I have always believed that the courage required to compromise and reconcile is far greater than that required to confront. I appeal to Israel to show that courage. I appeal to the American Jewish Congress, and the entire Jewish Community, to use their considerable influence to put an end to the Palestinian dispute once and for all and to usher in a period of peace and tranquility in the Middle East and perhaps the whole world. Failure is no longer an option.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me conclude with a word about the prospects of Pakistan's relations with Israel. Pakistan has no direct conflict or dispute with Israel. We pose no threat to Israel's security. We trust that Israel poses no threat to Pakistan's national security. But, our people have a deep sense of sympathy for the Palestinian people and their legitimate aspirations for statehood. In response to the bold step taken by Prime Minister Sharon to withdraw from the Gaza, Pakistan decided to initiate an official contact with Israel. Our Foreign Ministers met in Istanbul through the good offices of our Turkish friends. As the peace process progresses towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, we will take further steps towards normalization and cooperation, looking to full diplomatic relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we can remain mired in old prejudices and keep the world hostage to the politics of perennially defining and redefining of enemy, or we can move forward with courage and reach out to work for the rebirth of history and a new future of peace, harmony, mutual respect, dignity and shared prosperity. We can lose this opportunity to narrow vision and a failure to see humanity in each other. The responsibility to make the right choice is in our hands.

RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY ON TSA SCREENER CUTS

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a resolution of inquiry regarding the recent reallocation of Transportation Security Administration airport screeners that is leading to massive cuts in screener workforce levels at Portland International Airport, in my district, and at many other airports across the country. This resolution directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to turn over to Congress all the information in his possession regarding this screener reallocation. Only with this information can our airport authorities ensure that they were treated fairly by this process and can Congress do its oversight job to ensure that our air transportation system is safe, efficient, convenient, and an engine of economic growth for our communities.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS AND IVORY MURPHY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to two glowing flames that found one another at a young age, and have had the fortune of sharing their lives for the last 50 years.

Ivory and Doris Murphy are two dear friends of my wife, Emily, and me. Our paths first crossed in Charleston, South Carolina in 1962. That chance meeting blossomed into a 43-year friendship that has grown stronger over time, despite the physical distance that has separated us since 1967. Ivory and Doris are a dynamic couple who serve as an inspiration to everyone whose lives they touch.

Both Doris and Ivory grew up in a rural community near Wallace, North Carolina. They met in 1953, and two years later were married. Ivory enlisted in the Air Force and their life together became an extraordinary adventure, which Doris dropped out of Fayetteville State University to pursue.

Shortly after coming to Charleston (South Carolina) Air Force Base, from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Doris decided to return to Fayetteville State from which she received a degree in education while raising three children, Ivory, Jr., Andrea, and Octavius. Ivory's career took them to Air Force bases around the world in distant places like Greenland, Libya and Thailand.

In 1977, Ivory retired from the Air Force, and the Murphy family settled in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Ivory began a second career with Allstate Insurance Co., and Doris devoted herself to a career in education working her way up from classroom teacher to principal. In 1994 Doris was named "Assistant Principal of the Year" while serving at Spring Creek Elementary School.

Ivory and Doris' strong foundation in family and faith has sustained them through their 50-year marriage. The Murphy's golden anniversary is as much a celebration of the institution of marriage as it is this couple who set the standard for so many around them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in honoring a couple that has persevered throughout a lifetime of joys and adversities. Their dignity, grace and love after 50 years together are an inspiration for all of us.

TRIBUTE TO GENE KREKEL

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, a friend passed away this week.

Who was Gene Krekel and why do we mourn his passing?

The irony in America is there are a lot of lawyer jokes. Actually good lawyers are the most respected people in the community. Gene personifies the best in his profession—the professional who is careful in judgment and caring in concern. His career and his life were characterized by decency and a steadfast commitment to causes.

Gene was a Republican, the Des Moines county Chairman and my campaign leader for many years, but Gene had as many Democratic as Republican friends. His commitment to his chosen party had little to do with partisanship and everything to do with selfless fair play.

American divides between two political teams, each with a great heritage. The modern-day trend is to accentuate differences, appeal to lowest-common-denominator instincts, and resort to divisive strategies. Gene was an old-fashioned political loyalist who was appalled by such tactics. He believed in principles and values, friendship rather than grudges.

It may have been courtroom training, which while advocacy-oriented, recognized that all sides generally have some justice to their case; it may have been his understanding that there will always be another battle to follow that caused him to eschew the negative. But his approach to work and life were rooted in a deeper instinct as well. Gene was born on a Des Moines County farm and always maintained a rural reserve in a city profession. While temptations to glibness and cynicism abound in our society, Gene was imbued with a genteel Iowa optimism that evoked trust in all with whom he dealt.

It is this trust that caused everyone associated with good causes to seek his leadership. From politics to his church, from bar associations to 4–H, Gene could be counted on for the thoughtful mettle that had earned him Phi Beta Kappa honors in college and order of the coif in law school.

But of all his activities, the one Gene enjoyed the most was the Des Moines county fair, which for many years he chaired. Gene loved, above all, the youth education projects: the showing of cattle and hogs, chickens and sheep, rabbits and gerbels. It was the tie of generations and the nature and history of Iowa's agricultural enterprise that appealed so deeply to him.

None of us can imagine Gene's disappointment not to meet in this life his first grandchild due in just a few weeks. This tragedy is more poignant because Gene and Debbie suffered together one of the gravest of life's tragedies, the death of their son Eric in a car accident eight years ago.

In their close-knit family, nothing could have been sadder that the passing of this freckle faced boy who developed a genius for happiness and friendship.

Now Debbie and Molly are left alone, struck by the loss of the anchor of the family. Their grief is ours also.

This big man with a big hand and bigger heart will be much missed by all who had the good fortune to be touched by his gentleness.

GENERAL WELFARE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I recently spoke with a young high school student in the wake of the Katrina disaster. He was quite interested in discussing the taxpayers role in absorbing costs of reconstruction and relief in the affected areas. He was so enthusiastic, in fact, that he presented me with a research paper he drafted for his government class. The paper provides some interesting historical insights, and I submit it for the RECORD.

GENERAL WELFARE

(By Zachary Robinson)

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.—The year was 1829, and the setting for a Constitutional test was the nation's capital. A

fire had swept through a large part of Washington D.C. leaving many people homeless and in need of help. As one might expect, many people wanted to help, including the Congress of the United States of America. On the morning after the fire, with compassionate haste, Congress voted twenty thousand dollars of the nation's money to be given to the victims of the fire. One well known congressman in particular voted in approval of this bill; his name was Davy Crockett.

When Crockett returned to his home state, he expected to be greeted with much praise and approval for having extended kindness to those in need with his vote in favor of this bill. However, as he was walking down a small, country road, he instead received a surprising rebuke! He met up with a voter from his state. Asking this man if when the time came to reelect Crockett as a Congressman he would vote for him, the man, whose name was Horatio Bunce, responded to Crockett by telling him that he would most definitely not! His reason, even more shocking to Crockett, was because of the way that Crockett had voted on the bill afore mentioned! A shocked and confused Crockett asked him why he was not happy with his position on this bill. Bunce then reminded him that no power had ever been given to the Congress by the Constitution to spend the public's money for the benefit of a special group of people, no matter how desperate the situation was. Any money spent by Congress had to be spent on something that would benefit the whole country equally and not just a special part of it. Crockett quickly realized that he had been wrong failing in the true application of the Constitution's original intent. He apologized to Bunce and his other constituents for what he had done promising that he would always remember the lesson that Bunce had taught him that day concerning the Congress' power in the spending of the people's money as clearly stated in the Constitution.

After this occurrence, Crockett was faced with another Constitutional decision concerning this same controversial 'general welfare' clause. Congress was to vote again on whether they should give money to a special group. This time it was an individual—a widow of a deceased naval officer. When it came time to vote, Congressman Crockett rose and boldly said the following:

''Mr. Speaker, I have as much sympathy as . . . any man in this House, but . . . Congress has no power to appropriate this money as an act of charity. Every member upon this house floor knows it. We have the right as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right to appropriate a dollar of the public money . . . Mr. Speaker, I have said the we have the right to give as much of our own money as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of the Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks.''

The bill was turned down as a result of this and Crockett did give one week of his pay as an act of charity to the widow, but, interestingly enough, not one of the other Congressman did the same! This is an important point for us to understand. When the Congressmen were going to give money to the widow that was not theirs to give, the amount of money to be given was to be large. But when it came to giving out of their own pockets, they could not bring themselves to do it! It seems that it is much easier for people to be generous and compassionate with money that is not theirs than to meet other's needs with their own.

In Article 1, Section 8, paragraph 1, clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, it states that Congress has the power to spend money for the ''general welfare of the United States.'' The key word in this statement is the word ''general.'' When the writers included the word ''general'' in this sentence, they wanted the people to know and understand that Congress was only allowed to spend money that would benefit the people of the United States as a whole equally, not as a special group or just part of its population.

In fact, there is no provision in the Constitution for the use of monies to be given to any special interest groups, states, cities, or citizens. This would be called special welfare and cannot be found anywhere in the Constitution! Obviously, this clause is now violated all of the time as it has been grossly twisted and misinterpreted ever since the Supreme Court, which has no authority to write law, supported this 'special welfare' view of this clause in 1936. Now we pay taxes and Congress uses them to pay for things that do not help everyone equally in our nation but fall instead to special people with special needs. This is wrong and goes against what the founder's original intentions were for the resource of the people's money that they have been entrusted to protect.

Members of Congress need to be reminded of what the Constitution actually says and means so the abuse of this power will not continue and true 'general welfare' can be reinstated! Also, in light of today's recent tragedies, do not think I am advocating for the neglect of those in our country who are truly in need. On the contrary, the much needed special welfare for specific groups and crisis' can and should be encouraged where it has always been best served—at the local individual, town, and/or state levels. Here is where it can most effectively be given and protected meeting the needs where they can be more clearly understood and aided.

May we all become more respectful and responsible with the interpretation of our Constitution concerning our nation's money learning the lesson Davy Crockett learned so long ago. May we also rise to the occasion when it presents itself and dig deep in our own pockets giving what is ours to give when our fellow countrymen are in obvious need. May we recognize this is what makes our country so strong and great! This—our individual liberty and character to do what is right knowing one day it might be ourselves who are in need of a helping hand!

May God bless America!

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVES CORPORATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that tomorrow, Wednesday, September 28, 2005, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation will celebrate its 25th anniversary here in Washington. LISC certainly has a lot to celebrate.

This national organization was born out of the foresight of Mike Svirdoff and the Ford Foundation, with just $10 million and the goal of identifying 50 to 100 local economic development organizations worthy of support. Even Mr. Svirdoff himself might not have envisioned that, within a quarter of a century, LISC would grow into an organization that has raised more than $6 billion dollars in grants, loans and equity for more than 1,700 community development corporations nationwide. These funds support projects in 38 cities and rural areas in 37 states.

LISC's mission is to help ''resident-led, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods into healthy ones—good places to live, do business, work and raise families.'' It works toward these ends by providing comprehensive services to the CDCs it serves, from capital to technical expertise, training, and information. In addition, LISC supports the development of local leadership and the creation of affordable housing, commercial development, industrial and community facilities, and jobs. In short, it helps residents build and strengthen their own communities.

LISC is an intermediary for more than 900 corporations and foundations, providing technical and financial resources to help CDCs become fiscally sound institutions capable of carrying out a range of community revitalization activities. LISC's second focus is in improving local community development environments. The strength of the organization lies in its abilities to forge partnerships among local LISC programs, community organizations, foundations, commercial interests, and state and local governments. In addition, LISC branches beyond its local focus by advocating for neighborhood-based development and informing related public policy decisions at the federal level.

I have witnessed the value of LISC's work first hand, as our local branch has revitalized many of the most distressed communities in Toledo, OH. Toledo LISC currently funds one dozen of our community development corporations, and over its 15-year presence has funded nearly two dozen. As of December 31, 2004, contributions from corporations, individuals, small businesses and foundations totaling $3.6 million had leveraged nearly $60 million for Toledo CDCs.

As a result of these investments, redevelopment projects have replaced deteriorated homes and buildings with sought-after housing and commercial real estate. One such project was the creation of Toledo's newest sub-division of market-rate single-family homes. Of the ten new homes constructed thus far, nine have already been sold. This development was possible in part because of a pre-development loan from LISC to the Organized Neighbors Yielding eXcellence (ONYX) CDC. Another of LISC's successes is a result of its alliance with the Toledo Warehouse District Association. The Association developed a mixed-use property with 11 lofts and 10 commercial spaces within walking distance of a variety of entertainment venues. This project cost $2.9 million and included Historic Tax Credits, Lucas County Linked Deposit, a city of Toledo Economic Development Loan, a Congressional special purposes grant, and financing through Fifth Third and Sky Bank. Again, the project was possible because of start-up funds from LISC.

Since welcoming LISC into my neighborhood in 1989, it has been my honor to be associated with an organization so important to both our communities and the nation at large. I congratulate LISC on its past successes and encourage corporations, foundations, and individuals alike to continue to support LISC and its worthy mission of converting blighted neighborhoods into vibrant communities.