4 million annually.

Under Mr. Hunt's leadership, an annual weekend music festival on Buffalo's waterfront was conceived, Buffalo Place Rocks the Harbor. In addition, the Cars Sharing Main Street initiative became one of the top three priorities on the federal legislative agenda for Western New York.

In 1997, under Mr. Hunt's guidance, the Americorps Ranger Escort Program was launched and received federal funding until 2003 when it was eliminated. This important initiative continues today as the Buffalo Place Ranger Program. He also was involved in the Park N' Go Shuttle Program, converting major streets from one-way to two-way traffic and providing both on-street and off-street parking.

In his professional life, Mr. Hunt serves as Chairman of Hunt Commercial Real Estate, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hunt Real Estate, the largest commercial/residential real estate organization in Upstate New York.

With the purchase of the Brisbane Building in 1984, Stuart began a tireless restoration of this beautiful property. The building holds a special place in his heart, as his father, Charles Stanley Hunt, was a tenant in the Brisbane Building for almost 50 years. I'm proud that my district office is located at this historic site also.

Mr. Hunt's career spanned more than half a century. He is a consummate professional and gentleman. His work ethic and professionalism place him at the top of the list of the most well respected professional civic leaders of our time. His commitment to Downtown Buffalo has never wavered and future generations will benefit from and enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Mr. Hunt's college career was interrupted when he answered the call to serve his country. Mr. Hunt is a veteran of World War II and a 1947 graduate of Colgate University.

In addition to a successful civic and professional career, Stuart has enjoyed a wonderfully fulfilling personal life. On December 27, 1946, C. Stuart Hunt married the beautiful Jane Helfrich. They have enjoyed a full and rich life and were blessed with three sons and one daughter.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hunt touched the lives of so many Western New Yorkers and while he vacates his seat on the Board of Directors of Buffalo Place Inc., he will always remain a role model and mentor to the staff of Buffalo Place Inc. C. Stuart Hunt leaves a unique and indelible mark on Downtown Buffalo, as he will never be forgotten.

Thank you, Stuart, for your strong leadership, diligent effort and personal commitment to our community. Thanks also for your friendship.

RECOGNIZING GARRETT KENT, BRANNAN SMITH, NICHOLAS MANLEY, AND WILL WATTS

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the achievements of four outstanding young men from Griffin, Georgia: Garrett Kent, Brannan Smith, Nicholas Manley, and Will Watts of Griffin Christian Academy. These young men recently visited our Nation's Capital while working on their Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge for the Boy Scouts. During their trip they studied the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federal Government. They learned about our system of checks and balances and how our government is financed. In addition, each of these Scouts wrote to me to share their views on important national issues.

I am proud that these young men are learning about our government and the freedoms and principles on which our Nation was founded. I think we can all learn from the example of Garrett, Brannan, Nicholas and Will, and remember to learn about the great history of our Nation. I encourage everyone to read the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, or to come to the United States Capitol and walk through its storied halls. All Americans should be active citizens and be conscious of this magnificent creation, and our duty to serve it well. May God bless this great Nation.

RECOGNIZING WORK OF MR. PERLEY BEANE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Mr. Perley Beane, Maine's Director of Economic and Community Development, for more than 40 years in public service at the federal, state and local level.

A graduate of Waterville High School and Thomas College, Perley's first job was as a teacher in Jackman. After working as a business manager, Perley was appointed as the first director of the Waterville Public Housing Authority. He also served as director of the Maine Affordable Housing Alliance at the Department of Economic and Community Development before being appointed to his present position in Madison, Maine.

Perley has dedicated his life to bettering his community. He has served as a board member for such organizations as The Salvation Army, the Waterville Housing Authority, the Somerset County Jail Committee, the Somerset County Rural Housing Replacement Committee, the Somerset County Economic Development Corporation, the Waterville Zoning Board and the Kennebec Valley Community Action Program.

Though Perley's retirement is well deserved and begins a new and exciting chapter in his life, it also signifies that Maine is losing one of its most valued service providers. His dedication to the people of Maine has been a blessing for our State, and has improved the lives of countless Mainers. I am both honored and privileged to pay tribute to Perley for his hard work and commitment to the people of Maine. I offer my sincere appreciation on behalf of the entire State.

RECOGNIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF CADET STEVEN J. SARKEES TO CHIEF PETTY OFFICER, USNSCC

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, Steven J. Sarkees, on his appointment to Chief Petty Officer in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. While a high school senior in Grand Island, New York, Cadet Sarkees is a member of the Sullivans Division, Naval Sea Cadet Corps located in Buffalo, New York. Cadet Sarkees' appointment to Chief Petty Office is bestowed on less than one half of one percent of the ten thousand Naval Sea Cadets in the program, and is a reflection of his exceptional leadership skills and mastery of seamanship training.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established in 1958 in order to provide youth with a drug-free and gang-free environment where individuals between the ages of 11 and 17 could develop an appreciation for the United States' naval history, customs, traditions and its significant role in national defense. The goal of the Sea Cadet Corps is to encourage young people to develop an interest in basic seamanship and teach Cadets patriotism, courage, self-confidence and self-reliance. Chief Petty Officer is the highest level a Cadet can attain and reflects years of hard work and dedication.

Cadet Sarkees has developed into a mature leader, and is a fine example of what the Sea Cadet Corps strives to develop in young people. He has earned his appointment to Chief Petty Officer by completing a challenging course load, passing a leadership exam, completing 6 months time in rank, and attending 2 weeks of advanced training. Again, Cadet Sarkees is a positive role model to his fellow cadets, and exemplifies the best qualities of a patriotic American.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cadet Sarkees for his significant achievement as a member of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

TRIBUTE TO THE JOYCE H. WILLIAMS CENTER OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you about a wonderful organization in the Third Congressional District of Kansas that is celebrating its 25th anniversary of serving domestic violence victims in Kansas City, Kansas.

In 1979, I was the District Attorney in Johnson County, Kansas, and involved in helping that county provide domestic violence services to its citizens. At the same time, just to the north, community leaders in Kansas City, Kansas, in Wyandotte County, were coming together for the same purpose. In 1979, the Joyce H. Williams Center was incorporated, and began its services to the KCK community. I first learned of their efforts through working with their leaders in the Kansas City Metropolitan Coalition on Domestic Violence. The Joyce H. Williams Center was begun by the Yates Branch of the YWCA. A few years later, when the Yates Branch YWCA branch closed, the Joyce Williams Center and most of the YWCA services continued under the sponsorship of Friends of Yates, Inc.

Twenty five years later, the Joyce Williams Center continues to provide hope and help to women and children in abusive situations. The center has helped hundreds of families over the last 25 years. Today, their services include a hotline for victims to call, counseling, case management, substance abuse assistance, and a transitional living shelter.

I know my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the staff, board of directors, and community volunteers of the Joyce H. Williams Center on this anniversary of their founding. I know they will continue to serve their community for many years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN TONY TORRES

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Torres for his thirty years of service in the City of Phoenix Fire Department.

Mr. Torres was born in Phoenix and attended Phoenix College, where his is currently a member of the adjunct faculty. He served our nation in Vietnam, and is a member of American Legion Post 41.

Mr. Torres joined the City of Phoenix Fire Department in 1975 and retired this year as a Captain in the Fire Operations Division. From 1999 until his retirement, he held the position of Public Information Officer and earned various departmental awards. He is also a recipient of the Department of Public Safety Citizens Life Saving Award.

Mr. Torres' service to the community extends beyond his career as a fire fighter. He has worked with numerous neighborhood activist organizations, as well as with the Mayor and City Council members, in order to improve the safety of all valley neighborhoods. He is also a past vice president of the Valley Hispanic Bomberos and was an active member of the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Union.

Mr. Torres currently lives in North Phoenix with his wife of 25 years, Susan. On behalf of the Phoenix community, I thank him for his many years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5218, MATT'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN ACT OF 2004

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 5218, Matt's Health Insurance Plan Act of 2004, which I introduced last month. This bill has a very personal meaning to me, and I believe it is integral to solving America's health care crisis.

Today in this country, over 40 million Americans live without health coverage. These Americans are people just like you and me. Citizens who work full-time jobs where no health care is offered. Parents who work two and three part-time jobs just to feed their children and provide a safe place to live. Entire families where values like hard work and responsibility mean something, but where no member of that family can find full-time work with full benefits in a struggling economy.

Americans who don't have health coverage too often don't have access to health care. In a day and age when morals dominate the political landscape of this country, how can we remain indifferent to the millions of Americans who can't receive the care they need? This is the biggest moral problem our country has. It's time we fixed it.

Let me tell you why this is so important to me. Three decades ago, when I was an attorney in St. Louis, my two year old son Matt was diagnosed with what they said was terminal cancer. My wife Jane and I were told he probably wouldn't last six weeks.

In the end, we were among the most fortunate in more ways than one. My law firm had a health plan, and it was the only way we could afford the new and experimental therapies. That insurance plan, the talented doctors and nurses, and the grace of God saved Matt's life.

But I remember the nights we spent in the hospital waiting room talking to the parents of another patient—a child with severe cancer from a family who couldn't afford health insurance. Those parents didn't know what to do. All they could do was pray. As long as I live, I will never forget the terror in their eyes. In this country, it should never be this way.

Matt's Plan, named after my son, is my vision for how we can cover everyone in America with health insurance—with no new bureaucracy and no nationalized plan. This is more than just a health care plan. It's also an economic stimulus plan designed to create jobs and get this economy moving again.

The plan is essentially this: we pass a law requiring every employer to provide access to quality coverage, with employer tax credits covering most of the cost.

Today, an employer can take a tax deduction that would cover about 30 percent of the cost of health insurance. But that deduction is effectively worthless when a company is struggling and losing money in this economy.

There are also far too many employers who fail to provide health insurance because the tax deduction doesn't come close to covering the cost of the insurance premiums. As a result, millions of families are left without health insurance.

My plan would change that. Employers who don't currently offer health insurance would be required to offer a quality health plan, and they'd receive a refundable tax credit equaling 60 percent of the full cost of the premium. A tax credit they'd pass through completely to their employees in the form of health insurance. Employers would only be responsible for 60 percent of the full cost of the premium and would not be required to contribute to the cost of health coverage beyond the nominal administrative cost of providing health insurance coverage. Employees would not be required to pay more than 40 percent of the premium cost.

And for those employers who currently do offer health insurance, my plan replaces the existing tax deduction with a 60 percent refundable tax credit—a tax credit on the employer's share of the premium, which puts more money directly into the business that has been doing the right thing. 'Refundable' means the employer will receive the credit, regardless of whether they're making a profit.

This health care plan leaves no American on their own. The 60 percent tax credit would apply to part-time employees. It would apply to retiree health benefits paid by former employers. It would apply to the self-employed. And state and local governments would receive federal assistance equal to 60 percent of their health care costs.

My plan would allow individuals between the ages of 55 and 64 to buy into Medicare coverage at no cost to the federal government. It would subsidize 65 percent of the cost of COBRA health insurance for the unemployed. It would subsidize low-wage workers who are below or near the poverty line who can't afford their share of the premium. And it would modify the SCRIP Program for uninsured low income children, expanding it to include their parents, and expanding efforts to find those families who qualify.

Under my plan, employers who already offer health insurance would see an immediate reduction in their overhead. The economic stimulus would result in billions of dollars in increased wages and benefits, more money in the pockets of the average family, and more jobs. And the result of adding millions of Americans to the ranks of the insured means more preventive care, far fewer trips to the emergency room, and lower health care costs for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced this bill so that Matt's Plan will become part of the public record on the health care debate. I hope that as Congress continues to deal with the health care problem in America, someone will reintroduce this bill and develop this plan further.

To me, this plan is a bold, innovative idea that can work—an idea that can bridge a canyon of fear and illness and cover everyone in America with health insurance, and jump start the economy at the same time. It's morally

right and economically sensible. Healthy workers are productive workers. And healthy families make for a stronger America.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. GLENN AND MRS. LYDIA HUNDERTMARK IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: NOVEMBER 6, 2004

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker I rise today in honor and recognition of Glenn and Lydia Hundertmark, as they celebrate 50 years of devotion to each other, to their family and to their extended family and many close friends. This unbreakable union represents a deep and abiding love, not only for each other, but also for their children, grandchildren and for their community.

Glenn Hundertmark and Lydia Nikishin met in the early 1950s while working at the Pick-n-Pay grocery store at Fulton and Memphis. Glenn left to serve our country during the Korean War in the United States Navy as an Aviation Mechanic. When Glenn returned home, he and Lydia dated, fell in love and became engaged in 1954. On November 6, 1954 they were married at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church by Reverend Herbert Blickensderfer.

Glenn worked for Cleveland Twist Drill Co. and American Steel and Wire until he became a fireman for the city of Cleveland in 1961. He worked in various fire stations over the years as a Lieutenant, then as Captain, until retiring in 1984. Lydia worked at Associates Finance Co. before they started their family in 1955. Being a full-time mom to Lynn, Ruth, Paul and Kathryn quickly became the main focus and joy of Lydia's life.

Together, Glenn and Lydia created memorable holiday celebrations. Every Christmas morning, their children would wake up to a beautiful tree and gifts that they built. Lydia would sew Halloween costumes, and Glenn made carving a pumpkin an art form. Birthdays were special days with favorite meals being served and grandparents, aunts and uncles joining the party. Their young family played board games, went on picnics and hikes and went for boat rides on the "Busy Liz." Glenn and Lee took their family on a variety of vacations each year from camping and fishing trips, to the trip of a lifetime traveling out west for a month in 1973. The beloved Rustic Rest in Vermilion holds cherished memories that began with Glenn's childhood and has continued throughout his grandchildren's lives.

Glenn and Lydia taught their children the value of tradition by sharing stories and keepsakes of their ancestors—giving them a clear understanding and appreciation of their German, Russian and Ukrainian heritage. The family baptismal gown was sewn in 1911 by Glenn's grandmother Ida Christianer, and has been worn by every newborn baby since. The Santa Claus suit that was made by Gordon and Ruth Hundertmark in 1960 thrilled their children and grandchildren when Santa Claus visited them every Christmas. On Easter, you will still hear Mildred and George Nikishin's blessing: "Christos Voskres; Voyistino Voskres," being spoken, while Millie's tradition of homemade Paska bread is shared by all.

As much as Glenn and Lydia love their family, they also love their friends. Glenn's fellow firemen and their families, and the families of the Orchard Avenue neighborhood, became like second families to the Hundertmark's. There was always a neighborhood picnic or party planned, ending with everyone being thrown in their neighbor's pool. They had Halloween parties, Christmas parties, and 35 Dance Club parties. They vacationed together in large groups, taking the party on the road. Lifelong friendships were formed.

Throughout their lives, Glenn and Lydia have volunteered their time and talents within their community. Their dedication to helping others is evidenced at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, homeless shelters and in causes including Cerebral Palsy and Habitat for Humanity. In their spare time, they could always be found at their grandchildren's sporting events, choir concerts and award nights.

Their great joy for life radiates throughout every aspect of their lives. Glenn and Lee are fabulous dancers, they are animal lovers, they have traveled all over the world—they are can-do people who have always been there for everyone. Lydia has nursed her adult children back to health, proving you will always need your mother. She is famous for her exceptional potato salad—and a picnic wouldn't be a picnic without it! Glenn has an unbelievable memory and tells wonderful, colorful stories. They have an extensive collection of slides capturing their life's story.

Glenn and Lydia were faithful children to their parents—George, Mildred, Gordon and Ruth—who are no longer with us, but are here today in spirit. They are parents, grandparents, a brother, a sister, a mother and father-in-law, a brother and sister in-law, an aunt and uncle, cousins, a friend—and together, they are surely one. Their legacy will be one of dedication to their family, to their church, to their community, and their devoted faithful service to the Lord.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Glenn and Lydia Hundertmark, as we join them in celebration of this momentous occasion—their 50th wedding anniversary. Glenn and Lydia Hundertmark continue to inspire us to understand our past, to follow our dreams, to give back to our community, and to hold family closest to our hearts.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY SAFE SCHOOL TASK FORCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Liberty Safe School Task Force. The Liberty Safe School Task Force is a group of about 35 dedicated citizens, who work closely with the United States Attorney's Office, the Kansas City office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Liberty Police Department, the Missouri State Patrol, and Liberty Hospital to increase public awareness of the important issues facing our children today. One example of a successful past initiative organized by the Task Force was the "Buckle Up" campaign, which encouraged safety belt use. Without the Task Force, "Buckle Up" and countless other lasting and effective child safety oriented community initiatives would have been impossible.

The success of the Liberty Safe School Task Force has been so dramatic, that the program is now being used as a model for other schools. I am confident that thanks to the Safe School Task Force, Liberty's children will be better prepared to address difficult and complex issues as the future leaders of our communities, state, and nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the Liberty Safe School Task Force. This group of fine citizens has demonstrated a truly outstanding commitment to the safety of Liberty's children, and I am proud to call them constituents of Missouri's Sixth District.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JEWELL DUVALL

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jewell Duvall has provided outstanding service and contributions to the House community during her tenure in the office of the Chief Administrative Officer; and

Whereas, Jewell Duvall provided support to not only the CAO, but also to Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, other House officers, Member and Committee offices, and the general public; and

Whereas, Jewell Duvall has worked diligently during her time in Washington, D.C., to serve the individuals with respect and a sense of priority; and

Whereas, Jewell Duvall provided extensive administrative support to the Incident Commander during the September 11th and anthrax crises of 2001; and

Whereas, Jewell Duvall was a valuable asset to the House of Representatives community and the general public.

Therefore, I join with members of Congress and their staff in recognizing Jewell Duvall for her exceptional work and immense contributions, and wish her the very best during her retirement.

RECOGNIZING JOHN R. BLACKBURN, JR.

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John R. Blackburn, Jr. upon his retirement from the Board of Directors of UPMC Bedford Memorial. His presence on the board, which has become a symbol of security and stability, will be sorely missed.

As a life-long resident of Bedford County, Mr. Blackburn has connected with citizens in the area in a way that few are able. Since 1955, Mr. Blackburn has worked diligently to make positive changes throughout the hospital so that the area's health care would improve.

In the nearly fifty years that Mr. Blackburn has had a significant hand in the hospital's operations, Bedford Memorial has become a driving force of health care in Bedford County.

Mr. Blackburn has served this nation honorably, touching the lives of every American citizen through his service in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Having taken the reigns as a strong leader since his youth, he has been a pillar of strength within his community, and his ceaseless dedication to the health care system is unparalleled. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration, and the impact he has had is immeasurable.

For his incomparable generosity, service to the Bedford Memorial Hospital, and unabated commitment to excellence, John Blackburn, Jr. deserves the highest recognition. He has demonstrated enthusiasm and care for the county which he has served, and his spirit and dedication have infiltrated his every action. The legacy he has created is one that every American should emulate, and his contributions will not go unnoticed by the business for which he worked nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Mr. Blackburn on his many accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID N. MESCHES

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Dr. David N. Mesches. Since 1961, Dr. Mesches has provided outstanding medical care to the residents of Ulster County and he has worked tirelessly to improve the delivery of health care services not only in Ulster County, but also throughout the Hudson Valley. I am pleased to join the health care community, his family and his friends in honoring Dr. Mesches for his outstanding career.

During his four decades of practice in Ulster County, Dr. Mesches has served as Captain in the United States Air Force at Stewart Air Force Base, providing care to servicemen and their families; operated a private practice while serving as Director of the Student Health Center at SUNY New Paltz; served as Director of the Mid-Hudson Rural Family Practice Residency Training Program; and currently, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute.

Dr. Mesches' membership in a number of medical and scientific societies and committees is a testament to his dedication and desire to provide citizens with the best possible healthcare available. In fact, in his current role as the President and CEO of the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute, Dr. Mesches has increased access to healthcare for the under-insured and uninsured residents of the Hudson Valley by forging strong alliances. Through his efforts, regional health care agencies have begun to work collaboratively to build a seamless, integrated healthcare delivery system that will effectively be able to identify and address the needs of the most at risk member of our community.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr. Mesches has participated in numerous community activities including, serving as the Chairman of the Ulster County and New Paltz Planning Boards and Ulster County Planned Parenthood, and serving on the Board of Directors of Patterns for Progress, Mid-Hudson Savings Bank, First Union Bank, and Atlantic States Mortgage Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. David Mesches. His commitment to improving the lives of people around him has yielded a distinguished record of service and has made Ulster County and much of the Hudson Valley a better, healthier place to live.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity of visiting Taiwan, the Republic of China and I was very impressed with what I saw. Taiwan has clearly grown to be a modern democracy and its people are well educated and prosperous. The people whom I talked to were all friendly toward us and supportive of our global war against terrorism.

In fact, I was most impressed with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. This young statesman was reelected president of the Republic of China last March and was inaugurated on May 20. In my conversation with him, he said again and again that he is seeking a genuine dialogue with the leaders of the People's Republic of China. He said Taiwan does not seek confrontation but a friendly dialogue with mainland China leading to talks on all issues. President Chen would like to see more cooperation and less confrontation in dealing with mainland China leaders. In addition to its "relationship" with mainland China, President Chen considers Taiwan's relations with the U.S. a matter of utmost importance and he would like to see further strengthening of this relationship. I personally believe that Taiwanese people are truly lucky to have President Chen as their leader for the next four years.

I am delighted that Taiwan is now ably represented in Washington by its young and energetic ambassador, Dr. David Lee. Ambassador Lee knows Washington well and he will most certainly strengthen the ever-growing bonds between Taipei and Washington. Taiwan and the United States,. I wish to assure both President Chen and Ambassador Lee, have always stood together shoulder to shoulder and will always remain strong partners in maintaining peace and stability.

I had a good visit to Taiwan and I hope my colleagues and my fellow countrymen will follow my steps in visiting this beautiful island of freedom and prosperity soon and often.

IN HONOR OF JULIE PACKARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Julie E. Packard, the Executive Director and Vice Chairman of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation's Board of Trustees and the recipient of the Ted Danson Ocean Hero Award. The award is given annually, in recognition of the recipient's strong commitment toward protection and restoration of the marine environment. Ms. Packard is a woman of principle and conviction. She has worked tirelessly to protect and preserve our delicate ocean ecology.

On October 20, 1984, Ms. Packard was instrumental in opening the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Today, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation is a $124 million institution and has consistently drawn 2 million people to its exhibits each year. It and its sister institution, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, are some of the finest marine life and ocean science research institutions in the United States. She has been its Executive Director since it opened.

Ms. Packard was born in Los Altos, California. She is one of four children, along with a brother, David, and sisters, Susan and Nancy. She went on to earn a masters degree in biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Julie is married to Robert Stephens. Together they are raising wonderful twin daughters.

Through her involvements, Julie has inspired and educated many about the wonders of our oceans and the environment of Monterey Bay and the central coast. She has been instrumental in making the schools of Monterey Bay some of the finest on the central coast, making it possible for future generations of students to nourish a passion for the ocean as strong as hers.

Ms. Packard has been a board member of numerous organizations and committees, including the California Nature Conservancy, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She was also a member of the Pew Oceans Commission in 2003, which issued recommendations for a comprehensive overhaul of national ocean policy. Ms. Packard has also received numerous awards. Perhaps one of the milestones of Julie's life and work with the oceans is when she received the Audubon Medal for Conservation in 1998, one of the premier recognitions given to those in this field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the many accomplishments of my friend Julie E. Packard and express sincere gratitude for her accomplishments and contributions to our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICK HANSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rick Hanson, a strong-willed individual

who has persevered through near insurmountable physical challenges and provides inspiration to his fellow citizens. I am proud to stand here with my colleagues before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his triumph of will, and strength of conviction.

During Rick's early teens, it was discovered he had a brain tumor. Rick's condition continued to worsen, and doctors and family members feared he would not pull through. Eventually, Rick was diagnosed with a rare condition of adrenal insufficiency, and his hormone and hydrocortisone treatments have helped him finally turn the corner. After twenty-five years of illness, at age forty-three, Rick on the road to recovery, is taking therapeutic horseback riding lessons, a pastime that he enjoyed as a child growing up in Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Hanson's unrelenting will and sheer determination has helped him to stave off illness in the face of the gravest of circumstances. His story of improvement is an inspiration to us all, and I am honored by the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. (MIKE) HENRY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John M. (Mike) Henry who is retiring after a long and distinguished career of public service. A dedicated and selfless individual, Mike has served as County Coordinator for Berrien County for the past sixteen years. During his tenure, Mike assisted the citizens of Southwest Michigan in a number of capacities, all with great distinction.

Since 1988, Mike's contributions to our community have been tremendous. He has consistently received accolades and recognition for his inspired work. During his time as County Coordinator, Mike crafted, managed and executed budgets exceeding $2 billion, had the unique ability to manage large sums of public funds—always meeting the highest level of auditing standards, and exhibited great competence and success in working with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

In addition to his remarkable service to Berrien County, Mike also served his country with great distinction. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, including two tours in Vietnam, flying attack helicopters. During his extraordinary years of service, Mike was awarded with, among others, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Our community is in debt to Mike for his continued public service since 1988. I wish him and his family all the best in retirement. His service will be truly missed by the folks in Southwest Michigan.

A TRIBUTE TO IRIS S. CHANG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Iris Chang, a courageous historian, author and champion of Asian and Asian American history, human rights and historical redress. During her brief yet remarkable professional career, Iris touched the lives of countless people, shedding light on past injustices and atrocities that had been forgotten or ignored. In her personal life, she was a loving wife and mother, a close friend and an inspiration to many. Iris is survived by her husband, Dr. Brett Douglas, her son, Christopher Douglas, her parents, Shau-Jin and Ying-Ying Chang, and her brother, Michael Chang.

Iris Shun-Ru Chang was born on March 28, 1968 in Princeton, New Jersey. She studied journalism at the University of Illinois, and received her Master's in Science Writing from Johns Hopkins University. While at Johns Hopkins, Iris was commissioned to research the life of Tsien Hsue-Shen, a Chinese American scientist who was deported to China during the Communist scare of the 1960s and subsequently founded China's ballistics program. Her research led to her critically acclaimed debut, The Thread of the Silkworm, which addressed the paranoia and racism of the McCarthy era.

As a historian and an activist, Iris fought passionately for historical justice and reconciliation. Her book, The Rape of Nanking, chronicled the horrific capture of Nanking during Japan's invasion of China in 1937, and was instrumental in educating the international community about Japanese military atrocities during World War II—human rights violations that had gone unwritten and unacknowledged for decades. Her efforts to seek redress for the crimes at Nanking brought her in conflict with the Japanese government and communities worldwide, but Iris was unwavering in her commitment to justice and truth.

In addition to her books, which decried social and historical injustices against the Asian and Asian American communities in the United States and internationally, Iris was also a member of the Committee of 100, a national nonpartisan organization of Chinese-American leaders who work to address issues important to the Chinese-American community. For her work, she earned the Peace and International Cooperation Award from John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and was named "Woman of the Year" by the Organization of Chinese-American Women.

Iris will be remembered for her work and service to the community. Certainly, the millions of people whom she touched through her writings and her activism will not forget the moral vision she brought on past injustices to the international community and the public impact of her work in promoting peace between peoples of differing races and backgrounds. Her fierce pride of her Chinese-American heritage empowered others with the certainty that they were truly Americans despite their ancestry. Our community has lost a role model and close friend; the world has lost one of its finest and most passionate advocates of social and historical justice.

ASSISTING THE PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN DARFUR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan continues to be an issue of high concern to the American people. According to United Nations and U.S. officials, the situation in Darfur is the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world.

Out of a population of 7 million people, 1.2 million are internally displaced, 200,000 have been forced into exile, and an estimated 70,000 civilians have been killed. The crisis necessitates not only financial assistance, but also that of a military and logistical nature. A November 17, 2004 editorial in the Washington Post spoke to the current state of the Darfurian peacekeeping effort.

Despite widespread condemnation by the international community regarding the Darfur genocide, few in the West have been willing to offer troops or logistics to the peacekeeping effort. The African Union has attempted to fill the void through its seven hundred man observer force. However, the AU force is severely undermanned and underfunded.

The AU asserts it will need $80 million just to sustain a force of 3,000 for one year. Many experts believe that an additional 30,000 to 60,000 troops will be needed to adequately secure the Darfur region. This is in addition to the need for logistical support and increased provision of military vehicles and aircraft.

The AU will no doubt need assistance in such an endeavor. America, as the greatest military power in the world, should not allow this deficiency to continue. Indeed, the U.S. currently has a contingent of 2,500 troops in nearby Djibouti, from which it can initially draw. The U.S. military airlifted several hundred African soldiers from Nigeria and Rwanda into Darfur last month, but this represents the only major U.S. logistical operation to date.

More can and must be done by the U.S. in providing military and logistic resources for the Darfur peacekeeping effort. The Administration has long cited the liberty and freedom of the Iraqi people as a rationale for its military commitment in that country. I know we all agree that the people of Darfur deserve the same, so I am hopeful that progress can be made on this important issue.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2004]

DIPLOMACY AND DARFUR

A full arsenal of diplomatic tricks has been tried on behalf of Darfur, the western province of Sudan where the government is orchestrating genocide. A number of A-list statesmen—Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, U.N. Secretary, General Kofi Annan—have journeyed to Sudan to demand an end to the killing; still the genocide continues. Cease-fires, undertakings and protocols have been negotiated and signed; still the genocide continues. Two U.N. Security Council resolutions have condemned the government's behavior; still the genocide continues. Tomorrow and Friday, in a triumph of hope over experience, the Security Council will convene an extraordinary session in Kenya, hoping to shine the spotlight on Sudan's suffering. But unless the council members

stiffen their rhetoric with sanctions, they will spotlight their own impotence.

Sudan's pragmatic dictatorship has bowed in the past to determined external pressure. It expelled Osama bin Laden and negotiated an end to its long-running war with rebels in the south, both thanks to the threat of sanctions. But Sudan's rulers do not make concessions if they don't have to do so, and they believe they can exterminate tens of thousands of people in Darfur and get away with it. When outsiders wax especially indignant, the junta signs another protocol and makes a tactical concession. But its strategy remains unchanged: to cement control over Durfur by decimating the tribes that back various local rebels.

The first phony concession came in April. Sudan's government signed on to a cease-fire promising to ''refrain from any act of violence or any other abuse on civilian populations.'' Since then the government has participated in unprovoked assaults on villages, murdering men, raping women and tossing children into flames that consume their huts. In July Sudan's rulers signed a communique with Mr. Annan, promising to ''ensure that no militias are present in all areas surrounding Internally Displaced Persons camps.'' Since then militias have continued to encircle the camps, raping women and girls who venture out in search of firewood. In August Sudan's government promised Jan Pronk, Mr. Annan's envoy, to provide a list of militia leaders. No list has been forthcoming. Last week, in a concession that perhaps reflected nervousness about the approaching Security Council meeting in Kenya, the government signed two new protocols, committing itself among other things to protect the rights of Internally Displaced Persons.'' A few hours later, government forces stormed a camp for displaced people.

In sum, the considered judgment of Sudan's rulers is that they can flout international commitments with impunity. Unless that judgment can be changed, the Security Council session in Kenya will not achieve anything. Sudan's dictatorship must be credibly threatened with sanctions that target officials responsible for war crimes, and these officials must also be made to face the possibility of prosecution. Beyond that, outsiders need to recognize that there is little prospect of security for Darfur's people—and therefore little prospect of a return to destroyed villages, a resumption of agricultural production and an escape from starvation—without a serious peacekeeping force. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, the U.N. commander in Rwanda during the genocide a decade ago, has suggested that a force of 44,000 is needed. Charles R. Snyder, the senior State Department official on Sudan, has estimated that securing Darfur would take 60 to 70 battalions.

More than a year and a half into Darfur's genocide, the United States and its allies have proved unwilling to consider that kind of commitment. They have moved at a snail's pace to support a 3,500-strong African Union force, which in any case would be inadequate; the record of deploying underpowered peacekeepers in war zones is that the peacekeepers get humiliated. The allies are starting to discuss another U.N. resolution, but this seems likely yet again to lack a real threat of sanctions. Up to a point, this is understandable: Security Council members such as China are opposed to strong action, and the United States is conserving limited military and diplomatic resources for Iraq and the war on terrorism. But Darfur's crisis is so awful that the usual balancing of national priorities is immoral. Some 300,000 people may have died in Darfur so far, and the dying is not yet finished.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. SOLOMON EADDY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Rev. Dr. Solomon Eaddy, Pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Timmonsville, South Carolina; and Elizabeth Baptist Church of Florence, South Carolina. And join with his congregations and community in wishing him well as he celebrates his 40th anniversary as pastor of Mount Carmel on December 4th.

Rev. Dr. Eaddy has made service to the church and his community a cornerstone of his life. He began his formal higher education at Morris College in Sumter, South Carolina from which he received a Bachelor of Theology. Later, he would receive an Honorary Doctorate from this same school. He also earned a Bachelor of Divinity at Morris College. He attended the Moody Bible Institute, and completed additional studies at Florence Darlington Technical College and McLeod Regional Medical Center.

As a young man, Rev. Dr. Eaddy was one of the first black policemen in the City of Florence, South Carolina. He served in that capacity for 15 years. It was during his tenure as a policeman that he founded the Boys Club of Florence that still thrives today. He also served for five years in the United States Navy as a Petty Officer, First Class. Rev. Dr. Eaddy's first church calling was as pastor of the Mount Tabor Baptist Church in Evergreen, South Carolina. He served at Mount Tabor for four years before being called to Elizabeth Baptist Church and Mount Carmel Baptist Church, both of which he still serves today. As Pastor of Elizabeth Baptist he has worked to rebuild the sanctuary and remodel the education building and fellowship hall. During this period, he worked with the young members of the congregation to organize a Junior Missionary Society.

Mount Carmel also saw remodeling and innovation under the pastoral guidance of the Rev. Dr. Eaddy. Here, too, he remodeled the church sanctuary. He also led in establishing a Sunday School Choir and a Junior Choir. Rev. Dr. Eaddy also established a Baptist Teaching Union not only at Mount Carmel, but also at Elizabeth and Mount Tabor Baptist Churches.

Rev. Dr. Eaddy has been honored with the South Carolina House of Representatives Service Award for 35 years of pastoral care in the Pee Dee area. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge #381 and an Eastern Star Brother. He also maintains membership in the Mutual Aide Lodge #5, where he once served as President and is now a Noble Father. He is also the moderator of the New Hope Union.

Rev. Dr. Eaddy is married to and shares his church service with Mrs. Susanna Law Eaddy. They have four children, and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me and my fellow South Carolinians in honoring Rev. Dr. Solomon Eaddy for a lifetime of dedicated service to God and country.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR. LEAH GASKIN FITCHUE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of the Reverend Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue.

Dr. Fitchue is the first woman to serve as President of Payne Theological Seminary, a 160 year old institution sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is the first African American woman president of the 244 Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the first woman to serve as president of any historically black theological seminary.

As Dr. Fitchue is inaugurated, I am pleased that all her efforts have led to this most deserving position. It was my pleasure to know this promising young woman when she was an outstanding student at South Side High School (currently Malcolm X. Shabazz) in Newark, New Jersey where I served as faculty member. Dr. Fitchue was active in community and civic organizations and among her achievements was placing 15st in the NAACP Youth Council's Annual Oratorical Contest. Over the years, Dr. Fitchue has returned to Newark to visit her mother and to participate in various community events. We still count her as a Newarker.

A published author and a poet, Dr. Fitchue holds degrees from Rutgers University, the University of Michigan, Princeton Theological Seminary and Harvard University. Her motto for Payne Theological Seminary, ''So High A Mission, So Holy A Calling'' taken from founder Daniel Alexander Payne, depicts an ethos that centers on educating leaders in African American Studies, Biblical Studies, Historical Studies, Theological Studies, Practical Ministry and Supervised Ministry.

Dr. Fitchue's civic, community, professional and social affiliations include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Founding Board member of New Jersey Coalition of 100 Black Women; Links, Inc.; Minority Arts Resource Council (MARC); Christian Community Development Association (CCDA); Sojourners; Call to Renewal; Association of Urban Theological Education and Ministry (AUTEM); Board of Regents for Northwest Graduate School of Ministry and International Urban Associates; American Academy of Religion and the Society for the Study of Black Religion.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues will agree that Dr. Fitchue's historical election was well deserved and that she will serve Payne Theological Seminary well as its President.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE WILLIAMS, THE BUCKHANNON BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Valerie Williams, the Buckhannon

Business and Professional Woman of the Year, and to proclaim October 18–22, 2004 National Businesswomen's Week.

Working women now number 62.7 million strong in America's workforce and strive to serve their communities, their states, and their nation in professional, civic and cultural capacities. In particular, I acknowledge the significant contributions of the Business and Professional Women of Buckhannon, West Virginia, to their city, state, and nation.

Women-owned businesses account for over one-third of all firms in the country and employ one in four American workers. Major goals of business and professional women are to promote equality for all women and to help create better conditions for businesswomen through the study of social, educational, economic, and political problems.

All of us are proud of women's leadership in these many endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Valerie Williams as Buckhannon Business and Professional Woman of the Year and in proclaiming October 18–22 National Businesswomen's Week.

IN HONOR OF THE PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Presidio of Monterey and its historic status for our nation, and for the State of California. This month the Sons of the American Revolution will be honoring the Presidios of San Diego, Monterey, Santa Barbara and San Francisco as historical sites for their role in the American Revolution.

Indeed, many of our fellow citizens are unaware of the role of Spain in our founding as a new nation, but it was an important part of the global politics of the time. On June 21, 1779, King Carlos III declared war on England in support of the American colonies, a declaration that affected not only the Iberian Peninsula, but also the Spanish colonies in the New World. Monterey was one such colony.

In order to assist the militias and people of the united colonies, King Carlos requested that all citizens and residents of Alta California donate money to the struggle. These donations, when gathered together by Father Junipero Serra, totaled 2,683 Spanish silver dollars, a sizable amount that no doubt greatly assisted the funding and financing of this new nation. Besides the local assistance provided by the residents of the Presidio and surrounding missions, Spain's contributions to the fight for independence were of vital importance in bringing about the eventual defeat of the British army and the Treaty of Paris.

Mr. Speaker, most of my constituents already know the Presidio of Monterey well, because it is still an operating military base today. While the fact that it is still a major training center for today's military may mask its historical importance overall, it is recognition such as this month's presentation by the Sons of the American Revolution that keep that history alive. I commend them for their work in highlighting this important institution, and thank them for continuing to remind us of how important our national history is to us all.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KEN REYHER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ken Reyher, colorful storyteller, author, and performer from Olathe, Colorado who educates his fellow citizens about the history of the America's beginnings in the West. Ken is an excellent teacher who stimulates his listeners interest in our Nation's history, and it is my privilege in recognizing his service and passion for history before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Ken is an avid historian, and former schoolteacher who reenacts the Western lifestyle by hiking the old trapper trails in authentic clothing from the 1830's. He shares his experiences and understanding of Western Colorado in a couple of performances every month, including using his own cowboy poetry and costumes. Additionally, Ken has published several books and magazine articles on the subject. Growing up on a cattle ranch in Southeast Colorado as a kid, Ken has always had a passion for the West and believes that it is important that history is passed on from generation to generation.

Mr. Speaker, Ken Reyher is a man who has developed his passion into a wonderful learning tool for children and adults of all ages that yearn to discover the mysteries of the American West. I am honored to recognize such a dedicated teacher and storyteller before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your passion and your service to Colorado, Ken, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

VALIANT HEROES

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, as we come together as a nation to celebrate Veteran's Day, I would like to honor two American patriots who are receiving long-overdue medals commemorating their service to our country. The sacrifices that these heroes made to protect our country and defend freedom will never be forgotten.

Mr. David Matthew Bielski, a Vietnam War veteran from Kalamazoo, Michigan, has been awarded with the Silver Star and the Army Commendation Medal. From April 25th to April 26th, 1968, in the A Shau Valley of Vietnam, David gallantly fought enemy soldiers, and located trapped and wounded American troops. During his service, David was wounded three times, which he received the Purple Heart. In addition to these two high honors, David has also been awarded with the Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Bronze Service Stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Miland W. Bills, a World War II veteran from Kalamazoo, Michigan, has been awarded with the POW Medal. During his service to our country, Miland was a POW in Germany from December 31, 1943 to May 3, 1945. In addition to the POW Medal, Miland has also received the Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, World War II Victory Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button, WWII.

The sacrifices that these two individuals gave to our country are immeasurable—they both answered their country's call to serve with great honor. I wish I could have been present to celebrate these awards with both Mr. Bielski and Mr. Bills. However, on behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, I would like to extend my greatest wishes and tribute to these valiant heroes.

COMMEMORATING JUDGE WILLIAM M. MARUTANI

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of the Honorable William M. Marutani, who recently passed away at the age of 81. He will be fondly remembered for his contributions to civil rights and social justice issues, and for his tenure as a distinguished Judge. I am honored to stand before Congress to recognize his significant accomplishments.

During World War II, Judge Marutani and his family were among the numerous U.S. civilians of Japanese descent who were wrongfully forced into internment camps in 1942. Following his incarceration, he and his two younger brothers served on the U.S. Military Intelligence Service.

In the landmark case Loving vs. Virginia (1967), Judge Marutani became the first Japanese American to argue before the U.S. Supreme Court. Representing the Japanese American Citizens League as an amicus curiae petitioner, Judge Marutani urged the reversal of the anti-miscegenation laws in 17 states. As a result of Loving vs. Virginia, the 17 states were forced to reverse their laws, and interracial marriages became legal.

Judge Marutani was a practicing attorney in Philadelphia until his appointment as a Judge on the Common Court of Pleas. He was appointed by Governor Milton Jerrold Shapp of Pennsylvania in 1975, and was elected for a full ten year term in 1977. He served as the first Pennsylvania Judge of Asian American descent.

In 1981, Judge Marutani served as a Presidential appointee and sole Japanese American commissioner on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. The Commission's recommendation prompted Congress to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which issued a formal apology as well as symbolic payments to surviving individuals incarcerated during the war. In this victory and throughout his career, Judge Marutani was instrumental in fighting for the civil rights of Japanese Americans.

Earlier this year, the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley commissioned a portrait of Judge Marutani, which is displayed in Philadelphia's City Hall. This honor was conferred for his dedication to the Asian American legal community, ensuring that its voice was heard and well-represented.

Judge Marutani's passion for human rights and the advancement of social equality in our

nation will not be forgotten. As a proud advocate of civil rights, he serves as a role model to the local and national communities on whose behalf he selflessly served. I am honored to pay tribute to his distinguished life of dedication, kindness, generosity, and wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Judge Marutani's family and friends. Please join me in honoring Judge William Marutani, a truly exceptional individual who dedicated his life to the service of others.

FULL CIRCLE: TURNING LIVES AROUND

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the work of the Full Circle Life Enrichment Center (FCLEC) located in the Bronx, New York.

Founded in 1999 by Derek Suite, MD, the FCLEC serves as a non-profit faith-based community mental health education and training center. The center is dedicated to destigmatizing attitudes towards mental health problems, increasing access to mental healthcare and helping to empower families that deal with life's challenges. Problems such as depression, anxiety, unemployment, domestic violence, trauma, marital conflict, drug use, HIV/AIDS, asthma, diabetes, racial disparities, homelessness, and unemployment have become steadily more pressing over the past decade. This organization has contributed valuable resources to the Bronx community and has set an exceptional example of service.

Full Circle has again and again demonstrated its commitment to compassion by offering over 50 workshops in 2003 that addressed some of the most troubling trends in urban communities such as the rise in depression, domestic violence, marital conflict, drug use, HIV/AIDS, asthma, heart diseases, diabetes, racial disparities, homelessness, and unemployment. These seminars bring together leading urban health care experts and educators who share a strong belief in a spiritually-sensitive approach to tackling the most pervasive of inner-city concerns.

Full Circle has positively affected over 10,000 lives, and its impact has spread hope in people's lives. Once again, let us as a body commend the efforts of Full Circle and acknowledge publicly the contribution of this organization.

TRIBUTE TO COACH WILLIE JEFFRIES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a trailblazer, an athletic legend and a dear friend—Coach Willie Jeffries. Coach Jeffries has dedicated much of his extraordinary career to my alma mater, South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. But his impact has been felt far beyond that campus.

Coach Jeffries is a man of humble beginnings. He was born in Union, South Carolina. His widowed mother raised him in a two-room house in this segregated Southern town. Earning money by working various jobs at the local white-only country club, he got to see how the other side lived.

He graduated from South Carolina State University with a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a Master's degree in guidance and counseling. Having played football and baseball for the historically black college, Coach Jeffries secured coaching jobs at segregated high schools in Lancaster and Gaffney, South Carolina. After compiling a six-year 65–7–2 record with three consecutive state AAA championships, North Carolina A&T came calling with an assistant coach's job, which started Coach Jeffries in college coaching. He was next lured to Pittsburgh as an assistant coach. There he tasted coaching against big-time college football schools such as Florida State, UCLA and West Virginia.

But when his alma mater sought him out, the 36-year-old Coach Jeffries jumped at the chance to come home and lead his beloved Bulldogs. In six seasons as his alma mater's head coach, he compiled a 50–13–4 record and became a hot prospect for other head coaching positions. It was an offer from Wichita State in Kansas that enticed Coach Jeffries to leave S.C. State. It was historic. Coach Jeffries became the first African American to serve as the head football coach of a predominantly white university. At Wichita State, he led a team that had lost 14 of its last 15 seasons to an 8–3 season after four years of rebuilding. After five years, he left the program, which later folded, and became the head coach for Howard University, where he spent another five years.

In 1989, another tug from S.C. State brought Coach Jeffries back to the place where his love of football began. He coached another 13 years, before retiring following the 2001 season to become the Director of Athletic Fund Raising for the Bulldogs. During his 29-year coaching career, Coach Jeffries amassed a 179–132–6 record. This tremendous record included six Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championships, two national titles, several post-season appearances, and numerous coaching awards. He holds the title for the most wins of any S.C. State coach and the most MEAC victories.

Coach Jeffries has been inducted into the South Carolina State University Athletic Hall of Fame, the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame and the MEAC Hall of Fame. He has been honored with South Carolina's Order of the Silver Crescent, the state's highest award for community service. He has received the Black Coaches' Association with a lifetime achievement award and is enshrined in the Palmetto State's Black Hall of Fame. Since 2002, he has served on the NCAA Football Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commending Coach Willie Jeffries for his extraordinary contributions and courage. His is a legendary football coach that has touched many lives on and off the playing field. He is an inspiration to young people who aspire to rise above their current circumstances and even break barriers. This humble man from humble beginnings is a role model, a resilient leader, and a renowned motivator. In short, Coach Willie Jeffries is a national treasure.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONORING THE MEMORY OF DOLORES ''DELL'' A. RAUDELUNAS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to honor the memory and legacy of Dell Raudelunas, former Chief Executive Officer for the United Way of Union County.

When Dell passed away on October 12, 2004, she left behind a lifetime of achievements to her family, community and the United Way. As a pioneer in leadership for social services, Dell exhibited great courage and served as a role model for many women and United Way professionals. She was a true leader who has been described as being dynamic, professional, insightful and determined.

In addition to her role as CEO for the United Way of Union County, she helped to launch United Way organizations in Hunterdon and Sussex Counties. She served on the United Way's National Task Force for Development of Women and the National Professional Advisory Council. In their first Annual Tribute to Women, the Boy Scouts honored her for being an exemplary role model. As an advocate for education, she served as a member of the Union County College Board of Governors where she chaired the nominating and auditing committees.

As Dell is remembered during a Memorial Service on October 23, 2004, many will recall her caring of others and the impact she made in the community. Her vision for the social and economic development of Union County led to her being a founding member and chairperson of the Union County Alliance. Dell also served on other Councils and Boards where her membership was valued.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Dolores ''Dell'' A. Raudelunas' family, friends and associates know that her memory will always be honored and cherished.

TRIBUTE TO MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Maranatha Fellowship Church in Saint Albans, West Virginia, and their celebration of twenty-eight (28) years of service to the Kanawha Valley and surrounding area.

On October 13, 1976, Pastor James R. Wright, Jr. held a service in the living room of a home in Dunbar, West Virginia. Twenty-eight (28) years later, Maranatha and Rev. Wright minister to a loving, caring congregation of over 3,000 people from every walk of life.

In particular, I acknowledge Dr. James R. Wright, Jr., Pastor of Maranatha Fellowship

Church. Through Dr. Wright's vision and leadership, this church has made a significant contribution to the lives of thousands of West Virginians.

Maranatha is also widely known for the Semi-annual Passion Play that was created by Virginia Wright, wife of Pastor James Wright. This play reaches 15,000–18,000 people in eight performances, which is another example of this church's ever-growing ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Maranatha Fellowship Church as they celebrate their twenty-eight years of ministry to the Kanawha Valley and West Virginia.

IN HONOR OF THE WESTERN STAGE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Western Stage on the 30th Anniversary of its first performance in our community.

The Western Stage, founded in 1974 on the campus of Hartnell College, is the Salinas Valley's public theatre and is a leading arts institution of Monterey County with a national presence and impact. For over three decades The Western Stage has served the diverse population of the central coast region of California, presenting an annual season of plays and musicals and educational programming of the highest professional standard. Over 400 students, community members and professionals participate each year, and the annual audience numbers exceed 25,000 patrons.

The Western Stage also engages the community via its involvement with Hartnell Community College. The Western Stage Auxiliary Corporation is governed by a board of directors composed of community leaders and elected trustees of the College. The Western Stage manages the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center and administers the academic theatre program for the Hartnell College District under the direction of John Light, Melissa Chin Parker and Jon Patrick Selover, three company veterans with an average of 15 years each of experience with the Western Stage.

Furthermore, The Western Stage is a founding partner of the John Steinbeck Chair at Hartnell College and The National Steinbeck Center, the Salinas Public Library and Partners for Peace, and has numerous artistic accomplishments of note with adaptations of major works of American literature and that of John Steinbeck: East of Eden (1992, 1994, 2000), Tortilla Flat (2001), Viva! Zapata (2000), Cannery Row (1995 & 2005) and Travels With Charley (1998); as well as adaptations in collaboration with authors Studs Terkel (The Good War 1988), Ray Bradbury (Something Wicked This Way Comes, 1991) and Victor Villaseñor (Rain of Gold 2003 & 2005); and world premieres of Summer Stock (for Harold Arlen, 2000) and Song of Survival (for WWII Dutch POW Helen Colijn, by California's Ray and Eleanor Harder, 1997).

Today's performance of Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street, directed by Jon Patrick Selover, commemorates 30 years since That Championship Season opened the Hartnell College Performing Arts Center, directed by founder of The Western Stage, Ron Danko.

Clearly, The Western Stage has a commitment to the artistic health of the community providing support and assistance to and nurturing young artists and arts organizations. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Western Stage for the outstanding work it has done and honor the many accomplishments of its staff and volunteers.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JACK QUINN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jack Quinn, the Director of the Housing Authority for the City of Pueblo, Colorado who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of others in need. It is a privilege to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his outstanding record of service to the Pueblo community today.

Jack grew up in Connecticut and graduated from Fairfield University with a degree in Chemistry, but his life took a different path when he took a volunteer job with the Catholic Diocese of Pueblo. After teaching grade school Jack found his passion working with the Pueblo Housing Authority where he has served with distinction for thirty-six years.

Today, he and his sixty-five person staff manage 2,500 housing units in the city. They are responsible for renovating several Pueblo properties and turning them into affordable housing for low-income families, preserving historical landmarks in the process. In addition to his work with the Housing Authority, Jack spends his spare time serving on local boards such as the United Way, the Packard Foundation and the Boys Club.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Quinn is a dedicated member of his community who has made a difference in the lives of his fellow citizens. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his exemplary record of service. Thanks for all your hard work Jack, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE OBITUARY OF DR. BOBBY JOE TOLBERT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the House that during the October break, a great American, the Reverend Doctor Bobby Joe Tolbert passed away. His memorial service was held October 12th at the Bethel Baptist Church in Three Rivers, Michigan.

Rev. Tolbert was a strong man of faith and he was a pillar of strength in St. Joe County. He was respected by all and made a difference for thousands—whether it was thru his service on the school board, pulpit, business board member, Dad, and husband. All that knew him miss him but know he is now praying for us.

I ask that the Celebration of Life obituary be printed in the RECORD.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Dr. Bobby Joe Tolbert was the fourteenth child born to the union of Woodie and Jatie Tolbert in Montevello, Alabama. He was preceded in death by both parents and nine siblings; Woodie, Jr., Madelyn McComb, Andrew Tolbert, William Tolbert, Lonnie Tolbert, Rosie Bell Tolbert, Georgia Harris, Lois Mays, and Earlene Williams. Dr. Tolbert received his early education and confessed his faith and hope in God in Montevello.

As a young man, Dr. Tolbert moved to Chicago, Illinois where he played professional baseball in the Negro American League. From there he entered the White Sox Organization, playing in the Minor Leagues for the Kansas City Monarchs.

He attended Cortez Peters Business College where he met his loving and devoted wife. This union was blessed with two sons Darryl Wayne and Reginald Fitzgerald. Under the mentoring of his father-in-law, Reverend F.L. Porter, Sr., he received his call to the ministry—thereby moving from the ball team to ''God's Team.''

Desiring to prepare for the ministry, he matriculated to Chicago Baptist Institute, De Paul University and he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Tennessee School of Religion, Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Tolbert was called to the pastorship of Bethel Baptist Church in Three Rivers, Michigan over thirty-six years ago, where he served as a steadfast and devout leader of God's people until he went home to be with the Lord. Under his charge, they built a new church edifice; he developed and built a Recreation and Learning Center; and he set up a College Scholarship Program for underprivileged students. In addition to all of Dr. Tolbert's spiritual endeavors, he made a lasting impact on the whole city of Three Rivers.

His civic activities over the years of dedicated service include: Three Rivers Community Chest Board, St. Joseph County Mental Health Board, President of Three Rivers Ministerial Association, Sixteen years as President of the Three Rivers Branch NAACP, Sixteen years on the Three Rivers Hospital Authority Board, Kalamazoo/St. Joseph County Private Industry Council (five years), Three Rivers Community School Board of Education (five years), two of those years as President.

Dr. Tolbert participated in the organization and implementation of the Biddy Basketball program (now called Junior Pro), and Fraternal Order of Police Baseball Program which he coached for five years. As a member of the Civitan Service Club, he helped organize the first youth chapter of Civitan.

Dr. Tolbert served on the Three Rivers School Board Committee for the building of Three Rivers Middle School, and many other advisory committees. Pastor Tolbert has supported the total community, all while serving his people in the Pastoral Ministry position.

Dr. Tolbert's life work centered on his deep commitment to do God's will as a spiritual leader, his family and his community. He was a man of faith, integrity, and deep conviction. The legacy he has left will be a guiding force for countless numbers. His memory, the lessons he taught and the love he shared is motivation for us to continue to carry the torch and make this world a better place.

He leaves to cherish his memory and celebrate his life: his beloved wife of forty-five years—Henri'Etta; two sons—Darryl Wayne (Connie) of Flint, Michigan and Reginald

Fitzgerald (Victoria) of Jacksonville, Florida; six grandchildren—Wayne Tolbert, Daniel Tolbert, and Dylan Tolbert of Three Rivers, Michigan and Jessica Tolbert, Brittany Marie Tolbert, and Joshua Tolbert of Jacksonville, Florida; four sisters—Mary Ella Bender of Montgomery, Alabama, Ethel Crenshaw (John) of Chicago, Illinois, Helen Tinker of Chereville, Indiana, and Wilma Abrams (Walter) of North Chicago, Illinois; a host of nieces and nephews; a very special friend, Dr. Leroy Shelton; adopted parents, Dr. W.G. and Mary Terry; his wonderful and loving Bethel Church Family; and a countless number of friends.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE COLIE NICHOLS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr., on his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Courthouse.

Colie Nichols was born in Graceville, Florida on February 5, 1935 to the proud parents Colie, Sr. and Gladys Nichols. In 1955, he married Freida King and had three children, Rod, Stan, and Garth. After earning his Bachelor's of Science degree at Florida State University in 1959, Colie went on to become a probation and parole supervisor for the next eight years.

In 1973 Governor Reuben Askew appointed Colie Nichols for County Judge, and for the last thirty years Judge Nichols has been a fixture on the bench. Since 1982 he has been re-elected without opposition and now a state age limitation for judges is forcing the 69-year-old to retire this year.

His retirement is the ending of an era, an era in which any profession could be a means into the judicial sector. Judge Nichols was not an attorney, yet excelled at providing justice for all in his courtroom.

Even though Judge Nichols was busy as an overseer of justice, he also remained active in his community. He was a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Criminal Justice, a member of Alcoholism Rehabilitation Advisory Subcouncil, First Vice-President of the Florida Conference of County Judges, President of the Milton Lions Club, President of the United Way of Santa Rosa County, and many other educational and community centered organizations.

Today, I salute a man who has dedicated his life to protecting freedom, ensuring liberty, and defending the principles of this country. His exemplary service has guaranteed that the United States will continue to prosper as the world's greatest nation.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Judge Colie Nichols, Jr. on his retirement and wish him many more years of success and happiness.

CAFTA

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, during my nearly two decades in Congress, our country has made major efforts throughout the world to develop the growth and success of democratic governments. Because of our efforts in Central America over the years, the specter of Communism has receded and the democracies and economies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras are beginning to flourish. These countries have now had at least three peaceful changes of government through elections. I think we in this body should be proud of the part we have played in their success.

Mr. Speaker, much of this success is due to opening up trade between the U.S. and Central America. With the Caribbean Basin Initiative, we have helped build growing economies based on trade with the United States. More prosperity in CBI countries leads to more successful democratic governments in this hemisphere and more prosperity and security here at home.

At the present time we are undertaking a similar mission in the Middle East. Increasing democracy and freedom in that region is vital to the war on terrorism and America's security. However, we must not let our focus on Iraq and Afghanistan cause us to forget the work that remains to be done to strengthen our neighbors in Central America. We have come too far to abandon them now.

Five Central American nations and the Dominican Republic have negotiated a free trade agreement with the United States that, despite concerns voiced by some in this country, is beneficial to all concerned. The presidents of the Central American nations have approved this agreement and these nations are now waiting for us to join them in making the Central American Free Trade Agreement a reality.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to divert our attention elsewhere, time is running out for our legislature to approve DR–CAFTA. Without this agreement, the democracies we have helped build in Central America will be less prosperous in the increasingly competitive global marketplace. Unless we allow these fledgling democracies the access they need to compete with the rising tide of Chinese imports, they will be more likely to revert to corrupt regimes that base their existence on trade in illegal drugs instead of trade in goods and services.

It would be a tragedy to abandon our Central American neighbors now. We in this body have done so much to foster democracy and economic stability in Central America—we cannot allow them to fail at this crucial moment. I urge my colleagues to support DR–CAFTA and I urge the House leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote this year.

HONORING OWENSBORO SOUTHERN LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Owensboro Southern Little League Baseball Team for their remarkable season and recent participation in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They demonstrated great sportsmanship before a national audience, representing competitive values that make Kentucky proud.

The hours of extra practice under the leadership of Manager Vic Evans, Jr, brought this impressive distinction to the State of Kentucky and City of Owensboro. I want my colleagues in the House of Representatives to know of the pride that I have in representing these athletes and their families.

I would like to commend Owensboro Southern for their magnificent season—an effort that epitomized team work, sportsmanship, and persistence. I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these young athletes for their achievement and wish them continued success in seasons to come

IN HONOR OF DAVID W. HOLMES

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to David W. Holmes for his twenty years of service as a SCORE Counselor in Delaware. Dr. Holmes, born and raised in Fremont, Ohio, earned a Bachelor's degree from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan. After completing his education, Dr. Holmes began what would become a thirty-seven year career with the Dupont Company.

During the course of his career with the Dupont Company, Dr. Holmes took on assignments in research, sales, and manufacturing. In addition, he spent his final twenty years with the company handling senior management responsibilities in manufacturing and worldwide sales. Upon his retirement from Dupont, Dr. Holmes spent three years working in the small business world. It was during these three years that he was able to gain valuable experience in various different business environments, from the small to the very large.

In 1983, Dr. Holmes joined SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives). SCORE, an organization that counsels the small business community, is staffed entirely by volunteers. These volunteers give their time and energy to assist others in both starting up and effectively operating small businesses. Specifically, Dr. Holmes' service to SCORE and the small business community has centered around counseling, training and information sessions for small businesses throughout the State of Delaware. He has assisted with entrepreneurial educational projects and presented a plethora of business training workshops.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Dr. Holmes on reaching the tremendous milestone of twenty years of volunteer service with

SCORE in Delaware. Also, I would like to point out that as he celebrates twenty years of volunteer service, Dr. Holmes is also celebrating his ninetieth birthday. The time and effort that Dr. Holmes has given to his fellow Delawareans is both commendable and much appreciated. He is certainly an inspiration to those around him. I am truly proud that he is a Delawarean.

IN RECOGNITION OF RENE F. RODRIGUEZ, M.D.

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to a very dedicated physician, Dr. Rene F. Rodriguez, who has been devoted not only to his patients and the underserved, but also to the improvement of America's healthcare system by breaking barriers, improving access to medical services, treating all patients equally, and integrating Hispanic doctors and other Hispanic healthcare professionals to these efforts.

Dr. Rodriguez has been recognized as an excellent advocate for the underserved in America and has been the recipient of a very distinguished award, ''The 2004 Freddie-Public Service Award''.

He has been an enthusiastic and compassionate physician who has done admirable work throughout years of advocacy. His distinguished medical career spans years of commitment to public service and he has been a leader with numerous achievements.

He studied medicine at the University of Salamanca in Spain, and is licensed to practice medicine in several states in America. He was a Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and retired after more than 35 years of service in the Military. While on active duty, he directed the Orthopedic Clinic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He was appointed to the Council on Graduate Medical Education of the Department of Health and Human Services, the President's Commission of the National Medal of Science, the Surgeon General's National Workshop on Hispanic-Latino Health Executive Planning Committee, the NIH Office of Minority Program Fact-Finding Team, the Hispanic Advisor Task Force to the U.S. Senate, and the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

He is a member of the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association, and is the Founder and President of the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons, which is the largest and oldest organization of Hispanic doctors. He founded the National Hispanic Youth Initiative to encourage High School students to study careers in sciences and research, and has been the founder of medical journals for Spanish speaking doctors and patients, such as ''Medico Interamericano'', ''Medico de Familoa'', and the book ''Usted y su Medico''. He is currently the Chief of the Orthopedic Section at the Veterans Medical Center in Miami, Florida. Please join me in recognizing Dr. Rodriguez for his outstanding accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL G. WHITESIDE

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carol G. Whiteside, an individual who has dedicated her life to public service at the local, state, national, and international levels. Her impressive career deserves recognition, and her years of dedicated service to her local community of Stanislaus County, the State of California, and our nation, warrants tremendous respect. Throughout her successful life, Carol has remained equally committed to her family. She is married to Superior Court Judge John G. Whiteside. Carol and John are the proud parents of two adult sons, Brian and Derek.

Carol began her career by earning a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, Davis in 1964. Dedicated to her education, she pursued postgraduate studies at Golden Gate College in San Francisco and continued her studies abroad through the University of Southern California in Ramstein, Germany. She entered the business world as a Personnel Manager for Emporium Capwell Company in Santa Rosa, California in 1964, but it was not long before returning to Germany, this time to serve as an Education Counselor at the Army Education Center in Landstuhl.

By the mid-1970's Carol returned to Modesto, California and began to build what would become one of the most reputable careers in public service known to our community. For the past three decades, Carol Whiteside has held various positions with the City of Modesto and the State of California. In all arenas of service, and with tremendous commitment, Carol rose through the ranks of public office. She began her service in the City of Modesto in 1979 as a Modesto City School Board Trustee, and by 1987 she was elected the City's Mayor, having served as Modesto City School Board President, and as a member of the Modesto City Council before her Mayoral victory.

Continuing to pursue greater and grander opportunities, Carol moved on to California State Government in 1991, being appointed to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Intergovernmental Relations, Resources Agency where she specialized in resource conservation, land use and growth management issues. Within two years, she became the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for California Governor Pete Wilson on issues of land use, finance, restructuring and economic development.

Throughout the years, Carol has also been extremely involved and held numerous positions with countless associations, boards, organizations, political committees and international entities. She has served as Chairperson for committees within the League of California Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National League of Cities. Over the last twenty years, Carol has been involved in the National Women's Political Caucus, as well as several other political committees at the state and national level.

In addition to her tremendous achievements, Carol has found time to serve as a Board Member for more than 15 groups which include the United Way of Stanislaus County, the American Red Cross, High Speed Rail Authority, California Center for Regional Leadership, and the Public Policy Institute of California.

It appears that there is no existing realm of public service that Carol Whiteside has not touched. Her career is not limited to the San Joaquin Valley, California, or the United States. Since Carol resided in Landstuhl, Germany in 1972, she has remained actively involved abroad. Her international endeavors have taken her to Poland, Ukraine, the Baltic States, Morocco, and Korea.

It is without question that Carol Whiteside is a remarkable individual, professional businesswoman, and motivated entrepreneur, characteristics that were most recently demonstrated by her latest accomplishment. Today, Carol is the President of the Great Valley Center, an organization she founded in August 1997. This organization's primary focus is to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley. Under Carol's leadership and guidance, the Great Valley Center has elevated the region's identity throughout our state and nation.

Carol's work ethic, professionalism, and dedication have earned her many honors throughout the years, which include the 1990 Soroptimist Woman of Distinction in International Relations, the California State Assembly Woman of the Year 1991 for the 27th Assembly District, the Civic Entrepreneur of the Year in 2002, and the 2004 Excellence in Public Service Award. Most recently, the American Legion Post 74 honored Carol by naming her the 2004 Woman of the Year.

This recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Carol Whiteside is clearly deserved, and well overdue. She is an invaluable member of the community, an exemplary civil servant, and an outstanding human being who will leave behind a legacy to be admired for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in honoring Carol G. Whiteside for her many years of dedication to public service, for her countless contributions to the economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley, and for her continued commitment to a brighter and more prosperous tomorrow. I am most certainly honored to call her my friend, and it is my pleasure to recognize all of her accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF LAURA MUÑOZ-VELAZQUEZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Laura Muñoz-Velazquez, who was named (LULAC) League of United and Latin American Citizens Woman of the Year. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez is one of several outstanding women who were nominated for this prestigious award.

Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez was born in Colusa, California to a family of farm workers. Her parents, Juanita Castañon Muñoz and Lucas Placenica Muñoz, always stressed the importance of education and encouraged her to go to college. Laura heeded her parents, and in 1973, graduated from California State University Chico with a Bachelor of Arts degree in

Psychology. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez also obtained an Elementary Teaching Credential and began teaching kindergarten for the Marysville School District. Soon after her time there, she moved to San Benito County with her husband, Felipe Velasquez, and has been teaching for the Hollister School District since 1975. They have four sons: Richard, Adrian, Alejo, and Junior.

While she was growing up, Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez attended a school system that did not support maintaining Spanish language while learning to write and speak in English. Because she recognized the value of having a good grasp of two languages, she purposely chose to become a bilingual teacher, allowing her to reclaim her primary language and culture. Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez truly believes in providing and promoting bilingualism and biliteracy, which she feels is instrumental in the success of children learning a second language.

Of course, with her giving nature, Mrs. Muñoz-Velazquez knows how significant it is to give back to the community and has been involved with multiple organizations such as the United Way, American Cancer Society (ACS), Children with Attention Deficit Disorders (CHADD), Mexican American Community on Education (MACE), and League of United and Latin American Citizens Council (LULAC) #2890. She has also taught religion classes at Sacred Heart Church, preparing many young ones for Holy Communion.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Laura Muñoz-Velazquez for the outstanding work she's done in my district. I would like to honor and congratulate her on her accomplishments and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to the community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AL AND JOANNA LACY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Al and Joanna Lacy, a retired Baptist minister and his wife who have authored numerous educational books for children. The research and historical background that Al and Joanna present in these books have helped educate kids about American history and simultaneously encourages them to read. Today I have the privilege of recognizing their service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

After retiring from thirty-two years of traveling as a pastor, Al decided he wanted to write novels. Al first started with Western themes and expanded into narratives that covered religious experiences, the Civil War, the gold rush era, immigration through Ellis Island, and the lives of orphan street children. Joanna also contributed to her husband's work with her extensive background in nursing. They have spent countless hours traveling, researching, and talking with people to learn more about the local cultures and customs for the settings in their books, which makes them a source of education and excitement for young readers. Together they have made the best seller list numerous times in publishing over 102 works.

Mr. Speaker, Al and Joanna Lacy have contributed much toward the education and learning of numerous children all across the country, giving parents a reliable source of entertainment for their kids. I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of Al and Joanna before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thank you, Al and Joanna for all your hard work, and I wish you both all the best in your future endeavors.

NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to pay tribute to the countless shelters and staffs throughout the country who tirelessly work to address this ever-growing problem.

Throughout our nation help is increasingly needed to create safe places for people to call home. The face of homelessness does not have an age, race, or creed. Over one million of our nation's homeless are children and families comprise of nearly 40 percent of the entire homeless population. There is no question that homelessness is a serious problem, and we must ensure that our shelters are provided with the necessary assistance.

One particular shelter that is truly making a difference is the Emergency Shelter Service Inc., of Benton Harbor, Michigan. The service, care, and opportunity that this shelter provides for the homeless folks of Southwest Michigan is tremendous.

I recently had the chance to visit with the staff and residents of the shelter. It was heartwarming to see firsthand, individuals getting back on their feet, ready to start anew. The shelter provides the helping hand that many folks need.

The nine-bedroom shelter, a 100-year old house along Pipestone Street, currently houses 35 people, many of which are children. Residents stay for a maximum of 30 days, and the shelter staff work with them to find affordable, appropriate housing.

I am pleased to report that the top floor of the house was recently insulated for the winter which will allow a few more people to have shelter during the coldest months of the year. But the unfortunate reality is that more people seek assistance than the shelter can provide for, and folks seeking a warm bed and a roof over their heads must find shelter elsewhere.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, I pay tribute to the great service of this admirable shelter. I commend the selfless efforts of Alysia Babcock and her staff who dedicate themselves to provide a safe haven for those in need. Southwest Michigan is better off for their efforts.

As we approach the holiday season, it is vitally important that our communities and cities get involved to raise awareness and work to combat the problems of hunger and homelessness. Any contribution to the Benton Harbor shelter will be greatly appreciated, whether it be a blanket, some food or even a couple of dollars. Even the smallest donation makes an impact.

CONGRATULATING SHARON HAMMERSLA UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the 108th Congress, Sharon Hammersla will be retiring from government service after thirty-two years as a dedicated and distinguished public servant.

Sharon has served as the Information Resource Manager for both the House Committee on International Relations and the House Committee on the Judiciary under my chairmanship. In fact, Sharon worked for the House Judiciary Committee during the impeachment of President Clinton. Her efforts at that time toward making the Committee's work on related events accessible to the public will be instrumental to historians when studying that period of our Nation's history. Prior to working on the Judiciary and International Relations Committees, she served seventeen years with the House Science Committee.

Just because Sharon is leaving The Hill doesn't mean that she won't be busy. She will maintain her position in history-making and continue to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Museum in Bryantown, Maryland, where she has been a docent, and she will be publishing her first book on her family's genealogy early next year. Most importantly, however, she will be joining her husband, Don, in catching up with family and friends and enjoying life with their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Sharon Hammersla has served her country with honor and distinction. Please join me in congratulating her on an illustrious career in federal service and wishing her well as she embarks on new adventures.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. TANNER JOHNSON LIVISAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RAYHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who had a very distinguished career as a State extension specialist in the State of West Virginia Mrs. Tanner Johnson Livisay. Mrs. Livisay was a retired State extension specialist and associate professor at West Virginia University and was a resident of Princeton, West Virginia. Mrs. Livisay graduated in 1923 from the former Douglas High School in Huntington, West Virginia and later went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in home economics from West Virginia State College in 1927. She then taught in Jefferson and Wyoming counties for the next 14 years. Mrs. Livisay earned her Masters degree from West Virginia University and completed further studies at Merrill Palmer Institute in Detroit, Michigan, University of Michigan, University of Cincinnati, Cornell University and Colorado State University. In 1941, Mrs. Livisay began her work as a home demonstration agent in West Virginia. Her territory

included Mercer, McDowell and Cabell counties in my district. She organized home and garden clubs, 4–H clubs, and established the West Virginia State Farm Homemakers Council, under the auspices of West Virginia State College, West Virginia University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She was the district home demonstration agent and became program development leader. After 27 years in the Extension Service, Mrs. Livisay retired as a specialist in child development and human relations. A personal account of the work of the West Virginia Extension Service for African-Americans is recorded in the book, "Reaching Out with Heart and Hands—The Memories of An Extension Worker," written by Mrs. Livisay in 1994.

A diamond soror and life member, Mrs. Livisay was initiated into Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. in 1925. She was a charter member of Epsilon Delta Omega Chapter in Beckley, West Virginia and at the time of her death, she was a member of Eta Iota Omega Chapter, in Inkster, Michigan. Mrs. Livisay, was the proud mother of four children, Carolyn L. McGhee, Marilyn L. Stewart, Jackson P. Livisay, Jr. and Osborne Livisay.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Tanner Johnson Livisay, for her many accomplishments and achievements and the legacy she leaves for her family and the great State of West Virginia, and in particular, my third congressional district.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE BILL LIPINSKI

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate my good friend Representative BILL LIPINSKI his retirement after 22 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives. BILL has been a close friend of mine since we were freshman together in the 98th Congress, and I know that reporting to work each day will not be the same without BILL around.

Representative LIPINSKI is a native of Chicago and works incredibly hard for the residents of the 3rd Congressional district. Even after 11 terms in Congress he still flies home nearly every weekend to address the concerns of his constituents. BILL has spent his entire career working for the people of Chicago, first in Chicago's Park District for 17 years, then as the 23rd Ward Alderman in the Chicago City Council, and then as a U.S. Congressman.

Some of BILL's greatest achievements lie in his work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. He has done an incredible amount both for Chicago and for the entire state of Illinois and has secured millions of dollars in federal funding for improvements at both Midway and O'Hare airports. For example, in 1990 Representative LIPINSKI sponsored and helped pass the Passenger Facility Charge BILL to enable both Midway and O'Hare to finance important airport infrastructure projects.

In the 105th Congress, BILL was instrumental in passing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, under which Illinois continues to receive an average of $885 million per year for highway funding and $150 million per year for mass transit programs. During the 107th Congress, Representative LIPINSKI was the author of legislation to allow Chicago's Mayor Daley to expand O'Hare International Airport without consulting the Illinois Governor, an important step of autonomy for the city.

I cannot say enough about how much I have enjoyed working with BILL. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my sincerest thanks to Representative BILL Lipinski for his friendship and counsel, and congratulations to both him and his family on this well-deserved retirement. He has built an outstanding career during these past 22 years and will be sorely missed in the halls of Congress. I will look forward to working with his son, incoming Representative DANIEL LIPINSKI, during the coming years.

IN HONOR OF DR. STEVEN K. WEBSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Steven K. Webster, a dedicated educator and community volunteer, upon his retirement as Senior Marine Biologist at the Monterey, Bay Aquarium. Dr. Webster has diligently worked to develop and shape the aquarium's education, teacher training, and outreach programs. His dedication to the people of the Monterey Bay region has been a great benefit to the community for over twenty-five years.

As an educator at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Dr. Webster developed the Discovery Lab programs that have served over 1.5 million children to date. There is scarcely a child in Monterey County who has not participated in one of the aquarium's free education programs, thanks in great part to Dr. Webster's vision and advocacy. In addition, Dr. Webster has initiated teacher education workshops in which over 10,000 teachers have participated free of charge. He has encouraged thousands of aquarium guides and volunteers in the aquarium's nationally recognized volunteer guide training program which he developed. Dr. Webster has served as an inspiration and has offered great encouragement to those consulting him on a career in marine biology.

Beyond his extensive career in marine biology, Dr. Webster has served in numerous volunteer community and board positions, including the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society, the Cannery Row Foundation, the Lyceum of the Monterey Peninsula, the State Underwater Parks Advisory Board, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the Friends of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. An avid diving instructor and underwater photographer, Dr. Webster is a popular speaker on natural history topics ranging from the Monterey Bay to the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Dr. Webster for his outstanding and invaluable contributions to our community, and commend him for his many accomplishments. I congratulate him on his much deserved retirement and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COL. JOHN E. STAVAST (USAF RET.)

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a great man from my district. John Stavast, a native of Denver, Colorado, recently passed away at the age of 78. Colonel Stavast dedicated 33 years of his life the armed services, in both the Army and Air Force. I am honored today to bring his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation.

John joined the Army in 1944 and served in Europe during World War II as a gunner on B–17s. He was discharged in 1946 and enlisted again in 1949 earning his pilots wings. John trained Japanese Self Defense Force pilots in the USAF Air Training Command. While flying over North Vietnam in 1967, Colonel Stavast and his crewmate were shot down near Hanoi. Both men safely ejected and were taken prisoner. He endured torture for seven full days after his capture and remained a POW until 1972. During his time in the POW camp, the colonel, as the senior ranking officer, was responsible for over 200 American POW's at the prison near the Chinese border.

Colonel Stavast suffered numerous injuries during his imprisonment including broken bones in his back, arms and legs, and a skull fracture. He had over 6,000 flying hours when retired from the Air Force in 1980, and was awarded many medals for his service. These include three Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star for Valor, and six Air Medals. After his retirement he was a member of the Military Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, VFW, American Legion, and others. He was also a dedicated volunteer at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, John Stavast was a dedicated patriot that selflessly served his community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to his memory. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN LA MONTAGNE—A TRUE PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John La Montagne, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who died suddenly on November 2, 2004. He was a true public servant who worked tirelessly to improve public health in the United States and across the world. He is sorely missed in the public health community, by Elaine, his beloved wife of 37 years, his family, and the many persons in his community who were blessed to be able to call him friend and know his warmth, compassion for others, humor, and quiet modesty and dignity.

Dr. La Montagne's contributions to the national and international effort against infectious

diseases are remarkable. Trained as a microbiologist, Dr. La Montagne was a leader in the effort to develop a safer pertussis vaccine and new vaccines against childhood diarrhea and pneumonia. He guided the National Institute on Allergy and Infectious Disease's response to the emerging AIDS crisis and led the effort to respond to severe respiratory syndrome within months of the first outbreak.

Globally, he played a central role in the organization of the Multilateral Initiative on Malaria. He served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Groups of Experts on Vaccines and Biologicals as well as for Vaccines and Immunization for the World Health Organization. He chaired the WHO Task Force on Strategic Planning for the Children's Vaccine Initiative, advised the Pan American Health Organization on its programs in vaccine research implementation, and served as a member of the board of the Global Alliance for Tuberculosis Drug Development.

As an influential contributor to the field of infectious diseases, Dr. La Montagne delivered many major lectures all over the world. He received many prestigious awards for his scientific accomplishments, including the Public Health Service Special Recognition Award for leadership in childhood vaccine research programs, the Surgeon General's Certificate of Appreciation, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, the Distinguished Executive Award for his work in the areas of infectious diseases research of global health relevance, the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for leadership of acellular pertussis vaccine trials, and most recently the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for design and implementation of critically important biodefense strategies.

As Dr. Zerhouni, the Director the National Institutes of Health said, "Personally, he was a dear friend and one of the finest people I have ever known. Professionally, in an NIH career spanning nearly thirty years, his leadership and commitment to improving global health were remarkable. His generosity, wit, even-handedness and kindness made him a friend to all who knew him. He will be sorely missed."

On November 2nd, our country and the world lost a great and good man.

HONORING BETTY MOSELY-MABERRY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1811, located in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. On December 9, 2004, civic and community leaders will join family, friends, and members of Local 1811 to honor Ms. Betty Mosely-Maberry, who was unanimously selected by the Local's Executive Board to be the first recipient of their Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award.

The Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award is bestowed on UAW members who have authenticated 20 years of notable service. It honors the extraordinary contributions they have made to advance the cause of working people, their families, and communities. As Walter Reuther championed human dignity and social justice for all, the men and women who have received the award in his name have committed themselves to these same ideals.

Betty Mosely-Maberry began her career at Buick Medical in December 1967. She was one of the driving forces behind Local 1811's organization in 1972 and 1973, and as a result, was elected Chairperson of their bargaining unit. Over the years, Betty has fulfilled the duties of interim President and Vice-President of Local 1811, and officially represented them as Recording Secretary for over 16 years. Betty also served on their Civil Rights, Community Service, and Education Committees as either a member or Chair. Betty retired on July 1, 1999, although the influence she had on her peers was so great that she was asked to continue as Recording Secretary. She selflessly and respectfully declined the offer, citing that active members should hold the position. However, Betty decided to run for a trustee seat, which she won and holds to this day.

Mr. Speaker, all 22 members of UAW Local 1811's Executive Board feel that Betty Mosely-Maberry truly exemplifies the spirit in which the Walter Reuther Distinguished Service Award is given. Her willingness, hard work, and dedication to her brothers and sisters in labor as well as the community, are deserving of the highest respect. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to join me in commending her.

PROJECT INTELLICARE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to speak about Project IntelliCare, a groundbreaking innovation in health care delivery that will revolutionize the way health care providers manage patient care, in addition to imparting tremendous improvements in the quality of care available to Americans.

As we all have undoubtedly read or witnessed in our districts, forecasts for the future of health care delivery are dire. Developments in medical technology have long been confined to procedural or pharmaceutical advances, while neglecting a most basic and essential component of medicine: patient information management.

The information systems that maintain patient files and transmit care history are antiquated in many of our hospitals and clinics. In fact, many systems are still paper based. The result: a patient's complete medical history is difficult to transmit when necessary and may not be available to new health caretakers, leaving the physician with a limited understanding of prior illnesses, treatment, and complications. This, in turn, leads to unnecessary and redundant testing and treatment and greater health risks due to preventable errors.

I would like to draw your attention to a May 3, 2004, New York Times op-ed by former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Congressman PATRICK KENNEDY. The writers correctly assert that information sharing may be one of the greatest issues facing health care provision today, expounding on escalating costs and medical mistakes attributed to an archaic information system. They urge for bipartisan support of "moving American medicine into the 21st century" by standardizing information systems with technology readily available today.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the innovation discussed as "a matter of life and death" has already arrived in the State of California. Project IntelliCare was first implemented by the Adventist Health System in 1999, over four years ago. The program is hailed by the Department of Health and Human Services as ahead of its time in Healthcare IT and is positioned to serve as a model for other systems throughout the country.

Project IntelliCare employs cutting edge technology to provide seamless integration of a patient's whole medical history. Through this initiative, medical records are maintained electronically and securely, available only to the patient's health care provider. Project IntelliCare ensures that when a patient goes to visit a physician, regardless of when, where, or why, the patient will receive treatment that is current and relevant. No longer will those in need of medical help suffer from incomplete or inaccurate care.

Project IntelliCare not only protects Americans from substandard health care, it promises more efficient and cost-effective delivery. Inflating health care costs and skyrocketing insurance premiums are highly salient issues today. Duplication or incorrect prescription of services places a large burden on insurance companies. Greater costs to insurance companies translate to higher premiums for employers that provide insurance, the selfemployed, and individuals who pay out of pocket for their health care. In addition, redundant or unnecessary care strains the capacity of health care providers. However, Project IntelliCare poses a mechanism to mitigate some of the factors that contribute to these higher costs.

Project IntelliCare promises to modernize the way American health care is administered with tremendous benefits in quality of care, efficient, and cost-savings anticipated to accrue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important and exciting topic and urge my colleagues to support further funding for Project IntelliCare. By supporting this program, we work to collectively improve American health care standards and delivery.

TRIBUTE TO EDDIE N. WILLIAMS

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eddie N. Williams, admired journalist, researcher, and civil servant who is retiring as President of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Mr. Williams has led the Center for 32 years in its mission to improve the socioeconomic status of African Americans and other minorities, through research, policy analysis, and political engagement. In every sense, Mr. Williams' life and career are emblematic of how one courageous and hard working American can overcome challenges, take advantage of opportunities and make people's lives better.

Mr. Williams was born in Memphis, Tennessee where he was reared mostly by his mother, after the death of his jazz and blues musician father. Growing up, Mr. Williams was a stellar student and writer at Manassas High School in Memphis. From there, he went on to earn a degree in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana in 1956. He later pursued graduate studies at Howard and Atlanta Universities. Pursuing a career in segregated America, Mr. Williams encountered barriers because of his race that prevented him from pursuing a journalism career in Illinois

Illinois' loss was our gain because Mr. Williams returned to Memphis, where he began his career as managing director of the Memphis Star-Times, a local African-American newspaper. After working as a congressional fellow for U.S. Senator Hubert Humphrey and as a Foreign Service Reserve officer in the Kennedy administration, Mr. Williams returned to Illinois as vice president of public affairs and executive director of the University Center for Policy Study at the University of Chicago.

Unwilling to rest on his laurels, Mr. Williams resigned from his prestigious positions to take on the helm of a new, little-known think tank. The Joint Center's original purpose was to support and train African-American elected officials nationwide and measure their growth subsequent to the Voting Rights Act. Under Mr. Williams' direction, the Center expanded its focus to examine and document public policy issues affecting African Americans. Mr. Williams' determination to maintain a nonpartisan approach to the Center's problem-solving activities serves as an example to us all.

Mr. Williams leaves a legacy of innovation and courage in his efforts to address issues such as education, voting rights reform and the spread of HIV/AIDS in the United States. Mr. Williams has received numerous accolades and awards for his civic contributions, including the prestigious MacArthur Foundation ''Genius'' Award. Most recently, the Joint Center, under Mr. Williams leadership has studied and explained the rise of a new generation of the African-American elected officials into the mainstream of public life. He continuously reminds us not to be shy in our goal of reaching new heights on behalf of all Americans while staying connected to, in his words, ''the useful values of the past.'' His life and career demonstrate to all Americans that we stand on the shoulders of a generation that fought and stood and often sat down to create a more perfect union.

For his unselfish contributions and commitment to our Nation, Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. Eddie Williams for his many years of dedicated service to the American people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HON. JOSEPH N. LANGAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the city of Mobile, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Joseph N. Langan was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life. In 1939, at the age of 27, he entered the field of politics, serving for 6 years in the Alabama House of Representatives. He later served from 1947 to 1951 in the Alabama State Senate. From 1953 to 1969, he served as a Mobile city commissioner, including several terms as mayor at a time when the city was governed by a three-member commission. Mayor Langan enjoyed a very successful career as mayor and was known particularly for his efforts to expand the size of the city. As a result of his efforts, the city expanded its westward boundaries and grew in size from an area of approximately 33 square miles to an area of over 160 square miles.

During his time in both local and State government, Mayor Langan developed a strong reputation as a leader who felt duty-bound to do his part in the strengthening of relations between the black and white communities in Mobile and throughout the State of Alabama. In spite of progressive policies that led to strong public outrage and the end of his careers in both the State legislature and city hall, Mayor Langan dedicated himself to assisting the members of the African-American community in their efforts to advance their causes. During his tenure in the State legislature, he argued for equal pay for both black and white public school teachers. Additionally, during his service as mayor, Mayor Langan was an important part of keeping the community calm at a time when racial riots and crimes were tearing apart Alabama and much of the South. His strong and enduring relationship with Alabama civil rights activist John LeFlore was crucial to maintaining this calm.

Mayor Langan, a graduate of both Murphy High School and Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, was also a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving during both World War II and the Korean conflict. Later in his military career, he held the rank of general and served as commander of the Army National Guard's 31st Infantry Division.

In addition to both his public and military careers, Mayor Langan found time to become actively involved in many community and charitable organizations. He served as a member of the Spring Hill College Board of Trustees and of the University of South Alabama Foundation. He was recognized for his community service and charitable work with the 1957 Mobilian of the Year award.

This sad time for so many in the Mobile community has also given many of Mayor Langan's colleagues and friends the opportunity to remember him and recognize the many accomplishments of his career. Alabama State Senator Vivian Figures say, ''He was always for government being sensitive and inclusive to all citizens . . . He was a real gentleman of distinction.'' Former Mobile city clerk Richard Smith said, ''He wanted to serve, and he served well. He had vision, he had brains, he had leadership.'' And without fail, many in the Mobile community will remember Mayor Langan as one of the finest mayors and public servants to have ever worked on behalf of their city.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and friend to many in Mobile, Alabama. Mayor Langan will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Maude Adelle Langan, and his brother, John C. Langan, and his many nephews and other family members—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF PETER CUTINO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter J. Cutino, a coaching legend in the sport of water polo, who passed away Sunday, September 19th in his Monterey home. During his lifetime Mr. Cutino was a strong pillar of the water polo community. He will be dearly missed by his wife of 51 years, Louise; two sons, Paul and Peter; daughter, Anna; brother Bert; two sisters, Rose Marie and Josephine; five grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Cutino was born April 3, 1933 in Monterey. He graduated from high school a star athlete in 1951 and earned Junior College All American honors at Monterey Peninsula College. He then transferred to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, earning water polo all-conference honors, and graduated with a master's degree in education.

He began his coaching career at Oxnard High School and then moved on to coach the Cal Golden Bears for 26 victorious years. He was the most successful water polo coach in collegiate history and was awarded NCAA Coach of the Year four times. His successes in collegiate sports earned him the coveted role as coach to the U.S. national team in the 1976 Olympics. While at Cal, he coached 68 all-Americans, 6 Pac–10 conference and NCAA players of the year and 5 Olympians.

In 1989 he stepped down as UC Berkeley's head water polo coach in order to open and run the Monterey Sports Club in my district. At the same time, Peter continued his service to the international sports world by serving as chairman of the Men's International Olympic Committee. Additionally, in recognition of his life of leadership and mentorship, he received UC Berkeley's Alumni Centennial Award and Chancellors commendation, and an athletic scholarship at Berkeley was established in his name in 1989. Mr. Cutino was also an active leader in the Italian-American Community in Monterey and was a member of the Campari, Paisano and Amici clubs. In addition to numerous professional water polo publications, he authored a book on the Italian-American community in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, today I wish to join the local community and Mr. Peter Cutino's family and friends in honoring the life of such an inspirational coach, husband and father.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BERNARD E. KERST

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to recognize the passing of

Bernard Kerst, a great man from my district. Bernard spent most of his 87 years living in Yuma, Colorado, and during that time he made a significant impact on the life of countless individuals and his county. I am honored today to bring his contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bernard Kerst was born on July 9, 1917. When the Great Depression swept the country, he left high school and got a job to support himself and his family. He started a trucking business in his twenties and then built Victory Ships in Oregon during World War II. Afterward, he moved back to eastern Colorado, married DeVonna Gregory, and began farming and ranching. Being an avid conservationist, Bernard served on the board of the East Yuma County Soil Conservation District and was awarded the Bullshippers award from the Farm and Ranch Association for his outstanding service and leadership.

Bernard was a dedicated family man, raised two children, Carolyn and Dan, had many grandchildren and was able to know his first great grandchild, Isabel Carolyn. Due to health problems, Bernard and DeVonna moved to Arizona. After DeVonna passed away in 1999, Bernard moved back to Colorado to be close to his family living in Glenwood Springs.

Mr. Speaker, Bernard Kerst was a dedicated man who worked hard, supported his community and loved his family, and I am honored to pay tribute to him before this body of Congress today. I had the pleasure of knowing Bernard and worked with members of his family during my time in office, and I will miss his kind heart and wisdom. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time of bereavement.

HONORING BATTELLE ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Mrs. PRYCE and Mr. TIBERI to congratulate Battelle, a global science and technology enterprise, on its 75th anniversary.

Although founder Gordon Battelle never lived to see his dreams come to fruition, it was his and his mothers' estates that led to Battelle's existence. The estates were generously left for the establishment of the "Battelle Memorial Institute . . . for the purpose of education in connection with and the encouragement of creative and research work and the making of discoveries and inventions . . .". It was Mr. Battelle's desire to recover zinc from Ozark mines that led him to his first patent. This initial success produced the grand vision which Mr. Battelle's business partner, Joseph Frantz, is credited with carrying out.

In 1929, Battelle opened for business with only 30 staff members. Today, including the national labs that they manage, Battelle oversees 16,000 staff members and conducts $3 billion in annual research and development.

It is hard to believe what this Columbus, Ohio-headquartered institution has accomplished since those humble beginnings. In fact, their innovative technologies touch most Americans on a daily basis.

Possibly the most well known of Battelle's innovations is the development of xerography, which eventually led to today's copying machines and the company Xerox. Other innovations include: armor plating for U.S. Army tanks during WWII, fuel for the first nuclear powered submarine *Nautilus,* the metal composition of most of the 52.5 million coins produced each day by the U.S. Mint, cruise control for the automotive industry, the technology that led to the compact disc, and "no-melt" chocolate.

In addition to their commercial customers, Battelle provides services to over 800 federal, state, and local government agencies concentrating on important issues from national security to transportation and space.

As Chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I have the distinct pleasure of working very closely with Battelle on a number of issues. Through the annual Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, I provide funds for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Labs. One of Battelle's primary services includes the management or co-management of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Renewable National Laboratory. In fact, just last week, Battelle won a 10-year contract to operate the newly created Idaho National Laboratory, and congratulations are certainly in order regarding this new addition to the Battelle family.

As we look forward with great anticipation to the next 75 years of Battelle innovations, one can only dream of what may come. Battelle projects that they will concentrate on a broad range of issues in the upcoming years including: advanced healthcare, sustainable and renewable energy, clean water, and nuclear power.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with Battelle on these issues, and many more, and I congratulate them on their continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on November 16, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 531. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN MEMORY OF JOHN H.G. STUART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I stand in mourning to honor my good friend John H.G. Stuart, who passed peacefully on October 23, 2004, at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, his son Orin, his daughter Oria, his sister Kathleen of Toronto, Canada, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Mr. Stuart was a great contributor to the global community, and an example of the American dream.

Mr. Stuart, who was known to one and all as Harry, was born in 1918 in County Silgo, Ireland. He and his family later moved to Dublin, where he attended engineering school, and graduated with his degree from Trinity College. He later joined the British Navy, and spent the whole of the Second World War as a naval engineer, including two tours as chief engineer. After the end of World War II, he returned home to Ireland where he met and married Sheila, his wife and lifelong love of 58 years.

In 1948, Harry joined the Calcutta Electric Supply in India. He worked with their three power plants to make sure that Calcutta had plenty of power. Then, after almost 6 years in India and many months of applications and waiting, the Stuarts were granted visas and entry into the United States. They went to San Francisco in 1954 via Hong Kong, and ended up settling in Santa Cruz a year later in 1955.

As an engineer, Harry did power work with local companies and offices such as Pacific Gas & Electric and Lockheed Martin. He was able to help build geothermal plants in Iceland, Hawaii, and southern California. Through this work, he helped the world community to use better and cleaner power.

Harry had many faces. He was an avid traveler, as anyone would know just by reading these exploits, and he loved to fish and smoke salmon. In fact, I spent many a long night with Harry, discussing his travels throughout the British Isles, his passion for the outdoors, and most of all his thoughts on the best whiskey. In short, Harry was one of "the best," a friend and companion to one and all and a beautiful human being.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can all stand today and honor this man. He bettered the global environment, exemplified America's true diversity and opportunity to those who want to make a life here, and gave of his time to better the lives of his fellow travelers. I will miss him deeply and extend my deepest condolences to Sheila, Orin, Oria, Kathleen and the rest of his wonderful family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NORMA ANDERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Senate Majority Leader Norma Anderson and thank her for her tireless efforts serving the people of Colorado as a three-term member of the Colorado State Senate. Norma will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of her community. As she continues to serve the citizens of District 22, let it be known that she has made a great commitment to the Colorado General Assembly and the State of Colorado.

Norma began her public service career when she was elected to the Colorado State House of Representatives in 1986, and has been a champion of education, transportation, crime and tax reform issues in the General Assembly. She served as the Chair of the Education, Transportation and Energy, and Audit Committees and previously as the Vice-Chair of Long-Term Health Care Task Force,

and Higher Education Planning Committees. After serving ten years in the State House, Norma continued her service to Colorado when she was elected to the Colorado State Senate in 1998. As a State Senator, Norma currently leads her party as the Senate Majority Leader. She serves on the Finance and Legislative Audit Committees and is the former chair of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee. Norma's major accomplishments include such important laws as the School Finance Act of 1994, the Third Grade Literacy Act and the creation of the Colorado Department of Transportation.

Norma is a dedicated legislator whose leadership has been awarded with the honor of being the first woman to hold the position of Majority Leader in both the state House and state Senate. Over the course of her tenure she has been the recipient of more than sixty-five recognitions and awards including the Denver Women's Commission, the Colorado Women's Chamber Senator of the Year, and the Colorado School of Mines Medal. In addition to her service to the General Assembly, Norma is also a member of the Great Outdoors Colorado Board, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Higher Education, the American Cancer Society and several other community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Norma Anderson has ceaselessly dedicated her time and efforts to serving her country and the people of Colorado as a Colorado State Senator. I am honored to bring her hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service Norma and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARYLAND COALITION FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, one of the major goals of our education system is to produce knowledgeable and informed citizens. We accomplish this, in part, through effective civic education programs in our schools—like the innovative We The People program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education.

The first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was held in September 2003. The event was sponsored by the Alliance for Representative Democracy and co-hosted by our four distinguished congressional leaders: Senator FRIST, Senator DASCHLE, Speaker HASTERT and Leader PELOSI. One of the very positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of state delegations that returned home with the mission to enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools and make available programs like We the People in each of our fifty states.

In that regard, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma, the facilitator of the Maryland delegation, for her leadership in designing an action plan to improve civic education in our state. As a result of her efforts, the Maryland Coalition for Civic Education, representing over 40 community leaders and organizations, has been formed; a tool kit of best practices in civic education has been developed; and Maryland's teachers will soon have access to further professional development in the area of civic education.

Moreover, I'm proud to note that these exciting developments come on top of Maryland's substantial existing commitments in the area of civic education—including our Student Service Learning requirement, our mandatory Government Civics course and our nearly finished state curriculum, which will include the teaching of civics and government from pre-K through high school.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Dr. Taylor-Thoma and the rest of her colleagues again for all of their hard work, and I look forward to the success of the Maryland Coalition for Civic Education as they participate in the second annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4–6 of this year.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PV2 JUSTIN RAY YOEMANS, A MODEL OF VALOR IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army PV2 Justin Ray Yoemans of Eufaula, Alabama, who lost his life November 6 while defending our nation.

Private Yoemans was manning his gun position when his Humvee encountered a roadside bomb during a street patrol of Baghdad, Iraq. According to military accounts, Private Yoemans gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. His was posthumously awarded a total of five military medals, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Private Yoemans, who was assigned to the Fourth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country at the age of 20. His family and friends describe him as a loving son and a patriot who was proud to serve in the military.

I cannot express the proper words to console his family at the loss of their beloved son. However, I do wish to convey that America shares in your grief as we struggle together to protect our homeland from terrorism.

Private Yoemans loved life and was described by his younger sister as "a little boy inside a great man." America is fortunate to have such "great men" standing up for the cause of freedom. His valor and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE F. AIKEN

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to extend my warmest thanks and my most sincere best wishes to Mr. Steve F. Aiken who is retiring after 35 years of faithful service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District.

Currently serving as Chief of the Programs Management Branch, Steve has had a distinguished career with the Corps of Engineers. A recipient of the Sustained Superior Performance Award and the Exceptional Performance Award several times, Steve has also received the District Humanitarian Award, the South Atlantic Division Program Management Chief of the Year award, and the Commander's Award for Civilian Service. Clearly, his record has been one of stellar performance and superb leadership. In addition, both my staff in Washington and in the Wilmington area have immensely enjoyed working with Steve and benefiting from his professional advice on some many key projects in our area. Each of them joins me in thanking you for being so accessible and informed. As the father of an Eagle Scout, I am also very grateful for his dedication and service to the Boy Scouts of America.

When I think of Steve's commitment to the public good, the words "spirit, sacrifice, and service" come to mind. Steve's positive spirit has always been to do the task at hand—a spirit that inspires others to achieve. Steve's sacrifice in time and commitment has been to make southeastern North Carolina a better place to live and work—a sacrifice that meant doing the right thing and not being concerned with who gets the credit.

Pearl S. Buck once said, "To serve is beautiful, but only if it is done with joy and a whole heart and free mind." There is no question that his years of service have been the epitome of this statement. Service to others has been the embodiment of his life—service that sets a path for others to follow and that we all should emulate.

As he enters this next stage of life, I am confident that his talents and energy will continue to be of benefit to many. Through his commitment to family and community, a shining gem he will continue to be.

Bart Giamatti, the former president of Yale University, said it well in 1987, "Be mindful of what we share and must share; not the least of which is that each of our hopes for a full and decent life depends upon others hoping the same and all of us sustaining each other's hopes . . . If there is no striving for the good life for any of us, there cannot be a good life for any of us."

On behalf of the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District of North Carolina, thanks to Steve so much for the good life he has given to so many. Now, may he enjoy the same, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with him always.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREECE'S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN HOSTING THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greece for its outstanding performance as host of the 2004 Olympic Games. As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues and as the House Member privileged to represent Astoria, Queens, one of the

largest and most vibrant communities of Hellenic Americans anywhere in this country, I join with all of my Caucus colleagues and fellow residents of New York's 14th Congressional District in saluting the people of Greece. On October 29, 2004, the Hellenic community, together with many friends, convened in Astoria's Athens Square Park to recognize this outstanding accomplishment.

While it has been nearly three months since the Olympic flame was extinguished in Athens, the memory of how wonderful the 2004 Summer Games really were remains with us. The Athens Games attracted the largest American audience ever for an Olympic competition held outside the United States. The impact will be felt worldwide for generations to come. To me it was always clear that Greece would be an excellent host for the 2004 Olympic Games. Greek hospitality and warmth is renowned throughout the world. Thus, it is no surprise to report that the Greek people proved the naysayers wrong by hosting an impeccably organized and safe Olympic Games, an extraordinary world event in which the athletes took center stage.

For three weeks in August, the people of Greece welcomed the world to participate in a competition that allowed countries to set aside their political differences for a brief time and to come together in the spirit of peace and sportsmanship. Wanting to help make the 2004 Olympics a great event for visitors many volunteers, including those from New York City such as Andreas C George, Katherine George, Vlasis Anastasiou, Julia Anastasiou, Helen Skarla, Katerina Papaioannou, Joanna Savaides, Irene Aindili Kalliroe Argenas, Yeannis Kaltsas, Spilios Gianakopoulos, Elizabeth Bogiatzi, Marika Gianakopoulos, Argyris Ignatiades, Stephanos Pavlides, Ieanni Michaelides, Theodora Ziongas, George Costacos and Zacharoula Karyammi, gave generously of their time and energy. While they were there, the volunteers were able to see Greece's beautiful historic and natural treasures, ensuring that they would remember forever their experience in Greece.

On October 29th, the members of Hellenic cultural and civic organizations, Greek Orthodox churches, constituents and friends joined together to pay tribute to Greece for its extraordinary showing in the Olympics. The organizations represented included the Federation of Hellenic Societies and its members: Grinion Benevolent Society; Daughters of Roumeli Society of New York, Inc., Society of Diplatanos, Saint Marina, Inc., Nafpactian Brotherhood of New York, Galaxidi Brotherhood Eanthe, Thermopyles Phiotidos, the Laconian Brotherhood ''Mani'' Inc., Calavrytan Fraternity, Geros Tou Morea, Inc, Society Vryseon Anavretis, Pankerkyraikos Association, Kephalos, Society of America, Ithacan Society, ''Odesseus'' Ithacan Society, ''Odesseus'' Aesculapian Thessalian Brotherhood, Inc., Society of Epirotes, Pyrrhus Benevolent Society, Inc., Society of Epirotes Ladies Auxiliary, Souliotissaithessalonikian Society Society of Kastorians, Pontion Society of Kastoria, Inc., Panthracian Union of America, ''Orpheus'' St. John Theologos Society, Panicarian Brotherhood, Mytilenian Society of America, Pan-lemnian Philanthropic Association ''Hephaestos'' Inc., Gnomagoras Nisyrian Society Inc., Zoodohos Pighe of Andros Society, Cretans Association, ''Omonoia'' Cretan Women's Association, ''Pasiphae'' Syllogos Kreton ''Minos'' Pancyprian Association, Inc., Greek Cultural Center Inc., Northern Chios Society of ''Pelineon'', United Pireotes of America, Aetoloakarnanian Mutual Society, Mutual Aid Society, Aigioton Vostitsa Epidavrou Limiras Association, Inc., Paneliakos Society of New York, Kalamata Society, Ltd., Aristotelis Society of Halkidikipansamian Brotherhood ''Pythagoras'' of New York, ''Labrys'' Cretan Youth Organization of New York, Pontian Society ''Komninoi'', NY Greek American Folklore Society, Inc., Greek American Folklore Society, Inc., El Greco Society of Visual Arts, Inc., ''St. Demetrios'' Naupaktias Brotherhood of America, Greek American Homeowners Ass., Society Agiogalousion Amerikis, Greek-American Labor Council, Greek Society Elatousion of ''St. Stefanos'', Syllogos Noumou Magnisias ''Argonaytes'', Benevolent Association of Calamatahellenic Veterans Society of Greater New York, Inc., Panhellenic Organization ''Martyrs of Kavo Melanios'' Othoni Society of USA, Inc., Association of Logastra, Inc., Hellenic Organization of University Graduates of America, Philoptohos Adelfotis Arahoviton Nafpaktias Olympiakos Fan Club of NY, USA Greek and American Retirement Club, Pankritiki Enosis Athlitismou, Inc., Pan-Grecorian A.E.K. Fan Soccer Club of USA, Inc., Greek-American Mothers Association of USA, Omilos Metanaston Karitsis Messinian Benevolent Association, Hellenic American Educators Association, Gnomogoras Nisyrian Society, Inc., Benevolent Society of Athanasios Diakos ''Apostole'', Association Magoulioton of Spartasyllogos Patrinon Kostis Palamas and other prominent organizations, including PSEKA, Athens Square Park Inc., American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, St. Paul Soc., Pan Dodecanese Society of America, Krikos; Eastern Orthodox Lawyers, Pan Macedonian Cultural Center; the Modern Greek Studies Center; the Hellenic American Medical Society; Euro-American Women's Council and the Pan Erikoussa Society of America, as well as our friends in the Greek press: National Herald, Hellenic Harmonies, Hellas News, National Greek TV, Hellenic Times, Estiator & Greek American Review, Antena, Aktina, Eseis Magazine, Maria Papadatos Show; Orthodox Observer, Hellas FM, and Mike Zapitis Hour.

The millions of Americans who watched the Games achieved a better understanding of the Greek people, their warmth, generosity and graciousness. These Olympics helped solidify the reputation of Greece and the Hellenic people for abundant hospitality, or ''filoxenia''. Greece has earned our gratitude and sincerest congratulations. ''Axie!''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise to pay tribute to Greece for giving the world a spectacular 2004 Summer Olympics.

IN HONOR OF FOREST HILL MANOR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Forest Hill Manor on its fiftieth anniversary of serving our community's seniors. This historic building was once the illustrious Forest Hill Hotel, and is still known today for the fine service it offers its guests.

In 1954 the hotel was acquired by the California-Nevada Methodist Homes for the purpose of providing a retirement residence in picturesque Pacific Grove. Throughout the years the Manor has continued to undergo improvements, designed to maintain the high quality of life residents have come to expect from this institution.

Currently the Manor is beginning work on the latest expansion project, responding to the growing needs of the community. There will be an additional thirty-two independent living apartments, and six more assisted living apartments. The Manor is also adding a skilled nursing facility on the property, with twenty-six beds, so residents will not have to receive care offsite. These new developments will expand the Manor's ability to work for the elderly community in the Monterey Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Forest Hill Manor on the outstanding service it has provided our community for the last fifty years. The Manor is a model retirement home, offering a pleasant living experience for 693 residents since 1954. I extend my congratulations to Forest Hill Manor and wish it many more successful years.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF MARK TRACY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Tracy who is retiring after ten years as the Santa Cruz County Sheriff. Mr. Tracy's lifelong dedication to the Santa Cruz community consists of over 32 years as a police officer, as well as numerous volunteer and leadership positions within local organizations. Beginning his career as a Deputy Sheriff with Santa Cruz County, Mark rose through the ranks to become a Sergeant and a Lieutenant. He was elected Sheriff-Coroner of Santa Cruz County in 1994.

During his years with the Sheriff's Office, Mark has worked in and represented nearly every bureau and capacity in the department and has received numerous awards and commendations. Notably, he has acted as Coordinator of the Search and Rescue Team, was a founding member of the Hostage Negotiating Team, and has served as Chairman for both the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council and the Santa Cruz County Commission on Domestic Violence. By establishing the Domestic Violence Unit and working with advocacy groups throughout the county, he has promoted better services to victims of domestic abuse. Additionally, Sheriff Tracy established the High Tech Crime Unit to address the growing problem of identity theft and computer crimes.

In his career as Sheriff, Mark has also established unprecedented levels of trust and cooperation with the community, including women's groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, as well as medical marijuana organizations. He has overseen the opening of new service centers throughout Santa Cruz County and has placed school resource officers at high schools and junior high schools throughout the region.

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office has a proud history of aggressively attacking crime in a proactive and timely manner. Mark has been at the forefront of working towards unbiased policing and problem-solving techniques. In his partnerships with local organizations, he has established himself as an integral part of the Santa Cruz community. I have personally enjoyed working with Mark, and I wish to thank him for his dedicated service to our community. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Tracy on his upcoming retirement as Sheriff, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

SPEECH OF

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 110, legislation that commemorates the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

As we all know, our Allied forces fought against great odds, outnumbered and outgunned, to hold back German forces from December, 1944 to January, 1945. Victory over Germany was secured 4 months later.

This year has given us many opportunities to thank the members of the World War II generation for all that they have achieved. The 60th anniversary of D-Day, the opening of the long-awaited National World War II Memorial on the Mall here in Washington, and the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge are reminders that these men and women fought to save the world from tyranny. The passage of time should not diminish their sacrifices.

I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, my friend and colleague from Illinois, for sponsoring this resolution. It honors the 600,000 U.S. troops who fought in this battle 60 years ago. One of those troops is another friend and former colleague, Bob Michel. The former Minority Leader of the House, Bob Michel was wounded by machine gun fire at the Battle of the Bulge, for which he earned two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. I know he has never forgotten that more than 81,000 of his fellow American soldiers were also injured in Belgium 60 years ago, and, through this resolution, we show these veterans that we do not forget, either.

I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 110, and urge its swift passage.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN ELECTIONS ACT OF 2004

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4324, the Thrift Savings Plan Open Elections Act of 2004. This simple, but important legislation will allow eligible individuals the opportunity to elect or modify contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at any time, without penalty. The TSP is a voluntary, tax-deferred defined contribution plan for Federal employees and members of the uniformed services, through which Federal agencies provide matching funds to an individual's own retirement contributions. However, under current law, an eligible employee has only two opportunities a year to join the TSP fund and receive matching contributions, or to adjust their individual contribution amount. The changes implemented by H.R. 4324 will allow for greater participant access to the TSP, and will simplify administration. Given the hard work that our Federal employees and uniformed servicemen and women perform day in and day out, it is commonsense that they should have this increased control over their retirement contributions.

RECOGNIZING DEREK E. WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek E. Williams of Kearney, MO, 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 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derek has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 3 years Derek has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Derek is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Order of the Arrow, and Brotherhood.

For his Eagle Scout project, Derek built a bridge at the Lions Club Park. With the addition of Derek's bridge, the park is now handicap accessible. The project took approximately 120 hours to complete.

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

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make it possible for foreign doctors to provide medical services in geographic areas which have been designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals. S. 2302 is almost identical to H.R. 4453, which I cosponsored with my colleague, Mr. HOSTETTLER. H.R. 4453 passed the House on October 6 on the suspension calendar. The Senate bill has an additional provision which ensures that specialists sponsored by Federal and State agencies are placed in areas that have a shortage in that specialty. The additional provision requires the sponsoring agency to determine criteria for demonstrating a specialist shortage and to meet that criteria in order to sponsor the specialist.

Aliens who attend medical school in the United States on J exchange program visas are required to leave the country afterwards and reside abroad for two years before they can receive a visa to work here as physicians. In 1994, Congress created a new temporary waiver of this 2-year foreign residence requirement which allowed states as well as federal agencies to sponsor the doctors. It applied to foreign doctors who would commit to practicing medicine for no less than 3 years in a geographic area designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as 2 having a shortage of health care professionals. This program has been successful for 10 years in bringing highly qualified physicians to medically underserved areas. It sunsetted on June 1 of this year.

The first physician recommended for a waiver in Texas was Dr. Maria Camacho, a Pediatric Intensivist. Her services to the residents of Harlingen in Cameron County provide a level of health care to children that was previously unavailable in that county.

Dr. K. M. Moorthi is a Nephrologist who was recommended for a waiver to serve at a facility in Pecos, TX, in Reeves County. He works at a dialysis center. Patients requiring dialysis 3 times per week in that part of Texas used to have to travel more than 70 miles each way for the treatments. Now it is available in Pecos.

The bill will provide a 2-year extension for this waiver program. When it was marked up by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, the extension was only for one year. Although I had sought a 5-year extension at that 3 markup, I subsequently accepted a compromise of 2 years. I also negotiated a flexibility provision which will allow a State agency to place a doctor at a location that has not been designated as underserved if the doctor will nevertheless serve patients from an underserved area. The exception is limited to five doctors in each state. It targets rural underserved areas that typically get specialty medical care from a major medical facility that is not itself located within an underserved area. The bill also provides that the doctors who receive a waiver to come here with H–1B visas will not count towards the annual H–1B cap.

I urge you to vote for S. 2302.

BE PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN AN ESSAY BY HELEN LU

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an essay composed by Helen Lu, a 16-year-old junior at Washington High School in Fremont, CA. Miss Lu delivered her essay at the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission's Veterans Day commemoration on November 11, 2004.

BE PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Be proud to be an American. Be proud that you are part of this great democratic society, founded on the ideals of liberty and freedom that our forefathers have fought for in the American Revolution.

Be proud to be an American. Remember our role in the destruction of that Fascist dictatorship in the Second World War.

Be proud to be an American, that you live in the most democratic nation in the world and take part in the most dynamic and developed economy.

Be proud to be an American, though you may look at what is going on these days, and sigh in disappointment at our divided condition regarding a war. But we have known greater division, the American Civil War. Yet we still come together as a nation. We still have come together to build this great nation into what it is today.

Be proud to be an American, even though we are uncertain if every war has been justified. There are those who call Vietnam a mistake. There are those who call the war in Iraq an error. You can dwell on those issues the other 364 days of the year, but today just remember the millions of men and women who have so selflessly devoted their lives to their country.

Be proud to be an American, for there is one thing certain, and remember it when you feel lost amidst all the political argument: there have always been brave men and women who would lay down their lives to protect those of yours and mine. There have always been courageous men and women who would sacrifice themselves for their country. We may look back at any war and condemn it as a grave mistake. We may look back on this war in Iraq, where thousands of young men and women have died, as a grave mistake. History may show that we had mistakes, but we will always be certain of the absolute heroism of those who sacrificed for their country.

Be proud to be an American. Your country is a nation in which people may disagree over values and beliefs, yet always come together in the end to fight any battle that needs to be fought.

To all our veterans, those who are here with us and to those who gave their lives in the service of their country, you have our utmost respect.

A TRIBUTE TO NISARUL HAQUE, M.D.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Dr. Nisarul Haque for his dedication to Interfaith Medical Center and excellence in patient care.

Legendary for his gentle and caring manner, Dr. Haque has been affiliated with Interfaith Medical Center for nearly his entire medical career, joining as a medical resident in 1966 at one of Interfaith Medical Center's predecessor hospitals, Jewish Hospital and Medical Center of Brooklyn, or "Brooklyn Jewish." He has been married to Lois Haque for 38 years and they have two sons, Kamaal and Jameel.

Dr. Haque came to the United States from Pakistan on July 4, 1964, arriving to see Independence Day fireworks from a helicopter, which was shuttling him from JFK Airport to New Jersey to start his American medical career at Perth Amboy General Hospital. After completing his Rotating Internship at Perth Amboy, Dr. Haque went to Kingsbrook Medical Center as a first year resident in Internal Medicine.

Dr. Haque says he finally found the right place when he came to Brooklyn Jewish for his second and third year residencies in Internal Medicine from 1966 to 1968 and Chief Medical Resident from 1968 to 1969. He joined the Medical Staff in 1971, worked as a part-time attending physician in the medical clinic in 1976 and was named to his current position as the Medical Director of the Department of Psychiatry in 1985. Dr. Haque is Board-certified in both Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and is a member of the Kings County Medical Society and Medical Society of the State of New York. He graduated in 1960 from the Khyber Medical College of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan. He did his internship at Lady Reading Hospital and served as Medical Director at the Cantonment General Hospital, both in Peshawar.

For his long-time commitment to the Interfaith Medical Center and its patients, Dr. Haque has received the 2004 Spirit Award for Excellence in Patient Care from the Center.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Nisarul Haque has dedicated his professional career to serving patients in the Brooklyn community at Interfaith Medical Center. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CPL. SEAN M. LANGLEY

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Cpl. Sean M. Langley. On November 7, 2004, Lance Cpl. Langley made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq. The work of our young men and women in the armed services is vital for the safety and security of our Nation. The death of Lance Cpl. Langley is a true loss to the United States. I salute his dedication while serving in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. My thoughts and prayers are with his parents, Bill and Patricia Langley, and all those who loved him.

RECOGNIZING JEFFREY WILLIAM HAYNES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeffrey William Haynes of Kearney, Missouri, 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 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jeff has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the nine years Jeff has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Scribe, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Jeff attended H. Roe Bartle each year since becoming a member of Troop 397, and is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Order of the Arrow, and Brotherhood.

For his Eagle Scout project, Jeff disassembled and removed the old playground equipment in Lion's Park in Kearney; and then assembled and installed new playground equipment.

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

CONGRATULATING LARRY HERBSTER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my respected colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Larry Herbster as he retires from his position as General Manager of WBRE–TV, the NBC affiliate in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Larry has worked for Nexstar Broadcasting for five years and was named Vice President and General Manager of WBRE in 2000.

Larry was born in Scranton and is a 1961 graduate of Scranton Preparatory School. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Scranton and his master's degree in business administration from New York University's Stern Graduate School of Business.

Larry has worked in the media since 1967, beginning with LIFE Magazine, TIME-LIFE Broadcast and Cable and TIME-LIFE Books. He also worked in various capacities with The Washington Post and The Gannett Co., Inc. Larry was President of two Gannett television stations in Oklahoma City and in Buffalo, New York before retiring in 1999. He then became Vice President and General Manager of Nexstar Broadcasting's Rochester, New York CBS affiliate before coming back home to Northeastern Pennsylvania. He and his wife Anna reside in Wilkes-Barre.

Larry has been active in community affairs throughout his entire life, serving on the boards of the United Way of Wyoming Valley, the Diamond City Partnership, the Boy Scouts of America and Scranton Tomorrow. In his spare time, Larry is an avid sailor. Larry will teach on the graduate school level now that he is retiring.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Larry Herbster upon his retirement. It is truly a privilege to represent a man who has worked diligently to dispense the news to the public and who has served his community with a variety of civic activities.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAKER SQUARE

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of one of Cleveland's most cherished landmarks, Shaker Square.

The Square was built in 1927–29 by Otis and Mantis Van Sweringen, the brothers who developed Shaker Heights, Ohio. The oldest shopping district in Ohio and the second oldest in the Nation, Shaker Square was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. What you see at Shaker Square today is a happy combination of nearly 75 years of preservation, enhanced by a multi-million dollar renovation in 2000–2001.

The Square has been viewed as the gateway to the Eastern suburbs. In addition to the development of Shaker Square was the creation of a rapid transit (light rail) connection to downtown Cleveland via the Terminal Tower, which is now a part of The Tower City Center.

Shaker Square is home to many unique shops and restaurants and is home to the Historic Colonial Theater, which was built in 1937.

But Shaker Square is more than a shopping area. It is the heart of a lively, diverse neighborhood. There are more than 4,000 units of high-quality rental and condominium apartments near the square—the largest concentration of multi family housing in Cleveland—plus townhouses and many private homes.

Therefore, it is with great pride and pleasure that I congratulate Shaker Square and the community-at-large as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of this historic landmark in the city of Cleveland and the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DENTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton Housing Authority to commend them for receiving four National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Awards this year.

The Denton Housing Authority has been active in the North Texas community for years, working hard to provide quality public and affordable housing. This year at the 2004 NAHRO awards ceremony, the Denton Housing Authority was recognized for their achievements. The Denton Housing Authority raised the bar once again by winning more merit awards than in 2003.

The Denton Housing Authority was recognized for four of their programs. The Class Apprenticeship Program, created by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, provides career training programs, on-the-job training, and associated technical instruction to program participants and members of the community. The Denton County Health Department Dental Clinic teams with the County Health Department to make available low-cost and free services to area residents who cannot afford insurance. Also, Project READY teams with the University of North Texas to encourage social and academic success and reinforce positive behavior of youth living in the Phoenix housing development. Finally, Resident Outreach Clean Up Project in cooperation with the University of North Texas and Keep Denton Beautiful improved the community surroundings and eliminated trash and graffiti. I believe these programs will better enhance our community by investing in our citizens and forming a safer environment for our neighborhoods.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the Denton Housing Authority for their innovation and hard work in providing community outreach services to the city of Denton and surrounding communities.

COMMENDING THE PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR ITS DESIGNATION AS ONE OF THE TOP THREE SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Palm Beach County School District for achieving a rating of ''Best'' in the report released by the America Prepared Campaign on Preparedness in America's Schools. In the twenty school districts rated on their emergency preparedness regarding terrorism, Palm Beach County scored in third place.

The America Prepared Campaign is a nonprofit, non-partisan initiative that uses the expertise of national leaders on a range of matters to give citizens the tools and information they need to prepare themselves and their families for a large-scale disaster, particularly a terrorism event.

In their report entitled ''Preparedness in America's Schools: A Comprehensive Look at Terrorism Preparedness in America's Twenty Largest School Districts,'' the foundation examined how well these school districts are prepared to protect their students in the event of a terrorist attack or other major emergency.

With 193 schools and more than 160,000 students, the School District of Palm Beach County was lauded for its ''long history of robust school security and safety efforts.'' School District Police Department Chief James Kelly was singled out for his focus on implementing effective and efficient security methods, such as identification badges for school personnel, including students, a GPS tracking system for county school buses, and the introduction of violence-intervention programs.

This report also cited the School District's outstanding use of communication, employing the use of the existing local notification system rather than a brand-new, expensive phone tree. This method ensures that parents and local officials have up-to-date emergency information.

While the School District has every right to feel proud of their accomplishment, officials know that there is still plenty of work to be done. The school district has, for example, applied for a grant to print an emergency preparedness pamphlet in four languages to be distributed to every home. Not only would families with children in public school receive this pamphlet, but so would families with students in private and charter schools.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Palm Beach County School District for its efforts to prepare students, faculty, parents, and community members for emergency situations.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER COBLE KREEGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Coble Kreeger of Kearney, Missouri, 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 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alex has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 10 years Alex has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Den Chief, Patrol Leader, Bugler, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Alex attended H. Roe Bartle Camp for 6 years, becoming a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 2000, Ordeal in 2000, and Brotherhood in 2001.

For his Eagle Scout project, Alex cleaned and repaired the Lion's Club garage in Kearney.

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

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 1417

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 145, a bill for correcting the enrollment of H.R. 1417, the ''Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act.'' I commend Messrs. Smith, Mr. Berman, and Ranking Member Conyers, for their respective hard work in crafting this legislation.

The underlying bill would replace the existing administrative procedures within the U.S. Copyright Office that determine copyright royalty rates and the distribution of related royalties under various compulsory licenses.

Under the Copyright Royalty Tribunal Reform Act of 1993, the Librarian of Congress has the authority to convene Copyright Arbitration Royalty Panels, or ''CARPS,'' to resolve failed private negotiations between parties that fail to establish rates or to distribute royalties regarding the commercial use of movies, music and other specified copyrighted works.

For years, the CARP system has been criticized for rendering unpredictable and inconsistent decisions, employing arbitrators lacking the expertise to render sound decisions, and for being unnecessarily expensive.

H.R. 1417 is a reasonable bill to cure these concerns and is based on the input and recommendations of government and industry experts.

H.R. 1417 addresses the problem of lack of arbitrator expertise by appointing a ''Copyright Judge'' to preside over the new process. The Copyright Judge will be appointed by the Librarian of Congress, have full adjudicatory responsibility, and have the authority to make rulings on both the law and rates. The Copyright Judge will select two professional staff members with knowledge of economics, business, and finance. These staff qualifications will also improve the quality of the decisions rendered.

H.R. 1417 redefines the role of the Copyright Office. Presently, acts as an intake agency answering initial case intake questions, as well as an appellate court for CARP decisions by advising the Librarian on cases. This dual role forces the Copyright Office to often decline to answer threshold intake questions for fear of having to review its own decisions at the appellate stage. Under H.R. 1417, the Copyright Office's appellate responsibilities will be removed and the Office will only act in an administrative and advisory capacity by counseling the Copyright Judge on substantive issues as requested.

For small claimants who participate in the CARP process, the substantial expenses are practically preclusive. H.R. 1417 contains provisions to make the process more accessible. First, claimants must declare an ''amount in controversy'' during a distribution determination phase of the proceedings. If the dollar figure is $500 or less, the claimant will be assigned to the small claims process which is an less expensive, ''all-paper'' claim resolution method.

Another provision of H.R. 1417, that benefits both large and small claimants requires the filing of a ''notice of intent to participate'' in either a rate-making or distribution proceeding. This not requirement will discourage entities from disrupting the process by participating at the last minute. If a party failure to file in a timely manner or fails to pay the required fee, they will be an exclusion of either written or oral participation in that determination. Those exempted as small claimants would not be affected by this requirement.

H.R. 1417 contains several procedural changes to make the claim resolution process more convenient for the parties. H.R. 1417 expands the duration of the discovery phase from 45 to 60 days to give parties more time to file their claims. Additionally, the 180–day time-frame for completing the CARP hearing process is amended to require parties complete the hearing phase of a rate-making or distribution determination in 6 months. The Copyright Judge, at their discretion, could extend this period up to a maximum of 6 additional months.

Mr. Speaker, after the corrections made by S. Con. Res. 145, H.R. 1417 will make changes to the CARP system that will benefit the parties as well as the agents of the copyright adjudication system. I support H. Con. Res. 145 and H.R. 1417, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

STEVE LOHR'S NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE: ''IS KAISER THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN HEALTH CARE?''

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an excellent article recently published in the New York Times. For years I have talked about the benefits of real managed care, not the managed cost model Republicans in Congress and the Bush Administration blindly push at the expense of patients.

In his article, Steve Lohr presents the facts about Kaiser Permanente and its non-profit staff model health maintenance organization. For thousands of people in my district and millions across the country Kaiser provides quality, cost effective care, while still finding the resources necessary to be a leader in the development of health information technology. At the same time, Kaiser keeps costs down by effectively managing chronic conditions and educating healthy members to avoid chronic conditions down the road.

Tax credits and personal responsibility will do little or nothing to ameliorate the crisis of 45 million uninsured Americans. The Kaiser model is the most reasonable approach to creating a single-payer universal health care system. Obstacles to reaching the goal of universal coverage are many, but this article presents the hard fact that Kaiser is the future of American health care.

It is with pleasure that I submit the attached article, ''Is Kaiser the Future of American Health Care?'' for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The article originally appeared in the October 31, 2004 edition of The New York Times.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 31, 2004]

IS KAISER THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN HEALTH CARE?

(By Steve Lohr)

OAKLAND, CA—After 18 years in private practice, Dr. Victor Silvestre was exhausted from his lonely battle, day after day, with a health care system that seemed to be working against him. A general practitioner, Dr. Silvestre found it increasingly difficult to get his patients appointments with specialists, who tended to focus on lucrative procedures instead of routine care. Paperwork and haggling with insurance companies, he said, took more and more time. ''There just had to be a better way,'' he recalled.

For Dr. Silvestre, the better way was not across the border in Canada, or in some affluent nearby suburb, but in his own backyard, in Oakland. Two years ago, he joined Kaiser Permanente, the huge health maintenance organization based here. ''So many of the solutions, the ingredients of a more rational system for delivering health care, were there,'' he said.

It may seem unlikely, given Kaiser's past image as a ham-handed H.M.O., but plenty of others are reaching the same conclusion. High-level visitors from across the political spectrum—the Bush administration and National Health Service of Britain, for example—are coming to California these days to look at Kaiser as an institution that is actually doing some of the things needed to improve health care.

Obviously, there is no single model for revamping the nation's costly, disjointed health care system, and Kaiser certainly has its share of problems. But according to economists and medical experts, Kaiser is a leader in the drive both to increase the quality of care and to spend health dollars more wisely, using technology and incentives tailored to those goals. ''Quality health care in America will never be cheap, but Kaiser probably does it better than anywhere else,'' said Uwe E. Reinhardt, an economist at Princeton who specializes in health issues.

HEALTH care systems in most industrialized countries are in crises of one form or another. But the American system is characterized by both feast and famine: it leads the world in delivering high-tech medical miracles but leaves 45 million people uninsured. The United States spends more on health care than any other country—$6,167 a person a year—yet it is a laggard among wealthy nations under basic health measures like life expectancy. In a nutshell, America's health care system, according to many experts, is a nonsystem. ''It's like the worst market system you could devise, just a mess,'' said Neelam Sekhri, a health policy specialist at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

In this political season, the health care debate has been mostly about who will pay the bill. President Bush talks about tax credits and health savings accounts that are intended to give people more control over their care but would also mean that they would pay more out of their own pockets. Senator John Kerry wants the government to pay more, and he has proposed a major, and costly, program to cover the uninsured.

The favored solution of many liberals—and of no small number of health care experts—is a single-payer system of health insurance, covering the entire population and underwritten by the government. For the foreseeable future, that is considered politically off-limits, which was the message Washington absorbed from the abandoned effort to fashion a national health program in the Clinton administration.

How to finance health care is only one side of the problem. The other is how to deliver the care more intelligently, and that is where the Kaiser experience holds lessons. Given the demands of an aging population and steady advances in medical technology, national health spending will continue to climb. Yet by all accounts, there is plenty of waste—estimates range up to 30 percent or more of total spending—from unnecessary clinical tests, hospital stays and prescriptions, and the bedeviling sea of paper used to handle bills, claims and patient records.

''We're not going to spend less, but figuring out how to get the most value out of our health spending is going to be the big issue of the future,'' said David Cutler, a health care economist at Harvard.

But Kaiser as a model? Wasn't Kaiser, an H.M.O., part of the ''managed care'' movement that faltered in the 1990's amid protests from doctors and patients? In fact, Kaiser, with its origins in the 1930's and 1940's, when the industrialist Henry J. Kaiser provided health care for his construction and shipyard workers, has always been a hybrid. The managed care concept of the 1990's was about having an outside bean counter, usually an insurance company, looking over the shoulder of the doctor—managing costs instead of managing care.

Kaiser has a different setup with different incentives. It emphasizes preventive care and managing chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes to keep people healthier. And that saves money because healthier people require less costly care like hospitalization.

The country's largest private-sector provider of health care, Kaiser employs more than 11,000 physicians and 135,000 other workers, owns 30 hospitals and hundreds of clinics

and serves more than eight million members in nine states and the District of Columbia. Seventy percent are in California. Kaiser is both insurer and provider; employers typically pay fixed yearly fees for each member, no matter how much care is provided.

Clearly, Kaiser has its limits as a model for others. It is unlike many mainstream health plans in that it is a not-for-profit company—though one with annual revenue of more than $25 billion and operating margins of 5 percent. Its facilities tend to be large, and it has a lingering reputation for practicing an impersonal, regimented style of medicine that limits patient choice, despite recent efforts like the creation of physicians' personal Web pages and e-mail communication with patients.

Still, most health care experts who have studied Kaiser are impressed. ''Kaiser has a model that consciously manages both quality and costs in a way that has been very effective,'' said Margaret O'Kane, president of the National Committee for Quality Assurance, an independent group that monitors health plans.

Kaiser's approach is best illustrated in two ways: its management of chronic illnesses like heart disease and diabetes, and its $3 billion initiative to use information technology to improve clinical care and streamline operations.

Across the country, health costs are skewed. In any given year, 90 percent of spending provides care for 30 percent of the population, and more than half of total spending goes to 5 percent of the population. Much of it is spent on people with chronic illnesses like heart disease and diabetes. So helping people with those ailments stay as healthy as possible offers much opportunity for cutting costs—and for improving lives.

In Northern California, Kaiser has sharply reduced the death rate for its three million members there in recent years by monitoring and controlling blood pressure and cholesterol levels and by promoting the use of aspirin and beta blockers (to reduce the risk of heart attacks) and statins (to lower cholesterol). The death rate from heart disease among the Kaiser members is 30 percent lower than it is in the rest of the Northern California population, adjusted for age and gender.

Four months ago, Jose Flores, 44, a postal worker in San Francisco, had double-bypass heart surgery. While still in the hospital, he was enrolled in a program of education and treatment, which is run by nurses and lasts a year. Patients receive instruction on diet, exercise and cholesterol management; smokers are placed in a course to help them quit.

Mr. Flores says he is on a drug regimen that includes beta blockers and Lovastatin, a generic cholesterol-lowering statin. He takes large doses of niacin, a vitamin that raises the level of high-density lipoprotein, the ''good'' cholesterol that protects against heart attacks. He walks for an hour, five days a week. His eating habits have been transformed, too: fried foods were once a staple of his diet, but no more. Blacklisted, too, are sour cream, cheese and corn chips. ''Now, I try to avoid all that,'' Mr. Flores said.

In Northern California alone, Kaiser spends $55 million a year on chronic-care management programs. ''But what's really expensive is if we don't take care of these people and manage their chronic conditions,'' said Dr. Robert Mithun, chief of internal medicine at Kaiser's medical center in San Francisco.

Dr. Mithun's comment may seem like no more than common sense, but it does not reflect the typical logic of the dominant fee-for-service model of health care. Most doctors and hospitals get a fee from insurers for each patient visit, clinical test, surgical procedure or day a patient spends in a hospital. In practice, the fee-for-service system is often an invitation to do more of everything—more visits, more tests, more surgery. What gets done is what gets paid for, and insurers usually do not pay for preventive care or chronic care management provided by nurses or in group classes, like the ones at Kaiser.

In the fee-for-service medical economy, doctors and hospitals routinely strike different deals at different fees with many different insurers. The results are complexity, inefficiency and a constant bureaucratic tug-of-war between health care providers and insurers over claims.

The Kaiser economy seems a world apart. ''What works at Kaiser is the integration of the financing and delivery of care, and the aligned incentives that allow you to make more rational decisions about health care for members,'' said Ms. Sekhri, the policy expert at the World Health Organization, who has studied Kaiser.

Ms. Sekhri was a co-author of a 2002 report that compared Kaiser in California with the National Health Service of Britain. The report found that for comparable spending, the Kaiser system in California did a better job of keeping people with chronic conditions out of hospitals. And when Kaiser patients were admitted to hospitals, their stays were generally shorter. Recently, Britain sent groups of primary care physicians and hospital administrators to California to learn from Kaiser.

The Labor government in Britain may look to Kaiser as an efficient model for its health service, which is run by the government. But the Bush administration is more interested in Kaiser as a model for the efficiencies and integration that can be achieved through information technology.

In May, the Bush administration appointed Dr. David J. Brailer to the new post of national coordinator of health information technology. His mandate is to prod the nation's health care system into the computer age. Bringing patient records and prescriptions out of the pen-and-ink era promises to save both dollars and lives. The automation of an electronic system could sharply reduce medical errors, which are estimated to be responsible for 45,000 to 98,000 deaths a year, according to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Kaiser has been investing heavily in information technology for years. Its clinical information system includes electronic records with a patient's history, prescriptions and preventive health recommendations. A doctor can call up a patient's X-ray or magnetic resonance image on a desktop personal computer. Electronic prescribing—a goal in the government plan—is routine at Kaiser.

Yet Kaiser is in the midst of a several-year, $3 billion program, called KP HealthConnect, to drastically improve and integrate its clinical and administrative systems and Web-based services for members. Once it is in place, Kaiser clinicians will be able to tap into a vast but flexible storehouse of data that uses intelligent software to automatically flag potentially harmful drug combinations for a patient or to suggest what treatments have been most effective for other people who are of the same sex, age group and—eventually—genetic profile.

Dr. Brailer, for one, checks in regularly on the progress of HealthConnect. George Halvorson, Kaiser's chief executive, said, ''Policy makers are looking to us as the cutting edge of how health care can be supported electronically.''

Kaiser has had setbacks in the program. Last year, it abandoned I.B.M. as its main partner on the project and chose to go with specialized health care software provided by Epic Systems, a private company in Madison, Wis. Despite the switch, HealthConnect is scheduled to be rolled out during the next couple of years across Kaiser's operations.

The conversion of inefficient paperwork to a digital network also opens the door to fostering more efficient markets in health care. Markets rely on information, yet the health care economy is one in which information on patients, treatments and outcomes is trapped on paper and isolated in clinics, hospitals and insurance offices—instead of being shared, analyzed and compared, while still insuring privacy.

The fee-for-service model exists because patient visits, clinical tests and surgical procedures can be measured. They are inputs, in economic terms. Whether those inputs are effective is another matter.

In recent years, there have been efforts to focus on the quality of health care. The National Committee for Quality Assurance conducts annual reports based on a health plan's use of practices shown to improve patients' health, from timely prenatal care to cholesterol management. Kaiser plans consistently earn excellent ratings in the group's reports, and, this year, it had four of the five top-rated plans in the Pacific region, its stronghold.

Dr. Francis J. Crosson, the executive director of the physicians' side of Kaiser, said, ''Our future has to be to compete on quality, offering people demonstrably better care and better value.''

And the Kaiser system delivers quality while controlling total costs. A recent survey of health care costs in 15 metropolitan areas by Hewitt Associates, the human resources consulting firm, found that the cost for care per employee last year was lowest in the San Francisco area, where Kaiser members were about 35 percent of the insured population, at $5,515, and was highest in regions where Kaiser did not operate—led by New York, at $6,818 a worker.

Quality yardsticks are helpful, but they still measure inputs—ones associated with better health—instead of tracking how patients fare. The longer-term goal is for health plans to use technology more, as leading companies in the rest of the economy do. For the health plans, that may mean constantly tracking patients, treatments and results. ''To have a real market for quality in health care, you need a product,'' Mr. Halvorson said. ''And that means reliable, timely information about outcomes, clinical-trial sorts of databases that show things like, for example, 50-year-olds in our system have fewer heart attacks.

''With the right information and the right incentives,'' he added, ''capitalism creates very good solutions.''

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. MANNING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of David J. Manning for his dedication to Interfaith Medical Center and continued community efforts.

David was elected Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs of KeySpan Energy in April 1999. He is the Senior Officer reporting to the Chairman, with responsibility for public affairs, government relations, internal and external communications, community development and altruism, corporate brand strategy, and environmental policy and operations.

Before joining KeySpan Energy, Mr. Manning had been President of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP)

since 1995. From 1993 to 1995, he was Deputy Minister of Energy for the Province of Alberta, Canada, the source of approximately 14 percent of the natural gas used in the U.S. From 1988 to 1993, he was Senior International Trade Counsel for the Government of Alberta, based in New York City. Previously, he was in the private practice of law in Alberta, Canada. Mr. Manning is eligible for admission to the New York Bar. KeySpan Energy is the 4th largest natural gas distributor in the United States, serving much of New York City, Long Island, Boston and New Hampshire. It is also the largest investor owned electric power generator in New York State, and operates the LIPA electric system on Long Island under contract. David is past Chairman of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Vice Chairman of the Long Island Housing Partnership Board, and Coordinating Committee Co-chair of the current National Petroleum Council Natural Gas Study.

Most recently, for his community service and contributions to the Interfaith Medical Center, David is receiving the Spirit Award for Excellence in Community Service from the Center.

Mr. Speaker, David J. Manning has used his position as a national leader in the energy industry to strengthen and improve our community. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL NICHOLAS DIERFUF

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today fo honor the life of Corporal Nicholas J. Dierfuf. On April 8, 2004, Corporal Dierfuf made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq. The work of our young men and women in the armed services is vital for the safety and security of our nation. The death of Corporal Dierfuf is a true loss to the United States. I salute his dedication while serving in the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, a unit in the 1st Marine Division. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Emily Duncan Dierfuf, his parents, and all those who loved him.

RECOGNIZING PAUL WESTFALL FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Paul Westfall of Blue Springs, Missouri, 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 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

CONGRATULATING ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my respected colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church on the joyous occasion of its 75th anniversary this Sunday in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

This church has a rich and proud history in the Eleventh District of Pennsylvania. Groundbreaking for St. Michael's began on September 2, 1929. The dedicated men and women were the founding members who provided the community with a place to worship. Their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to worship at St. Michael's. Members of the congregation are involved in a variety of civic activities that show their dedication to helping those who are less fortunate.

The church community shares its heritage through food each June. Visitors can partake in delicious foods such as homemade pyrohy, holubtsi and halushki, just to name a few. Through the Annual Food Festival, church members celebrate culture. But more than that, the festival unites people as it exposes a different ethnicity, fostering understanding and appreciation.

I would like to recognize Rev. Nestor S. Kowal, pastor of St. Michael's, as well as Karen Nebesky and Charles Warholak, Jr., co-chairpersons of the anniversary celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me today in acknowledging the significant contributions made by St. Michael's Ukrainian Church and to congratulate its members on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2004 CLEVELAND COUNCIL OF BLACK NURSES HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many outstanding achievements of four distinguished healthcare professionals—Drs. Dorothy Bradford, Valerie George, Daisy Alford-Smith, and May Wykle.

Their endless acts of community service, excellence in the field of nursing education and many nursing affiliations are testimonies to their accomplishments, which have been recognized both locally and nationally.

Their sensitivity and willingness to help others were critical ingredients throughout their illustrious careers. May the legacy of their work continue to inspire the hearts and minds of others.

I am honored to join with the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses and the people of the 11th Congressional District in celebrating the ''Living Legacy'' of these visionaries.

CONGRATULATING J. ROGER WILLIAMS AS TEXAS' 105TH SECRETARY OF STATE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 17, 2004, Texas Governor Rick Perry named J. Roger Williams, a Weatherford businessman, Texas' 105th Secretary of State.

A nationally respected businessman, Roger Williams will be a powerful statesman. Mr. Williams will represent Texas entities both home and abroad by promoting all our great state has to offer. The Secretary of State serves as liaison for the governor on border and Mexican Affairs. As a dedicated civic leader and generous philanthropist, Mr. Williams comes well prepared for his new tenure as Texas' 105th Secretary of State.

In addition to his duties representing Texas, Roger Williams will serve as the state's chief elections officer. The Office of Secretary of State also is the official repository for official and business records; publishes government rules and regulations; and attests to the governor's signature on official documents.

Most recently, Mr. Williams served as Chairman of the Board of Roger Williams Automall in Weatherford and Vestry Financial Corporation of Fort Worth. From 1974 to 1995 Williams was President and Chief Executive Officer of Jack Williams Automall, the multiple-line dealership founded by his father, Jack Williams, in 1958.

A former professional baseball player, Roger Williams played for the Atlanta Braves farm team from 1971 to 1974, and he owned and operated the San Antonio Brewers professional baseball club from 1972 to 1975. He also served as assistant head coach and later head coach for the baseball team at Texas Christian University, his alma mater.

Roger Williams has been recognized nationally for his business acumen, as a 1981 inductee into the Automobile Hall of Fame and as the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce Businessman of the Year in 1984. He was named by Time magazine as Automobile Dealer of the Year in 1985 and by Sports Illustrated as Import Automobile Dealer of the Year in 1986. Lockheed Martin Management Association named Williams Manager of the Year in 1977.

I welcome J. Roger Williams to his new role as Texas Secretary of State and extend my congratulations to Mr. Williams and his family, his wife Patty and their two daughters, Jaclyn and Sabrina.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. Detailing the lives, beliefs, histories, and stories of thousands of years of Native American life in North America, this museum catalogs the important and unique contribution of Native Americans to the cultural legacy of the United States.

It is fitting that the National Museum of the American Indian is located on the National Mall at the footsteps of the Capitol Building. We are all reminded that, except for the people this museum celebrates, we are immigrants to this land. We have all come to this country from different corners of the world: some from Europe, some from Asia, others from Africa, Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands. In a way, all of us are guests to this continent, and the American Indian Museum reminds us that we have a responsibility to care not only for our country but for the land we live on, the oceans we are surrounded by, and, most especially, the native peoples who were here first.

We forgot sometimes what life was like before we immigrants came here. Our land was not always called the United States, and the people here were not always called Americans. The nations that made up the Native American spectrum had different cultures and different histories, but often shared similar beliefs, such as the power of the relationship between humans and nature, the wisdom of ancestors, and the particular order of the universe.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of the American Indian reminds us of the important legacy of the Native American community as representatives of our nation's history, the destructive and the creative ideas that built our country. We are privileged to have access to this invaluable collection of artifacts from a history that once was and memories from a present that is still very much alive. Once again, I celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, and I encourage all Americans to visit this museum to better understand the history of our nation and those who came before it.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT TUCKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Scott Tucker of Blue Springs, Missouri, 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 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY HIGH-END COMPUTING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 4516 calling on the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program of research and development to advance high-end computing systems, and to develop and deploy high-end computing systems for advanced scientific and engineering applications.

Federally-supported High End Computing and Computation (HECC) programs involve leading-edge research and development (R&D) in large, high performance computational systems, including hardware, software, architecture, and applications. HECC R&D extends the state of the art in computing systems, applications, and high end infrastructure to achieve the scientific, technical, and information management breakthroughs necessary to keep the U.S. in the forefront of the 21st century information technology (IT) revolution.

Federal HECC research continues to pave the way for revolutionary advances in science, technology, and national security and has become an important tool in the design and development of military and commercial products ranging from submarines and aircraft to automobiles. HECC researchers develop computation-intensive algorithms and software to model and simulate complex physical, chemical, and biological systems; information-intensive science and engineering applications; management and use of huge, complex information bases; and advanced concepts in quantum, biological, and optical computing.

This bill will help to further the Department of Energy's Leadership-Class Computing (LCC) initiative to develop the world's fastest science research supercomputer and make it available to all users. This legislation, endorses the goals of the High End Computing and Computation Coordinating Group to ensure an efficient deployment of resources for advanced computing research at the Department of Energy and the other federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce.

Federal funding of high-risk research in high end computing systems over the past decades has helped to bring us the personal computers, networks, and cell-phone infrastructures that have helped to fuel U.S. economic growth. This newest initiative will help continue that trend.

A TRIBUTE TO NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of New Life Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York in commemoration of its 50th anniversary and spiritual and community leadership.

God placed a vision for New Life Baptist Church on the heart of E.F. Jacobs and Mother Martha Jacobs, and on February 7, 1954, the church began its mission at 214 Howard Avenue. The first members were sister Gladys Blackman, Sister Delores Hite, Sister Mae G. Mills Mazyck and Sister Geneva Wonsley. They received letters from Pilgrim Baptist Church to become members. Temporary officers were Rev. E.F. Jacobs, moderator and Sister Gladys Blackman as church clerk. These members were extended the right hand of fellowship by the Council on September 17, 1954 making them the New Life Baptist Church.

Pastor Jacobs adopted the motto: Lift up Jesus and give the devil battle. Under his continued leadership, the church continued to thrive. In 1962, God blessed its members with a new home for the church at 931 Dumont Ave in Brooklyn.

In 1967, Rev. Holness came to work with us. On December 30, 1968, the church elected Rev. Clifford L. Johnson as its assistant pastor. On May 8, 1973, Brother Marshall Rowe received the call to the ministry and was the first minister to receive a license to preach by New Life. He was followed by Rev. Melvin Ward, who was elected to serve as the second pastor of New Life on May 1, 1978. In the summer of 1983, New Life mothered its first church, Victory Baptist Church.

On October 24, 1983, Rev. John H. Marshall was elected as the third pastor of New Life. Under his leadership, the church has received many blessings. Sister Carolyn Plaines preached her trial sermon and on August 18, 1991 was licensed to preach the gospel. In April 2, 1995, Brother Akin Royall also preached his trial sermon and received his license to preach the gospel. With Rev. Marshall's guidance, the church also improved the church's physical surroundings. It built a new sanctuary, holding its first baptism there on October 5, 1996. Three years later, the church renovated its fellowship hall, kitchen and bathroom and officially dedicated its new sanctuary.

New Life also conducts several community outreach programs including the Annual Vacation Bible School event, clothing and food give-outs and in 2001 it assisted with the "Feed the Children" campaign, which provided food for more than 2500 families in the community. New Life also undertakes a "Back to Christ Crusade" each year that draws community participation.

Mr. Speaker, New Life Baptist Church has been a source of community and spiritual leadership in Brooklyn for 50 years. As such, it is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable congregation.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER BARBARA J. SIDARI

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Barbara J. Sidari, who is retiring from the San Lorenzo Unified School District Board. Mrs. Sidari has served the students, parents, teachers, and administrators in the school district of San Lorenzo, California since she was first elected in April 1979. She served until 1983 and was reelected in November 1988 and has served continuously since that time. Mrs. Sidari was elected by her fellow Board members to serve as president and vice president/clerk of the Board several times.

During her twenty years as a Board member, Mrs. Sidari represented the Board of Education on numerous committees and councils throughout the county. She is especially proud of her accomplishments as a member of the Eden Area Regional Occupational Center Council, a position she has held for nineteen years. She has also served as chair of the Council for several terms.

Mrs. Sidari has always been active in school affairs having held several positions from Historian to President of the local PTA. She is a former Cub Scout Den Mother and Brownie Leader and continues her active service in a number of educational and civic organizations.

Barbara J. Sidari exemplifies commitment and service. Her contributions to her community are noteworthy. As she ends her twenty-year tenure on the San Lorenzo School Board, I congratulate her and applaud all that she has done to make a difference in the lives of others. Mrs. Sidari will be honored at a reception on January 25, 2005. I join her colleagues, friends, and admirers in expressing good wishes and appreciation for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOHN BARICEVIC—CHAIRMAN OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY BOARD

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and public service of John Baricevic.

For 25 years, John Baricevic has been an effective leader for St. Clair County, Illinois and the entire St. Louis metropolitan region. His regional approach to public policy issues has steered both St. Clair County and the region in a positive direction since the beginning of his term as St. Clair County Board Chairman fourteen years ago. John's vision is credited as the driving force behind numerous projects that continue to enhance not only St. Clair County, but our entire area.

John's persistent dedication and interest in regional projects has truly made a difference in how the St. Louis region has evolved. With the addition of MidAmerica Airport, John's vision provided a new reliever airport for the region and his strong support for MetroLink in Illinois has its proof in the miles of track which are laid, this year more of which are in Illinois than in Missouri where the system started.

His strong leadership in working to keep Scott Air Force Base open has continued to keep a major engine in our regional economy strong and healthy. Through his direct lobbying efforts, on behalf of the Leadership Council, Scott Air Force base has been kept open through four rounds of nationwide military base closures. Only one more round of closures is predicted. Scott is the largest employer south of Springfield, Illinois and is the 4th largest employer in the St. Louis area. Scott brings about $2 billion annually to our economy and the men and women at the base are an integral part of our churches, schools, civic activities and communities. John continues to campaign and work with me to protect Scott from closure in this final round.

Working with the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, John continues to spearhead the planning and development of a new Mississippi River Bridge, a project he sees as important to erasing the divide between Illinois and Missouri by creating a new Mississippi river crossing. Without a new Mississippi River Bridge our regional transportation system would come to nearly a standstill and the flow of commerce and goods would be drastically reduced. John works closely with my office to seek the funds and the support to make the bridge a reality.

John's interest in helping people started early in his life. After graduating from Assumption High School in East St. Louis, he headed to Atchison, Kansas for his B.S. in Business Administration and then to Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia, Kansas, before heading back to Illinois to attend law school at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

He has held numerous temporary jobs during his lifetime, serving for a time with the Teamsters, the Machinists and Carpenters. He is a certified teacher and has been a head football coach, a substitute teacher and a college admissions director.

In the late 70's John's interest in law lead him to serve an internship with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's office, this lead to a full time position within the office and eventually he was elected as the St. Clair County's States Attorney in 1980. When John became elected as the County's Board Chairman in 1990, he became the Chief Executive Officer of the County, managing over 800 employees and a budget in excess of 50 million dollars. He became involved in several projects of regional significance and worked closely with my office to see these projects completed and through all of this time; he continued to privately practice law and to help people in need.

Throughout his busy life, John has been married to Marti Lee Chatham, and the father of four children: Charles J., 18; Chris, 17; Brianne, 16; and Brice, 11.

For more than 25 years, John Baricevic has served St. Clair County with integrity, vision and foresight, paving the way for people, on both sides of the river, to enjoy a better life. Recently, for his lifetime of service, FOCUS St. Louis honored John as their 2004 Leadership Award recipient. John continues to serve on regional boards and commissions and brings southern Illinois views and perceptions to regional business leaders.

John now leaves the service of St. Clair County and in early December is sworn in as a Circuit Judge in the 20th Judicial Circuit in Illinois. He will now apply his knowledge and abilities, in helping people, to the courtroom where I am confident he will do an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of John Baricevic and wish him and his family the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JIM DAVISON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize a gentleman who has long been at the forefront of working to protect and defend the rights of America's labor workers. On December 1, in Bay City, Michigan, friends and family will join members of Utility Workers Union of America Local 144 to honor Mr. Jim Davison, as he celebrates his retirement after 34 years.

After honorably serving his country in Vietnam as a member of the United States Marine Corps, Jim Davison began his relationship with the UWUA September 1, 1970, when he began work at Consumers Power. After four years, he was appointed as a union steward, as well as a delegate to the Bay County AFL–CIO Central Labor Council. In 1975, Jim was elected his Local's Sergeant-At-Arms, and became Second Vice-President in 1981. In 1987, Jim was elected President.

In 1981, Jim was chosen as Vice-President of the Bay County AFL–CIO Labor Council. Seven years later, he became the Council's President. Also in 1988, he was elected to serve as Vice-President of the Michigan State Utility Workers Council in Lansing. Jim served admirably in that position until 1995, when he then became Secretary/Treasurer of the State Council, a position he held until this year. Jim retired from Consumers Energy in September 2004.

In addition to his tremendous work on behalf of the UWUA and the AFL–CIO, Jim has been a tireless advocate of the community. He has spent many years on boards for the United Way on the local and state levels, and has also provided key leadership for groups such as the Saginaw Valley Blood Bank, Bay County Economic Development Council, Michigan State Labor Education Program, and the Kawkawlin Fire Department, where he served as Assistant Fire Chief from 1996–2004. Jim has also been active in politics, which includes his recent election as a Trustee in Kawkawlin Township.

Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally grateful for Jim Davison's dedication to his brothers and sisters in labor, and to the community. He is a shining example of the best our society has to offer, and a true role model for his peers as well as all those he comes into contact with. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to join me in congratulating Jim on his retirement, and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

THE COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2004

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 5382 Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004 which contains the bulk of H.R. 3752, Commercial Space Launch Amendments Act of 2004, as passed by the House of Representatives on March 4, 2004.

Portions of H.R. 3752 were incorporated into H.R. 5245, a bill to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry which passed the House of Representatives on October 8, 2004.

RECOGNIZING ALEX STAMOS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alex Stamos of Blue Springs, Missouri, 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 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

AUTHORIZATION OF SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR FEDERAL JUSTICES AND JUDGES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5363, a bill authorizing cost-of-living salary adjustments for justices and judges of the Federal courts for fiscal year 2005 that has been introduced by Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and co-sponsored by Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS of the Judiciary Committee. The bill would provide for a 2.5 percent adjustment of Federal judiciary salaries. I thank the Chairman for his leadership in bringing this very important matter to the floor. In 1981, Congress passed a Joint Resolution Making Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 1982, and Section 140 of that legislation read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this joint resolution [Pub. L. 97–92], none of the funds appropriated by this joint resolution or by any other Act shall be obligated or expended to increase, after the date of enactment of this joint resolution [Dec. 15, 1981], any salary of any Federal judge or Justice of the Supreme Court, except as may be specifically authorized by Act of Congress hereafter enacted: Provided, That nothing in this limitation shall be construed to reduce any salary which may be in effect at the time of enactment of this joint resolution nor shall this limitation be construed in any manner to reduce the salary of any Federal judge or of any Justice of the Supreme Court. This section shall apply to fiscal year 1981 and each fiscal year thereafter. (emphasis added).

This provision placed a severe limitation on the cost-of-living adjustments—and therefore the financial well-being of judges by requiring specific implementing legislation before a salary increase could be made under the current Section 461 of Title 28 in the United States Code.

Article III, Section 1 of the United States Constitution provides that "The Judges . . . shall . . . receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office." Over the past 10 years though, this body has failed to provide Federal judges with annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), and as a result, these offices have faced the economic equivalent of a $77,000 reduction in salary. In the last 30 years, while average pay has increased by 12 percent for most workers, it has decreased by 25 percent for Federal judges. Federal judges make a lifetime commitment to serve the public. This legislation will help them to plan their financial futures with assurance that their pay is commensurate with the cost-of-living increases for this year.

Under the current pay schedule, Federal district court judges earn $150,000 per year. This is far, far less than they could earn in private practice and is even less than an associate right out of law school earns in New York City. Our Federal judiciary will not attract the kind of high caliber legal minds that are needed if the compensation is not maintained in a reasonable fashion.

It has gotten so bad that employees of the Administrative Office of Courts—who work for the Federal judges—now enjoy greater salaries than the judges themselves. This is the equivalent of congressional staff earning more than Congressmen. It is no wonder that Federal judges are leaving in droves, with nearly 6 dozen judges leaving over the last several years.

There can be no doubt of the value and importance of ensuring that our Federal judges are fairly compensated. The Federal judiciary is the crux of our democracy. Without the wisdom of some of the great judicial scholars of the past, many of us—women, African-Americans and all minorities, immigrants, disabled, and others, would not enjoy the fundamental civil liberties that we do today. We are a long way from a completely fair and equal society, but without the best and brightest legal minds, we will never make it to that goal.

If there is any single idea in the Constitution that has separated our experiment in democracy from all other nations, it is the concept of an independent judiciary.

The Founding Fathers, in their great wisdom, created a system of checks and balances, granting independent judges not only lifetime tenure, but the right to an undiminished salary. It is no surprise that over the years, the Federal judiciary, more than any other branch, has served as the protector of our precious civil rights and civil liberties. I agree with Alexander Hamilton that the "independent spirit of judges" enables them to stand against the "ill humors of passing political majorities."

We cannot have a qualified and independent judiciary if we don't pay them a just wage. Chief Justice Rehnquist has declared that "providing adequate compensation for judges is basic to attracting and retaining experienced, well-qualified and diverse men and women." Justice Breyer was even blunter when he stated, "the gulf that separates judicial pay from compensation in the non-profit sector, in academia, and in the private sector grows larger and larger . . . and threatens irreparable harm both to the institution and the public it serves."

The bill before us responds to that problem granting the judiciary a COLA retroactive to the start of the last fiscal year. I consider this to be a modest down payment in developing a more rationale and fair system of compensating our Federal judges.

I urge my colleagues to join this Committee in supporting this important legislation. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues vote "yes" on H.R. 5363.

HONORING KATHLEEN GARRISON AND RUTH ANN BUSALD AT THE MADISONVILLE LUMINARIA

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 13, 2004, I participated in the Second Annual Madisonville Neighborhood Luminaria in Cincinnati, Ohio. As part of the program, I had the privilege of honoring two tireless community advocates and volunteers, Kathleen Garrison and Ruth Ann Busald.

Kathy's dedication to the Madisonville Community Council, the Department of Justice/Madisonville Weed & Seed Strategy, and the Students Concerned About Today and Tomorrow is unequaled and makes Madisonville a better place to live and work.

Ruth's dedication to researching, archiving, and sharing the history of Madisonville, for more than a decade, is unparalleled. Her lifelong commitment to Madisonville has kept the community history alive, enriching all who live and work in the community.

Kathy Garrison and Ruth Ann Busald's generosity is an example of that admirable American spirit of volunteerism that motivates and enriches not only the local community, but also the country as a whole.

All of us in the Second District of Ohio appreciate their service to our area.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PV2 JUSTIN RAY YOEMANS, A MODEL OF VALOR IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army PV2 Justin Ray Yoemans of Eufaula, Alabama, who lost his life November 6 while defending our Nation.

Private Yoemans was manning his gun position when his Humvee encountered a roadside bomb during a street patrol of Baghdad, Iraq. According to military accounts, Private Yoemans gave his life to protect his fellow soldiers. He was posthumously awarded a total of five military medals, including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Private Yoemans, who was assigned to the Fourth Battalion, Fifth Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, gave the ultimate sacrifice to his country at the age of 20. His family and friends describe him as a loving son and a patriot who was proud to serve in the military.

I cannot express the proper words to console his family at the loss of their beloved son. However, I do wish to convey that America shares in your grief as we struggle together to protect our homeland from terrorism.

Private Yoemans loved life and was described by his younger sister as ''a little boy inside a great man.'' America is fortunate to have such ''great men'' standing up for the cause of freedom. His valor and his sacrifice will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY G. ATHA

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I stand before you today to recognize Hank Atha, a man who is credited by his colleagues as doing more for workforce development than any other person in southern Arizona. Mr. Atha is retiring from public service after a distinguished career spanning over 30 years.

Mr. Atha has lived and worked in Tucson since 1948. He is a creative local executive and one of the most experienced workforce development professionals in the country. He served on numerous state and local economic and workforce development organizations and on both the National Association of Counties and the U.S. Conference of Mayors professional boards. Mr. Atha promoted legislation at federal, state and local levels. He has international experience and has successfully worked with multi-cultural staff and diverse cultural and economic communities.

Mr. Speaker, in 1984, Mr. Atha organized the Pima County Community Services Department in Tucson, Arizona by combining autonomous federal programs into one department. Over the years he guided the expansion of programming into new areas such as affordable housing, youth education, emergency assistance, homeless services, welfare reform and incumbent worker training.

During his twenty years at the helm of Pima County Community Services, the department doubled in size. He accomplished this by aggressively pursuing state and local funding, federal grants and private support. These efforts resulted in a $36 million annual budget with 30 separate funding streams for his department.

He pursued the department's mission by supporting the work of local non-profit organizations with as many as 250 grants and services contracts awarded each year. His leadership style welcomed input and encouraged individual initiative. Over the years, many graduate students, adult trainees and motivated young people began their careers in public policy or human-service fields through internships with Community Services.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Atha's leadership, Pima County Community Services established one of the nation's first One-Stop Career Centers in order to provide consolidated employment and training services for the City and County. This model, which brought multiple agencies together to provide coordinated services, also proved effective in addressing the basic needs of families in crisis. Mr. Atha oversaw the establishment of the Emergency Services Network in 1986. Subsequent efforts fostered collaboration and innovation in the areas of homeless services, youth programs, and high-tech training. His commitment to closing the wage gap through better job opportunities led to a joint effort with Pima Community College and the City of Tucson to found the Southern Arizona Institute for Advanced Technology.

In the early nineties, Mr. Atha led an all-out response to restore cuts in federal summer youth funds, creating one of the largest summer youth programs, for a city of our size, in the nation. As part of that effort, he promoted legislation that created Arizona's first state-funded summer youth program. He also founded Pledge-A-Job, an annual business outreach campaign to encourage businesses to hire young people seeking career experience during summer breaks. In 2000, he won a Youth Opportunity grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, bringing nearly $28 million to Pima County as well as creating an integrated system for providing services to young people.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha supported many programs that brought untrained homemakers and home health aides to Pima County's Home Health Division, as well as many participants in other community programs, into the Certified Nursing Assistant career track.

One of the activities Mr. Atha worked on recently was to bring together various institutions such as Pima College, University of Arizona, and local hospitals to identify, sponsor and support individuals wishing to enter nursing education programs.

Mr. Speaker, prior to Hank's twenty years with Pima County Government, he volunteered in the Peace Corps from 1966–1968. Following those years of service, he again volunteered his services, this time as a Peace Corps trainer from 1968–69.

Hank Atha received his undergraduate degree from Pomona College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology; graduate studies in Physiology at Washington State University, and received his master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Atha taught classes in data analysis, decision-making and program evaluation, as an adjunct professor at Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. He also taught one semester as adjunct professor at the University of Arizona, School of Public Administration. He is a Founding Member and Chairman of the local American Society for Public Administration Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, Hank Atha improved the quality of life for many citizens in Tucson, Arizona by investing in people and community-based organizations to strengthen the entire community's capacity to serve those in need, and I ask that the House commend him on his commitment to his community and his country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 17, 2004 I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes No. 532 and No. 533. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 532, H.R. 1417, the Copyright Royalty and Distribution Reform Act; and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 533, a bill to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be in Washington, DC today. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of:

S. 1301, H.R. 5364, H. Con. Res. 430, S. 2965, H.R. 4516, H.R. 3204, H.R. 1350, H.R. 1417, S. 2302, S. 2042, H.R. 5363, S. 2302, H.R. 1417, S. Con. Res. 145, S. 1146, S. 1466, S. 434, H.R. 1284, S. 1727, S. 1241, H.R. 1446, H.R. 1964, H.R. 1113, H.R. 4593, S. 437, S. 2484, H.R. 3936, and S. 2486.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEVEN CHAPPELL FOR HIS ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF A DIESEL FUEL SPILL ON THE SUISUN MARSH WETLANDS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Steven Chappell, of the Suisun Resource Conservation District, for his timely actions in protecting the Suisun Marsh wetlands.

Steven Chappell began working for the Suisun Resource Conservation District in August 1994 as a district biologist, and was quickly promoted to executive director, a position he has held for almost 10 years.

On April 28, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. Steven Chappell received notification from the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) that a petroleum pipeline had released diesel oil into the Suisun Marsh.

Mr. Chappell immediately drove to the site to offer his assistance and expertise to the Incident Command Team, comprised of State and Federal agency representatives. He explained how managed wetlands work and took immediate action to close all water control structures on the affected property.

As a direct result of Steven Chappell's quick actions in closing the gates, the diesel oil remained contained within the area and did not enter the Roos Cut, an unimpeded waterway extension which feeds into the tidal sloughs and adjacent wetlands of the Suisun Marsh.

In addition, Mr. Chappell prepared detailed aerial maps of the Suisun Marsh and returned to the spill site that same day. These aerials have been invaluable in OSPR's cleanup efforts.

For weeks after the spill, Steven Chappell devoted an inordinate amount of time coordinating with OSPR, the United States Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Kinder Morgan, the owner of the pipeline, in cleanup efforts and in the development of a restoration plan.

Steven Chappell's timely actions helped to avert a major disaster at the Suisun Marsh wetlands. I am proud to commend him today for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Suisun Resource Conservation District and to the people of Solano County.

CLEMENT J. ZABLOCKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS DESIGNATED AS A 2004 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I acknowledge the outstanding achievements of the children, parents, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School. The designation of a 2004 No Child Left Behind—Blue Ribbon Award honors only those schools that have successfully achieved excellence in academics and have closed the achievement gap in academic proficiency for all of their students.

The designation of the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is particularly meaningful to me because it is named for the former Congressman Clement J. Zablocki who was my predecessor in the U.S. Congress, and an effective and beloved representative who served the citizens of Milwaukee's south side for many years.

It is evident that the principles of accountability, focusing on what works, increased flexibility, reduction of bureaucracy and the empowerment of parents, has been successfully integrated into the daily philosophy of the Zablocki Elementary School.

Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Patricia Walia this school has not only achieved academic excellence for the students, but has initiated innovative and creative ways of having the children of Zablocki Elementary School involved with community organizations, agencies and businesses that have enriched their lives and broadened their view of the community and world. Dr. Walia has successfully established bonds between her staff, parents and the community that support all of the goals of the school.

The Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School is only the 5th elementary school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system to be designated as a Blue Ribbon school since 1982. This is an extraordinary and remarkable achievement.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the children, teachers, and principal at the Clement J. Zablocki Elementary School and commend their efforts in providing a standard of excellence in the field of education.

HONORING PFC SHELDON HAWK EAGLE

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to honor the life of PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle of Eagle Butte, SD. Private First Class Hawk Eagle was killed November 15, 2003 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On November 20, 2004, friends and family in Eagle Butte will pay tribute to Sheldon and recognize the one year anniversary of his death with a memorial dinner and walk in his honor.

Private First Class Hawk Eagle graduated from the Cheyenne Eagle Butte High School, in Eagle Butte, SD, in May of 2001. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2002, and graduated basic training from Ft. Sill, OK, later that same year. In 2003 Sheldon became Air Assault qualified and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division. He was deployed to Iraq in March, 2003.

Sheldon, whose Lakota name is Wanbli Ohitika, or Brave Eagle, is a descendant of the Lakota leader Crazy Horse, who helped defeat LTC George Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Sheldon joined the Army while visiting his sister in North Dakota and dreamed of becoming an elite Army Ranger. While both humble and quiet, Sheldon's sacrifice speaks loudly about his character.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Sheldon's compassion and service. Sheldon, who represented the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Lakota people, continues to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation and South Dakota are far better places because of his life, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Private First Class Hawk Eagle. His commitment and sacrifice to our Nation will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING RYAN SOENDKER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Soendker of Blue Springs, MO, 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 138, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE A&F WOOD PRODUCTS FOR EARNING THE 2004 SECRETARY OF LABOR'S NEW FREEDOM INITIATIVE AWARD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize A&F Wood Products, a family-owned and operated business in Howell, MI, for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award. Founded upon the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the New Freedom Initiative works to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the same opportunities to learn and develop skills, engage in productive work and make choices about their daily lives to participate fully in their communities. A&F Wood Products is just one of five companies nationwide to be recognized for their commitment to these ideals.

A&F Wood Products has embraced the philosophy on which the New Freedom Initiative was founded. Working with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, A&F Wood Products is able to provide employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities through accessibility support, training, and a user-friendly workplace environment. Today, 35 percent of A&F Wood Products' workforce are persons with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, when President Bush announced the New Freedom Initiative in 2001, unemployment for the disabled was as high as 70 percent by some estimates. Today, businesses like A&F Wood Products are working feverishly to slash that number. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing A&F Wood Products for earning the 2004 Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Award and for their commitment to the disabled.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY CARLSTROM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT ON JANUARY 3, 2005, AFTER 41 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Terry R. Carlstrom who for four decades has managed the stewardship of some of our Nation's most precious natural and cultural resources. Mr. Carlstrom is retiring after 41 years in Federal service during which he served with the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service.

Mr. Carlstrom's stewardship extended over the past 22 years to the protection and enhancement of 14 units of the National Park System and the numerous memorials in our National Capital Region. First, as Associate Regional Director for Professional Services, and then for the past 8 years as Regional Director of the National Capital Region, he has extended his watchful eye and guiding hand to the protection of our most symbolic National Icons: the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial; Presidential Memorials to FDR and Lyndon Baines Johnson, the White House; and memorials commemorating the American heroes at home and abroad in the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and in World War II. His leadership in the complete reconstruction of the 5 major scenic parkways, which provide the gateways to our Nation's Capital, ensured their scenic protection while providing for user safety. He also was instrumental in the creation of the Streetscape Standards for the Monumental Core by an interagency task force.

I join the men and women of the National Park Service and the National Capital Region in recognizing Mr. Carlstrom's sincere interest in the welfare and safety of every employee, a dedication which is evidenced by his support and leadership in a safety program that reduced the lost time accident rate by 100 percent during the last 5 years. He established the National Capital Region's Communications Command Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, which has assured continuous and complete communications for our park rangers in remote locations throughout our far ranging parks.

Mr. Carlstrom has provided oversight of 14 parks in the National Capital Region: the National Mall and Memorial Parks; Anacostia River Parks; Rock Creek Park; the White House and President's Park; C&O Canal National Historical Park; George Washington Memorial Parkway; Civil War Battlefield Parks at Antietam, Monocacy, Harper's Ferry, and Manassas; the Wolf Trap Farm National Park for the Performing Arts; Prince William Forest Park and Catoctin Mountain Park; and the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. During his tenure he guided the establishment of Mary McLeod Bethune Council House and Carter G. Woodson National Historic Sites, the President Lincoln and Soldier's Home National Monument, and the boundary expansions of Monocacy Battlefield and Harper's Ferry National Historical Park. Further, he was a leader in establishing numerous partnerships, including the preservation of the Washington Monument; refurbishment and joint management with Montgomery County of Glen Echo Park; the Accokeek Foundation and National Colonial Farm; and the Alice Fergusen Foundation's Hard Bargain Farm. Recognizing the importance of these important relationships with agencies and individuals beyond the National Park Service, he established an Assistant Regional Director for Partnerships.

Mr. Carlstrom leaves a lasting legacy to Americans from coast to coast. As a young forester in the 1960s, he established sensitive timber management programs for the Bridger National Forest in Wyoming and for the Chippewa people on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, which today provide for timber demands, enhanced recreational opportunities and excellent wildlife habitat. Through his efforts wetlands in North Dakota have been protected for waterfowl propagation, a portion of the St. Croix National Scenic River in Minnesota and Wisconsin has been preserved for future generations, and resource protections were enriched as a result of his master planning for five Arizona national parks—Tumacacori National Historical Park, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Coronado National Memorial, Saguaro National Park and Organ Pipe National Monument.

As Chief of Planning of the National Park Service's Denver Service Center Western Team, he led several planning initiatives to protect Redwood National Park, to expand protection of the watershed and to preserve the remaining ancient Redwood groves. Remnants of the ancient Anazazi culture, which can still be found in Grand Canyon National Park and Lake Meade National Recreation Area, remain protected today because of wilderness plans initiated under his leadership. Those wilderness plans, which were prepared at the direction of Congress, recognized that the areas should be under the protection of the National Park Service and not exposed to multi-use land management.

In 1980 the Alaska National Interest Lands and Conservation Act brought 55 million acres under the auspices of the National Park Service. The Act was carefully crafted to provide for the continued subsistence use and protection of the living culture of the Native peoples and enable the appreciation of these unique lands by future generations of their fellow Americans. Mr. Carlstrom headed the multi-agency task force which prepared the environmental documents and analyzed thousands of public comments that permitted President Jimmy Carter to create National Monuments via Presidential Proclamation as an interim measure pending the ultimate placement by Congress of these millions of acres into National Parks and Preserves.

Mr. Carlstrom's four decades of devotion stand as examples to all of us who preserve the treasures of which our Nation is proud, our vast resources, our varied cultures, our storied history. I am proud to recognize him today for his years of service and thank him for his hard work, care for his fellow human beings, and his many, many accomplishments.

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF TRIWEST FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN COMBATING IDENTITY THEFT

HON. JOHN B. SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, as the 108th Congress comes to a close I hope all Members will take stock of our accomplishments.

In particular, I want to commend Congress and President Bush for enacting the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act. Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States, costing victims over $5 billion annually. Congress took a valuable step this year in stiffening penalties and giving the Justice Department more tools to combat this pervasive crime. However, there is still work to be done. Identity thieves continue to find new ways to exploit innocent Americans. In response, we must continue to improve our identity theft prevention and protection efforts.

I rise today to commend to the nation one Arizona company, in particular, for aiding us in these efforts. Phoenix-based TriWest Healthcare Alliance performed a service to our country by coming forward with recommendations after it was the victim of an information theft.

In December 2002, TriWest computer hard drives containing the personal information of beneficiaries were stolen from the company's office. Rather than obscure this fact for the sake of public relations, TriWest embarked on an effort to notify all 562,000 affected customers of the theft. At substantial cost, the company helped its customers place safeguards on their personal credit files and created a system of communication second to none. TriWest CEO and President David McIntyre testified before House and Senate committees to share his company's experience so that Congress could improve its efforts to protect all consumers from this threat.

TriWest's actions exemplified what a good corporate citizen should do. In fact, in June 2004, TriWest was awarded three Arizona Corporate Excellence (ACE) awards by the Phoenix Business Journal and the Arizona Chamber of Commerce for displaying unwavering dedication and commitment to quality and integrity in serving Arizona's military community. During the award ceremony, it was noted that Mr. McIntyre ''responded in a way that is recognized nationally as the standard for companies faced with a serious crisis'' and that ''the approach of the TriWest team created a textbook example of how to treat customers with openness and integrity.''

For all these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the People's House join me in commending the men and women of TriWest Healthcare Alliance for going the extra mile for their beneficiaries and setting a benchmark for businesses to follow when confronted with a potential identity theft situation.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS W. KREEGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas W. Kreeger of Kearney, Missouri, 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 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the thirteen years Nick has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Den Chief, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Nick attended H. Roe Bartle Camp for five years, becoming a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 1997, Ordeal in 1997, and Brotherhood in 1998.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nick rebuilt a sidewalk at the daycare of the First Christian Church in Kearney.

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

CELEBRATING 35-YEAR CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF THE HONORABLE PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my good friend and colleague Representative PHIL CRANE of Illinois on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Congress.

PHIL is one of the most capable, honorable, and well-educated Members to ever grace the hallowed halls of the House of Representatives. He is a man of great integrity and conservative values, serving the great state of Illinois for 35 years. His contributions and accomplishments are legend and will carry on for generations to come.

He and his lovely wife, Arlene, are two of the most patriotic Americans I have ever had the opportunity to meet. I wish them the best in their future endeavors and a long, healthy, and happy retirement. PHIL will sorely be missed. May God bless him and his family.

IN HONOR OF JIM WOLFE

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Jim Wolfe upon his becoming President and CEO of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. This past February, Jim left his position of eleven years as the plant manager at DaimlerChrysler's Newark Assembly Plant to take the helm of the 2,800-member Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

Jim, a native of Michigan, joined the Chrysler Corporation in 1964 as a Quality Control Inspector at the Warren Truck Assembly Plant in Michigan. Prior to taking a position at the Newark Assembly Plant in Delaware, Jim had held a variety of positions within the manufacturing operations of DaimlerChrysler, including production manager at the Warren Truck Assembly Plant.

As the plant manager of the Newark Assembly Plant, Jim orchestrated several changes to the facility to make it compatible for the new car models. Jim also oversaw the re-training process of the plant's thousands of workers to give them the skills necessary to do their jobs as effectively and efficiently as possible. Jim capped off his career as plant manager for the Delaware facility by overseeing the October 2003 launch of the new Dodge Durango.

Jim Wolfe is certainly no stranger to the Delaware Chamber of Commerce. In 2002 and 2003, he served as the chairman of the State Chamber's Board of Directors, and has been a long-time member of this board. In addition, Jim has served as the Chairman of the Delaware Manufacturing Association.

Jim has also been very active in the community through the years. He is a board member and past chairman of the United Way of Delaware, as well as a board member and member of the Education Committee of the Delaware Business Roundtable. In 2003, he had the honor of being awarded the Lifetime Achievement Quality Award by the State of Delaware.

Jim Wolfe is truly a well-respected individual within the business community. His experience in, and knowledge of, the business world will certainly be an asset to the people of Delaware as he continues his work as the President and CEO of the Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Jim for his hard work and dedication to the Delaware community. I wish him all the best as he works to benefit the citizens of Delaware through his position as President and CEO of the Delaware Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING ADRIAN ROGERS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and commitment of a beloved Tennessean.

Dr. Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tennessee, will be retiring in the spring of 2005. Under his leadership since 1972, Bellevue has grown from 8,000 members to almost 30,000 members.

Through his Love Worth Finding ministry, Dr. Rogers is able to reach listeners around the world everyday. Through television and radio, Dr. Rogers' message is seen on over 14,000 screens and heard on 1,100 radios in the United States and in 150 countries across the globe.

Pastor Rogers has been called three times to lead the Southern Baptist Convention, which is the world's largest Protestant denomination with over 14 million members. He is the only man to have served three terms in that capacity under the present bylaws.

Dr. Rogers is an accomplished author and is considered one of America's most respected Bible teachers. Throughout his career he has been praised for his work. The Reverend Bill Graham has this to say about Dr. Rogers:

"We need for ministers of the Gospel to defend the Bible as the infallible Word of God . . . I believe in my heart that Adrian Rogers is such a man. I know God's hand is upon Adrian Rogers as he proclaims the Bread of Life from his church and through radio and television."

Though, perhaps of all the titles that have accompanied Dr. Rogers: doctor, pastor, teacher, pioneer, and author, the most cherish is husband, father, and grandfather.

It is with great appreciation that I rise to honor Dr. Adrian Rogers for his ministry and service to our community, to Tennessee, and to the nation.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN KREEGER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin Kreeger of Kearney, Missouri, 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 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ben has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the ten years Ben has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Den Chief, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Ben attended H. Roe Bartle Camp for four years, becoming a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. He was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 2000, Ordeal in 2000, and Brotherhood in 2001.

For his Eagle Scout project, Ben painted all of Kearney's fire hydrants north of Highway 92; he painted the 69 hydrants fire safety yellow.

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

THANKING BERNICE BROSIOUS FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in December 2004, we rise to

thank Ms. Bernice Brosious for 25 years of outstanding service to the United States government, most recently here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Bernice began her career in government in 1979 at the General Services Administration. She followed that with service at the Defense Investigative Service, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Aviation Administration, honing her financial skills throughout this time. Bernice brought her expertise to the House in 1998 as Director of Accounting for the Chief Administrative Officer, and in 2001 became the Associate Administrator for Finance. Her passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and resourcefulness and her leadership on numerous initiatives have benefited countless Members and staff over the years.

Among her many other achievements, Bernice was instrumental in obtaining the House's first clean audit opinion for calendar year 1998 and for maintaining this clean opinion every year since. Over the past seven years Bernice has also been instrumental in moving the House from an ancient paper ledger accounting system to the imminent introduction of a 21st century state-of-the-art financial management system.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Bernice for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Bernice many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

IN HONOR OF THE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Assessment Project for working with United Way over the last 10 years and improving the quality of life for Santa Cruz County residents.

The Community Assessment Project brings together a wide range of public and private health, education, human service and civic organizations to design and implement a comprehensive 10-year plan for communities improvement. Some of the members of the Steering Committee who have worked exceptionally hard over this past decade are Carol Adams, from Dominican Hospital, and Susan Brutschy of Applied Survey Research. Additionally, much of this project's success has been due to the generous support of the financial sponsors, especially the County of Santa Cruz, the single largest patron.

In the last 10 years, the Community Assessment Project has made significant progress toward reaching their goal of improving the overall quality of life in Santa Cruz County. It has conducted an annual survey to get residents' perceptions of the issues, and has begun addressing concerns related to health care, primary education, and drug and alcohol use among youth. By quantifying the needs of the community, it is now easier to bring in millions of new dollars in grant funding.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Community Assessment Project on the tremendous work it has done over this past decade.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIMES-STANDARD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Times-Standard, a newspaper that has dependably served the Humboldt County, California area since 1854. The only regional daily newspaper, the Times-Standard is a reliable source of national, State and local news for thousands of citizens of the North Coast of California.

First published in September, 1854, the Humboldt Times was the sole source of news and information for early residents of the community. In April, 1875, the Humboldt Standard began publication, joining the Humboldt Times in promoting the interests of the area. From the beginning, important stories appeared. In 1854, the first railroad in the area was incorporated; a steamer from San Francisco sank with substantial loss of lives in 1860; a month later a tragic massacre of members of the Wiyot Tribe; and in 1917 the heavy cruiser USS *Milwaukee*, trying to rescue a stranded submarine in thick fog, was beached near Eureka—a story that made international headlines.

Headquartered in Eureka, California, on June 1, 1967 the two newspapers combined to become the Times-Standard and provided improved access to information, community leadership, advertising and entertainment to local residents.

The Times-Standard is an invaluable resource for historians and educators. In the early days of European settlement, people came to northern California from Sweden, Italy, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and the British Isles to farm, harvest timber and fish the Pacific Ocean. Workers came from Asia to take part in building and mining, giving a diverse population a role in the growth of the Nation. The newspapers chronicled the impact of this settlement on the native peoples of the area, including the Hupa, Yurok, Tolowa, Karuk, and Wiyot among others.

Under a single owner from 1941 to 1967, the newspaper was acquired by the Brush-Moore Group and was purchased later that year by Thomson Newspapers. In 1996, the Times-Standard became a member of MediaNews Corporation.

The newspaper has been a community champion for major issues facing the region and a leading forum for discussion and debate. It plays a significant role in the progress of the region. The Times-Standard remains committed to the improvement of the community it serves and is an indispensable source of accurate and comprehensive news to the citizens of our State.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize one of California's finest newspapers, the Times-Standard of Eureka, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

VETERANS HEALTH PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of three important initiatives to improve the quality of services for our Nation's veterans—S. 2484; S. 2486 and H.R. 3936. Each of these measures improves crucial service provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for our brave men and women who served.

The VA is charged with carrying out President Abraham Lincoln's vision of America's veterans: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." It is important that Congress follow in this tradition by providing the necessary support to the VA as the needs of our Nation's veterans continues to change. I urge my colleagues to provide that support by supporting these three bills.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Personnel Enhancement Act, S. 2484, will help retain and develop the quality professional staff needed to provide first-rate care to our veterans. It provides merit pay and other incentives to properly compensate the dedicated health care workers who care for our heroes.

The Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act, S. 2486, enhances the educational and housing opportunities available to our veterans. It expands the maximum contributions veterans can make for educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill and increases the maximum allowable home loan guarantees for which veterans are eligible. This bill recognizes the vital role these programs have played in both repaying the sacrifices made by our veterans and in fueling the economic development through improved education and housing for veterans in our workforce.

The Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act, H.R. 3936, authorizes the VA to construct an improved headquarters outside the Pentagon in order to better serve veterans and their families, and it provides assistance for homeless veterans.

As we enact these important measures, I am hopeful that the House leadership will soon consider the Discharged Combat Veterans Medical Care Extension Act, H.R. 4438. I introduced this bill to extend eligibility to veterans who served in recent hostilities for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for any illness. This bill would be particularly helpful to veterans with symptoms similar to those resulting from exposure to Agent Orange and Gulf War Syndrome who are compelled to prove within two years of discharge that their injuries are directly combat-related or would otherwise lose these benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a long and proud history of caring for our veterans. These bills follow that tradition in helping ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs continues to meet our responsibilities to America's heroes. I urge my colleagues to support each of them and thank our veterans for their service and continued dedication to our Nation.

HONORING WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Whitemarsh Township, in southeastern Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their tricentennial celebration.

The people of Whitemarsh Township, founded in 1704, are celebrating its 300th birthday with a series of events that illustrate the theme ''Our living past . . . Our growing future.'' These events, including Revolutionary War reenactments, talks about the township's history, and a black tie gala, are bringing the community together and educating citizens about its rich heritage of steady growth and historical significance. As a part of this celebration, the Township is also taking the opportunity to honor distinguished citizens who have worked toward the betterment of the community.

From its inception, Whitemarsh Township has been a strong and tight-knit community. The Township has been involved not only in local history; events of national importance have occurred within Whitemarsh Township as well, including Revolutionary War encampments and skirmishes. This rich history has endowed the people of Whitemarsh Township with great pride; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fitz Dixon deserve commendations for their stewardship of Erdenheim Farm and community philanthropy, along with countless other citizens who remain devoted to carrying on the longstanding history and community of Whitemarsh Township.

It is my pleasure to join the residents of Whitemarsh Township in honoring their tricentennial.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, JEFFREY OLSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, patriot and tireless advocate for veterans—Jeffrey Olson, Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Olson announced this week that he will be retiring at the end of the year from his post as commissioner which he served since 2001. Prior to this appointment, he served as deputy commissioner since 1983. At both posts, Commissioner Olson has worked to ensure that the needs of our veterans and soldiers are a priority.

Commissioner Olson brought much experience through his work as a Washington County Veterans Service Officer and the Assistant Director of the Veterans Employment and Training Service at the University of Minnesota.

During the Vietnam War, Jeff Olson served in the U.S. Army, attached to the United States Armed Forces Courier Service where he was responsible for preparing and transporting top-secret materials.

Long a champion of Minnesota veterans, Jeff Olson is a member of numerous veterans' organizations and serves as Chair of the American Legion's National Convention Commission, Vice Chair of the National Legislature Council and is actively involved in the community.

I personally worked with Jeff Olson on many issues. When he was deputy commissioner, he helped me pass an important amendment to the Minnesota constitution that provided our Gulf War veterans with a bonus for their service.

I thank Jeff for his years of service on behalf of our veterans and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT M. ROBUCK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that Robert M. Robuck of Jefferson City, MO, has been awarded ''The Missourian Award'' by the American Heart Association. Mr. Robuck received the award for his civic and business contributions to the community.

Mr. Robuck grew up in Cairo, MO. He attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and graduated in 1964 with a degree in business administration. Soon after graduation, Mr. Robuck moved to Jefferson City to work for Central Trust Bank.

Mr. Robuck is very committed to his community. Currently, he is the president, chief operating officer and director of Central Trust Bank. Also, he is the vice chairman and director of Central Bancompany, Inc. Additionally, Mr. Robuck is council president and a director of the Great Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America. He was the chairman of Capital Region Medical Center, and he is a director of Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Mr. Robuck sits on the University of Missouri Medical Alliance Board.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert Robuck has distinguished himself as a fine community leader and citizen. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mr. Robuck and his family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE ''GENE'' ITOGAWA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man with a truly great career in public service. For more than thirty years, Eugene ''Gene'' Itogawa has worked tirelessly to preserve the historic fabric of California, especially the history of Japanese Americans. As Gene prepares to retire from his position as a historian with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and California State Parks, I would like to ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Gene Itogawa's outstanding commitment to preserve and promote California history.

A resident of Sacramento since 1948, Gene is a graduate of McClatchy High School. Gene earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in History from California State University, Sacramento. Gene's Master's thesis is considered by many to be the definitive work on the history of the natural ice industry in California. A proud veteran, Gene enlisted with the United States military in 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1970.

During his tenure at Office of Historic Preservation, Gene has successfully performed nearly every professional task conducted by the office. He has assisted cities and counties in identifying historic resources through survey programs and evaluated survey results for inclusion in the department's database. In addition, Gene has managed state and federal grant programs and directed OHP's historic resources database.

Gene has coordinated several special projects including production of the book, ''Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California.'' Gene coordinated the preparation of OHP's state preservation plan, ''Forging the Future With the Past: Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California,'' and publication of the book, ''By the People, Fore the People: The Work the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks, 1933–1941.''

Gene has served as OHP's liaison on several projects to preserve Japanese American history in California. Gene was an advocate to preserve Manzanar Internment Camp as a National Historical monument. Gene serves on the Tule Lake Preservation Committee that seeks to preserve the site and history of the internment camp where he was born in 1942. In addition, Gene has worked tirelessly to preserve the remaining three historic Japantowns in California located in Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Francisco.

In 1992, Gene contributed to the development of a major historical exhibit recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 for display at the Sacramento History Museum. In 2002, Gene was selected to participate in an exchange program sponsored by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council and the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote goodwill and strengthen the ties between the citizens of Japan and Japanese Americans in California.

A man of many talents and considerable energy, Gene plans to continue his many volunteer activities with various statewide and Asian American causes. Gene is a board member of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, and the Japanese American Historical Society. Gene will continue to work on his latest project, a history of the first one hundred years of the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

Mr. Speaker, as Gene Itogawa embarks on an exciting new chapter of his life, I am honored to pay tribute to a great friend of California history. The people of California have benefited greatly from Gene's labor and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Gene continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

THANKING MRS. ETHEL JONES FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement in December 2004, we rise to thank Mrs. Ethel Jones for 26 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ethel began her career at the House in March 1978 working with the House Restaurants System through the Architect of the Capitol. In 1987, Ethel joined the House of Representatives Child Care Center as one of the original staff members. Ethel has served as a caregiver at the child care center since that time. Some say Ethel, herself, is an institution within the HRCCC organization. Ethel has touched the lives of so many children and their families. She takes great joy in keeping in contact with her former children, often receiving photos and letters from grateful families years after their departure from HRCCC. Ethel has served as an invaluable resource for many young parents encountering the challenges of parenthood for the first time, and she has consistently displayed warmth and concern as she has shared her expertise.

Ethel has displayed great passion for her work and dedicated herself to ensuring that the needs of the children and families are met to the greatest possible satisfaction.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Ethel for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Ethel many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

HONORING LINDA WILSHUSEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Linda Wilshusen, a respected public servant who is retiring from her post after 19 years as executive director of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

Good transportation planning is essential to maintain both the quality of life Santa Cruz residents desire and the economic vitality necessary to sustain a robust workforce. Linda and her staff at the commission have worked tirelessly to develop a variety of transportation options and engage the public to make long-term transportation decisions that have been difficult, at times controversial, but necessary for the county to adopt a blueprint to meet future transportation needs.

Linda has always recognized the amazing diversity of the community she served and balanced the desire of progrowth advocates by supporting Highway 1 improvements while promoting passenger rail and bus service, and developing transportation alternatives like a bike and pedestrian trail around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and increasing public awareness of the transportation needs of elderly and disabled residents, and upgrading motorist safety and assistance.

During Linda's tenure, the SCCRTC distributed over $300 million for local transportation programs that have made the Santa Cruz area a much more desirable place to live. Linda Wilshusen provided prescient leadership for 19 years at the helm of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and has had an enormous impact not only on the everyday lives of Santa Cruz County residents but also on anyone who has visited Santa Cruz County during the last two decades.

Transportation planning is not the only area in which Linda has a tremendous impact on her beloved Santa Cruz community. In the last year, her family suffered the tragedy of losing their youngest daughter, Kelsey. However, Linda, her husband Rock Pfotenhauer, and her daughter Zephyr showed incredible courage and used their daughter's death to reach out to the community to bring public awareness to the need for better mental health programs so that other families would not suffer the same fate. I know other parents join me in wishing Linda and her family heartfelt sympathy for their unimaginable loss and gratitude for speaking out on the need for better mental health awareness.

I am privileged to call Linda Wilshusen a valued friend and esteemed public servant. On behalf of all my constituents, I wish her and her family well. Thank you, Linda, for your unselfish public service.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUMBOLDT CREAMERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Humboldt Creamery, which was founded along the banks of the Eel River in Humboldt County, CA. The Humboldt Creamery serves not only the people of northern California, but provides high quality products to our Nation and to Asia and Europe.

Formed as a cooperative, Humboldt Creamery's founding principles included high quality products as well as good service and reliability, which are as important today as they were in 1929. Made up of 65 local dairies, Humboldt Creamery and its member dairies employ over 500 people. It brings $70 million in annual sales to the local economy and has a positive economic impact of $210 million on the local region.

Powdered milk, which traces its origins back to Humboldt County, comprises 50 percent of the Humboldt Creamery's business. Its whole milk powder is used nation wide in confectionery products, supplying companies such as Hershey's, Nestle's and See's Candy.

Humboldt Creamery is the source for natural, pasture-based milk products which are free of synthetic growth hormones. Its instantized non-fat powdered milk is used in sports drinks, pudding, dietary supplements and some pharmaceuticals. The creamery provides this product to Bristol Meyers, Farmer Brothers Coffee and many other companies. Organic powder is a growing element in the creamery's catalogue.

Humboldt Creamery processes 10 million gallons of ice cream each year in addition to its 20 million pounds of milk powders. Ice cream, the fastest growing part of the creamery business, brings in $30 million each year from domestic and foreign sales.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Humboldt Creamery on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge approaches, I rise to pay tribute to the brave American and Allied troops who participated in this grueling 39 day battle which effectively ended the last German offensive of World War II.

In the winter of 1944, German forces launched a surprise offensive in the Ardennes forest region of Belgium and Luxembourg. It was intended to split the Allied forces in Europe by breaking through the Allied lines and crippling its fuel supply lines. Their progress was halted by the brave efforts of 600,000 American troops and 55,000 troops from Great Britain, Belgium and Canada, who fought gallantly while outnumbered and battling through treacherous terrain and bitter weather conditions until reinforcements could arrive.

The most famous engagement of this battle was at the key Belgian crossroads town of Bastogne, where 101st Airborne Division was completely surrounded but persevered through a lengthy siege of its position. The Allied resistance prevented the German forces from gaining access to Antwerp and the Meuse River Line.

The Battle of the Bulge resulted in 81,000 American and 1,400 British casualties, of whom over 19,000 American and 200 British soldiers gave their lives. Because of their sacrifice, the momentum of the German war machine was halted and the long road toward the defeat of Nazi Germany was opened for a final Allied offensive, helping to bring an end to the war in Europe four months later.

Following last week's Veterans Day observances, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the memory of the brave Americans who fought and died at the Battle of the Bulge and in extending our deepest gratitude to their families.

I would also like to thank the many World War II veterans who have participated in the Chicago World War H Veterans Oral History Anthology, a project that will preserve their accounts of valor and victory so that we may pass those stories and their values on to future generations of Americans. These veterans are again demonstrating their heroism and commitment to this country by recounting their often painful memories so that future generations may benefit from their individual experiences, and that this nation may benefit from their collective wisdom.

As we solemnly commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, it is my honor and privilege to pay tribute to the Chicago-area veterans—and their families—who

proudly wore the uniform of their country, endured the rigors of the war, and fought for our liberty and the freedom of future generations of Americans.

HONORING DR. IRWIN ROSE

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Irwin Rose, who shares the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with his colleagues Dr. Avram Hershko and Dr. Aaron Ciechanover of Israel. Dr. Rose is a former resident of Abington, PA and had a distinguished career conducting research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and elsewhere.

Dr. Rose was raised in Spokane, WA. He studied at Washington State College, served as a radio technician near the end of World War II, and then earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Chicago. He served for 9 years on the faculty of Yale Medical School. He then worked at the Fox Chase Cancer Center from 1963 to 1995. His wife of 49 years, Zelda Budenstein Rose, is also a biochemist. They have a daughter and three sons.

The research for which Dr. Rose is being awarded the Nobel Prize deals with a certain regulatory protein that is present everywhere in plant and animal cells. The significance of this protein lies in its functions as a destroyer of proteins that are no longer needed and a regulator of certain proteins used in cell reproduction. Because several diseases that are yet uncured, such as cancer and cystic fibrosis, result from errors in the cell reproductive process, Dr. Rose's research provides us with new hope in the search for cures.

It is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Irwin Rose for his contributions to the field of biochemistry. I congratulate him on being awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

REMEMBERING THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA, ELMER ANDERSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a statesman, public servant and friend—the former Governor of Minnesota, Elmer Anderson.

Surrounded by his friends and family, Elmer Anderson passed away on November 15 at the age of 95.

Governor Anderson was a man of great character and strength. He participated in public service with a tremendous sense of purpose.

Never afraid to speak his mind, Governor Anderson fought for human rights, civil rights and worked to protect and ensure new park land which will be one of his many legacies. He was indeed ahead of his time in so many ways.

Even after time as Governor, he never lost his passion for politics and policy. His activism continued throughout his life, becoming involved in the community through business and newspaper publishing.

Elmer Anderson was a man who loved Minnesota and its people. He truly embodied the Minnesota spirit.

Minnesota will miss Elmer Anderson's leadership and he will be remembered fondly in the hearts of many.

SUPPORT FOR BOY SCOUTS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by my good friend from Colorado, Mr. HEFLEY. I wholeheartedly endorse this resolution, which expresses the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to provide assistance and support to one of America's most treasured institutions, the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the finest organizations in our country. Countless young men have learned the values of God, home, and country as young scouts, and the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared", has inspired generations of youths to prepare for and lead full and productive lives.

One of the most significant lessons taught by the Boy Scouts is the importance of being a patriotic American. To call into question the status of the Boy Scout organization, and potentially deprive young men who are military dependents of the opportunity to participate in Boy Scout troops on their military bases, is an absolute shame.

I was fortunate to join the Boy Scouts when I was growing up, and I still remember how proud my mother and father were when I attained the rank of Eagle Scout. I later led a scout troop in my hometown and was enormously proud when my sons also became scouts. I am honored to have a continued association with the Boy Scouts today.

So I call on my colleagues to join us in voicing our support of the Boy Scouts, and encourage the Department of Defense to continue their excellent efforts to promote this important institution.

TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE DEE

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker today I rise in tribute to a man with a distinguished public service career. Throughout the course of his career, Jimmie Yee has served the people of Sacramento with great success and distinction. Jimmie will soon retire from his post as the Councilman from the 4th District of the Sacramento City Council. It is my honor to ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Jimmie Yee, a man who has worked hard to make Sacramento a better place for everyone.

A native of Sacramento, Jimmie was born in 1934. He attended Lincoln Elementary, Lincoln Junior High, and Sacramento High School. Jimmie attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. Jimmie holds registrations as both a California Structural Engineer and Civil Engineer. In 1957, he joined the US Army Corps of Engineers and was honorably discharged after he achieved the rank of Captain in 1965.

Jimmie began his professional career in civil service with CALTRANS and the State Department of Water Resources between 1956 and 1959. In 1966, Jimmie entered the private sector when he started his own engineering practice. During a quarter century of involvement, Cole, Yee, Schubert and Associates became one of the largest consulting engineering firms in the Sacramento Region. The firm provided design services for many trademark buildings in Sacramento, including the original Convention Center, Suffer General and Suffer Memorial Hospitals, and ARCO Arena.

In 1992, Jimmie was elected to a four-year term on the Sacramento City Council. Jimmie was subsequently reelected to the seat in 1996 and 2000. Jimmie truly showed his mark as a great leader when Late Mayor Joe Serna passed away in the fall of 1999. Jimmie admirably answered the call to service by serving as Mayor for the reminder of Mayor Serna's term. Jimmie's leadership and ability to unite had a great steadying influence during this tumultuous period. The people of Sacramento owe you a debt of gratitude for your service.

Long before he joined City Council in 1992, Jimmie was already an important leader in our community. Jimmie has long been one of the most ardent supporters of the Sacramento Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps. Until today, Jimmie remains an active member of the Sacramento Optimist Club and the Chinese American Council of Sacramento. In 1989, Jimmie organized the first Asian bone marrow drive in the United States when he registered more than 2,500 people. It's a testament to Jimmie's influence as a community leader that many of his wonderful contributions before he held elected office are still being felt today.

A devoted family, Jimmie has been married to his wife, Mary, for fifty years. Together, they raised four daughters and two sons, all of whom are college graduates with professional credentials. Today, Jimmie and Mary are the proud grandparents of fifteen grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as Jimmie Yee embarks on an exciting new chapter of his life, I am honored to pay tribute to a great champion of the City of Sacramento. The people of Sacramento have benefited greatly from Jimmie's leadership and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Jimmie continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 110, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

I thank Speaker Hastert for scheduling this bill and giving us this opportunity to pay tribute to the brave Americans who fought and died in that crucial battle. I know that this is personal to the Speaker. His mentor, the former Republican Leader from Illinois, Bob Michel, received the Purple Heart and other citations for his bravery in that battle. I share the Speaker's respect for Leader Michel. Further, the Speaker's family hails from Luxembourg, and the special ties between our countries that resulted from the Battle of the Bulge have great meaning to him.

This is personal to me as well. My uncle, Johnny D'Alesandro, was one of the heroes who gave their lives for their country in the Battle of the Bulge. Like so many other families, his sacrifice was for us a source of both sorrow and pride—deep sadness over the loss of a wonderful man; tremendous pride that one of our own helped to preserve the freedom and values that we cherish as a nation.

But beyond the personal significance that the battle holds for us is the towering importance it holds for human history. The Allied victory in World War II literally saved the world, and that victory became inevitable when the Allied forces successfully repelled the surprise German attack in what we call the Battle of the Bulge.

With bitter cold and blinding snow, it was the bloodiest single battle ever fought by American soldiers. There were 81,000 American casualties, including 19,000 killed in action. The heroes of that battle rightfully take their place among the bravest and most noble in American history.

We dedicated the World War II Memorial on the Mall this year to pay tribute to all of the veterans of that war, and we will honor the heroes of the Battle of the Bulge with ceremonies by citizens of the United States, Belgium, Luxembourg, and many other nations in the coming months. But we can never truly repay the debt we owe them. We can offer only our words of heartfelt gratitude and our promise to never forget the sacrifice they made for our country.

May God bless the heroes of the Battle of the Bulge. May God bless all of the men and women serving in uniform today. And may God bless America.

CONGRATULATING DAVID SCOTT MOLLOY, JR., 2004 RHODE ISLAND PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Scott Molloy, Jr., for being named the 2004 Rhode Island Professor of the Year. The Professors of the Year Awards are the only national awards that recognize college and university professors for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. I'm thrilled to recognize and honor Dr. Molloy today, a professor who reminds us all of the invaluable contributions made by our nation's educators.

David Scott Molloy, Jr., of West Kingston, RI, currently serves as a Professor of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Rhode Island, where he has been teaching since 1986. In his tenure at URI, Professor Molloy has relished the opportunity to bring his expertise and unique experience to a range of departments and courses. He has taught courses in the History Department, the Business School, the Honors program, Economics, and in his academic home at the Labor Center.

His contributions to Rhode Island are too numerous to list, but they begin with his desire to highlight and explore the rich and often complex history of our great state. Offering such courses as "Rhode Island History" and "Labor and Immigrant History in Rhode Island," he reminds our students of how important it is to understand where they and their ancestors have come from and the many challenges that our state has faced throughout history.

A true educator, Professor Molloy's contributions are not confined to the classroom. He delivers as many as forty presentations a year to various organizations in his community. He has also shown an eagerness to share his unique style and methods of teaching and instruction—methods that have proven powerful and effective. His passion for the subjects he teaches led him to begin collecting immigrant and labor memorabilia. In 1990, the Smithsonian acquired 9,500 artifacts from him to establish the Scott Molloy Labor Archives.

Professor Molloy is perhaps above all an incredible leader and role model for Rhode Island's youth—a testament to the value of hard work, determination, and hope. The grandson of an Irish immigrant, he began his career as both a bus driver for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority and a labor activist in Providence. Not one to let an opportunity pass him by, Dr. Molloy chose to pursue a Ph.D. part time while continuing his work as President of the Amalgamated Transit Union, driving a coach, and teaching a course on labor history. His dissertation on the history of public transportation in Rhode Island and the role that transit employees and unions played in its development was published by the Smithsonian Institution. In Professor Molloy's own words, "going from the front of the bus to the head of the class," he is the embodiment of the American Dream. I cannot think of a better example for Rhode Island's bright and aspiring students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating Professor Molloy.

IN TRIBUTE TO VENTURA, CALIFORNIA, POLICE CHIEF MIKE TRACY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mike Tracy, a Ventura, California, native who joined the Ventura Police Department as a patrol officer in 1975 and who has been chief of police since February 1999. After a distinguished career protecting and nurturing his hometown, he will retire on December 4.

Mike Tracy is a seasoned law enforcement officer with a reputation for innovation and community outreach.

During the 24 years in which he worked his way up the ranks from officer to police chief, Mike Tracy worked in or was in command of every aspect of the department, including patrol, detectives, administration, training and crime prevention. That experience gave him an insight into his department that few chiefs achieve.

At the same time, Mike Tracy earned a reputation far beyond city boundaries as someone in the forefront of law enforcement who reached out to other departments to share resources and knowledge.

Under his leadership, the department initiated the Crisis Intervention Team program, which trains personnel to better deal with the mentally ill and individuals in crisis—a program that subsequently was adopted countywide. He was the chief architect of Ventura's Community Problem Oriented Policing Program and instrumental in establishing four police storefronts and acquiring several state grants for gang violence suppression and school safety.

Equally important, Mike Tracy continued to contribute to his community outside the walls of the Ventura Police Department. In addition to his involvement with the Police Activities League, Mike has also worked with the Boys & Girls Club and Salvation Army. He has run in several marathons, the Special Olympics Torch Run and the Baker to Vegas run.

His wife, Linda, recently retired as an elementary school teacher. Their son Matthew is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and lives in Arizona with his wife, Christine, and their 3-year-old son, Nathan.

Mike and Linda plan to stay in Ventura and remain active in the community. His continued support will be appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Ventura Police Chief Mike Tracy on his retirement; will thank him for a lifetime of dedication to his profession and community; and wish him many years of health and prosperity, both for him and his family.

RECOGNIZING JEWELL DUVALL UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise to thank and recognize Jewell Duvall for her outstanding service and contributions to the House community during her tenure in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Jewell was born in the small, coal-mining town of Bellwood, WV, one of a population of 300. As a coal miner's daughter, she worked in the company store during high school until the lure of public service led her to Washington, DC and a job with FBI's Identification Division, then located in the present day Ford House Office Building.

Jewell worked for FBI for four years, started a family and raised two sons. During the course of her career Jewell worked for a variety of employers, from a trade association, to private corporations, but her career always took her back to the service of her country.

Jewell's House employment as Jay Eagen's Executive Secretariat now ends in the same

location where it began, the Ford House Office Building. During her time with the CAO, Jewell has provided support to not only the CAO but also to Leadership, the Committee on House Administration, other House Officers, Member and Committee offices, and the general public. Jewell has always treated each individual with respect and a sense of priority, and her actions have always been driven by a desire to provide courteous and unsurpassed customer service.

Jewell provided extensive administrative support to the Incident Commander during the September 11th and anthrax crises of 2001. She was a valuable asset to this team, going above and beyond the call to duty to ensure that the work of the House continued during those trying times. She has been tremendous in her support of the CAO and my staff at the Committee on House Administration. This institution will truly miss her important contributions, and I wish her nothing but continued success and happiness in her retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Citizenship Project as this year's recipient of the Ralph B. Atkinson Award for Civil Liberties. Each year the Atkinson Award, named for the distinguished civil rights advocate Ralph B. Atkinson, is presented to a local advocate for civil liberties. This year the Monterey County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union selected the Citizenship Project, which was founded in 1994 by Teamsters Local 890 in response to the passage of Proposition 187. The project is dedicated to an expanded citizenship and consistently represents such values as education and self-organization through mutual support. In 2004 they became a close partner to the Central Labor Council, and are currently helping the Labor Council form a new coalition for immigrant rights here on the Central Coast.

Maria Echavarria, the Project's Acting Director, and Tony Acosta were extremely instrumental in the success of this project. With the help of over 1,000 immigrant community volunteers, the Citizenship Project has provided low-cost immigration services, registered thousands of new voters, and conducted voter workshops for new citizens. With their assistance, over 15,000 residents of the Central Coast have applied for U.S. Citizenship.

Since 1998 they have sponsored Jovenes en Accion Youth in Action. This immigrant youth leadership development program registers voters, teaches in the school, produces plays about their experience, and has led the struggle in our region for educational & employment rights for undocumented youth.

Furthermore, they build citizenship by helping people form groups to act together. They have launched La Hermandad de Ex-Braceros Brotherhood of Ex-Braceros, Mujeres del Sur Triqui women in Greenfield, and La Alianza para una Mañana Mejor south Salinas Valley Latino political club with this objective in mind.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the accomplishments of the Citizenship Project and express my sincere gratitude for their commitment to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIKE KAZAR, NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Kazar, who is retiring as a volunteer firefighter for the City of St. Helena, in California's 1st District. Mr. Kazar's outstanding contributions and dedication to our community are truly appreciated.

Mike Kazar will be leaving the Saint Helena Fire Department after twenty years of service. He currently serves as the Captain of the department. In addition to his duties in Saint Helena, Mike Kazar also volunteers for the Sand Point-Sagle Idaho area Volunteer Fire Department. He served as Captain of the Moraga/Orinda Fire Department for 37 years. He is also a member and safety officer on the State OES Overhead Team.

A native of California, Mr. Kazar was born in Carmel. He graduated from Miramonti High School in Orinda in 1960. While growing up in Moraga, Mike Kazar and his family lived in an apartment over the family owned grocery store. Next-door was a firehouse which peaked his interest in the profession.

He served four years in the Navy as a firefighter stationed in Guam. Mike Kazar has one daughter, Michelle Hill and two granddaughters. Mike loves to spend time outdoors and is especially fond of hunting.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Mike Kazar set the standard of dependability, bravery and hard work that should be followed in all communities. His commitment to our community has been shown time and time again. For these reasons and countless others, it is most appropriate that we honor him at the time of his retirement and extend our best wishes to him.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH FURMANICK FOR RECEIVING THE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD AND MONROE COUNTIES FROM THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a fellow South Floridian educator, Elizabeth Furmanick, for having been awarded the National Catholic Education Association's prestigious Principal of the Year Award for Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties.

The Archdiocese of Miami gave Elizabeth this prestigious award for her work in leading St. John the Apostle School in Hialeah, Florida for the past 12 years. She has been with the school for a total of 28 years, serving as a teacher and vice-principal.

Friends describe her as an extremely dedicated principal whose main concern is the well-being of the children entrusted to her care. She also makes it a point to know all her students by their first names. She has an open-door policy for all students and teachers. She encourages them to talk to her about their concerns and feelings so that they may have a more rewarding educational experience.

Elizabeth Furmanick's receipt of the Principal of the Year Award exemplifies her dedication to educating South Florida's children. For almost three decades, she has worked tirelessly to ensure, inspire and encourage her students to reach higher goals.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your dedication.

EXPRESSING THE URGENCY OF PASSING POSTAL REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the urgency of passing meaningful postal reform legislation.

A vibrant and healthy Postal Service is critical to the entire U.S. economy. The nation's mailing industry is an important primary and secondary employer, and contributes approximately $900 billion dollars, or about 8 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. However, over the past few years, due to declining mail volume, and increased delivery costs, the Postal Service has accrued a tremendous debt. This debt leaves the Postal Service with no alternative but to raise postage rates, which they have done four times in the past five years.

I have been a leader on postal reform for several years, and we have come a long way. During my tenure as Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, I pushed for significant postal reform legislation. In 2003, we passed the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act. This was a positive step in the right direction, however, it was a temporary fix for a complex issue, and only staved off postage increases until 2006. Again, earlier this year, understanding the necessity of comprehensive postal reform legislation, the Government Reform Committee debated postal reform, and unanimously passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, H.R. 4341, through a comprehensive and broad bi-partisan process.

If this body fails to act within the next few months, double-digit postage rate increases are likely to be proposed in 2006. An increase of this size will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in First Class mail usage, which again would further threaten the financial stability of the Postal Service. A rate increase of this size will ultimately have many negative impacts, not only for the Postal Service, its employees, and the whole mailing industry, but also on the American public, and our nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is vital that we pass meaningful postal reform legislation immediately, which will ensure the short-term health and long-term vitality of the Postal Service. If we fail to address this issue in a timely manner, we will be guilty of complacency by permitting an unfair, and heavily burdensome $3.5 billion tax hike on the American economy through increased postal rates.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR TAMARA AGHA-JAFFAR

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Tamara Agha-Jaffar of Kansas City Community College, who today is receiving the Professor of the Year Award for Kansas from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, CASE, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Since 1981, the U.S. Professors of the Year program has rewarded outstanding professors for their dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative instructional methods. It is the only national program to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills. The program is sponsored by CASE and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which hosts the final round of judging and sponsors the cash award given to U.S. national winners. CASE works with Carnegie and 26 other higher education associations to direct and promote the program.

The primary characteristic the judges consider is an extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching, which should be demonstrated by excellence in the following areas:

Impact on and involvement with undergraduate students;

Scholarly approach to teaching and learning;

Contributions to under-graduate education in the institution, community, and profession; and

Support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

Tamara Agha-Jaffar, Ph.D., has been a full time faculty member in the English Department of the Kansas City Kansas Community College since 1987. A graduate of the Beirut College for Women and the American University of Beirut, with a Ph.D. in English literature from Washington State University, she previously was an instructor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Johnson County, Kansas, Community College. During the most recent academic year she has taught courses in composition, world mythology, introduction to women's studies, world literature, and women in literature. She also has been active in organizations serving our community, including: the LULAC/USD 500 Latino Task Force; the Joyce Williams Shelter and Safehome, both serving battered women; the Kaw Valley Children's Center; and the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault.

I am proud to represent Dr. Tamara Agha-Jaffar in Congress and I commend to my colleagues the personal statement which she submitted to CASE as a part of her nomination process for this award. I include it in the RECORD and I hope that all who read it will be as inspired by it as I was.

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF TAMARA AGHA-JAFFAR

It was some time in 1994. I was in my office with one of my Composition 2 students. She had been very distraught during class, so I did what I am prone to do: I invited her to my office to talk. I listened as this young, intelligent, articulate female sobbed quietly and blurted out her story. Her boyfriend had woken her up at dawn that morning, placed a loaded gun in her mouth, and threatened to pull the trigger. He had terrorized her in this manner for several hours before allowing her to leave. Then, to my utter amazement, this young, intelligent woman proceeded to find ways of blaming herself for this horrifying experience. My jaw dropped.

I teach at Kansas City Kansas Community College, an urban college located in an economically distressed community. Over 60% of our students are female. Many of our students have to contend with previous or current drug abuse, single parenthood, sexual abuse, gangs, violence, and economic hardship. I have yet to experience a semester in which I haven't had at least one student in some sort of social, psychological, emotional, or economic crisis. But that morning in 1994 was different. I experienced an epiphany of sorts. I realized that as an educator, I have a moral, social, and ethical obligation to do more than just offer compassion and a Kleenex to my students as I hear their heart-wrenching stories. I didn't know what I could do, but I was determined to find out. Several months and a labyrinth of procedures and committees later, Women's Studies at KCKCC was born. I have been teaching the course since 1995. Students who successfully complete it tell me it is a transformative experience. They leave the class armed with knowledge, voice, a greater sense of empowerment, and increased self-esteem. My immersion in the subject matter of Women's Studies and subsequent volunteer activities inform my life and influence the pedagogy and content of all the classes I teach.

I include service-learning as an optional assignment in my Women's Studies class. Because I wanted to increase my effectiveness as a teacher, in 1998, I embarked on my own extensive volunteer training program. I learned to respond to crisis situations at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, at two local shelters for battered women, and at the Kaw Valley Children's Center for abused and/or neglected children. My volunteer work at the battered women's shelter prompted me to seek and establish a two-year scholarship for tuition and books for eligible shelter residents. I taught survival skills classes at the shelter and to homeless women at a local church. Students in all my classes are demonstrably impacted when I share stories that I have heard through my volunteer activities.

Student testimonials and evaluations of Women's Studies reinforced what I already knew to be true: the empowering impact of its subject matter. My desire to make this material available to others served as the catalyst for initiating a new form of collaboration with an area high school. In 2002, as a result of my efforts, KCKCC started offering two women's studies classes for college credit at the high school location. Although tuition is comparatively modest at the college, I knew it would be an issue for these students, most of whom would be the first generation in their families to take a college class. So I successfully authored a grant to cover the cost of their tuition and books. My goal in this venture was fourfold: to expose high school students to material that is empowering and immediately relevant to their lives; to encourage them to continue with their education after high school; to demonstrate that their community college faculty care and are eager to work with them should they decide to pursue their education; and to impress upon them that they can succeed in an institution of higher learning.

As a faculty member at a community college, I am called upon to perform many roles. Through them all, I try to impress upon my students the benefits, importance, relevance, and transformative power of a good education. I listen to their voices; offer support, encouragement, and compassion; provide course material that is empowering and relevant to their lives; and continuously seek new ways to extend means, access, and opportunity to those who have been historically marginalized.

A lot has happened since that day in 1994 when I first heard that young woman's story. I have changed. The college has changed. And my students have changed. Over the years, I have seen an increase in the number of students in crisis. Or maybe it is because they seem to flock to my classes and office in increasing numbers. As always, I listen to their stories. But now I do more than just offer compassion and a Kleenex. I am better trained and better equipped to provide the guidance, direction, resources, encouragement, and support they need to move forward with their lives.

As for that young woman who served as the catalyst for my personal and professional odyssey—I convinced her to phone her parents before she left my office that day and to tell them what had transpired. She was smiling the next time she came to class. Her father and older brother had helped her to move back home, and, with their support, she was pressing charges against her former boyfriend.

HONORING G. WILLIAM CADDELL

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Doctor G. William Caddell upon his retirement after 23 years of service to the citizens of Oakland County, Michigan.

A chiropractor by profession, Doc heeded the call to public service and was elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners in 1979. As a county commissioner Doc served on the Board's Finance Committee and served as its chairman.

In January of 1993, Doc was appointed Deputy Clerk/Register for Oakland County by Clerk/Register Lynn D. Allen. During his tenure as Deputy Clerk/Register, Doc supervised day-to-day operations and made a commitment to bring the latest technology to the office in order to better serve the citizens of Oakland County.

In 1998, Doc became the Clerk/Register of Deeds. The primary responsibility of this elected office is to record, store and retrieve documents for future use and to preserve them for historical purposes. Doc continued to introduce technology to enhance the efficiency and service of the Clerk/Register Office. Significant improvements include the scanning of legal documents so they are available to the public at the counter and to county prosecutors in their offices, thus saving significant staff time; the scanning of approximately two million birth, death and marriage records which may now be ordered by the public on the internet; the ability to apply for a passport at the county office, including photographs; the establishment of eRecording of land records; and the utilization of a geographic information system to accurately draw property lines. Because of Doc's innovation, the Oakland County Clerk/Register of Deeds Office is recognized throughout the state as the "model" office.

Professionally, Doc was very active with state organizations. He was appointed in 2003 by Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land to a 30 member State Plan Advisory Committee formed to address election reform pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act. He is president of the Michigan Association of County Clerks. He is a past president of the Michigan Chiropractic Council and has served on the Board of Directors for the International Chiropractors' Association.

Mr. Speaker, I extend our entire community's sincere appreciation and gratitude to G. William Caddell for his fine service to our community and our country; and wish him, his wife Beverly, son Jonathan, son Geoff and daughter-in-law Heather, and grandchildren Clinton Derek, Luke Jordan, and Sydney Adelaid, the brightest future of continued blessings the God Lord allows.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE RELIEF FOR NANCY P. GILBERT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced private legislation to posthumously promote Nancy Gilbert, formerly of Marietta, Georgia, to the position of Supervisory Investigator at the Atlanta District Office of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. While this legislation would not confer any additional pay or benefits to Mrs. Gilbert's family, it would rightly recognize her service at the EEOC and rightly recognize that she was worthy of a promotion for which she was passed over in July 2001.

Nancy Gilbert began her career with the EEOC in 1979 in Memphis, Tennessee. Her career with the EEOC saw her ably perform in assignments in Washington, D.C., Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia. During her career, she was awarded a Masters Degree in Race Relations and a Bachelors Degree in Sociology. Her last assignment was in the Atlanta District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("ATDO"). While in this office, Mrs. Gilbert served in several units involving Enforcement, Intake and Mediation. Her last Government service level was as a GS 12, Step 10. By all accounts and by her record of consistent promotions, Mrs. Gilbert's service to the government was competent and admirable.

In April 2001, the position of Supervisory Investigator, GS–13, in the ATDO became available. Mrs. Gilbert made the decision to apply for this position and her name was placed on the Merit Promotion Referral List. After an extremely brief and truncated interview process, Mrs. Gilbert was passed over for this position, which was awarded to another EEOC employee. Mrs. Gilbert, believing she had been discriminated against on the basis of her race, gender and age, requested a hearing, which she was granted (Agency Case No. 0–0100067–AT) before Administrative Judge Richard H. Fine on August 29 and 30, 2002. Judge Fine, after a thorough examination of the evidence, determined that Mrs. Gilbert had been unlawfully discriminated against when she was denied the promotion to the position of Supervisory Investigator.

Regrettably, the EEOC, determined to use its own power to deny its wrongdoing, overturned Judge Fine's well-reasoned and clearly delineated decision in Mrs. Gilbert's favor. In so doing, the EEOC not only undermined but disregarded the very legal process instituted to protect the integrity of its employment decisions. Ironically, the very agency designed to ensure justice and fairness in hiring for our nation's workforce denied justice and fairness to one of its very own employees—not once, but twice. It is difficult to imagine a fair process in which the loser in a legal proceeding is given the opportunity to unilaterally overturn the result. However, this is the very thing the EEOC did in the case of Mrs. Gilbert.

After the Judge's decision was overturned by the EEOC on appeal, the last option available to Mrs. Gilbert was to appeal this adverse agency decision to U.S. District Court. Sadly, before she could seek justice in her case in our federal courts, Mrs. Gilbert became ill and passed away earlier this year. To her credit, and in spite of the EEOC's actions against her, Mrs. Gilbert continued her faithful service as an investigator, carrying out her duties on behalf of others. It was only when her illness made her unable to work that she ultimately retired from her position.

In honor of Mrs. Gilbert's faithful service to our country and with respect for the rule of law, I introduced this legislation. Mrs. Gilbert should be posthumously promoted to a GS–13, the position she deserved before her passing. While this bill would not confer any benefits, financial or otherwise, upon her family, this bill would fulfill Mrs. Gilbert's pursuit of justice that was tragically cut short by her untimely passing. The agency responsible for ensuring equal opportunity to all Americans in the job market must be held to account when it fails to live up to that mission with its own employees. This legislation would do just that by recognizing Mrs. Gilbert with the government service level she deserved and bringing justice for Mrs. Gilbert's family and loved ones who stood with her through her fight against discrimination.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BALLREICH'S POTATO CHIPS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR INCLUSION IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Ballreich's Potato Chips in Tiffin, Ohio on their inclusion in the Guinness Book of World Records. On August 8, 2003, a team of Ballreich's Potato Chip makers created the world's largest bag of potato chips, weighing in at 1,082.5 pounds.

Ballreich's Potato Chips has been synonymous with Tiffin, Ohio since its founding in 1920. Ballreich's Chips was formed by the thirteen Ballreich children and quickly grew. Ballreich's processes more than eight million pounds of potatoes into two million pounds of chips each year.

To celebrate the 150th birthday of the potato chip, Ballreich's created the world's largest potato chip bag at the 150th Ohio State Fair. The bag, weighing 1,082.5 pounds, measured 8 feet tall, 5 feet wide and 5 feet deep. The ingredient's used were 700 pounds of soybean oil, 80 pounds of salt, and of course, 4,250 pounds of Ohio potatoes. The event was recorded for the Food Network and aired on the "Unwrapped" show.

Mr. Speaker, Ballreich's was recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records for the creation of the world's largest bag of potato chips. However, Ballreich's does more than make great chips and earn world records. Ballreich's is a loyal employer of Tiffin citizens, a family owned business, and a mainstay in the Fifth District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ballreich's Potato Chips for their recognition by the Guinness Book of World Records and their 84 years of service to the people of Tiffin, Ohio. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize the great achievements of Ballreich's Potato Chips. We wish the employees and management of Ballreich's continued success into the future.

CELEBRATING 35-YEAR CONGRESSIONAL CAREER OF THE HONORABLE PHILIP M. CRANE OF ILLINOIS

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Representative PHILIP M. CRANE. Let me share with you remarks by Edwin J. Feulner, President of The Heritage Foundation that express his gratitude to a man who has given so much to Eighth District of Illinois and the House of Representatives.

Phil Crane's Congressional colleagues will expand on his extraordinary 35-year record of legislative achievements. Others will speak of his unswerving commitment to sensible conservative economic policy based on the principles of limited government and federalism. Still others will discuss his contributions to developing sound American foreign and defense policy.

For me, however, Phil Crane will be the Member of Congress who has—more than any other Member I've known in my forty years in Washington—fundamentally understood the power of ideas and the relationship of ideas to changes in the laws that govern the American people.

Philip M. Crane is a man of ideas. His first book, published in March 1964, is entitled The Democrat's Dilemma. The book jacket notes the influence of extremist views and organizations on the Democratic Party. If this sounds familiar to every American who has been awake for the last several months, it's because Phil Crane's message is as timely today, for the 2004 election, as it was then, for the 1964 election.

In the foreword to The Democrat's Dilemma, Jameson G. Campaigne, the then-editor of the Indianapolis Star, wrote, "Revolutions are normally organized and engineered by small groups of men and women." Phil's book is an insightful account of how a small band of dedicated souls changed the world. While Phil recounts in fascinating detail the growing influence of the Fabian Socialists on the Democratic Party, even

then—in 1964—Mr. Campaigne noted in his foreword that the Fabians were seeing ''their power threatened by a smaller, but equally aggressive and growing, group of conservatives.''

I first met Phil Crane in the summer of 1964 at an Intercollegiate Studies Institute summer school at Lake Forest College in Illinois. Phil was a graduate of Hillsdale College, an Army Veteran, and a bright young professor of history at Bradley University in Peoria, having recently received his Ph.D. from Indiana University where ''his academic record had never been excelled.''

Ever the teacher, for more than forty years, on America's college and university campuses, and in his committees, on the Floor of the House of Representatives, and before countless audiences around the Nation, a singular leader of that ''aggressive and growing group of conservatives'' has been Phil Crane.

Looking back on the period since the Goldwater/Johnson election in 1964, the conclusion is inescapable that Phil Crane's intellectual and political leadership has been crucial to the rise of conservative ideas in this country, and that his dedication to our shared ideas of freedom and free enterprise, limited government, traditional values and a strong national defense has truly changed the world.

From the day in December 1969, shortly after he won the special election to succeed Don Rumsfeld, in the old 12th District, when he asked me to be one of the first employees on his Congressional staff, I have witnessed Phil lead his colleagues in legislative battles. Some of them have been successful, even if forgotten, like eliminating the New Deal prohibition on the individual citizen's right to own gold.

Others were successful in their own right, and led to much bigger things later on, like stopping President Nixon's so-called ''family assistance plan'', which led to the eventual overhaul of our whole federal welfare system.

Still others were, shall we say, ''ahead of their time,'' like his efforts to prohibit federal operating subsidies for mass transit, and to repeal the private express statutes.

But there was always one thing that his legislative initiatives, like his speeches, and his participation in floor debates had in common: they were always based on solid conservative principles.

Phil Crane has always known that with a principled position and a determination to focus his efforts, he could make a difference.

Building unlikely coalitions ranging across the political spectrum in a bipartisan way, Phil broke down barriers and created new alliances to expand the free society.

His early leadership role in the founding of the Republican Study Committee as a voice for the majority viewpoint within the then minority and, for the last ten years, majority party, is recounted today in political science textbooks.

Undergirding Phil's legislative achievements and his House procedural and structural reforms was his fundamental understanding that ideas have consequences.

His understanding of the Founding Fathers and the system they so carefully designed resulted in the publication of his second book, which still should be a primer for conservatives interested in the basic principles of our system, The Sum of Good Government.

Ahead of his time as a conservative idea leader, Phil wrote in that book, ''Once people are willing to admit the possibility of alternatives, the battle is more than half won and the time for refinements of a 'conservative reform platform' will be at hand.''

Phil, your work has been critical in finding, endorsing, and fighting for the possibility of those conservative alternatives.

Because of you, those conservative ideas are now the mainstream of the American political debate.

And because of you, and your trail-blazing leadership, the future is bright for conservative ideas in America.

As you retire, and as a self-appointed spokesman for all of those who have had the honor of serving on your staff over the last 35 years, we salute you, we always will admire you, and we look forward to continuing to work together with you to advance our ideas in the years ahead.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR BRIAN COPPOLA

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to University of Michigan Professor Brian Coppola on his selection as the 2004 Michigan Professor of the Year. Professor Coppola was chosen for his dedication to teaching and commitment to his students.

The Professors of the Year Award Program was created in 1981 to increase awareness of the importance of undergraduate instruction at all types of higher education institutions. The program rewards outstanding professors for their devotion to higher education. They seek excellence in their recipients not only in their involvement and interest in students, but also in their contribution to the academic community. Professor Coppola demonstrates an incredible involvement with his students, as well as using his innovative teaching techniques to contribute to the university and the teaching profession as a whole.

Professor Coppola contributes immeasurably to both the University of Michigan and to and to the field of teaching and learning through his commitment to students and teaching. In his classes he strives for a more involved role for students—instead of a traditional lecture format he encourages student-to-student learning—forcing students to understand and apply what they have heard and read. He has researched his innovative method of teaching, and has found that 80 percent of the students in his classes who have been critiquing their peers and thinking on their own develop analytical abilities comparable to second and third-year graduate students. This number is in contrast to 10 percent of students in a traditional lecture course. Through his unique and involved focus on individual students, he challenges undergraduates to express ideas clearly and apply them to case studies, thus helping them to develop skills that will help them throughout their future careers.

Professor Coppola has extended his ideas to the academic community as a whole. He has published 83 articles on teaching and learning, making his findings available to colleagues across the country. He supplements his written findings with numerous lectures, both as an invited speaker and by organizing his own education symposia. In addition to his impressive publication record, he has been involved with 38 successfully funded external grants related to teaching that total over $8.5 million. These grants have allowed him to continue building on his research while teaching various undergraduate courses, ranging from large introduction classes to smaller, studio format, groups of students.

Professor Coppola is highly esteemed not only at the University of Michigan, but in the larger academic community. His work in the field of teaching and learning should be applauded. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Professor Coppola for his accomplishments and his dedication to the future of this great Nation.

PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE MILITARY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in the Military Act. This bill will address the ongoing problem of violence against women in our U.S. Armed Forces. There have been at least 261 reported cases of sexual assault in current operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Bahrain between August 2002 and November 2004, as well as at least 27 cases of sexual assault prior to deployment. My legislation will help address this issue by improving prevention programs, enhancing victim treatment services and changing the Uniform Code of Military Justice to more effectively deal with perpetrators of these crimes.

For too long, the problem of sexual assault in the military has been brushed under the rug. Women and men who report sexual assault are often ignored or demoted, while perpetrators go unpunished—or are even promoted. We cannot continue to tolerate this culture of abuse, which has destroyed lives, careers and families. A soldier's job is perilous enough—how can they serve with a criminal in their own ranks?

My bill seeks to transform the process used by the military to handle abuse of its own soldiers. It will make important changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice to make certain that those who commit crimes are dealt with swiftly and harshly. The legislation will ensure that victims are protected and have access to both physical and mental treatment and care. We must change entirely the culture that permits this kind of abuse to occur. It is my hope that this bill is a first step in that direction.

This legislation updates and revises the Uniform Code of Military Justice to incorporate Federal statues addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, family violence and stalking. The definition of sexual assault is expanded to include a wider range of sexual misconduct. The bill also closes loopholes in Federal law relative to interstate domestic violence and enforcement of protection orders.

Moreover, the bill establishes two senior executive level offices, Director of Special Investigations and Office of the Victims' Advocate. The Director of Special Investigations would support timely and appropriate investigations of sexual assault, domestic violence, family violence and stalking and would implement and

support Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) and Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRTs). The Office of the Victim Advocate would improve access to services for victims and survivors.

Under this legislation, services and treatment for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking will be enhanced and made more widely available. Such services would be expanded within the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans' Affairs to include health care response teams, community health centers, additional sexual trauma counseling centers to furnish both inpatient and outpatient services, and services for reservists victimized by sexual assault or domestic violence. The proposal would also entitle a servicemember to extended emergency leave in order to seek medical treatment, obtain psychological counseling or victim services, and participate in safety planning as a result of sexual or domestic violence.

My bill will also enhance the rights of victims to safety and justice. It will better protect a victims' privacy, including communication between a victim and her advocate. It will also provide restitution to victims.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I have been helping to lead the charge to end sexual assault in the military. For example, last March, I chaired a hearing at which Jennifer Machmer, an Army captain from Buffalo who was assaulted in Kuwait, testified before Women's Caucus members. I also offered a successful amendment to the FY 05 National Defense Authorization bill that codifies many of the recommendations made the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault.

This bill encompasses a comprehensive framework to deal with all aspects of violence against women in the military. It represents the continuation of an ongoing dialogue between legislators, the Pentagon, victims and the advocacy community to address these issues.

On Veteran's Day last week, we honored and commemorated all of the brave women and men who have so valiantly served our Nation within our U.S. Armed Forces—both in the past, as well as those who continue to serve our country today. We must do everything that we can to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our U.S. servicemembers. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative.

IN MEMORY OF JANE EVELYN MITCHELL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Jane Evelyn Mitchell, who passed away on Saturday, November 13, 2004, at her home in Wilmington, Delaware.

Jane Mitchell led an exemplary life, which she devoted to her husband, her family, and our community. Jane was a trailblazer in the health care industry in Delaware, breaking through the racial barriers that permeated many industries throughout her lifetime. Earning her nursing degree from the University of Delaware, Jane became the first African-American registered nurse in our State. In 1969, Jane also became the first African-American to be named Delaware's nursing director. She served as president of the state Board of Nursing and as vice president of the Delaware Nurses Association. Jane's dedication to providing her patients with compassionate service and her refusal to be stifled by the day's racial prejudices, enabled her to forge a new path for minority women. Jane opened the door for thousands of young African American women, many of whom provide an immeasurable benefit to our State through their service in the health care industry today.

Jane's service to her fellow citizens knew no limitations. She was a dedicated partner to her husband of 61 years, Littleton ''Lit'' Mitchell, in the fight to provide equality for every individual. She was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, but if you were to ask her, I am sure she would say that the true measure of her success can not be found on plaques, certificates, or even building facades, but on the face of the people whose lives she has touched in some way.

Mr. Speaker, it is not often that I have the opportunity to honor the life of a true humanitarian and force for social change. Jane Evelyn Mitchell's devotion to her fellow citizens was truly amazing, and she deserves our utmost respect, and appreciation.

CONROE, TEXAS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city and people of Conroe, Texas, as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. Home to more than 43,000 Texans, Conroe is a vibrant city that embodies the rich heritage familiar to so many pioneer Texas towns.

From Isaac Conroe's first view of the acres of lush forests that berthed a thriving sawmill and train stop to the discovery of oil by George Strake that increased the population of the city five times over in just five weeks, every generation has faced its joys and challenges. The fortitude of Conroe's citizens and their leaders has always proven up to the task.

This fortitude is perfectly illustrated in the city's response after fires ravaged the fledgling downtown. A fire in 1901 badly burned the business district of the city. The community immediately rebuilt. Another fire in 1911 leveled the same district. This time—as if to dare the fire to try one more time—the people of Conroe rebuilt with brick.

The citizens of this community have also proven their willingness to help a neighbor or stranger. During the oil strike of the early 1930's, thousands of able bodied men descended on Conroe looking for work and a way to escape the Great Depression. Lifetime Conroe resident Edith Clanton remembers her mother renting out every room in their home to strangers desperate for a place to live.

Today, another generation of business owners, school teachers, community leaders and families are making their home in Conroe. Today, as this city surveys the last hundred years with well deserved pride it will also consider what the future has in store.

Mayor J.F. Collier, the first Mayor of Conroe, saw electricity come to Conroe. Today's Mayor Tommy Metcalf is witnessing the spread of another type of current running through this city. New technology, thriving new businesses, residential developments that are the envy of the nation, academically outstanding schools, and a deep respect for the diversity and needs of the entire community are all a part of this new current. They all play a key part in keeping Conroe healthy and strong for the future.

Many more bright years are ahead for Conroe. The history of this city reminds us that great things—great cities—start with every day people who live their lives one day at a time, determined to leave things better than how they found them.

Mr. Speaker, our nation's hometowns like Conroe, Texas, are what make America strong. It is an honor to represent this community in the U.S. House of Representatives and I urge you to join me in congratulating the City of Conroe, Texas, on their 100th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF HARRIS LEVY FINE LINENS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Harris Levy Fine Linens, a business in the Lower East Side neighborhood of Manhattan. Harris Levy has flourished since its modest beginnings 110 years ago. At a time when many small businesses struggle to compete with franchises and larger companies, Harris Levy has thrived by inspiring the trust of its customers.

Harris Levy Fine Linens began in 1894 when Harris and Ester Levy started selling tapestries and yard goods from a rented pushcart. Five years later, they were able to move their business to a nearby basement and in 1930, they finally purchased a lot at 278 Grand Street, where their store is presently located.

Early in its history, Harris Levy established itself as a pioneer—at a time when most stores relied on importers or wholesale suppliers, it chose to import its own goods. In those days, Harris Levy would sell its imported bed, bath and table linens at cost and derive its profits from the sale of the wooden crate in which the fabrics were shipped.

Today, Harris Levy's fourth-generation owners continue to adhere to the core values with which Harris Levy started his business more than a century ago. The company insists on setting reasonable prices for its goods, striving not only to make a profit, but to maintain its customer base and supplier networks, as well. Harris Levy's owners also take great pride in the dedication of their employees, all of whom have been with the company for more than fifteen years.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to this outstanding family-run business, which has established itself as an integral part of the Lower East Side neighborhood. I wish

Harris Levy's owners and longtime employees many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING TIMOTHY HUEBNER OF RHODES COLLEGE 2004 TENNESSEE PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Timothy Huebner of Memphis as he is named 2004 Tennessee Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

A hands-on historian with varied experiences and an abiding devotion to his profession, Professor Huebner has rendered distinguished service as a book review editor for the American Journal of Legal History, an advisory board member for Tennessee's history online discussion list, and as a Co-editor for Studies in the Legal History of the South Series; however, Huebner's tenure as a Professor of History at Rhodes College (a position he has held since 1995) is his defining position.

With an intellectual curiosity fed by research and a passion for helping students make complex issues clear, Professor Huebner has worked to find a balance between teaching and research. During his tenure at Rhodes College, Mr. Huebner has found that balance by devoting time to helping students write substantive research papers, supervising honors research papers, and more recently, serving as Founder and Director of the Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies. The Rhodes Institute is an innovative, interdisciplinary summer program that engages top undergraduates in research in the Memphis and Mississippi Delta region.

The Rhodes Institute brings a select group of students and faculty together for eight weeks: two weeks in a faculty-designed seminar on regional studies; five weeks engaged in independent research, interspersed with weekly individual and group meetings; one final week presenting their work. Under the supervision of a faculty mentor, each student produces an 8,000–10,000 word research paper that is published and distributed to the local community. This Institute and Professor Huebner's efforts have put Rhodes College on the map as a research institution and connected students to the Memphis community.

Huebner's selection as Tennessee Professor of the Year further highlights a career of service to his students, Rhodes College, and the Memphis community. Professor Huebner's more noteworthy accomplishments include his initiation into Omicron Delta Kappa in 2004, the recognition of the Rhodes Institute's website by the Council of Independent Colleges in 2003, his initiation into Phi Beta Kappa in 1988, his publication of eight articles and book chapters in scholarly publications, his fifty-five essays in encyclopedias and reference volumes, his twenty-five book reviews, and ten scholarly paper presentations at invited academic lectures.

For the good work he has had in the lives of countless youth, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you join me in honoring my friend and a friend to higher education, Mr. Timothy Huebner.

ON THE HORIZON: WORKERS' BENEFITS BEING ROBBED

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have always believed that, in America, hard work leads to reward. I grew up in a family that inspired me by example to work hard, to be fair, and to be loyal. They are values worth instilling in future generations. They are concepts that, I believe, set our Nation apart and above the rest of the world.

Increasingly, however, these American ideals are being swept aside in the corporate chase for the almighty dollar, and it does not bode well for the future of our country.

In recent months, the media in my State have been running stories about a series of court cases concerning Horizon Natural Resources—the Nation's fourth largest coal company. The once robust company was ailing financially and it was seeking protection through the bankruptcy codes. It is the kind of story that might normally engender sympathy. But how this company went about trying to protect itself wipes away any semblance of pity.

Horizon went after its employees, current and past. It went after their benefits, including their health care. In a cold and callous act, Horizon Natural Resources went to court and asked a judge to allow it to abandon its obligations to those men and women who had labored long and hard in the mines and coal-processing facilities to earn an honest living for themselves and the boys in suits.

In a final, appalling decision in September, a federal judge gave the "all clear" to Horizon to use bankruptcy loopholes to turn its back on its workers. Armed with that decision, Horizon took years of the hard work and the loyalty of thousands of employees and their families and heartlessly tossed it all out the courtroom window.

As a result, Horizon's mines and coal-processing facilities are enabled to continue to operate under new names, but its employees and retirees have suffered egregious losses, including, for some, the loss of their promised health care.

Such court decisions, to my mind, do not even vaguely resemble justice. They make a mockery of the word. Moreover, they thwart the intent of Congress when enacting the Coal Act which was supposed to guarantee those health care benefits.

As a result of its courtroom victories, Horizon is not only permitted to chuck its obligations to ensure certain benefits for its own employees, it is able to dump its liabilities on already financially strained benefit plans that provide for thousands of other retirees and their beneficiaries. Benefit plans, I might add, that are largely being financed by other coal companies.

As such, the Horizon "bankruptcy" decision resulted in several bad decisions that may have long-term, far-reaching implications for benefits and employer obligations under the Coal Act, including the level of benefits that are required to be provided. In handing down such a poorly considered decision, one federal judge set off a domino effect that will also cost numerous companies that are playing by the rules.

This is exactly the type of egregious corporate behavior the Coal Act sought to address. It is wrong. It goes against the American grain. It turns on its head the ideals of hard work and loyalty and fairness.

This series of court decisions cannot be allowed to stand. In response, today I, along with West Virginia Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, are introducing legislation to seek a remedy to this situation. Our bill will make clear that the benefits and obligations mandated by the Coal Act cannot be modified by the bankruptcy courts. It will prevent other companies from attempting to skirt the Coal Act through bankruptcy, and help to provide more stability to already over-burdened benefit plans and those families who depend on them.

Moreover, our bill will send a message that financial bankruptcy is not an excuse for moral bankruptcy, and that loyalty and hard work are worthy ideals still valued in America today.

RECOGNIZING CITIZENS OF OTIS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless efforts of the citizens of Otis, Kansas in their work to keep ambulance service available to their community.

A little more than two months ago, this community's emergency medical service was in danger of closing due to a lack of emergency medical technicians. After more than 30 years, Otis and the surrounding area was looking at the unfortunate reality of having no local ambulance service. This loss could have been devastating to this community of 325 people. The response time for an ambulance run in Otis is five to eight minutes. Ambulance response time from the next closest community, which is 15 miles away, would have been a minimum of 20 minutes. In rural America, having access to local ambulance service can mean the difference between life and death.

Fortunately, six individuals saw the effect this would have on their community and stepped forward to help. These individuals are taking EMT training and will volunteer their time to keep the Otis EMS alive. After seeing the outpouring of support, two other former volunteers also agreed to return to the service. In addition, two new volunteers—a registered nurse and an EMT—have made themselves available to go on ambulance runs when needed.

Because of the following individuals, the Otis EMS will remain open: Bruce Adamson; Mary Adamson; Jerry Dirks; Marsha Hinds; Mike Sharkey; Tara Stieben; Mike Bahr; Teri Bahr; Mark Brack; Candace Demory; Margaret Gary; Shane Konzem; Shayla Koochel; Virginia Landers; Karen Maier; Roger Mohr; Robert Newton; Eric Royer; Everett Royer; Ellen Schriner; Kent Schriner; James Sheldon; Bruce Swob; Mandy Urban; Don Weide.

Thanks to their team effort, this close-knit community will continue to have that lifeline to the health care services they need. Everett Royer, a current EMS volunteer, noted, ''it gives us a little bit of hope.''

All across the state of Kansas are stories just like this one. Of neighbors helping neighbors, not because they have to, but because they want to. Because it's. the right thing to do. Their efforts deserve our support and recognition.

Citizens throughout the First Congressional District of Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. Preservation of the Otis EMS is a success story that gives all of us in rural America ''a little bit of hope.''

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, November 11, 2004 marked the 80th anniversary of the Fleet Reserve Association whose original charter was issued on that date in 1924 at Philadelphia, PA. Known by the acronym, FRA, the association is the oldest and largest professional military organization representing men and women serving in or retired from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

FRA grew out of a need for an organization to safeguard sailor's rights and benefits. The idea for organizing such an association stemmed from the earlier action of a small group of enlisted men, who pooled their monies in 1919, to send two senior enlisted Navy chiefs from their ranks to Washington, DC to represent their viewpoint on pay legislation then under consideration in the U.S. Congress. The result of their testimony was a substantial enlisted pay increase the following year. These two pioneers were the first enlisted persons ever to testify before a congressional committee.

The Fleet Reserve Association derived its name from a program, the Fleet Naval Reserve, established by the Navy to separate sailors who had at least 16 or more years of active enlisted service but less than 30 for retirement purposes. Sailors could return to civilian life, receive retainer pay (in lieu of retirement pay), and be subject to immediate recall to active duty by the Secretary of the Navy until their combined service equaled 30 years.

FRA originally was formed in 1922. Its first successful endeavor occurred in 1923 when Congress overruled an unfavorable and inequitable judgment by the Comptroller General of the United States. The CG's decision had rejected the eligibility of certain enlisted personnel who had already transferred to the Fleet Naval Reserve and settled in the civilian community. The CG ruled that those holding commissions in WWI could not count their wartime commissioned or warrant service to qualify for transfer to the Fleet Naval Reserve. The FRA effort saved any number of enlisted sailors from returning to active duty to make up time served in the commissioned ranks.

Since its inception, FRA has produced an enviable record of representing enlisted men and women of the Sea Services. In the 1930s, the Association authored two legislative proposals that were signed into law by then-President Herbert Hoover. One law banished a requirement that Fleet Reservists and other enlisted retirees pay 75 cents for rations while hospitalized in government treatment facilities. The other authorized the payment of death gratuities to the estate of Fleet Reservists who perished while recalled to active duty. In 1937, an FRA proposal to authorize commissary privileges to military widows was enacted into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Two years later, FRA's efforts to restore reenlistment allowances (bonuses) succeed when the President signed the legislation into law.

For the next five decades FRA racked up success after legislative success on behalf of its members and others, including all uniformed personnel of the armed services. Its ''Hospital Rights'' study led to the creation of the Civilian Health Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) in 1966. Almost immediately thereafter, the Association financed a study of the military's survivor benefit program. The result of the study, entitled ''Widow's Equity,'' led Congress to the 1972 adoption of the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Program (USSBP).

In the late 1970s and early 1990s FRA concentrated on protecting the rights of its membership. Much of its work was devoted to preserving the status quo for many of the benefits available to military personnel. FRA shared a major role in defeating an overhaul of the uniformed services retirement system and the proposed unionization of the armed forces. It targeted the defeat of a proposed plan to phase out funding for military commissaries, petitioned Congress not to adopt the former spouses' protection act, and joined as a founding member of The Military Coalition leading to the repeal of the reductions in cost of living adjustments (COLA) for military retires and their survivors.

FRA published a pay study in 1999 that led to a major victory in obtaining targeted pay hikes for mid-grade enlisted personnel in 2001. It also authored the first legislation introduced that eventually led to the repeal of the 1986 military retirement system (REDUX), and urged the Navy to authorize sea pay for junior enlisted personnel.

In addition to its award-winning legislative advocacy work, the Association encourages participation in community activities wherever its 300-plus branches are located throughout the United States and overseas. FRA also conducts an annual scholarship program and awarded nearly $90,000 to deserving students in 2004. Its Americanism Essay Contest is highly successful awarding more than $75,000 to students each year. The Association also generously supports a number of recognition awards for outstanding uniformed personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The Association is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as a veterans' service organization, and employs a full time Veterans Service Officer who has the authority to assist any veteran in filing a claim or representing them before the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have been a part of the Association's efforts to serve the men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. At the Association's request I introduced the first proposal in the House to repeal the military's REDUX retirement program, to provide a targeted pay increase for mid-career enlisted personnel, and an amendment to the Coast Guard authorization bill to authorize the Commandant of the Coast Guard to speak his mind before members of Congress in the same manner as that of the other service chiefs; all of which have been enacted in law. There are others issues related to both military personnel and veterans that FRA and I will continue to work, most of which I plan to sponsor again in the 109th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Fleet Reserve Association for its eight decades of representing our men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. May its success in effectively serving active duty, reserve, and retired enlisted personnel, as well as those in the commissioned ranks, sustain the FRA through many more years of loyalty, protection, and service—not only to its members but to the U.S. Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the United States of America.

ON THE SUCCESS OF THE X–43A

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Dryden Flight Research Center and Langley Research Center for the record-breaking flight of the X–43A research vehicle on November 16, 2004. During the flight, the scramjet-powered X–43A flew successfully at record speed approaching Mach 10, almost ten times the speed of sound, as it raced across the sky above the Pacific Ocean. The Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, where the mission originated, is in my district. Earlier this year I visited Dryden and met with the men and women involved in the program and I share their excitement about this successful flight.

Supersonic combustion ramjets, or scramjets, offer safer and more affordable options for high-speed flights, as well as more airplane-like operations, than traditional rocket powered vehicles. Much of the information scientists have about scramjets has come from computer-generated models. The goal of this program was to provide actual flight data for a scramjet engine.

This was the third and final flight of NASA's Hyper-X Program to explore alternative power sources for space access vehicles. It was also the fastest flight, breaking the record of the second flight, which reached speeds near Mach 7. The Guinness Book of World Records named the X–43A the fastest air-breathing aircraft when it reached speeds of over 5,000 MPH during the March 27, 2004 flight. Only eight months later, the Guinness World Record book needs revising already; the X–43A is still the fastest, but now it has flown almost 7,000 MPH.

The X–43A took off from Edwards attached to a B–52 bomber. This was the last research flight for the B–52, which has been used successfully for many historic research efforts at Dryden. At around 2:30 PM local time, the X–

43A detached from its booster at 110,000 feet to fly on its own. The 12-foot long vehicle streaked through the sky, reaching speeds of Mach 9.8. After its short flight, the X–43A splashed into the Pacific Ocean, triumphantly completing the eight-year program.

The $230 million Hyper-X program pushed the envelope, as no air-breathing scramjet engine had been previously flown at hypersonic speeds, but the rewards are evident. The important discoveries made by these flights will lead to advances in both space exploration and commercial aviation. We all honor the success of the program and encourage more research into this valuable technology. It is vital that the first 'A' in NASA—Aeronautics—remain a strong and vibrant part of the agency.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT EWBANK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Scott Ewbank to recognize his lifelong achievements and indisputable legacy as a respected San Jose lawyer and longtime member of Santa Clara County's Juvenile Justice Commission.

Scott Ewbank was born on August 15, 1947 in Sunnyvale, California. Scott attended Stanford University, where he received his bachelor's degree in political science in 1969. After college, he volunteered for two years with International Volunteer Services (IVS), a nonprofit group that at the time helped central Vietnam's highland tribes develop new agricultural practices. While there, he learned Vietnamese and in the mid–1990s served on the IVS board of directors.

After his return from Vietnam, Scott attended the University of Michigan law school, and received his law degree in 1975. He also received a master's degree in Southeast Asian studies in 1990 from the same university.

Scott began his solo criminal law practice in San Jose in 1976. He was a tough fighter who believed in his young clients, many of them charged with felonies.

Outside of the courtroom, Scott was a volunteer mentor to youths. He joined Volunteers in Parole, a non-profit group that helps juvenile delinquents by pairing them with adult mentors. He also volunteered as an adult chaperon with the Boy Scouts. Scott helped out those in his own neighborhood. He spoke up against the proliferation of all kinds of group homes and questioned the city's land use ordinances as they pertained to potential development nearby.

It was on Saturday, November 6, 2004 that Scott Ewbank died of apparent heart attack while hiking with a Boy Scout troop in Monterey County. He was 57 years old.

Scott Ewbank is survived by his wife Susan Hart, and his children, Jack and Anne, all of San Jose; his mother Lois Ewbank of Sunnyvale; and his brothers, Gary of Sacramento and Brian of Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the loss of a role model and a constant inspiration. Scott Ewbank's heroic service to our community and guidance to individuals inspired many to go beyond their expectations and, as a result, contribute to the betterment of our beautiful and diverse community in Santa Clara County. Scott was a true hero, in every word and action. He was also my friend and neighbor.

HONORING LINDA SHOEMAKER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Shoemaker, an exceptional community leader in my district.

Throughout her life, Linda has worked to improve the community in which she resides and to help those less fortunate than herself. In 2000, Linda and her husband, Steve, founded the Brett Family Foundation in Boulder, Colorado. The purpose of this foundation is to promote local nonprofits and policy initiatives that help disadvantaged youth around the state of Colorado. In 2001, Linda started the Bell Policy Center, a nonprofit organization which uses research to construct and promote public policy that focuses on the needs of working adults and families in Colorado.

Linda's accomplishments are vast. In addition to taking on numerous leadership positions over the years, including becoming a Board Member and Sponsor of the I Have A Dream Foundation, where she worked to provide scholarships to students who would otherwise be unable to attend a college or university, Linda also volunteers time to help abused and neglected children in her community by volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Linda has been recognized time and again for her tremendous work in the Boulder community, as well as around the state of Colorado. Most recently, Linda won the 2004 National Philanthropy Day in Colorado award for Outstanding Philanthropist. It is individuals like Linda, who take action at the community level and take the time to help those less fortunate than themselves that will make this country, and the world, a better place for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend her accomplishments and ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Linda Shoemaker for her outstanding contributions to Colorado.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to attendance at a funeral in my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 532, "yes." Rollcall No. 533, "yes."

EULOGY TO KENNETH H. POLLARD OF METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to an outstanding citizen of Methuen, Massachusetts Kenneth Pollard. Kenneth passed away on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 at 82 years of age.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters Sharon and Patricia; sons Michael and K. Jeffrey; sisters Claire and Jacqueline; granddaughters Catherine, Haley, and Morgan; and grandsons Christopher and Kenneth.

Kenneth lived a full life and touched the lives of countless individuals. He was an accomplished athlete in his youth and a dedicated Red Sox Fan. He joined the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a member of American Legion Post 122 of Methuen. Kenneth was a successful businessman, devoted family man, and community leader. Throughout his life he volunteered much of his time to community boards and committees, as well as serving as a Methuen city councilor.

Sharon M. Pollard, who is the Mayor of Methuen, Massachusetts, delivered a beautiful eulogy to her father, Kenneth, at Saint Monica's Church on Saturday, November 13, 2004. I ask for unanimous consent to submit to the RECORD Mayor Pollard's eulogy to her father:

My Mom, brothers, sister and aunts wish to thank you so much for the support you have all given us in the last few days, weeks and months. Our family sends you a collective thank you.

Dad was born into a loving home with his parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. His sisters affectionately say that in this home he was known as ''my son-my son''.

A product of Methuen's public schools, he excelled in school as a student and an athlete. He received letters in baseball, football and basketball. Although mostly English, he liked to think of himself as Irish. He used to tell the story of how his great uncle Tom who had been born in Ireland, wanted him to go to Notre Dame, but he decided to stay closer to home and attend Boston College. He loved watching the Eagles and the Fighting Irish play football.

He loved his country and served as a sergeant in the Army/Air Force in WWII. He served in various places, but it was at his last stop, Sedalia, Missouri where he met Mom. In May, they celebrated their 58th anniversary and they loved each other very much.

Dad had four children and each one of them received a piece of him. Michael, his profession, Patty, his passion for baseball, Jeff, his name and athletic ability and me—well we did politics together. We were kindred political souls. And now you know what the conversation was at our dinner table.

He was blessed with five beautiful grandchildren: Catherine, Haley, Morgan, Kenny and Christopher from whom he received much love and pleasure. Dad was happiest when the children were around, but as we grew older we realized that it was the little ones that he really wanted to spend time with. In the last 10 years, Sundays at the beach were the best times—he knew that the children and grandchildren would be coming for dinner.

Dad was a very unique person. He was highly motivated and created a highly successful business from the ground up. He

treated people with respect and dignity and spoke kindly about everyone. He was, I believe, the nicest man I ever met. A great businessman, he was a gentle soul and so many people loved him dearly.

Growing up we all had a great time. Mom was from Missouri and when she went to visit her family every summer, we would do special things, like heading to Claire and Jacquie's at the beach. Dad's favorite escapade with us was to the ballpark. We would head to Fenway Park and we always went early so we could watch the players arrive and then watch batting practice. The gentleman in the parking lot thought Dad was a doctor, so we always got a great parking space to allow for a quick escape. I wonder why he thought that! He loved the Red Sox and as a result, the whole family loved the Red Sox. Like all of us, he lived to see the Sox win a world series. It was a happy interlude at a sad time in his life. GO SOX.

Dad inherited from his Dad and Grandfather a love of animals and the sport of Kings. So when we weren't at the ballpark, we would make the trip up Route 28 to Rockingham. Dad would bring us early in the day so we could see the racehorses going through their pre-race routines. If our grandfather were with us, we would always stop at Granite State Potato chips for a sour pickle. He was the best Dad!

Dad always taught us that we needed to give back to our community and he very much lived his advice. He served on the Housing Authority, Chaired a Charter Commission, Chaired the High School Building Committee and was elected to Methuen's City Council. He involved himself in many charitable organizations and always worked to try to make his community a great place to live and raise families. His last civic act was to cast his vote for the man who should be President. He was saddened by the outcome of November 2nd.

His last year was a difficult one for him, but he took in all in stride. He would tell people that he had no regrets—that he had lived a great life and had the opportunity to watch his children grow to be successful and to spend time with the little ones in our family. He loved his grandchildren very much and they will dearly miss their ''Buppa''.

As he got older, he developed an insatiable desire for political and current events television shows—Chris Matthews and Hardball were no strangers to his home but he also loved to watch the unfortunate likes of Bill O'Reilly and Hannity and Colmes. He listened intently to what they had to say and oftentimes made comment. When I asked him why he watched those shows, he told me that you always need to know what the opposition is thinking. He was wise.

He was treated by the skilled doctors of the Massachusetts General Hospital's ALS research team. We were all so hopeful that Dad would be able to benefit from the research strides made by this team of dedicated doctors, but time was not on his side. But, our family is hopeful that Dad was able to provide some knowledge to his Doctors which will help them beat this insidious disease.

Dad's end was peaceful and he was surrounded by his very loving family. So many friends showered us with kindness. Their comforting words and the meals and snacks they provided us, were welcome gifts. We loved the food and Dad would have as well.

When things weren't going well, someone always miraculously appeared, like Carla Moriarty and Dr. Nelson Matos to help us through the newest bump. We love you all and you will always have a special place in our hearts.

He was cared for by wonderful VNA and Hospice nurses, as well as other health care professionals who treated him with dignity and kindness and he loved them in return. Our family is humbled by their devotion and we will always remember their spirit and affection.

We chose the following verse to put on the back of Dad's prayer card because our family thought it was written with our Dad in mind . . .

When through one man a little more love,
A little more goodness,
A little more hope,
A little more beauty,
A little more joy,
And a little more faith
Has come into the world
Then that man's life has had meaning.

To his children he was our hero—our mentor—our conscience—our rock. He was everything we could ever hope to be. He was the nicest man and the best Dad on earth. We are crushed to lose him but blessed with so many wonderful memories—so many wonderful memories.

In August, when Mom and Dad sold their home at the beach and were not yet able to move into their new home, they went to live in the interim with Patty, Ed and Catherine. Dad spent his last months in a happy house, where he wakened each day to the smiles of his precious Catherine and where Patty and Ed attended to his every need, including the brownies and ice cream before bed. Many of Dad's friends came to visit him at Patty's and they were always welcomed. Mike, Jeff and I are profoundly grateful to our sister and her family for the care they have given Mom and Dad and for the wonderful environment in which Dad died.

The Pollard Funeral Home was Dad's dream and joy. He started his business over 50 years ago and over the years he and his staff have comforted and served thousands of families in the Greater Lawrence communities. He was enormously proud of Mike and the staff at the funeral home and they in turn, have cared for Dad with dignity and reverence. All of the Pollard family thanks you for the respect you have shown to us and to Dad.

Jeff was Dad's sports buddy. If they weren't discussing the Patriots then it was golf—a sport they played together often. At those Sunday afternoon dinners, the rest of us were resigned to the fact that we were in clicker hell—bouncing back between whatever the sports of the day were. Jeff honored Dad by naming his only son Kenneth. In our household we refer to them not as the 3 amigos but as the 3 Kenny's.

Our family is so thankful for the clergy who honor Dad by their presence on the altar today. I know Dad would be particularly pleased that his friend of over 50 years, Bishop Joseph McGuire, could be with him as well. A beautiful service would not be so without beautiful music and voices. To those who lend their voices, spirit and their gift to us today, we are grateful.

Dad was blessed with many friends throughout his life, some here today and others who met him on the first tee or in the clubhouse at a heavenly race track on Tuesday morning. I have faith that he is in a far better place and that the warmth we feel now is his smile, the peace we sense is his comforting hand and the light which surrounds us is his love.

In his high school yearbook, the quote under his picture read, ''Yet leaving here a name, I trust, That will not perish in the dust'' Sixty-four years later we affirm that Dad left his mark on his community and he will always have a special place in our hearts.

So many people love you Dad, but none more than me.

OPENING OF CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, having just returned from the opening ceremony in Little Rock, Arkansas today, I rise to congratulate President Bill Clinton on the opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. The library, an architectural triumph that evokes President Clinton's ''Bridge to the 21st Century,'' is a superb accomplishment worthy of the outstanding presidency it documents.

Containing 80 million pages of records, nearly 2 million photographs, nearly 80,000 artifacts and 21 million emails, it is the largest presidential library ever. It covers every aspect of his eight years in office, including domestic and international issues, legislative achievements, and personal triumphs and challenges.

The thoroughness of the library, however, is no surprise. President Clinton has always been known for his love of learning. The construction of this library and the opportunity to make resources available to scholars and the public is a personal joy to him.

In the library, visitors will learn the story of a great presidency that lifted the lives of so many Americans. During President Clinton's two terms in office, he created 22 million new jobs, and median household income was the highest in history. With an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and an increase in the minimum wage, America had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. At the same time, President Clinton's responsible economic policies eliminated the deficit, and we had three years in a row of budget surpluses. More Americans were able to access health care and to own their own homes. We modernized our defenses, while strengthening our role in the world.

Bill Clinton's presidency is a powerful example of what we can accomplish when we ''put people first.'' Future Presidents and leaders should study his example.

Also characteristic of President Clinton, the library exists not for its own sake but as part of a larger effort to continue the good work of his presidency. Through the library and the Clinton Foundation, he is continuing to fight against HIV/AIDS, to promote racial and religious reconciliation, to encourage economic empowerment, and to support citizen service and leadership development. The library itself has helped revitalize Little Rock and has spurred more than $1 billion in economic development.

Bill Clinton's love of learning is infectious. He reminds us all of what a dedicated individual with drive and conviction can accomplish. I am confident that the Clinton Presidential Center library will be a valuable asset to scholars for generations to come and a destination for his many admirers from around the world.

A TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN SAXON BRYAN, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today and honor Lance Corporal Benjamin Saxon Bryan of my hometown of Lumberton, North Carolina. Earlier this week, Lance Corporal Bryan was killed in the line of duty while serving the people of this great nation in Iraq.

Ben Bryan joined the Marines in 2000 after graduating from Lumberton High School and was serving in the infantry Company L, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment stationed out of Camp Pendleton, California. Lance Corporal Bryan was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Bryan's love for his fellow man and for the values this nation holds dear—and his life's commitment to defending those values—can best be described by three simple, but profound words: spirit, service, sacrifice.

It was Lance Corporal Bryan's spirit that made him the man that he was—a spirit that recognized and honored values beyond the material, temporal, and physical things of this world. Lance Corporal Bryan's unselfish and unabated service was reflected in his strong work ethic, his strong sense of patriotism, and his strong love for his family and his country. With a strong spirit and unwavering service, Lance Corporal Bryan made the ultimate sacrifice. He risked his life to ensure the safety of others. His valiant actions demonstrated that he knew that freedom is not free. His sacrifice was rich in integrity and reminds us of the gratitude we, as citizens of this great nation, should have toward him and toward all of our servicemen and women.

We owe Lance Corporal Benjamin Saxon Bryan our sincere appreciation for his years of committed service to our nation. His devotion to the people of the United States should serve as an example to us all.

May God bless his family, and may God bless this great nation.

RETIREMENT OF LEANNA M. GOUTHRO AFTER 31 YEARS WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Leanna M. Gouthro, a constituent of mine from Silver Spring, MD, who will be retiring at the end of this month after 31 years of service with the Federal Government. Ms. Gouthro's most recent, and longest, Federal service has been with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The mission of the FDIC is to provide stability to the Nation's financial system by insuring depositors' funds up to $100,000 and by supervising over 5,000 state-chartered banks that are not members of the Federal Reserve System. Ms. Gouthro has contributed to the FDIC's mission through her extraordinary accomplishments in the agency's Office of Legislative Affairs.

While they may not realize it, many of my colleagues who have sent inquiries to the FDIC over the years have benefited from the talents and energy of Lee Gouthro. When Lee joined the FDIC in 1987, there was no system in place for tracking congressional correspondence, other than a rudimentary hard copy filing system. She recognized the opportunity created by computers and set up a system that would impose controls and accountability for correspondence tracking, seeking special permission from then-Chairman William Seidman for the acquisition of a personal computer—the first one obtained for any of the FDIC's executive offices. As many of my colleagues may remember from the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, the banking and savings and loan industry was, to say the least, in great turmoil. The impact on our constituents was extremely difficult.

Lee not only handled the FDIC's correspondence system, but implemented the system for the Resolution Trust Corporation and was instrumental in hiring and training personnel for handling the RTC's system. With over 2,100 bank and savings institutions failing during this time period—with almost three-quarters of a trillion dollars in assets—many of our constituents faced uncertainty on loan payments, checking accounts, safe-deposit boxes—many of the things they take for granted. Over this time period, the constituent complaints and correspondence became increasingly complicated, sensitive and controversial. Lee was always the consummate team player and never deviated from her focus on quality, accuracy and responsiveness to the Congress. She developed and managed a process that provided answers to congressional inquiries in an average of 2 weeks, an exceptional standard of excellence that allows Senators and Members of Congress to address issues promptly. The result of Lee's overall efforts is a correspondence system that is a model for other regulatory agencies and government offices. Officials from the White House, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency, Office of Thrift Supervision and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board have either visited the FDIC's offices to see her first-class system or have invited Lee to their offices to consult in setting up their own correspondence systems.

As Lee Gouthro retires, I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her well in her future endeavors and expressing our appreciation for her service to the American people and their elected representatives.

RECOGNITION OF JOEL A. KAGANN OF WOODRIDGE, IL, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man who exemplifies the very best in public service. His name is Joel Kagann and his service to the people of the Village of Woodridge and the County of DuPage is unmatched. His contributions are many, and his dedication to the highest ideals of service has been unwavering.

Like so many other outstanding and unsung public servants, Joel Kagann began his career as a police officer. That was almost fifty years ago, back in 1957 when the Village of Woodridge was just beginning to attract returning servicemen looking for a great place to raise their young families. Working his way up through the ranks, Joel was named Chief of Police for the Village of Woodridge, a post he held for nearly a decade, until his retirement in 1978.

For most mere mortals, that would be enough. But not for Joel Kagann.

A natural born leader, Joel became Mayor of Woodridge—not because he was ambitious or yearning for more, but because his fellow citizens entered his name as a ''write-in'' candidate on the ballot in 1973. That same year, his leadership talents again were recognized when he was appointed Administrative Assistant to the DuPage County Circuit Clerk.

Again working his way up through the ranks, Joel became Senior Executive Assistant and then Chief Deputy Circuit Court Clerk. In 1991, when his predecessor retired, the DuPage County Circuit Court appointed him to the office of Clerk of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court of DuPage County. He was elected to the post the following year, and again in 1996 and in 2000.

Despite the demands of his professional obligations, Joel always found time to volunteer on local and statewide committees and groups, including the Illinois Association of Court Clerks, where he served as President in 1999. He holds multiple life memberships in organizations such as the International, Illinois, and DuPage County Chiefs of Police Associations, the Illinois and DuPage County Police Associations, Lions Club, Loyal Order of Moose, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, and Woodridge Special Events Committee. Joel is also a founding and active member of Saint Scholastica Roman Catholic Church in Woodridge and was named ''Citizen of the Year'' by the Village of Woodridge in 1987.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine where the Village of Woodridge or DuPage County would be today without a man named Joel Kagann. For 47 years, he has given, and given again, and given still more. He has inspired countless other young public servants to give their very best efforts to the people they serve.

Those who have worked with and for him are loyal and devoted fans who will follow him anywhere. His commitment and tireless efforts as a public servant serve as inspirations to us all. He is a decent man, a giving man, and a man who I am so proud to call my friend.

I am happy to join so many others in congratulating him on his retirement and wishing him all the best in the years to come. He will never be repaid for the goodness he has so generously shared with others, but I guess if you're a man named Joel Kagann, you would never expect it.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed S. 2986, to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S11441–S11514

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2995–3007, S. Res. 470–473, and S. Con. Res. 147–149.

Page S11496

Measures Reported: S. 346, to amend the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act to establish a governmentwide policy requiring competition in certain executive agency procurements, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 108–415) **Pages S11495–96**

Measures Passed:

Commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 149, commending the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its employees for its dedication and hard work during Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. **Pages S11505–06**

Honoring the Life of Astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.: Senate agreed to S. Res. 470, honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr.

Page S11506

Honoring the Late Senator Paul Simon: Senate agreed to S. Res. 471, authorizing the printing of tributes and other related materials in honor of the late Senator Paul Simon. **Pages S11506–07**

Inez Sitter: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 423, commending Inez Sitter for her service to the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Pages S11507–08

Confederated Tribes of Coos: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 441, expressing the sense of the Senate that October 17, 1984, the date of the restoration by the Federal Government of Federal recognition to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, should be memorialized, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S11507

Elder Fall Prevention Act: Senate passed S. 1217, to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11508–10**

All-America City Awards: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 464, honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-America City Award.

Page S11510

National Day of the Horse: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 452, designating December 13, 2004, as "National Day of the Horse" and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to the economy, history, and character of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S11510**

Alexander Hamilton: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 123, recognizing and honoring the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton on the bicentennial of his death because of his standing as one of the most influential Founding Fathers of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S11510

National Children's Memorial Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 436, designating the second Sunday in the month of December 2004 as "National Children's Memorial Day", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S11510–11**

Rose Revolution: Senate agreed to S. Res. 472, to honor the people of Georgia on the first anniversary of the Rose Revolution. **Pages S11511–12**

Urging the Government of Ukraine: Senate agreed to S. Res. 473, urging the Government of Ukraine to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for the Presidential run-off election on November 21, 2004. **Page S11512–13**

State High Risk Pool Funding Extension Act: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate request the House of Representatives return the papers with respect to S. 2283, to extend Federal funding for operation of State high risk health insurance pools. **Page S11444**

Maiden Speeches—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all maiden speeches by new Senators from the 108th Congress be printed as a Senate document; and that Senators have until the close of business on Friday, November 19, 2004 to submit such statements. **Page S11513**

Printing Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that there be printed as individual Senate documents a compilation of materials from the Congressional Record in tribute to retiring Members of the 108th Congress. **Page S11513**

Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act Conference Report—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1047, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, on Friday, November 19, 2004; that there be one hour of debate, following which, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report. **Page S11513**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Navy. **Page S11514**

Nominations Discharged: The following nominations were discharged from further consideration by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension, and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Julia L. Wu, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring February 4, 2008, which was sent to the Senate on April 8, 2004.

Eugene Hickok, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, which was sent to the Senate on May 13, 2004.

Edward R. McPherson, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Education, which was sent to the Senate on May 13, 2004.

Robert Davila, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council On Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006. (Reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on May 20, 2004.

Linda Wetters, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Council On Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2006. (Reappointment), which was sent to the Senate on May 20, 2004.

Carol D'Amico, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term of two years. (New Position), which was sent to the Senate on June 14, 2004.

Laurie Stenberg Nichols, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring March 3, 2010, which was sent to the Senate on November 16, 2004.

The following nominations were discharged from further consideration by the Committee on Foreign Relations, and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Yousif B. Ghafari, of Michigan, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was sent to the Senate on July 22, 2004.

Jane Dee Hull, of Arizona, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was sent to the Senate on July 22, 2004.

Susan L. Moore, of Texas, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-ninth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which was sent to the Senate on September 20, 2004. **Page S11514**

Messages From the House: **Pages S11492–93**

Executive Communications: **Pages S11493–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S11496–97**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S11497–S11505**

Additional Statements: **Pages S11488–92**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S11505**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:49 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, November 19, 2004 (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S11513–14.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REFORM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the status of financial management reform within the Department of Defense and the individual services, after receiving testimony from Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States; Valerie Lynn Baldwin, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller); Richard Greco, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller); and Michael Montelongo, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management and Comptroller).

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan Steven Adelstein, of South Dakota, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission, who was introduced by Senator Johnson, Ernest J. Wilson III of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Claudia Puig, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Gay Hart Gaines, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Harold Jennings Creel, Jr., of South Carolina, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, and James S. Simpson, of New York, to be a Member of the Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space concluded a hearing to examine the brain science behind pornography addiction, focusing on the effects of addiction on families and communities, after receiving testimony from Judith Reisman, California Protective Parents Association, Sacramento; Mary Anne Layden, University of Pennsylvania Center for Cognitive Therapy, Philadelphia; James B. Weaver, III Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Communication, Blacksburg; and Jeffrey Satinover, Weston, Connecticut.

PATIENT SAFETY

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine putting patient safety first regarding drugs such as Vioxx, focusing on the Food and Drug Administration, and heart attacks, after receiving testimony from David J. Graham, Associate Director for Science and Medicine, Office of Drug Safety, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, and Sandra L. Kweder, Acting Director, Office of New Drugs, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, both of the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; Gurkirpal Singh, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California; Bruce M. Psaty, University of Washington, Seattle; and Raymond V. Gilmartin, Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, New Jersey.

STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee on Indian Affairs held an oversight hearing on the water problems on the Standing Rock Sioux Reserve, receiving testimony from William T. Grisoli, Brigadier General, Commander and Division Engineer, Northwestern Division, Army Corps of Engineers; Dennis Breitzman, Area Manager, Dakotas Area Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Richard Olson, Director, Division of Clinical and Community Services, and Ronald Ferguson, Director, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, both of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and Charles W. Murphy, and Mike Claymore, both of Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council, Fort Yates, North Dakota.

Hearing recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 5382–5392; and; 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 112–113; H. Con. Res. 522–523, and H. Res. 862, were introduced. Page H9999

Additional Cosponsors: Page H10000

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4634, to extend the terrorism insurance program of the Department of the Treasury, amended (H. Rept. 108–780);

H. Res. 858, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1350, to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (H. Rept. 108–781);

H. Res. 859, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 108–782);

H. Res. 860, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–783);

H. Res. 861, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 108–784). **Page H9999**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simpson to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9965**

Public Debt Limit Increase: The House passed S. 2986, to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit, by a recorded vote of 208 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 536. **Pages H9966–87**

Rejected the Stenholm motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with an amendment by a yea-and-nay vote of 194 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 535. **Page H9986**

H. Res. 856, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 205 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 534. **Page H9974**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m. **Page H9974**

Benjamin Franklin Commemorative Coin Act: Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make a technical correction in the engrossment of H.R. 3204, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. **Page H9975**

Congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the 2004 World Series: The House agreed to discharge the Committee on Government Reform from consideration of and pass H. Res. 854, congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the 2004 World Series. **Pages H9987–91**

Agreed to the Ose amendment making a technical correction to the resolution. **Page H9991**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on pages H9974, H9986 and H9987. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FLU VACCINE SHORTAGE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a joint hearing entitled "Flu Vaccine: Protecting High-Risk Individuals and Strengthening the Market." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Lester M. Crawford, D.V.M., Acting Commissioner, FDA; Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH; and Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Janet Heinrich, Director, Healthcare/Public Health Issues, GAO; Janet Olszewski, Director, Department of Community Health, State of Michigan; and public witnesses.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE FIGHT AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a hearing entitled "Law Enforcement and the Fight Against Methamphetamine." Testimony was heard from Scott Burns, Deputy Director, State and Local Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy; the following officials of the Department of Justice: Domingo S. Herraiz, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs; and Joseph Rannazzisi, Deputy Chief, Office of Enforcement, DEA; Lonnie Wright, Director, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, State of Oklahoma; and public witnesses.

COLOMBIA NARCO-TERRORISM

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing on Aid to Colombia—The European Role in the Fight Against Narco-terrorism. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Robert R. Charles, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; and Adolfo A. Franco, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, AID; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—USDA RACIAL DISCRIMINATION CASE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held an oversight hearing entitled "Notice Provision in the *Pigford* v. *Glickman* Consent Decree." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CONFERENCE REPORT—INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1350, an Act to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Representatives Castle and George Miller of California.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a rule providing that suspensions will be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, November 19, 2004. The rule provides that the Speaker or his designee will consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on any suspensions considered under the rule.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolution reported on or before the legislative day of November 20, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (S. 2845) to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolution reported on or before the legislative day of November 20, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (S. 4548) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

BRIEFING—GLOBAL TERRORIST THREATS UPDATE

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Global Terrorist Threats Update. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to receive a closed briefing regarding Improvised Explosive Devices, focusing on the Department of Defense's approach to addressing this threat, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

House

No committee meetings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, November 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1047, Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act, with one hour of debate, to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, November 19

House Chamber

Program for Friday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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