

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUSTICE KEVIN HAUGH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor of Justice Kevin Haugh, a guardian of the people and the Constitution of Ireland.

In 1966, Justice Haugh earned his position as a barrister, and in doing so became part of a 450-year legacy. During his tenure as a barrister, he was involved in a multitude of high-profile criminal cases and developed the experience and legal acumen to serve as both a prosecutor and defense attorney. Due to his exemplary legal knowledge and professional judgment, Justice Haugh was appointed to Senior Counsel in 1983. His experience in the practice of law made Justice Haugh an invaluable member of the counsel, and for thirteen years he served his profession with grace and dignity.

After he was called to the bench in 1996, Justice Haugh was a Circuit Court Judge for nearly a decade and became an active member of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. His knowledge made him a perfect candidate for this position, and he worked with other international representatives dealing with cases regarding employment and staff members within the United Nations.

In 2005, Justice Haugh was appointed to the High Court Justice. As a servant of the people, Justice Haugh determined the validity of any law in regards to the Irish Constitution, while overseeing all appeals of civil matters from the Circuit Court. A year later, he was appointed to the newly established position of Chairman of the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission. As the Chairman of the Garda Síochána, Justice Haugh oversaw Ireland's National Police Force by helping ensure openness, transparency and accountability within the department.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Justice Haugh for his work in preserving the foundation of rights for all.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR  
DAY—SUPPORT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my full support for a National Medal of Honor Day to be reserved every March 25th as called for by H. Con. Res 47.

Reserving March 25th as National Medal of Honor Day, is a significant way to reemphasize the immeasurable sacrifices of veterans who have already been honored by receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest

military decoration. Too often, especially in times of peace, the sacrifices of veterans are not valued and remembered. It is particularly important to continuously acknowledge the blood, sweat, and tears they shed so that all Americans could live in a section of the world where freedom reigns. It has been quoted, "Freedom is not free." We all know that is true.

This measure would offer a good opportunity to educate young people about the importance to strive for excellence, the value of hard work, and the sacrifices of veterans.

This is dear to me not only because I'm a veteran, but because very soon the Tuskegee Airmen will be presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor. I am extremely proud to say that I sponsored a bill that was passed by this great body and signed by the President to bestow this honor on them. The Tuskegee Airmen will go down in history for being a part of a select and distinguished group of African American veterans to receive this honor. I'm grateful for their service and to this body for acknowledging their bravery and heroism. At this time, I would also like to pay homage to all other veterans who have been in receipt of this highly esteemed award.

While there are men and women on the battlefield as I speak, I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to join me in supporting a National Medal of Honor Day, which will recognize past, present, and future outstanding veterans in receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

NATION'S LOOMING FINANCIAL  
CRISIS NEEDS A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 20, 2007*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, as a nation we are moving closer and closer to the edge of the financial cliff. A few steps forward and we will start a free fall into a canyon of debt which will be base for our country. Is that what we want for our children and grandchildren?

Of course not. The baby boomers start retiring at the end of this year. That will bring unprecedented levels of entitlement and other program spending.

If left unchanged, in just a few decades there will be little money for transportation, education, health care, medical research, cancer research, veterans, the environment, and all the programs our constituents depend on us to provide. We cannot continue to keep borrowing and mortgaging our future to countries like China that carry our debt.

Young people should be clamoring for Congress to act. They have the most to lose from inaction. It's their future that is being mortgaged. Everyday we don't act, we increase the debt burden they must repay in future years.

I have a bill which offers an opportunity to change the current course. Senator VOINOVICH and I first introduced the SAFE Commission last summer. And we reintroduced it in January.

Our country is in trouble—and we can't afford to wait much longer to take action.

The bipartisan SAFE Commission will put everything on the table—entitlements, other federal spending, and tax policies—as it comes up with recommendations.

It will hold town hall meetings across the country to explain the financial crisis we face and discuss this issue with the American people.

We need to listen to them. I believe that the American people, given the hard facts from a bipartisan panel, will understand that solving this problem will take sacrifice from everyone.

The commission's recommendations would then come to Congress and we would take an up or down vote on the proposals in their entirety, similar to the BRAC process.

Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what makes this commission unique.

There also is the opportunity for Congress to put forward an alternative proposal to reach the same goal at the same time the SAFE Commission recommendations are voted on.

Holding out some hope that Congress could act on its own, the legislation also has a provision that if Congress were to pass a measure making substantive changes in entitlement spending and taking other action to get our financial house in order before the SAFE Commission acts, then the commission would cease to exist.

But if Congress doesn't act, no later than 17 months from the organization of the commission, it would be required to vote—up or down—on the SAFE Commission's legislative proposal.

I have written a number of Dear Colleagues and personally talked with a number of my House colleagues about joining this effort—more than once.

While 20 Republicans have signed on, including the Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER, this effort has fallen on deaf ears on the other side of the aisle.

I have sent a personal letter to each of the Blue Dog Coalition members appealing to them to step forward and join me in focusing national attention on this critical issue.

I have also written to the media and public opinion leaders a number of times over the last year. While there have been a few columnists who have written op-eds, overall I have been disappointed that there hasn't been more reporting about the grave consequences of inaction.

I certainly understand how this issue is competing with other national priorities, including the war in Iraq and the larger war on terrorism. But I fear that if we can't get Congress to move this year, there will not be another opportunity for a couple years with the 2008 presidential campaign already heating up.

As the father of five and grandfather of 12, the fiscal challenges facing the nation with the

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