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House of Representatives

The House met at 4 p.m.

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

Lord God, Your hardworking people deserve a just reward for their labor. In the workaday world of our society, most people look forward to some relaxation and enjoyment with family or friends over a weekend.

Be with Members of Congress as they return to their families and their districts. Bless them with safe travel. May peace await them in their homes.

Let them praise and thank You, Lord, as they worship with others who will renew them in faith and lift them up in prayer this weekend.

Be Lord of the Sabbath to them both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OBEY 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.

REPORT ON H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2008

Mr. OBEY, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–231) on the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 16, 2007, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-authorized official travel during the first quarter of 2007, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MOLDOVA, UKRAINE, GEORGIA, AUSTRIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 30 AND APR. 11, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Price	3/30	4/11	Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia		1,822.00		6,262.00				8,084.00
Hon. Allyson Schwartz	3/30	4/7	Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia		1,522.00		9,319.00				10,841.00
Bill Schuster	3/30	4/7	Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia		2,170.00		8,468.00				10,638.00
John Lis	3/30	4/7	Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia		2,170.00		8,468.00				10,638.00
Tommy Ross	3/30	4/7	Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia		2,170.00		8,468.00				10,638.00
Alexandra Veitch	3/30	4/7	Austria, Ukraine, Georgia		1,628.00		6,846.00				8,474.00
Other CODEL expenses Ukraine	4/1	4/3	Ukraine						4,849.00		4,849.00
Other CODEL expenses Georgia	4/3	4/6	Georgia						10,869.00		10,869.00
Other CODEL expenses Austria	4/6	4/7	Austria						2,088.00		2,088.00
Other CODEL expenses Moldova	3/31	4/1	Moldova						5,606.00		5,606.00
Committee total											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID E. PRICE, Chairman, May 11, 2007.

☐ 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.

Printed on recycled paper.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Mark Steven Kirk	12/27	12/28	Hawaii				(3)				
	12/28	12/30	Guam				(3)				
	12/30	1/2	China		1,381.00		(3)				1,381.00
Hon. Norman Dicks	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan				(3)				
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		331.22		(3)				331.22
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy costs									919.32		919.32
Hon. Marcy Kaptur	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan				(3)				
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		331.22		(3)				331.22
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy cost							(3)		919.32		919.32
Hon. Steven R. Rothman	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		331.22		(3)				331.22
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy costs											
Adam Harris	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan				(3)				
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		331.22		(3)				331.22
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		408.63		(3)				408.63
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy costs									919.32		919.32
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan				(3)				
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		340.00		(3)				340.00
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		406.00		(3)				406.00
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		406.00		(3)				406.00
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy costs									919.32		919.32
Joshua Hartman	2/20	2/21	Turkey		396.00		(3)				396.00
	2/21	2/21	Afghanistan				(3)				
	2/21	2/22	Pakistan		340.00		(3)				340.00
	2/22	2/23	Kuwait		406.00		(3)				406.00
	2/23	2/24	Iraq				(3)				
	2/24	2/25	Kuwait		406.00		(3)				406.00
	2/25	2/26	Germany		374.00		(3)				374.00
Miscellaneous embassy costs									919.32		919.32
Committee total					12,898.92				515.92		18,414.84

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

——— Apr. 26, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, SURVEYS AND INVESTIGATIONS STAFF, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID R. OBEY, Chairman, Apr. 26, 2007.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jane Harman	2/9	2/11	Germany		364.00						364.00
	2/18	2/20	Israel		334.00						334.00
	2/20	2/22	Istanbul		668.00						668.00
							[3] 4,479.60				
Committee total							4,479.60				1,366.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Commercial airfare: Los Angeles to Istanbul charges to be determined by carrier, ticket was reissued in Istanbul. Original itenerary was not completed. Charges are for reissued ticket only.

JANE HARMAN, Chairman, May 16, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Christopher Shays	1/26	1/28	Switzerland		390.00						390.00
Hon. Christopher Shays	1/28	1/29	Greece		186.00						186.00
Hon. Barney Frank	1/23	1/28	Switzerland		1,080.00		6,846.84				7,926.84
Joseph Pinder	3/16	3/19	Guatemala		738.00		595.20				1,333.20
Scott Morris	3/16	3/19	Guatemala		738.00		1,010.20				1,748.20
Committee total											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

BARNEY FRANK, Chairman.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Christopher Shays	1/26	1/28	Switzerland		390.00						390.00
Hon. Christopher Shays [3]	1/28	1/29	Greece								
Hon. Barney Frank	1/23	1/28	Switzerland		1,080.00		6,846.84				7,926.84
Joseph Pinder	3/16	3/19	Guatemala		738.00		595.20				1,333.20
Scott Morris	3/16	3/19	Guatemala		738.00		1,010.20				1,748.20
Committee total											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Amended to show the return of all per diem to U.S. Treasury.

BARNEY FRANK, Chairman, May 21, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD, Chairman, Apr. 10, 2007.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Peter Hoekstra	2/24	2/25	Europe		334.00						
	2/26	2/27	Middle East		294.00						
Commercial airfare							9,602.98				10,230.98
James Lewis	2/24	2/25	Europe		334.00						
	2/26	2/27	Middle East		294.00						
Commercial airfare							8,605.98				9,233.98
Christopher Donesa	2/24	2/25	Europe		334.00						
	2/26	2/27	Middle East		294.00						
Commercial airfare							8,605.98				9,233.98
Frederick Fleitz	2/24	2/25	Europe		334.00						
	2/26	2/27	Middle East		294.00						
Commercial airfare							8,605.98				9,233.98
Hon. Rick Renzi	2/20	2/22	North America		300.00						300.00
George Pappas	2/20	2/22	North America		300.00						300.00
Pamela Moore	2/20	2/22	North America		300.00						300.00
Hon. Silvestre Reyes	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				1,001.00
Hon. Rush Holt	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00						
	2/20	2/21	Middle East		140.00						
Commercial airfare							1,791.10				2,379.10
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		334.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Hon. Darrell Issa	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00						
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00						
	2/20	2/21	Middle East		140.00						
Commercial airfare							1,791.10				2,379.10
Michael Delaney	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Wyndee Parker	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2007—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		(3)						
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Eric Greenwald	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00						
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00						
											1,001.00
Larry Hanauer	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Jay Heath	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Jamal Ware	2/17	2/18	Africa		190.00		(3)				
	2/18	2/19	Middle East		258.00		(3)				
	2/20	2/22	Middle East		280.00		(3)				
	2/22	2/23	Africa		143.00		(3)				
	2/23	2/24	Europe		130.00		(3)				
											1,001.00
Committee total											51,599.12

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

SILVESTRE REYES, Chairman, May 2, 2007.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2479. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fruit from Thailand [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0040] (RIN: 0579-AC10) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2480. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition of Cumberland County, NJ, to the List of Quarantined Areas [Docket No. APHIS-2007-0067] received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2481. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Case Number 04-02, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

2482. A letter from the Acting Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of Defense, transmitting Notice of the decision to conduct a standard competition of the Central Heat Plant function at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2483. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the annual report on operations of the National Defense Stockpile (NDS), detailing NDS operations during FY 2006 and providing information with regard to the acquisition, upgrade, and disposition of NDS materials, as well as the financial status of the NDS Transaction Fund for FY 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-2; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2484. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting an annual report entitled, ''Defense Acquisition Challenge Program: Fiscal Year 2006,'' pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2359b(j); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2485. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations — received June 7, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2486. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Centers for Independent Living Program--Training and Technical Assistance — received July 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

2487. A letter from the Director, OLMS-Office of Policy, Reports & Disclosure, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labor Organization Officer and Employee Report, Form LM-30 (RIN: 1215-AB49) received July 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

2488. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Petition to Request an Exemption From 100 Percent Identity Testing of Dietary Ingredients: Current Good Manufacturing Practice in Manufacturing, Packaging, Labeling, or Holding Operations for Dietary Supplements [Docket No. 2007N-0186] (RIN: 0910-AB88) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2489. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Calculation of Average Cost of a Health Insurance Policy (RIN: 0905-AA68) received July 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2490. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Implementation of Section 629 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (National Broadcast Television Ownership) — received May 8, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2491. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a six-month report prepared by the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, and continued on August 14, 2002, August 7, 2003, August 6, 2004, August 2, 2005, and August 6, 2006 to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2492. A letter from the Under Secretary for Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's notification of the intention to obligate up to $17.0 million in FY 2007 funds for the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 1302; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2493. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2006 annual report on the operation of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 17381; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2494. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International 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 the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2495. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies 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 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report of the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2496. A letter from the Chief Operating Officer/Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2497. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2498. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2499. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Award Fee Administrative Changes (RIN: 2700-AD33) received July 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2500. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Qualifying Gasification Project Program [Notice 2007-53] received June 7, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2501. A letter from the Acting Social Security Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Extension of the Expiration Date for Several Body System Listings [Docket No. SSA-2007-0026] (RIN: 0960-AG51) received July 9, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. VISCLOSKY: Committee on Appropriations. Supplemental report on H.R. 2641. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–185 Pt. 2).

Mr. OBEY: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 3043. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–231). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 980. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions, with an amendment (Rept. 110–232). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 375. Resolution honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 110–233). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Financial Services and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 957 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCHUGH:

H.R. 3044. A bill to promote the use of anaerobic digesters by agricultural producers and rural small businesses to produce renewable energy and improve environmental quality; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. WALZ of Minnesota (for himself, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. RAMSTAD):

H. Con. Res. 185. Concurrent resolution commending the 1st Brigade Combat Team/34th Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard upon its completion of the longest continuous deployment of any United States military unit during Operation Iraqi Freedom; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H. Res. 545. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the border fence dispute with Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS of New York (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 546. A resolution recognizing Mukhtar Mai for her courage and her humanitarian work; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 74: Mrs. TAUSCHER.

H.R. 652: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.

H.R. 957: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 1076: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.

H.R. 1174: Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1518: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1671: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1974: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 2003: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WYNN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. FARR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. WEINER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. WATT.

H.R. 2219: Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2220: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 2234: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H.R. 2266: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 2332: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GINGREY, and Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 2373: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2405: Mr. HOBSON and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2477: Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 2585: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 2612: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2676: Mr. HOBSON, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 2781: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. WATT.

H.R. 2784: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. LINDER, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. FLAKE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. AKIN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. RENZI, Mr. CARTER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. FALLIN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. PITTS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. POE, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SALI, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr.

REGULA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 2787: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 2827: Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 2915: Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 3008: Mr. WILSON of Ohio and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. REICHERT, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 73: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Con. Res. 167: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MCHUGH.

H. Res. 143: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 497: Mr. CAPUANO.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2007 No. 112

Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, prepare our hearts for the great things You would do within and among us today. Remind us that right conduct exalts a nation, but sin destroys any people. Give us a desire to do Your will, to fulfill Your purposes, and to honor Your Name.

Today, lead our Senators in the path of Your purposes. Remind them that no problem they face is too big for You and no detail too small for Your attention. Help them to be wise stewards of Your resources, as they seek to remain mindful of Your presence and receptive to Your power. Give them the same respect and tolerance for the ideas and beliefs of others as they would wish for themselves.

We pray in the Name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 13, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to go immediately to the Defense authorization bill. The debate will be on the Dorgan amendment. Senators DORGAN and SUNUNU will each get 10 minutes to speak this morning. We will vote, I would announce to everyone, as soon as they finish.

There are a number of people who are concerned about the schedule today. If we start to vote early, we will extend the vote for whatever time is appropriate to make sure people have the opportunity to vote. As I indicated earlier this week, the next weeks' work period will be very busy. We should have some late nights and hopefully no weekends, but that is even possible. There will be no votes on Monday.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

LEVIN-REED AMENDMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has now had a full day to debate the Levin amendment. The questions I raised about it yesterday remain unanswered. Americans need to know what they are being asked to consider. The troops fighting al-Qaida in Iraq also need to know. I will ask my questions again.

The Levin amendment says the Secretary of Defense shall ''commence the reduction of the number of United States forces in Iraq not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this act.'' What would this reduction involve? The Levin amendment calls for U.S. forces in Iraq to have a limited presence after the reduction. What is a ''limited presence''? The Levin amendment says our Armed Forces should only be used to protect U.S. personnel, to train Iraqis to fight, and to engage in ''targeted counterterrorism operations against al-Qaida.'' What does ''targeted'' mean? The Levin amendment says the Secretary of Defense shall complete the transition of U.S. forces in Iraq to a limited presence and missions by April 30. How does the author define ''complete''?

A number of papers across America reported this morning that yesterday's House vote means that most U.S. troops will be out of Iraq by April. I ask the authors of the Levin amendment, is this true?

This 1½-page amendment is the centerpiece of the Democratic leadership's strategy for Iraq. They want us to choose this over the Petraeus plan. Listen to General Petraeus. Just before we began this debate, he made a simple request. He said:

I can think of few commanders in history who wouldn't have wanted more troops, more time, or more unity among their partners. However, if I could only have one thing at this point in Iraq, it would be more time.

Our Democratic-led Senate voted 81 to nothing to send General Petraeus into Iraq. A bipartisan majority of 80 Senators told him in May that he had until September to report back on progress. His strategy has led to what even skeptics describe as an encouraging turnaround against al-Qaida in Anbar, a province which accounts for

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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about one-third of Iraq's territory. Yesterday, just 1 month after this strategy became fully manned, Democrats are declaring it a failure and asking us to rally behind a 1½-page alternative that raises more questions, frankly, than it answers.

We have been down this road before. When the President decided to change course in Iraq last year, Democrats said his new strategy wouldn't work. They called it a failure before it began. Now just 1 month after that strategy became fully manned, they are calling it a failure again, even as it has started to show signs of military success.

The Iraq Foreign Minister told us what would happen if America walks away from this fight right now: a sharp increase in violence, thousands of civilian deaths, and a regional conflict that could involve several other countries in that area. Yet the Democratic leadership has yet to address the consequences of withdrawal. Here is their response to concerns about a victory by al-Qaida, genocide, and a regional war in the Middle East: Blame Bush. That may work on the stump, but it is not a very sophisticated foreign policy, and it is not going to solve the great problems we face in Iraq and in the broader Middle East.

Fortunately, many brave people are facing this problem head-on. Our top commander in Iraq says he can win this fight. He told us he wouldn't risk a single American life if he didn't think he could. All he is asking for is time. Can we at least give him what we agreed to in May?

This amendment is not a responsible alternative to the Petraeus plan. It is a page and a half of vague proposals.

Now, look, all of us are frustrated with the war, but we have committed to listen to General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. We did so through legislation. We need to listen to our top commander in the field. He deserves 60 days. More than 160,000 American soldiers and marines are fighting in Iraq right now. They believe in this mission. They are executing the plan, and they have a leader. He is asking for more time. Let's be fair and honor the legislation we passed in May. Let's wait for the report.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Levin-Reed amendment requires the President to take steps to responsibly end the war that the country and our brave men and women in uniform deserve and demand, but it does not set specific troop levels and, certainly, schedules other than what we have already indicated, and that is the House-passed version, similar to ours, 120 days to start redeploying troops; as of April 1, according to the House, and May 1, according to us. There must be a change of mission. That change of mission will be directed toward counterterrorism, protecting our assets in the area, and also training the Iraqis. That is simply what it says.

Senators CARL LEVIN and JACK REED are uniquely qualified to offer this amendment. They have been joined in this amendment by others, including Senator HAGEL. This amendment sets a firm date and an end date to transition the mission to begin the reduction of U.S. forces. I have talked about that. It limits the U.S. mission.

This policy of the President—it is not Petraeus' policy; it is the President's—has, during the last 6 months, caused the deaths of over 600 more American soldiers and cost the American taxpayers more than $60 billion. The amendment offered by the distinguished Senator from Virginia, Mr. WEBB, was a step in the right direction. It was defeated. We were not allowed to vote on that. It was offered to give our troops the relief they need—15 months in country, 15 months out of country. That is serious and important to our troops.

Our troops are in a difficult position. We are 3,000 officers short. The morning news reports that 13 percent of recruits, even though they are 15 percent down in recruitments, 13 percent of those they have, even though they have lowered qualifications significantly, 13 percent have criminal records and are going into the military.

Of course, the amendment that is offered by Senators LEVIN and REED requires that the reduction in force be part of a comprehensive diplomatic, regional, political, and economic effort.

The votes we have taken on Iraq thus far make two things very clear: First, the Democratic caucus is united in our commitment to changing the course of this Iraq intractable civil war. Our resolve has never been stronger. Second, until and unless the President awakens to his grievous misjudgments, it will take significant Republican support to end the war.

This week's vote on the Webb amendment was not encouraging. The Republican leadership blocked an up-or-down vote on an amendment to support our troops by increasing rest time between deployments. Republicans have every right to vote against bills and amendments they oppose. If they oppose troop readiness, let them go on record voting against it. But to block an amendment like that shows clearly that some Republicans are protecting the President and not the troops. Plenty of Republicans are talking the right way on Iraq now. They are expressing their disapproval for the President's policy, and this is a welcome step. But speeches won't end the war; only votes will.

We have a constitutional obligation. Section 1, article 8 says that we have an obligation to take care of our troops. We have a constitutional obligation. When we return to the Levin-Reed amendment next week, a final vote will come. We hope it is not blocked again procedurally. I hope all my colleagues, Democratic and Republican alike, will embrace this opportunity to finally end a war that has caused our country so much harm.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1585, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Nelson (NE) (for Levin) amendment No. 2011, in the nature of a substitute.

Levin amendment No. 2087 (to amendment No. 2011), to provide for a reduction and transition of U.S. forces in Iraq.

Reed amendment No. 2088 (to amendment No. 2087), to change the enactment date.

Cornyn amendment No. 2100 (to amendment No. 2011), to express the sense of the Senate that it is in the national security interest of the United States that Iraq not become a failed state and a safe haven for terrorists.

Dorgan/Conrad amendment No. 2135 (to amendment No. 2011), relative to bringing Osama bin Laden and other leaders of al-Qaida to justice.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 9:30 a.m. shall be for debate on amendment No. 2135, as amended, with the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, and the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SUNUNU, each controlling 10 minutes.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, might I inquire again as to the schedule of the vote?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The vote is presently scheduled for 9:30 or, if the speaking engagements end sooner, at the conclusion of those speaking engagements, at the back end of the time. The vote will not be shifted forward in order to accommodate Senators who are counting on the 9:30 vote beginning.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 10 minutes. There is 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DORGAN. Would the Chair remind me when I have consumed half of that time? I want to yield the remainder of the time to Senator CONRAD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I will.

Mr. DORGAN. In about 4 minutes, let me describe an amendment that is very simple. Yesterday, we received a report—it is described in today's paper—

on progress dealing with benchmarks in Iraq. There is only one reason we are given this report by the administration. It is because we required this report in law. The Congress said: We require you to give us this report.

There is another report we are not getting. We have not yet required it. Our amendment will require it. That is, What has been done and what is being done to bring to justice Osama bin Laden and the leadership of al-Qaida and those who committed the attacks against this country on 9/11/2001? What is being done to bring them to justice? It has been nearly 6 long years and Osama bin Laden remains free. More importantly, the threat against our country today is a threat by Osama bin Laden, the leadership of al-Qaida, operating from a secure and safe place in Pakistan, we are told, planning attacks against our country and others.

Here is the situation: August 2001, the Presidential daily briefing said this—the title was ''Bin Laden determined to strike in the US.'' That was August 2001. It is what was handed to the President back then.

Here is today. Our intelligence assessments, we are told by newspaper accounts: ''Al Qaeda is better positioned to strike the West.'' Think of that. Nearly 6 years later and al-Qaida is better positioned to strike the West.

Now, let me tell you what Mr. Negroponte told us in January of this year. He said: ''Al Qaeda continues to plot attacks against our Homeland'' from a ''secure hideaway in Pakistan.'' That is from Mr. Negroponte, the top intelligence official in our country.

He further said this in January of this year:

> Al Qaeda is the terrorist organization that poses the greatest threat to U.S. interests, including to [our] Homeland.

Now, having known that, let me describe a couple of things we have been reading recently. This is February of this year:

> Senior leaders of al-Qaida operating from Pakistan over the last year have set up a band of training camps in the tribal regions near the Afghan border, according to American intelligence and counterterrorism officials.
>
> American officials said there was mounting evidence that Osama bin Laden and his deputy, al-Zawahiri, have been steadily building an operations hub in the mountainous Pakistani tribal area of north Waziristan.

Finally, this week:

> While the U.S. presses its war against insurgents linked to al Qaida in Iraq, Osama bin Laden's group is recruiting, regrouping and rebuilding in a new sanctuary along the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, senior U.S. military, intelligence and law enforcement officials said.

Now, the question is this: While we have soldiers going door to door in Baghdad in the middle of a civil war, with sectarian violence——

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. May we have order, please, for the Senator who is speaking on the floor.

Mr. DORGAN. The question is this: It has been almost 6 years since Osama bin Laden and the network of al-Qaida attacked our country on September 11, 2001. Osama bin Laden is still free. He has not been brought to justice. We are told he is operating in a secure hideaway in northern Pakistan. Al-Qaida is stronger than it has been in years, and we are told it is rebuilding and regrouping with terrorist training camps. It remains the greatest threat to our country.

We are told this after almost 6 years, two wars in two countries, hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars spent here and abroad, the deaths of thousands of our soldiers and tens of thousands of our soldiers wounded, and the threat grows and remains, and those who perpetrated the attack against this country and now represent the greatest threat to our country live free in a secure hideaway.

President Bush said this in 2003:

> I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The halfway point has been reached.

Mr. DORGAN. It is a priority for this country, I would say to the President, and we ask for quarterly reports on what is happening in the search to bring the leadership of al-Qaida to justice.

Mr. President, I yield the floor to my colleague, Senator CONRAD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it has now been 2,131 days since 9/11. I think all of us remember that day. It was a horrific day. I will never forget having given a speech over in Crystal City that morning and having driven past the Pentagon, only to get to the Capitol and see that the Pentagon had been attacked and then seeing the incredible images from the World Trade Center and those buildings collapsing.

The President said at the time that we would hold Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida to account, that we would smoke them out of their holes, and that we would bring them to justice. It is 2,131 days later, and still Osama bin Laden has not been brought to justice, nor has Mr. Zawahiri, who now regularly broadcasts additional threats against our country.

I believe a very serious strategic mistake was made when the President chose to go to Iraq instead of finishing business with al-Qaida. In fact, we know special forces, who are experts in Arab culture, in Arab language, were transferred from the hunt in Afghanistan for Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida. Those special forces were shifted to the hunt for Saddam Hussein in Iraq. They were replaced by experts in Spanish culture. There are not many Spanish speakers in Afghanistan.

I have always believed it was a profound mistake not to finish business with Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

I had the benefit of going to high school at an American military base in Tripoli, Libya, north Africa, and living in the Arab culture for 2 years. I think I learned a great deal from that experience about that culture. I think strategically it has been a profound mistake for us to go into Iraq instead of keeping our focus and effort and energy on the people who did attack us—al-Qaida, led by Osama bin Laden, and not Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq. As awful and despicable a character as Saddam Hussein was, that should not have been the focus of our effort. The people who attacked us were al-Qaida, not Iraq.

Now we learn al-Qaida is ''considerably operationally stronger than a year ago'' and has ''regrouped to an extent not seen since 2001,'' a counterterrorism official said, paraphrasing a new intelligence report's conclusions. They are ''showing greater and greater ability to plan attacks in Europe and the United States.'' Are we not paying attention? Al-Qaida, according to these reports, has increased from 20,000 terrorist operatives to 50,000.

We need to redirect the emphasis and the focus of our security efforts and go after Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida. That is what this amendment does. It doubles the bounty on Osama bin Laden.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time controlled by Senator DORGAN has expired.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair and conclude by saying that it requires an administration report on the strategy for bringing bin Laden and other terrorists to justice.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, had I been present for the vote on the Dorgan amendment, I would have voted in favor of it.

We're coming up on the sixth anniversary of 9/11, and the bloodthirsty terrorist who plotted this slaughter of nearly 3,000 Americans is still a free man. Back then, could any of us ever have imagined such a failure on the part of this administration? Could any of us have believed that—more than half a decade later—Osama bin Laden would still be enjoying safe haven? Two wars and three elections later—and Osama remains unscathed.

What would our reaction have been nearly 6 years ago, had President Bush gone on national television and predicted this? What would we have said if he'd told us that the capture of the man who'd unleashed such horror simply wasn't a top priority of his administration? Would any American have believed him?

The amendment before us aims to make this a top priority. It obligates the administration to provide Congress with regular reports on the progress made, if any, towards the capture or

killing of Osama bin Laden and his closest confederates.

The White House seems to have forgotten bin Laden. The American people have not.●

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I simply say, I intend to vote for this amendment. But let us not be unmindful of the enormity of the sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States—and, indeed, perhaps with the assistance of other nations—in trying to ascertain exactly where bin Laden might be and perhaps to get him. So much of this, quite understandably, cannot be revealed, but I assure the American public that our U.S. military in no measure has been asleep in its pursuit of this infamous man, Osama bin Laden.

I yield the floor to the Senator from Arizona.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, let me say two things about this amendment. First of all, I hope all of my colleagues will support it because it has been amended in a very important way, which I will discuss in a moment. But the first thing I want to say is, it is a false choice to suggest we should either be fighting in Iraq or going after Osama bin Laden. We need to be fighting al-Qaida wherever they are, and we are doing that, in Iraq and in the hills of Pakistan and Afghanistan and other places where these terrorists might be hiding, to the very best of our ability. We cannot leave Iraq to al-Qaida in order to go after Osama bin Laden.

To rewrite history here, to somehow suggest we have stopped trying to get Osama bin Laden is, I suggest, a willful misrepresentation of what our special forces are attempting to do. I agree with the senior Senator from Virginia that this is a very difficult and complicated matter in dealing with the Government of Pakistan and other issues that make it very hard to know precisely where Osama bin Laden is and to be able to kill or capture him.

That relates to the second point. When this amendment was drafted, there was a glaring problem with it. It increases the reward from $25 million to $50 million, but the way it was originally written, it was written for information ''leading to the capture'' of Osama bin Laden. We looked at the amendment and, in astonishment, sought to find the rest of the phrase that you usually see there, ''the capture or death,'' but it was not there.

I wondered: Is this yet another step in the effort of the majority party to make this a criminal effort rather than to acknowledge that this is a war against a sworn enemy of the United States? In a war, you capture the enemy when you can. When you cannot, if it is necessary to kill the enemy, you do. All of this brave talk about getting Osama bin Laden and criticism of the administration because we have not gotten him seems to me a little bit hollow if the only way we are going to get him is to capture him.

Well, sure, it would be great to capture him, but we may have to kill him; therefore, the amendment which omitted the potential for killing Osama bin Laden was amended by Senator SUNUNU, who offered a second-degree amendment to raise the reward from $25 million to $50 million for the capture or death or information leading to the capture or death of Osama bin Laden. It is under those circumstances that I strongly support the amendment, as amended.

But I ask my colleagues on the other side—next week, we are going to have some other discussion about language which would criminalize this war rather than allowing it to be fought as the war it is against sworn enemies of the United States. Are we going to continue this trend where we treat it as a matter of criminal law rather than a war? I hope not because the other side does not treat it that way.

So having amended the amendment to include ''the capture or death'' of Osama bin Laden, I am very happy to support it.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, does money make the difference? Because if money had made the difference, Osama bin Laden would be in his grave. But it has not made the difference. Intelligence, human intelligence, relationships, the ongoing development of those kinds of relationships we build around the world makes the difference.

Osama bin Laden is a phenomenal symbol today in a large constituency worldwide. We will add money, and all of us will support it. The intent of this amendment is good. But, as my colleagues have said, to suggest it is either/or, we cannot do both, nor should we—I suggest it is not that.

Are we going to melt the mountains of northern Pakistan? What, should we have tumbled the government of Musharraf in our pursuit of Osama bin Laden? I think that was not our choice, nor should it have been.

So we will add some money. We will add some intent. But, in the long haul, building back an intelligence organization, a human intelligence organization, that couples with and strengthens our technological capability to observe movement all over the world, ultimately, helps us pursue terrorist organizations, to go where they are and where they are training and to be able to topple them before they inflict injury upon us. That should be our goal. That is our goal. That is what has been our goal since 9/11. But we are so powerful, and we are all ''Nintendo warriors'' today. Remember that game, that electronic game, a few years ago, push buttons—zim, zam, boom—and it was all over with? That is not the way you fight war, although we as a society have grown to believe that.

When the human is involved, when the human intelligence decides to hide, to divert, to connive, to organize, and ultimately to break through the barriers we build, our vigilance must be constant. We have just heard of their capabilities. We now must rest on ours.

I will support the amendment. But let us not be fooled that money makes the difference. It is the constant vigilance, the building of systems and organizations, the human intelligence, matched with our electronic and our technological capability, that will continue to allow us to be a safer nation in what Americans have now recognized is a very unsafe world.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''yea.''

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Leg.]

YEAS—87

	Craig	Lott
Akaka	DeMint	Lugar
Alexander	Dole	Martinez
Allard	Dorgan	McCaskill
Barrasso	Durbin	McConnell
Baucus	Ensign	Menendez
Bayh	Enzi	Mikulski
Bennett	Feingold	Murkowski
Bingaman	Feinstein	Murray
Bond	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Brown	Hagel	Pryor
Brownback	Harkin	Reed
Burr	Hatch	Reid
Byrd	Hutchison	Roberts
Cantwell	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Cardin	Isakson	Salazar
Carper	Kennedy	Sanders
Casey	Kerry	Schumer
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Sessions
Clinton	Kohl	Shelby
Coburn	Kyl	Smith
Cochran	Landrieu	Snowe
Coleman	Leahy	Specter
Collins	Levin	Stabenow
Conrad	Lieberman	Stevens
Corker	Lincoln	Sununu

Tester	Warner	Wyden
Thune	Webb	
Voinovich	Whitehouse	

NAYS—1

Bunning

NOT VOTING—12

Biden	Domenici	Lautenberg
Cornyn	Gregg	McCain
Crapo	Inouye	Obama
Dodd	Johnson	Vitter

The amendment (No. 2135), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, what is the regular order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The regular order would be the Levin amendment.

Mr. LEVIN. I call for the regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SANDERS be recognized for 3 minutes as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I wish also to accommodate the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. LEVIN. I will amend that request.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I understand the Senator from Vermont was going to speak for a couple minutes, and I wish to have the floor after that for no more than 10 minutes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I amend my request to ask that after the Senator from Vermont speaks, the Senator from Minnesota be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, a number of Vermont families are traveling to Arlington National Cemetery this week. They are a special group and they are here for a very special reason. The group is called The Vermont Fallen. They represent the many families in our State who have lost a loved one during the war in Afghanistan or the war in Iraq.

On Saturday, July 14, The Vermont Fallen will come together to support Marion and Peter Dooley for the internment of LT Mark Dooley's ashes at Arlington National Cemetery.

A fellow Vermonter, Lieutenant Dooley was born July 15, 1978. He was a graduate of the 2001 class of Norwich University and served as a police officer in Wilmington, VT, as well as the Windham County Sheriff's Department. A first lieutenant in the Vermont National Guard, he served with the 3rd Battalion, 172d Mountain Infantry. He was killed west of Ramadi, Iraq, on September 19, 2005, when the scout platoon he was leading was ambushed.

The Vermont Fallen serves a wonderful and unique purpose. They allow families from Vermont who have suffered unimaginable loss to come together and support each other in a way that only they themselves can do.

Today, we honor the life and the loss of LT Mark H. Dooley. In doing so, we also honor the lives of all those brave Vermont soldiers who never came home.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, if the Senator from Minnesota will yield before he speaks for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. COLEMAN. Yes.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the Senator from Minnesota is finished, Senator BILL NELSON be recognized for up to 20 minutes on the pending amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside so that I may offer an amendment.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am disappointed that an objection has been raised. I intended to offer amendment No. 2189, which is at the desk. It is a Coleman, DeMint, Thune, Inhofe amendment which would prohibit the FCC from reinstating the fairness doctrine.

I am not asking for a vote at this time. I only want an amendment to be put into the queue. Just recently, the House dealt with a similar amendment. That amendment passed the House with over 300 votes in favor. The vote was 309 to 115.

My amendment says that the FCC would not be able to reinstate the fairness doctrine. It says:

> The Commission shall not have the authority to prescribe any rule, regulation, policy, doctrine, or other requirement that has the purpose or effect of reinstating or promulgating in whole or part the requirement that broadcasters, including the Armed Forces Network, present opposing viewpoints on controversial issues of public importance, commonly referred to as the fairness doctrine.

There is nothing fair about the fairness doctrine. In the past few weeks, there has been discussion among some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have said very publicly that it is time to reinstate the fairness doctrine. We have troops in the field of combat today putting their lives on the line and part of what we protect in this country is the first amendment—is freedom of speech.

The fairness doctrine amendment is a relic of a bygone past. It was tossed on the ash heap of history in 1987. It was in place from 1949 to 1987. Its intended effect was to have the Federal Government monitor what is said on the airwaves and require broadcasters to present ''fair'' and ''balanced'' programming.

The effect was much different from that. In effect, it stifled speech. If you are a broadcaster and you own a station, you could be subject to some kind of penalty if you do not provide the kind of balance that the Government says you must provide. You may well choose—and, in fact, history has shown what has happened—you may choose simply to play country music. I love country music, but I also love free speech, and we do not want to put anything in place that stifles free speech.

We have gone from 1949, when we had a few TV stations and the information you got came from relatively few sources, to a world today in which we have broadband, high-speed Internet, satellites, blogs, and a whole range of information. And that is a good thing.

In the end, we in this body have to respond, have to listen to the voices of people. We want an informed and educated citizenship. We want them to get diverse views.

The reality, in part, of why this issue even comes up is because of concerns from my friends on the other side of the aisle that talk radio somehow is dominated by conservatives. One may argue that perhaps broadcast journalism may be dominated by liberals. There have been studies that have shown that fact. But for us, we shouldn't care whether it is dominated. And as to a response of the Government coming in and trying to somehow measure and regulate——

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. COLEMAN. I yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask the Senator, in the interest of an educated electorate, whether he thinks Americans should hear both sides of the story, a fair and balanced approach when it comes to information?

Mr. COLEMAN. I absolutely believe Americans should hear both sides. Absolutely. But I believe—strongly believe—the Government should not be in the position of deciding and dictating ''now here is the other side.''

In the world of communications today, Americans have all sorts of options to hear the other side. All they have to do is turn a dial, all they have to do is push a button, all they have to do is press a mouse, and they have that ability.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. COLEMAN. I yield for a question.

Mr. DURBIN. Does the Senator concede that the airwaves belong to the American people?

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I concede the airwaves belong to the American people.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. COLEMAN. I yield for a further question.

Mr. DURBIN. Does the Senator concede that those who use the people's airwaves to make a profit have to do it with a license from our Government?

Mr. COLEMAN. I understand and agree we have a licensing process.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. COLEMAN. I yield, and I yield to the Senator from Illinois to present the entire question so I can continue.

Mr. DURBIN. I am not trying to delay the Senator from Minnesota. I will concede the sense-of-fairness doctrine has been set aside since the Reagan administration. Things have changed in broadcast journalism and many other aspects of journalism. I have not seen the Senator's amendment. I sense I know what it might be leading to, but I want to make sure the premise is something on which we may agree.

The airwaves belong to the American people. Those who profit from them do it by permission of the people through their Government and those who use those airwaves should do it responsibly and should seek to provide both points of view, both sides of the story so that Americans can reach a decision. I ask the Senator from Minnesota if he disagrees with any of those points?

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I say to my learned colleague from Illinois, here is our point of disagreement. There is no question, in fact, that there is a licensing process. I am a former mayor. We licensed a lot of things. But I think one of the basic principles at stake is we don't license and measure content when it comes to speech, and that is my concern. That, in fact, is because of the multiplicity of communications options that are available to citizens today—as I said before, blogs, Internet, broadband, and satellite—which we didn't have 20, 30 years ago.

Where my objection lies, and the importance of this amendment says Government should not be monitoring and regulating content. We are not talking about obscenity. There are things the Senator from Illinois understands the Government has an absolute right to monitor or to deal with. When we get to content—and that is my concern, that those who have raised the issue ''bring back the fairness doctrine,'' are bringing it back, and the cry then is to regulate content. And that is what I object to.

Mr. DURBIN. If I can ask the Senator to yield further for a question, there was a recent episode in the last 2 years when the Public Broadcasting Corporation took a show by Bill Moyers off the air and wanted to replace it with a show authored by the Wall Street Journal. There were complaints, obviously, that Mr. Moyers was too liberal in content.

Does the Senator from Minnesota believe that was a fair outcome or would he concede it would have been a fairer outcome to allow the American people to watch both shows, by the Wall Street Journal and Bill Moyers, and to hear both points of view and decide what they agree with?

Mr. COLEMAN. Two observations. First, I am thrilled I am having this discussion with the Senator from Illinois. My concern is that I just offered an amendment which was objected to. Had the amendment not been objected to, we would have time for a full debate on this amendment.

The Senator from Illinois and the Senator from South Dakota have a great interest in this issue. I presume my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—the junior Senator from Massachusetts has raised concerns that we should reinstate the fairness doctrine. He said that publicly.

I would love to have this debate, and yet I stand here offering an amendment which is being objected to and so instead we are having this colloquy. I appreciate the question and will respond. But I am disappointed that the other side of the aisle will not give us an opportunity for a full debate on this issue.

In fact, I want all sides to be heard. What I don't want, and the fundamental disagreement is, for the regulatory power of Government to sit in judgment as Big Brother, to oversee and take stock with pencil and pad and take notes: Well, we had Sean Hannity over here. Now we have to get somebody on the left over there.

Balance should be heard, but we have a marketplace that provides that opportunity. We have folks who support the perspective of the Senator from Illinois, and we have folks who support my perspective. Sometimes we are the same. But for Government to dictate, that is the concern. That is why the FCC got rid of the fairness doctrine in 1987. It is why the Supreme Court raised questions about the necessity of the fairness doctrine. I don't think it is constitutional. We have not gotten to that question.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. COLEMAN. I will yield for one further question.

Mr. DURBIN. I am sorry to interrupt. Through the Commerce Committee or the appropriate committee of jurisdiction, we can really get into this question. But the Senator is arguing that the marketplace can provide. What is the Senator's response if the marketplace fails to provide? What if it doesn't provide the opportunity to hear both points of view? Since people who are seeking the licenses are using America's airwaves, does the Government, speaking for the people of this country, have any interest at that point to step in and make sure there is a fair and balanced approach to the information given to the American people?

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I will respond to the final question. There is a very clear disagreement here. The Government does not have the responsibility to regulate content of speech. That is what the first amendment is about. That is exactly what the first amendment is about. Government is not supposed to be regulating content, and at a time in 1949 when we had three-network TV stations, basically when we had limited channels of communication, I presume there was a legitimate concern on the part of some that in fact Government needs to step in and ensure balance. But now we are in 2007. I cannot even conceive that the market cannot provide opportunities for differing positions because it does.

In the end, consumers also have a right, based on the market, to make choices. So if they make choices that say we want to hear more of one side than the other, that is OK. I think it is very dangerous, I say to my friend from Illinois—I think it is very dangerous for Government to be in the position of deciding what is fair and balanced. As we see on the floor of the Senate, oftentimes amongst ourselves, hopefully learned individuals who have the great and humble opportunity to serve in the Senate, we have differences as to what is fair and balanced.

The reason we have a first amendment is we get Government out of measuring, controlling, dictating, and regulating content. That is my concern, and that is what this amendment is about.

I would love to have a debate with the Senator from Illinois. I would have hoped that this amendment would simply have been put in the queue, would have been heard. I think Americans love a fair fight. I think Americans love this kind of dialog. There is nothing fair about the fairness doctrine. There is nothing fair if the intent—really, we have to lay it on the table—if the intent is to shut down or to limit the conservative talk radio. That is where the concern is. Yet, as I said before, one can raise questions about balance in the print media, one can raise questions about balance in the broadcast media, but I don't think it is the role of Government to be sitting there listening and then weighing, deciding what is fair and balanced, and then requiring, under penalty, a broadcaster to then have to present an opposing point of view.

What is going to happen—and history has shown this—broadcasters are simply going to say: Let's do something else. Why be in that position where there may be a line that may be crossed, and I don't know what that line is, and that line may change depending on who is sitting as FCC Chair.

As I said before, beyond first amendment principles, there are market principles. Talk radio has flourished because of the market. The consumer says, I want to listen, and they have been given choices. They can simply turn off the dial. They can shut off the radio if they don't want to listen, but it has flourished. It has flourished because of demand, and that is the market, not because of Government command, not because of Government control. We don't want the Government regulating content.

Like never before, Americans have a wealth of information and viewpoints thanks to cable television, radio, the Internet, and that is a good thing, and let it flourish.

John Kennedy stated:

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

Mr. President, I am not afraid of the people. I am not afraid of the people having access to the information and ideas they want access to, but I am afraid of the Government stepping in and regulating content. We have a first amendment that is the underpinning, the foundation, of all the other amendments. The fairness doctrine flies in the face of the first amendment. It was rejected in 1987. The idea of bringing it back today is a very bad idea.

This amendment specifically includes the Armed Forces Network. Our folks who are out there on the frontline fighting shouldn't be thinking that back home someone at the FCC is listening and monitoring and deciding what is fair and what is balanced. Let the people decide. Let the market decide. Let the first amendment flourish.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Florida yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Of course, I yield to my distinguished chairman.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator from Florida, the junior Senator from Pennsylvania be recognized to speak as in morning business for 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, is there a time limit on my remarks?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Twenty minutes.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I come to this discussion of the Iraq issue from a position of having been in the political arena for 35 years. My brand of politics is moderation. My representation is generally recognized as being in the mainstream. That is clearly where my State of Florida and the majority of its politics is, in the mainstream of American politics.

Since so many people like to categorize us in little boxes of where our politics is, I am generally categorized in that box as a moderate Democrat. I am here today to state why I will vote for the Levin-Reed amendment with regard to the troops in Iraq.

How did I come to this conclusion? Remembering an Alfred Lloyd Tennyson poem, ''Ulysses,'' he says, ''I am a part of all that I have met.'' Certainly, my frame of reference was shaped in large part upon graduation from college, being commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and being on active duty, first going on active duty as a 1st lieutenant and then, within a year—since that was the Vietnam era with rapid promotions—serving the second of my 2 years of active duty as a captain in the U.S. Army.

Vietnam was a tough experience for our country. As I went on active duty, President Johnson had announced he was not going to run for reelection, in large part, the Nation was split asunder over the issue of support of the war. Then during my 2 years of active duty, it was the beginning of the Nixon administration, and as they tried to grapple with the war, they concluded some 4 years later that we had to start withdrawing.

It was a time that certainly is different from now because there is such a respect for our troops now. That was not necessarily the case back then when I was in the military. Certainly, all the interaction I had as a military officer was the best, but that was not the case for a lot of returning soldiers. Indeed, they came home to an America that did not support them and did not stand up for them. We learned a lot of very painful lessons out of that Vietnam experience.

Most of us in this Senate who have the fresh memories of that time, when we go to the Mall to the Vietnam Memorial, there is emotion that is evoked—often the emotion of choking up, as you see those almost 60,000 names and you see those dramatic statues of both the men and the women who served in Vietnam.

One of the awful lessons of Vietnam is that you cannot conduct a war unless you have the support of the American people. Tragically, that is the situation we are getting to today. Today it is a lot different than Vietnam because there is outright unabashed patriotic support for our troops and the extraordinary job they are doing. But it is very clear, if you listen to the street, if you talk to your people back home, you realize the American people are not satisfied with the conduct of this war, they are not satisfied with the progress of this war, and the American people, in increasingly larger numbers, are not supporting this war.

How did I come to this conclusion to support the Levin-Reed amendment? Well, back in 2003, when we voted on the authorization for this war, I voted for it, as did most of the Senators here. The information we were given at the time was clearly information that we believed—that was that there were weapons of mass destruction, there were certainly chemical and biological weapons, and we were led to believe Saddam Hussein also had a very active nuclear program.

I am not talking about whispers behind the door or surreptitious notes that were passed in the night. I am talking about meeting after meeting—right up there in S. 407, the secure room in the U.S. Capitol—sometimes when 75 Senators were present, being briefed by the highest levels of the Government: The Secretary of Defense, the National Security Adviser, the head and deputy head of the CIA, the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Over and over these were the impressions; indeed, the specific information that we received.

Yes, I got a copy of the National Intelligence Estimate, and it was in a meeting called by our chairman, JOE BIDEN, who had a classified meeting to discuss it with representatives of the intelligence community. Indeed, the Director of the CIA, George Tenet, at a later meeting, confirmed what others had already briefed, that there was a program that Saddam Hussein likely had to take unmanned aerial vehicles, put biological and chemical weapons on them, put them on ships off the east coast of the United States, and launch them over east coast cities of the United States.

Did I conclude there was an imminent threat to the interests of the United States by virtue of the information I was given? You bet I did.

George Tenet even confirmed that after the war started, the report's veracity.

What was worse—and what I was not told—was a major part of the intelligence community, the Air Force intelligence, disputed the unmanned aerial vehicles report. In fact, Air Force intelligence knew more about unmanned aerial vehicles than anybody else, and they said they were likely for reconnaissance purposes, not for offensive purposes.

So knowing today what I know—that none of that was true—would I have voted the same way? Of course I wouldn't. But I voted in 2002 for the war authorization on the basis of what I was told and which I believed.

In 2006, the agitation against the war continued to swell and the question came up about withdrawal. Again, I supported the administration, and I voted against a withdrawal timeline because I felt if we had a chance of success, we should not be micro-managing the military, and we should let them make their decisions.

But then things started to change. At the end of the year came a big change the report of the Iraq Study Commission. Jim Baker and Lee Hamilton, two of the most respected Americans, cochaired this. Listen to names of the members of this commission who were unanimous. Larry Eagleburger, former Secretary of State. He replaced, by the way, Robert Gates, when Gates had to resign because the President was making him the Secretary of Defense. Gates was in on a lot of this Commission testimony.

Listen to the rest of them. Vernon Jordan; Ed Meese, former Attorney General; Sandra Day O'Connor, everybody knows who she is; Leon Panetta, former Chief of Staff to the President; Bill Perry, former Secretary of Defense; Chuck Robb, a former colleague here; Alan Simpson, another former colleague here.

These are the people who made up this Iraq Study Commission, and they came out unanimously. There were five

Democrats and five Republicans. It was co-chaired by Jim Baker, the former Secretary of State, and Lee Hamilton, the former chairman of the House Committee on International Relations. They said there has to be a different way and it had to be a goal of withdrawal next spring.

So when this issue came up again in the spring of 2007, I voted for the report's goal—an amendment sponsored by Senator LEVIN and Senator REED—the goal of the start of a withdrawal—a partial, gradual withdrawal—not a complete withdrawal, a gradual withdrawal. The goal was April of 2008. Now the amendment has been changed, to mandate a gradual withdrawal being completed by April of next year, 2008.

That doesn't mean a complete withdrawal. This amendment says is they are going to leave a good portion of the troops in Iraq to do a number of things. What are those things?

First, I wish to say that, except for the requirement of a withdrawal, the Levin-Reed amendment is very similar to the Iraq Study Commission report. Senator SALAZAR and a host of bipartisan Senators, including this Senator, are cosponsors of Senator SALAZAR's amendment. The Salazar amendment gives us almost word for word the Iraq Study Commission Report. What is before us today is something similar, but instead of the goal of withdrawal by next April, it is a requirement.

The Levin-Reed amendment would require the President to implement a comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors. It would ensure that our troops who remain in Iraq will perform the most vital missions—that of protecting the United States and coalition personnel, training and equipping the Iraqi Army, and continuing to fight the terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaida—and it requires the President to appoint an international mediator with the authority to engage Iraq's various factions in an inclusive political process.

The Iraq Study Commission report says: Get going. Do an aggressive diplomatic effort in the region. All five Republicans and five Democrats on the commission said: You ought to open up to Syria, and you ought to open up to Iran, under the theory that, indeed, we ought to be talking to our enemies.

When I took off for the Middle East, about nine countries within a 2-week period before last Christmas, one of my stops was to return to Syria for a third visit with the President of Syria, Assad. The White House said don't go. The State Department came and visited me and said don't go.

I said the cat is out of the bag. The bipartisan Iraq Study Commission says we have to open up and talk to enemies. That is the commonsense thing to do.

I was attacked by Tony Snow in his White House daily briefing. Guess what happened? Thereafter, Secretary Rice was meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister, the same one with whom I met, along with President Assad.

It is all a part of the necessity of us engaging diplomatically in the region at the same time we are trying to figure out what to do with our military.

Earlier this year, over many objections, the President then decided he needed to send more troops to Iraq in a surge, and he said it was intended to bring about greater stability. I opposed the surge. I pointed out, from my experience and understanding of Iraq, the surge would put additional American soldiers and marines in the middle of the sectarian violence crossfire of a civil war.

The sectarian violence has only been going on for 1,327 years, ever since the battle of Karbala in 680 A.D. After that battle, you had, in effect, the Shiites separating from the Sunnis, and that has led to antipathy that it is hard for us in America to understand. Yet it continues.

I said at the time there was a surge that I would support, and that was in Anbar Province, which is mainly Sunni and where the real enemy is al-Qaida. I believed that marines are having some success.

I understand I have 1 minute left. Mr. President, I ask for an additional 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I believed the marines were making progress. But there you had just Sunnis and you had al-Qaida that was trying to undermine the Sunni leadership, and the marines working with the Sunnis were having some effect. That is the part of the surge I supported. I did not support the surge going into Baghdad in the middle of the crossfire of a civil war.

The President ignored the findings and the warnings of the Iraq Study Group which recommended a comprehensive strategy for changing the course in Iraq.

So what has happened? In the last 6 months, we have spent more than $60 billion and we have lost another 600 American lives and many more have suffered grievous injuries. Despite those losses, the sectarian violence has only increased.

Yesterday, the President reported that the Iraqi Government has failed to meet many of the benchmarks that we laid out earlier this year. Only the Iraqis can make the compromises necessary to end this war. Our continued open-ended presence has provided them with no incentive to do so. We cannot and we should not be in the middle of their civil war.

What we need is a diplomatic solution with an aggressive, diplomatic effort—which was argued by the Iraq Study Group.

We also need a political solution instead of a military solution. The possible solution that I am drawn to is the one put forth by Senator BIDEN. Under the Iraqi Constitution, which is a federal form of government, it will allow autonomy of various regions or states that can provide for their own governance along with a National Government that will allocate the oil revenues according to the population.

But still, the President has not changed course in Iraq, despite the facts on the ground and the overwhelming desire of the American people.

So, with a heavy heart, it brings me today to say that we must by law insist that he begin the reduction of the forces in Iraq and the transition of our mission there. Along with others, I do not reach this conclusion lightly nor with any pleasure. I am extremely concerned by the great toll that this war has taken on our Armed Forces and our military families across this Nation, with the thousands killed and many more injured.

I am very concerned about the lack of training and the lack of time for recuperation for our troops, especially the National Guard and the Reserves. I am very close to the Florida National Guard.

I am very concerned about the situation in Iraq, that it keeps escalating, the violence, especially among Iraqis, and the lack of their production of an economic lifeline by the production of their oil. It is being lost to theft and to sabotage. They can't get their arms around it.

And I am very concerned about the plight of the Iraqi people, including now more than 2 million refugees.

I am concerned about the possibility of greater regional violence and instability. I am concerned about the failure of the Maliki government, the failure of the government in and of itself, but especially, as we see now, the failure of the government to lead and to enact necessary reforms.

I will conclude by saying, an open-ended commitment, keeping our troops in the middle of a civil war, is not the solution. We must not only demand that the President change course, but we must require that he do so. So I rise today in support of the Levin-Reed amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized for 10 minutes.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about children's health insurance for a number of reasons, but principally because the President of the United States, several times in the last couple of weeks and months—but especially this past week—has spoken to this issue in a way that I think is misleading, in a way that I think does not do justice to this important, compelling issue: whether or not this country is going to make a real commitment to insuring all of our children.

This is an issue that you and I, Mr. President, have spoken about, as have many others in this Chamber. It is a major priority for the American people. I will give the bad news first. The

bad news is we have 9 million American children who have no health insurance. That number stares us in the face every day. There is no reason this Congress and this Senate should not do something about that.

It is particularly disturbing and insulting that we have not only 9 million uninsured American children, but we have that number in the face of some other numbers, like tax cuts for very wealthy people. Over and over again, in the last couple of years, this Congress and the Congress before it, has made judgments about priorities. I am afraid there are some people who are making that judgment again about tax cuts for very wealthy people over health care for children.

That is the reality. Unfortunately, we have now not only the 9 million uninsured, but here is another number. Of that 9 million, 6 million children of that 9 million are eligible for programs that can help them now, either Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The final bit of bad news and the challenge for us, not only as a Senate but as a people, is that 80 percent of the 6 million who could be helped right now by both programs—80 percent of them come from working families. That should be disturbing to all of us.

Here is the good news. We can solve this problem. Not in one budget, not in one year, but over time if we make a real commitment. We can do it by supporting the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. In my home State we call it CHIP, but the Federal Government refers to it as SCHIP. In our State, over 160,000 kids are served by this program now, but there are tens of thousands of other children who are not covered right now. We need to cover them in Pennsylvania and across the country. We know there are millions of children right now across the country who are not covered today who could be covered if we make the full commitment.

When we talk about children's health insurance, a lot of people watching and a lot of people thinking about this issue say: Oh, it is another Government program. It will cost a lot of money. Why are we doing this?

Here is the evidence. We have a 10-year experiment in this country on children's health insurance. Thank God, under a Democratic President—Clinton—and a divided Congress, 10 years ago that commitment was made, and now we have the evidence. We know for all these children, 6 million covered—9 million not covered but 6 million covered, we know the tremendous benefit that means to employers way down the road. We also know what that means for the skills that are developed for one child and for many others. It is better for economic growth to ensure children. It is better for gross national product. It is better to build a skilled workforce with children's health insurance.

Here is the challenge we have, in terms of this year's budget. I and many others, including the Presiding Officer and many people in this Chamber—mostly on this side but even some on the other side of the aisle—supported a proposal to say that over 5 years we would spend $50 billion on children's health insurance.

It sounds like a lot of money, doesn't it. But when you break it down, $10 billion a year for children's health insurance is a small investment over the life of that child and over the life of our country. That is what the goal was, and that still is the goal.

Here is the difficulty. We have to deal with the realities of the budget. Senator MAX BAUCUS and others on the Finance Committee—and, frankly, in both parties but mostly on the Democratic side—have worked out an agreement on $35 billion, which is a very good start. We can grow that, but they deserve a lot of credit for making sure that money was put in the Finance Committee proposal that is still being worked on.

But Here is the problem.

In the face of that bipartisanship 10 years ago, and every year since on children's health insurance—in the face of all the benefits to our economy, not to mention the life of a child, and also in the face of the consensus that is emerging now in this body about the priority of children's health insurance, to get at least the $35 billion over 5 years—here is the problem. We have a President who thinks something else.

President Bush recently talked about this initiative, to get $50 billion or even to get $35 billion, as somehow a federalization of health care for children, which is, I guess, to some people a scary word, a word that causes them concern.

But there are a lot of Governors across this country, Republicans and Democrats, who think otherwise. So I think I have a basic question for the President, and I will conclude with this because he has been misleading people on this issue. Here is the question for the President of the United States. If you can give a tax cut in 1 year for people making over $200,000 a year, that amounts to $100 billion, if that is your policy, to give $100 billion in tax cuts to very wealthy people, why would you not be willing to spend $10 billion a year for children's health insurance?

That is the question I have for the President. So if this President and this Congress are concerned about a skilled workforce and developing entrepreneurs and people to contribute to our economy, we better make a commitment to children in the dawn of their lives to make sure they can have the skills they need down the road. But even apart from the skills, it is the right thing to do. Mr. President, if you can help the millionaires, the multimillionaires, and the billionaires, why won't you make a full commitment to help the children of America, the working poor and middle-income children?

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the motion now that is pending is the Levin-Reed, et al., amendment. The floor is open for Senators to come and speak on that amendment. I would hope those who have speeches will do that. We need to get to a vote on this amendment early next week. There is no reason this amendment should be the subject of a filibuster with the subject that is on every American's mind. They want us to be able to vote up or down on this amendment. I hope it is not necessary that there has to be a cloture motion, because the Senate should express its will on a subject of this importance. But this is one of the many times that will be available in the next few days to speak on this amendment. We will be here Monday afternoon. We are here now. We will be here Tuesday, obviously, before the meetings of our parties at lunch. But I would hope people would take advantage of this opportunity to come and speak, pro or con, on the pending amendment, because there is no excuse for a filibuster on an amendment of this importance that the entire country is watching. This is one of a number of opportunities we are going to have in the next few days for Senators to express their opinion. I hope they will use this opportunity.

Mr. 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. LEVIN. Mr. 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.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we know of two speakers who do wish to come over here shortly, about 11:20 and 11:30. We do not know of any other speakers who wanted to be recognized at this point.

We are on the bill now. In a moment I am going to ask consent that we go into morning business, with speakers limited to 10 minutes each. But I want to note my good friend from Virginia has suggested that we make it clear to the body that we are on the bill now. The amendment which is pending is the Levin-Reed, et al., amendment, and that we will, after we leave here today, be returning on Monday, at a time that the leaders will set, to this bill. This bill will be the pending matter. This amendment will be the pending matter on Monday when we return.

I thank the Senator from Virginia for suggesting that we make that clear.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I concur in the distinguished chairman's observation. I wish to compliment you and the ranking member, Mr. MCCAIN, for the progress you have made this

week on this bill. Having had this responsibility, sharing it with you for these many years, I would say the two of you have done exceptionally well.

Mr. President, also it is my intention—I am doing the final bit of drafting on an amendment by myself, with the distinguished Senator from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR. I hope to be filing that before 12 noon today.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we also urge colleagues who still have amendments they wish to have considered to bring those amendments here to the floor by noon; to bring them here on Monday, because Senator MCCAIN and I have both spoken on the necessity of getting amendments that are going to be filed to be filed by the end of business on Monday.

We have a lot of amendments we have got to consider. Hopefully we can clear some. But the body would be very—colleagues would be doing the body a favor to get these amendments in if there are any additional amendments they want to consider.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senator LEVIN's amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008. This legislation is long overdue, and I hope all my colleagues will support its swift implementation. I want to thank the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator LEVIN, Senator MCCAIN, and the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator AKAKA, for their leadership on this issue, and I commend them for the good work they have done. I also want to thank my colleagues for working so closely with me to get this legislation passed.

A few months ago I had the pleasure of introducing the Wounded Warriors Assistance Act of 2007 with my good friend from Georgia, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS. Our intent was to correct the injustice done to our returning wounded veterans and to improve the access and quality of health care our military personnel receive. There have been too many cases where our veterans have slipped through cracks in the system, and this is why I support the Levin amendment to H.R. 1585. It is a comprehensive policy of care and management for servicemembers with combat-related injuries or illnesses, a concept which mirrors the intent of the legislation I introduced. I worked on this legislation for a long time, and I am proud to have worked with the Senate Armed Services Committee and Senator CHAMBLISS to put forth meaningful language that has the potential to directly help those who defend our country.

This legislation will provide our veterans with assistance to make sure their medical needs are met and bureaucracy does not interfere with their progress. While this legislation addresses enhanced health care, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, disability evaluations, and improvement of facilities housing military patients, this amendment will ultimately restore confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the military medical system and ensure our wounded warriors feel secure in the fact they will always receive committed, quality care. This act will also increase training for health care professionals and medical case managers and make a physician or health care professional available to help veterans navigate the medical evaluation board process, translate findings and recommendations, and explaining medical terms and regulations. This process is a critical crossroad in a service man or woman's career and can be very emotional, confusing, and stressful. I do not believe our returning veterans should have to deal with any more adversity or undue stress while trying to recover from their injuries, and this legislation will make this process easier for them.

Another provision that I am particularly proud of is the section on disability severance pay. This addition expands the population that is eligible for the enhancement of disability severance pay to include injuries incurred during performance of duty in support of combat operations. Oftentimes our military personnel are wounded in training exercises before they are sent into theater, and in current law they are not eligible to receive disability severance pay. For example, if a soldier is wounded while training to fast rope out of a helicopter, he or she will now be fairly compensated for their sacrifice in support of combat operations.

In my home State where 369 Arkansas soldiers have been wounded, my office has provided immeasurable assistance to ensure those veterans get better care. I am honored to support this legislation as it also affects over 25,000 wounded warriors nationwide. I frequently make trips to Walter Reed Hospital, and I visit wounded Arkansans who are some of the most determined and inspiring individuals I have ever met. However, they will still require top notch medical care and a lot of prayer in order to recover, and I want to make sure they get it.

Again, I am proud to support Senator LEVIN's amendment to H.R. 1585, and I am happy to see it adopted into the fiscal year 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. We owe nothing less than the best for our troops who make great sacrifices for defense of this country. I firmly believe this legislation is what we need to reform and modernize the way we care for our wounded soldiers.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate voted on an amendment offered by Senator SESSIONS, amendment No. 2024, that stated the policy of the United States on the protection of the United States and its allies against the possible threat from the potential development of Iranian ballistic missiles. I supported that amendment, but my vote should not be misconstrued as a blanket endorsement of missile defense installations, nor as support for military action against Iran.

The amendment by Senator SESSIONS noted Iran's continuing work on a nuclear program despite the many concerns voiced by the international community, as well as Iran's development of ballistic missiles of increasing range and sophistication. Iranian success in these two areas might eventually pose a threat to the forward-deployed forces of the United States and NATO allies in Europe. In the longer term, an Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile program could perhaps pose a threat even to the U.S. mainland. I must state clearly and unequivocally, however, that the best way to confront these possible long-term threats is diplomatically. Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs are not an imminent threat to United States security by anyone's reckoning. The best defense against an Iranian nuclear weapon is for that weapon never to have been developed. We have time, working together with the international community, to direct Iran toward a more peaceful path. I note the good news being reported in today's newspapers that Iran has agreed to allow IAEA inspectors in to inspect its nuclear facilities. This is a step in the right direction, and we should support these efforts to bring Iran into compliance with its international obligations. We will not tolerate an illicit nuclear weapons program, but neither should we rush headlong into militant provocations.

The Sessions amendment stated the policy of the United States to ''develop and deploy, as soon as technologically possible, in conjunction with its allies and other nations whenever possible, an effective defense against the threat from Iran described in subsection (a)(1) that will provide protection for the United States, its friends, and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies. . . .'' Further, the amendment stated that deployment of these defenses should be complementary to any missile defenses that might be deployed by NATO in Europe.

This amendment does not say anything new, and it does not imply a change in U.S. policy. The United States and its allies have been developing missile defenses for many years now. The bill to which this amendment was offered contains an additional $315 million to accelerate several missile defense programs aimed at protecting the United States and its allies. The Aegis program, the Patriot PAC3, and the THAAD system program will all benefit from those additional funds. Importantly, the underlying bill limits the availability of authorized funding for missile defense installations in Europe until two conditions have been met: one, approval is given by the countries in which missile defense components are to be located; and, two, 45 days have elapsed since Congress receives a report from the Secretary of Defense on the proposed deployment. These requirements will help to ensure that ballistic missile defense programs

are not put in place hastily or unwisely.

I voted for the amendment because I agree with its underlying sentiment, which is that the United States should prepare defenses against foreseeable threats. What I fear, however, is that the votes in favor of this amendment will become fodder for attempts to further increase funding for missile defense programs that are already more than adequately funded and which history has shown us time and again are technologically challenging and cannot be rushed. Over the years, I have seen this tactic used time and again for missile defense programs. It does not matter how much more money is thrown at them, the technology cannot be rushed. Given the demands for funding for troops in harm's way now from mortar rounds, bullets, and IEDs, we must be cautious of attempts to further bloat a program intended to confront a far-off threat that may never materialize. My vote in favor of a policy of adequately preparing for a long term threat over the long term should not be interpreted as support for excessive spending on missile defense development and deployment. Further, it must not be interpreted as a vote suggesting that the situation at this time justifies the President to use military force in Iran.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am proud to cosponsor the Dignity for our Wounded Warriors Act, which has just been approved as an amendment to the fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense authorization bill. Under the leadership of Senators CARL LEVIN, PATTY MURRAY, and DANIEL AKAKA, we have drafted this comprehensive response to the failures of the Bush administration to properly care for our wounded servicemembers and veterans.

We were all shocked and awed by the sorry state of outpatient care at Walter Reed. More than 22,000 Purple Hearts have been awarded in Iraq. We know now that our troops have been twice wounded—once on the battlefield and again battling a bureaucracy at home.

We know that acute care for our injured troops has been astounding. Our military medical doctors and nurses are performing heroically, giving our troops historic rates of survival against devastating new weapons of war. We owe a debt of gratitude to these military medical professionals and to the medics on the battlefield. But while we have saved their lives, we are failing to give them their life back. Outpatient care, facilities, social work, case workers, disability benefits—the whole system seems dysfunctional.

In March, I visited Walter Reed and met with outpatients at Mologne House. I am so proud of their service and sacrifice for our Nation and so embarrassed by the treatment they have received. We know this problem isn't limited to Walter Reed. It is part of the reckless incompetence of this administration. They took us into this war without a plan for winning it or caring for those we ask to fight it. That is why the Senate has today taken this important step to provide the care our troops, veterans, and their families have earned.

This is a comprehensive bill to address the treatment and care of injured veterans and servicemembers. To ensure that what happened in Building 18 at Walter Reed never happens again, the bill establishes minimum standards of repair and maintenance for military treatment facilities and outpatient housing. It authorizes at least $73 million in additional funding to enhance care for traumatic brain injury, TBI, and post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, including $3 million for pilot projects to monitor TBI; $10 million for Centers of Excellence for TBI; and $50 million for additional TBI and PTSD research. This is in addition to the $900 million in funding for TBI and PTSD programs added by Congress to the fiscal year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

To support a smooth transition for injured troops from military medical care to the Veterans' Administration, this bill also authorizes $10 million for a joint DOD/VA office for electronic health records and establishes comprehensive readjustment studies for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans by the Defense Department, the Veterans' Administration, and the National Academy of Sciences.

To develop a better understanding of the signature wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the amendment directs DOD to establish Centers of Excellence for TBI and PTSD and to report to Congress on their progress. It requires comprehensive plans for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of TBI and PTSD as well as long-term studies, clinical trials, and research about mental health, TBI, and PTSD.

Our amendment also addresses the unique needs of female servicemembers by requiring DOD and the VA to take into account the needs of women servicemembers and women veterans in every aspect of patient and veterans care. Every report required by the amendment must include a description of how it specifically addresses the needs of our women warriors. It requires DOD and the VA to review the need for mental health treatment tailored to meet the needs of female servicemembers and veterans and requires the two agencies to develop a joint policy for the treatment and care of mental health, TBI, and PTSD for female servicemembers and veterans.

To cut through the health care bureaucracy, our bill entitles any servicemember or former servicemember with ''severe injury or illness'' to treatment in any DOD or VA approved medical facility, whatever is closest or most convenient for the patient. It also authorizes military and VA facilities to provide counseling and medical care for families and caregivers who are supporting servicemembers—this is important support for those who have to travel to a treatment facility in order to support their injured loved one.

To help injured servicemembers transition from DOD health care to the VA system, the amendment requires improved information sharing between agencies and establishes common processes, procedures, and standards between the two agencies. It also institutes a 3-year overlap of healthcare service between DOD and VA for severely injured servicemembers, so no injured servicemember is allowed to fall between the cracks.

This amendment also takes several important steps to improve the quality of care in the VA health care system. It requires the VA to create rehabilitation and reintegration plans for veterans suffering from TBI and to provide nursing home care to veterans with severe cases of TBI. The amendment also extends the window of time during which veterans can seek combat-related medical care, from 2 years to 5 years. This will especially help veterans suffering from PTSD, which can take several years to develop and diagnose.

Mr. President, our Nation has a sacred commitment to honor the promises we make to troops and their families when they answer the Nation's call to duty. I am proud to fight each year to make sure these promises made are promises kept. This amendment honors our Nation's service men and women.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, while the Senator from Virginia is on the floor, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators recognized for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. WARNER. No objection.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. 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. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TOBACCO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there is hardly a family in America that hasn't had an experience with tobacco and cancer. My family is no exception. When I was 14 years old, my 53-year-old father died of lung cancer. He smoked two packs of Camels a day. He was hopelessly addicted to tobacco, and we lost him at what I now view as a very early age. I can recall, as a student in high school, being in his hospital room when he drew his last, labored breath and the sadness that fell over me on

November 13, 1959. I didn't walk out of that hospital room vowing I would get even with tobacco companies, but I never escaped the memory of that family experience. Many other families have a similar story to tell.

The day came many years later when I had an opportunity, as a new Member of the House of Representatives, to do something. There is another story leading up to that experience. It involves the customary race of Members of Congress for airplanes. We spend most of our life racing through airports. In this particular instance I was in Phoenix, AZ trying to fly to Chicago, long before there were transportation security agencies and people taking off their shoes and X-ray machines. I got to the airport 20 minutes before the plane was about to take off. I raced to the United Airlines counter. A young woman was there and I gave her my ticket.

She said: I will get your boarding pass, but you will to have run to the gate. She gave me a boarding pass. This was 20 years ago. She handed to it me. I looked, and it was a middle seat in the smoking section of the airplane. I knew this was a long flight. I said: I know I have to get down to the gate, but can't you give me a different seat in the nonsmoking section? She said: No, it is the last seat. There is nothing I can do about it. Then she looked down at my ticket and my title and she said: But, Congressman, there is something you can do about it.

I got on the airplane. I sat between two what I now characterize as chain-smoking sumo wrestlers and spent several hours in misery breathing in their secondhand smoke. I looked around the airplane and thought to myself, what about that elderly lady who is up there in the smoking section two rows away; what about that woman with the little baby? This can't be healthy.

I came back to Washington and said to my staff: I want to introduce a bill banning smoking on airplanes. There was silence in the room. Then they said: You are crazy. Nobody beats the tobacco lobby. The entire leadership of the House of Representatives, Democrats and Republicans, doesn't want any tobacco amendments for a lot of political reasons.

Naive and undaunted, I went forward with my quest to ban smoking on airplanes. I had a lot of help along the way. Congressman BILL YOUNG of Florida, who still serves, had been one of the early pioneers in dealing with tobacco and smoking. He courageously stepped forward and said: I will make it a bipartisan amendment, but we don't have a chance. We were both on the Appropriations Committee. I managed to at least create an opportunity for a vote on the floor of the House.

I reached the floor of the House because of another great Congressman, now deceased, Claude Pepper. Claude Pepper served in this Chamber as a Senator. He was defeated and went over and served in the House of Representatives. Claude Pepper was chairman of the Rules Committee. He came to my rescue when I was about to lose in the Rules Committee. I never appreciated why he did that, why he gave me a chance to get a vote on this issue, until later when somebody told me that as a Senator in the 1930s, Claude Pepper of Florida had pushed for the creation of the National Cancer Institute. He didn't talk much about tobacco, being a southerner, but it meant a lot to him personally. He more than anyone gave me my chance to bring this amendment to the floor.

So on July 13, 1987, 20 years ago today, I got my chance to offer the amendment to ban smoking on flights of 2 hours or less. In the galleries of the House were seated uniformed flight attendants from major airlines. They were on my side. They were sick and tired of breathing in all the smoke on the airplanes. We came to the floor expecting to lose. I didn't realize at the time that the House of Representatives, and you can add the Senate into the equation, was the largest frequent flier club in America. We spend more time on airplanes than most people. As the amendment was debated, Congressmen started coming forward to speak on behalf of the amendment—some of the most liberal, some of the most conservatives, Republicans, Democrats from all over the country. I could feel the momentum building. The debate went on for a long time, and the vote was finally taken. The vote was 198 to 193. My amendment passed.

After it passed, I called over to the Senate and contacted the man who was chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, FRANK LAUTENBERG of New Jersey. I said to FRANK LAUTENBERG: Would you consider offering this same amendment in the Senate? He said he would, and he did, successfully.

That amendment changed America. I didn't know it at the time and I don't want to take more credit than is due, but at the end of the debate to ban smoking on airplanes, people started asking obvious questions. If secondhand smoke is dangerous on an airplane, why isn't it dangerous in a train, on a bus, in a hospital, in a school, at a Head Start center, in an office building?

We know what has happened 20 years later. It has now become customary for people not to smoke and unusual to see anyone smoking in an enclosed space that is not their own home. That is a dramatic change. I think it is a change for the better. As a result of that law, which was a challenge to me, America is a healthier place. Our attitude toward tobacco and smoking is much different today than it was.

Last year in my home State of Illinois, a record-breaking 36 cities and counties enacted smokefree laws, more than any other State in the Nation. I am very proud of that. This was a milestone for another reason. We learned the mighty tobacco lobby is not invincible. We proved it on the floor of the House and the Senate 20 years ago. We are proving it now in city councils and State legislatures across America. This was one of the first times the tobacco industry had ever lost an important rollcall vote on the floor of the House. It showed that Congress could stand up against special interest groups, the wealthy and the powerful, those financing campaigns, and instead vote for the health of all Americans. Twenty years later, smoking is banned on almost all commercial flights worldwide.

I had a funny experience a few years after we passed our law. My wife and I were flying to Portugal through London. We changed planes in London to Air Portugal. The British travelers got on the plane and I was shocked to find they had a smoking section on the airplane. I couldn't believe it. It turned out it was a sign that was put on a seat that said ''smoking allowed behind this sign.'' A group of British tourists got on and saw this sign and couldn't believe it and said to the flight attendant: What is this all about? She answered: If you want to be in a nonsmoking section, you sit on this side of the sign; smoking section is on the other side of the sign. One of the ladies said: This will never do. She grabbed the sign and went to the last seat in the plane and put it on that seat.

My wife turned to me and said: Look what you got started.

I don't want to take credit for getting that started, but I am kind of proud of being part of it. I congratulate a number of pioneers in this area. Air Canada was way ahead of us on this issue. Northwest Airlines was one of the first in the Nation to move toward smokefree flights—they deserve special recognition—even before a Federal law was passed.

We need to remind ourselves from time to time about tobacco and cancer and heart disease. We have been lulled into the feeling that this problem is under control. Tobacco-related disease is the No. 1 preventable cause of death in America today. It still is an issue. There are still too many children who take up smoking, I mean literally children. Tobacco companies know that the way to ensnare someone into tobacco addiction is to get them started as kids. Kids, rebellious and curious, turn to tobacco, developing an addiction they don't even understand, finding it hard to quit. They become early, lifelong smokers, and chances are one in three will die because of that habit.

This is still an issue. It is an issue we are going to face soon here in the Senate, because the Finance Committee is considering increasing the tobacco tax on America. I am sure there will be screams that that is unfair to smokers. But I have reached the point now where I have to tell them that there is a great expense associated with their addiction. We also know that increased cost of product reduces the likelihood that kids will use tobacco products. So there is a positive that will come out of it.

We know when it comes to cancer, heart disease, diseases that affect virtually every organ in the human body and, most importantly, impact the life of virtually every family, tobacco is a negative factor.

In 2006, the Surgeon General's report entitled ''Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke,'' reaffirmed previous findings. Secondhand smoke causes heart disease, cancer, respiratory problems, and even death. What was once considered impossible is now industry practice. What was once unknown is now conventional wisdom. It is time for us to take the next big step.

Next week my colleagues, as members of the HELP Committee, led by my friend Senator TED KENNEDY, will debate giving the Food and Drug Administration the authority to regulate tobacco.

Most Americans do not know that tobacco has a curious place in the law. It is not considered a food or a drug. If it were a food or a drug, it would be regulated. Those who make the product would have to disclose its contents and would have to put meaningful warning labels on the product. Tobacco has had carved out for it a niche in the law so that requirement does not apply. Nearly every other industry in America that puts public health at risk is regulated by some Federal agency, but not tobacco.

If we are going to continue the fight against big tobacco, and the death and disease which this product creates, if we are going to secure the ability of all Americans to breathe air that is free from secondhand smoke, if we are to affirm the right of all of us to lead healthy and productive lives, we have to take this next step and allow the Food and Drug Administration to regulate this product. We must allow the FDA to regulate an industry that continues to cost us the lives of more than 43,000 Americans and over $100 billion in health care costs and lost productivity every single year.

Today, there will not be any cakes or parties, but we celebrate the 20th anniversary of a vote in the House of Representatives which has been an important part of my legislative career. This vote, to ban smoking on airplanes, 20 years ago, played an important role in launching the smokefree movement in America. I urge my colleagues to move us closer to finishing the work we have started. We stood up to the tobacco industry then, and we can do it again now.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month we had a controversial and spirited debate over immigration. It went on for several weeks on the floor of the Senate, and many Members of the Senate thought about it and voted one way or the other.

The net result is that nothing happened. That is unfortunate. Everybody concedes our immigration laws have broken down. About 600,000 illegal people come into the United States each year and stay. Over 20 years, we now have 12 million people. The number continues to grow.

The lure of the United States is overwhelming. It is a lure which brought my grandparents and my mother to this country as immigrants. They wanted to be part of America. They were willing to leave their village in Lithuania and the comfort there for an opportunity. They came here, struggled and sacrificed, as immigrants do. They became Americans, and I think in a small way our family has made a difference in this country.

Now, repeat that story millions of times, and that is who we are as a nation. We are people who were unhappy, dissatisfied with what we had, saw America as a better chance, and came here.

People continue to come here. Our borders cannot hold them back at this moment. So we debated about making those borders stronger, having more enforcement in the workplace. We debated about: How many workers do we need each year to pick our crops and do our work, in addition to the American workforce? And what will we do with the 12 million who are here?

It was a big bill. The debate went on for 3 weeks, which is a long time by Senate standards. At the end of the debate, we could not pass it. We did not have the 60 votes. We were not even close. We had 46 votes cast in favor of comprehensive immigration reform.

There were aspects of that bill, though, that we should not abandon. There were parts of it we have to return to. I think we need to return to enforcement so our borders are safer, so there are fewer undocumented immigrants crossing into the United States. I think we need enforcement in the workplace to make sure employers meet their responsibilities.

But there are several other parts of the bill which we cannot ignore either. Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California has been a leader on the issue of agricultural workers. In her bountiful State, the fruits and vegetables will, frankly, spoil in the fields if they do not bring in workers to pick them and harvest them. Americans are not lining up for these jobs. They are hard, dirty, sweaty, tough jobs. Immigrants will come and do it. They have done it before. She is trying to permit the ag workers, under the law, come and do this work. Otherwise, we are going to lose a lot of our agriculture in America.

There is another aspect of the law which is near and dear to me. Consider someone undocumented or illegal who comes to the United States and brings a child. It happens. That child may come at a very early age, maybe a baby in arms, or 1 or 2 years old, and that child will be raised in the United States, go through school, and reach a point in their life where they do not know any other place but America. They did not choose this country. Their parents chose it. They did not come here because of any thought about being illegal. They came here with their families.

What I tried to do several years ago was to write a law to take into consideration these young people. It is called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act was a part of this comprehensive immigration reform bill. Here is what it says: If you came to the United States before the age of 16, if you have lived in this country for at least 5 years, if you graduate from high school, and then if you will complete either 2 years of college or 2 years of service in the military, we will give you an opportunity for legal status in America.

I have met these kids—young men and women. What a waste it would be to turn them away. Currently, that is all our law can do—to say to them: If your parents were undocumented and illegal, you have no place in America. At a time when we are importing talent and labor from other places, why would we turn these young people away?

First, they beat the odds. Only half, for example, of undocumented kids graduate from high school. These kids have to graduate from high school to even have a chance to become legal.

Second, they are going to do more with their lives. That is why I wanted to raise the issue very briefly this morning.

On the floor of the Senate, when we return next week, we will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. It turns out that many in the Department of Defense believe, as I do, that the DREAM Act is an important part of making certain we have talented young men and women ready to serve in our military. I have spoken to people at the Department of Defense who support the idea of the DREAM Act. I think we ought to include it in the Defense authorization bill. I hope to have that opportunity.

For the tens of thousands of young people across America who want a chance to be part of America, to contribute to America, the DREAM Act is their opportunity. They have to work their way into it. They have to prove themselves or they will not have a chance.

The nice thing about this amendment is both sides of the aisle agree on it. We have strong bipartisan sponsorship of this amendment. Senator CHUCK HAGEL, Republican of Nebraska; and Senator DICK LUGAR, Republican of Indiana; are cosponsors. They agree with me that this is a good move forward and encourage Congress to consider it.

I hope when we return to the Defense authorization bill we can make the DREAM Act part of that bill. Certainly, it is going to help our defense and help our military. I think it is going to help America even beyond that.

Those young men and women, given a chance to serve in the military, will be

citizens of this country someday who will make an important contribution, as all of our veterans do. Those who choose to go to college are on a path to becoming tomorrow's doctors and nurses and researchers and businesspeople—the kind of energy every society needs and the kind of energy that has built this great country we have today.

Mr. President, as I said, I rise to speak about legislation known as the DREAM Act, which I hope to offer as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill.

The DREAM Act is a narrowly tailored, bipartisan measure that I have sponsored with Republican Senator CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska and Republican Senator DICK LUGAR of Indiana.

I want to thank the cosponsors of this amendment, all of whom are also cosponsors of the DREAM Act: Senators HAGEL, LUGAR, LEAHY, OBAMA, LIEBERMAN, FEINSTEIN, KERRY, FEINGOLD, CLINTON, BAYH, MENENDEZ, MURRAY, BOXER, and CANTWELL.

The DREAM Act would give a select group of undocumented students the chance to become permanent residents if they came to this country as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and enlist in the military or attend college for at least 2 years.

The DREAM Act is supported by a broad bipartisan coalition in the Senate, and by military leaders, religious leaders, and educators from across the political spectrum and around the country.

During the 109th Congress, the DREAM Act was adopted unanimously as an amendment to immigration reform legislation that passed the Senate. In the 108th Congress, the DREAM Act was the only immigration reform proposal reported to the Senate floor, on a bipartisan 16-to-3 vote in the Judiciary Committee.

And the DREAM Act was included in the immigration bill that was considered on the Senate floor last month.

Some people might ask why the Senate should revisit immigration again and whether an immigration amendment should be included in the Defense authorization bill. The answer is simple: The DREAM Act would address a very serious recruitment crisis that faces our military.

Under the DREAM Act, tens of thousands of well-qualified potential recruits would become eligible for military service for the first time. They are eager to serve in the Armed Forces during a time of war. And under the DREAM Act they would have a very strong incentive to enlist because it would give them a path to permanent legal status.

Let me begin by explaining the recruitment crisis that faces the Defense Department today.

Largely due to the war in Iraq, the Army is struggling to meet its recruitment quotas.

Just yesterday, the Army announced that it had missed its recruiting goal for June. The Army fell more than 1,000 recruits short of its monthly quota of 8,400. And this is the second straight month that the Army has missed its recruitment target.

Because of these recruitment difficulties, the Army is accepting more applicants who are high school dropouts, have low scores on the military's aptitude test, and have criminal backgrounds.

The statistics speak volumes. In 2006, almost 40 percent of Army recruits had below average scores on the military aptitude test. That is the highest rate since 1985.

In 2006, almost 20 percent of Army recruits did not have a high school degree. This is the highest rate of high school dropouts enlisting in the Army since 1981. By comparison, from 1984 to 2004, 90 percent or more of Army recruits had high school diplomas.

Why does this matter? The Army says high school graduation ''is the best single predictor of stick-to-itiveness'' that is required to succeed in the military.

And Charles Moskos, a Northwestern University sociologist who is an expert in military culture, said ''the more dropouts [who enlist], the more discipline problems'' the Army is likely to have.

Even more disturbing, the number of so-called moral waivers for Army recruits who have committed crimes has increased by 65 percent in the last 3 years, from 4,918 in 2003 to 8,129 in 2006. Many of these waivers are for serious crimes such as aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, and vehicular homicide.

In fact, individuals with criminal backgrounds were 11.7 percent of the 2006 recruiting class.

In contrast, under the DREAM Act, all recruits would be well-qualified high school graduates with good moral character.

Let me explain in more detail how the DREAM Act would work.

Currently, our immigration laws prevent thousands of young people from pursuing their dreams and fully contributing to our Nation's future. Their parents brought them to the United States when they were children. For many, this is the only home they know. They are fully assimilated into American society and they want nothing more than to be Americans.

They have beaten the odds in their young lives. The high school dropout rate among undocumented immigrants is 50 percent compared to 21 percent for legal immigrants and 11 percent for native-born Americans.

These children have demonstrated the kind of determination and commitment that makes them successful students and points the way to the significant contributions they will make in their lives. They are junior ROTC leaders, honor roll students, and valedictorians. They are tomorrow's soldiers, doctors, nurses, teachers, and Senators.

Over the years, I have met many of these DREAM Act kids, as they call themselves. Let me give you one example. Oscar Vasquez was brought to Phoenix, AZ, by his parents when he was 12.

Oscar is a born leader and was naturally drawn to the military. He spent his high school years in Junior ROTC, and dreamed of enlisting in the military. At the end of his junior year a recruiting officer told Oscar that he was ineligible for military service because he was undocumented.

Oscar was devastated, but he found another outlet for his talent. Two energetic science teachers had enrolled Oscar's high school in the college division of a robot competition sponsored by NASA.

Oscar and three other undocumented students worked for months in a windowless storage room in their high school, and tested their invention at a scuba training pool on the weekends. Competing against students from MIT and other top universities, Oscar's team won first place in the robot competition.

Oscar has since graduated. He hangs sheetrock for a living; it is the best job he could get without a college education or the opportunity to enlist in the military. He hopes to save his money and study engineering at Arizona State University some day.

Couldn't America use Oscar's talent? Couldn't our military use someone like Oscar?

The DREAM Act would help students like Oscar. It is not an amnesty. It is designed to assist only a select group of young people who would be required to earn their way to legal status.

The fundamental premise of the DREAM Act is that we should not punish children for mistakes that their parents made. That is not the American way.

The DREAM Act says to these students: America will give you a chance. We will give you the opportunity to earn your way to legal status if you meet the following requirements: came to the United States when you were 15 or younger; have lived here for at least 5 years; have good moral character; graduate from high school; and serve in the military or attend college for at least 2 years.

The DREAM Act doesn't mandate military service. A student who is otherwise eligible could earn legal status by attending college. It would be inconsistent with the spirit our volunteer military to force young people to enlist as a condition for obtaining legal status.

But the DREAM Act creates a strong incentive for military service. And many DREAM Act kids come from a demographic group that is already predisposed towards military service. A 2004 survey by the Rand Corporation found that 45 percent of Hispanic males and 31 percent of Hispanic females between ages 16 and 21 were very likely to serve in the Armed Forces, compared to 24 percent of White men and 10 percent of White women.

It is important to note that immigrants have an outstanding tradition of service in the military. There are currently 35,000 noncitizens serving in the military, and about 8,000 more enlist each year.

A recent study by the Center for Naval Analyses concluded:

> Non-citizens have high rates of success while serving [in the military]—they are far more likely, for example, to fulfill their enlistment obligations than their U.S.-born counterparts.

The study also concluded that there are additional benefits to enlisting noncitizens. For example, noncitizens ''are more diverse than citizen recruits—not just racially and ethnically, but also linguistically and culturally. This diversity is particularly valuable as the United States faces the challenges of the Global War on Terrorism.''

The DREAM Act is not just the right thing to do; it would be good for America. The DREAM Act would allow a generation of immigrant students with great potential and ambitions to contribute to the military and other sectors of American society.

The Pentagon recognizes that. We have worked closely with them on the DREAM Act.

Bill Carr, the Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy, recently said that the DREAM Act is ''very appealing'' to the military because it would apply to the ''cream of the crop'' of students. Mr. Carr concluded that the DREAM Act would be ''good for [military] readiness.''

And last year, at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the contributions of immigrants to the military, David Chu, the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, testified as follows:

> There are an estimated 50,000 to 65,000 undocumented alien young adults who entered the U.S. at an early age and graduate from high school each year, many of whom are bright, energetic and potentially interested in military service. They include many who have participated in high school Junior ROTC programs. Under current law, these young people are not eligible to enlist in the military. . . . Yet many of these young people may wish to join the military, and have the attributes needed—education, aptitude, fitness, and moral qualifications. . . . the DREAM Act would provide these young people the opportunity of serving the United States in uniform.

Military experts agree. Margaret Stock, a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, said:

> Passage of the DREAM Act would be highly beneficial to the United States military. The DREAM Act promises to enlarge dramatically the pool of highly qualified recruits for the U.S. Armed Forces. . . . passage of this bill could well solve the Armed Forces' enlisted recruiting woes.

Conservative military scholar Max Boot agrees. When asked about the DREAM Act, he said:

> It's a substantial pool of people and I think it's crazy we are not tapping into it.

These experts are right. DREAM Act kids are ideal recruits: they are high school graduates, they have good moral character, and they desperately want to serve this country. At the time when the military has been forced to lower its standards due to recruitment shortfalls, we should not underestimate the significance of these young people as a national security asset.

This is the choice the DREAM Act presents to us. We can allow a generation of immigrant students with great potential and ambitions to contribute more fully to our society and national security, or we can relegate them to a future in the shadows, which would be a loss for all Americans.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to consider the DREAM Act as an amendment to this Defense authorization bill as part of our national security. We will have a chance to debate it in its entirety, and I will return to it when we come back to this bill next week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to speak for a while on the pending business before the Senate this past week and next week, which is the Defense authorization bill.

Now, constituents, people who have been watching the proceedings of the Senate for the last week, might be a little confused because if they know a little bit about how the Senate has historically done its business, they know the Defense authorization bill is the bill we adopt each year to set the policies and the spending priorities for the Defense Department to ensure our national security will remain strong for the next year.

However, this year, instead of talking about the acquisition of equipment we need, the new aegis cruisers we are going to be sending around the world—deploying to ensure we have a missile defense that is not only on land but on the seas—instead of talking about the space test bed—a research project that enables us, among other things, to find out how to deal with antisatellite weapons that the Chinese, for example, might use to destroy our satellites—or instead of talking about the need to increase the number of our military—primarily, our soldiers and marines—by about 90,000, so we have a more robust military to have boots on the ground anywhere in the world—instead of debating these various issues about our military posture, we have spent almost the entire week focused on what, the argument about the Iraq war.

Now, it is perfectly appropriate to debate issues relative to the war against terrorists. Certainly, the main battlefield in that war against terrorists today is Iraq. But it seems to me our focus is a little off when, instead of looking at the things we could do to make the United States more secure—by focusing on this Defense authorization bill and the specific elements of it—we are, instead, focusing on arguments about how quickly to withdraw from Iraq.

We have in place a new strategy in Iraq. At the end of last year, after the election, when Secretary Rumsfeld left his position as Secretary of Defense, the President said: All right, I believe we have not had a successful strategy, and we are going to have a new strategy.

That strategy was announced in January, sometimes called the surge. But what it involved was a combination of involving Iraqis more in the defense and securing of their country and the application of a very focused U.S. force of increased strength in specific areas of the country, not just to take those areas but to hold them once they were taken.

In the past, we would move into an area, we would clear it of the enemy, and then, after a few days, we would leave. What happened? The enemy would filter right back into the same areas, sometimes establishing an even stronger presence than they had before.

That, obviously, did not work, and the President realized it. Everybody in the country said: The election results show you need to have a new strategy. So the President, working with the Iraqis, working with General Petraeus—David Petraeus was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to go over and develop and execute a new strategy. Working with them, the President devised this new strategy of taking and holding the key areas of Iraq so peace and stability could be brought to that war-torn country. The opportunity for the Government then to grab hold of the situation and do the things it needs to do would be given full effect.

That strategy counted on five new brigades of U.S. forces, consisting of over 25,000 on-the-ground servicemen, going in to join with about twice as many Iraqi Army and police units to effectuate this strategy of clearing and holding and maintaining control that I mentioned before.

That strategy, finally, about 2 weeks ago, has been put in full force, with the arrival of the last of the five brigades. They have gone into both Anbar Province, which is almost a third of the country of Iraq, largely controlled by—it is called a Sunni area, and largely controlled by tribal leaders—and into Baghdad, which is, obviously, the primary population center of the country, where a lot of the previous Shiite and Sunni conflict was occurring.

What have we seen in the debate over the Defense authorization bill? We have seen attempt after attempt after attempt from the other side of the aisle to declare the war lost, the strategy a failure, and, therefore, a commitment by the Senate to direct the President to begin bringing the troops home.

Next Tuesday—I believe it is Tuesday—we will actually vote on an

amendment that has as its specific directive a mandate that we begin bringing the troops home within a very specific time—I believe it is 120 days now—and that withdrawal be complete within roughly a year—again, I have forgotten the exact date—clearly, predicated on the notion that we have either lost or cannot win, that there is no point in allowing this new strategy to play out to see whether it can succeed, and to tell the entire world we are leaving Iraq.

Now, they put a little pink ribbon around it and said: Oh, we will leave some forces over the horizon so we can ride to the rescue if anything bad happens—as if there is not a clear common understanding that a lot bad will, of course, happen or the need to maintain some presence to help train Iraqi troops.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article by Stephen Biddle dated July 11 that was carried in the Washington Post.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From washingtonpost.com, July 11, 2007]

IRAQ: GO DEEP OR GET OUT

(By Stephen Biddle)

The president's shaky political consensus for the surge in Iraq is in danger of collapsing after the recent defections of prominent Senate Republicans such as Richard Lugar (Ind.), Pete Domenici (N.M.) and George Voinovich (Ohio). But this growing opposition to the surge has not yet translated into support for outright withdrawal—few lawmakers are comfortable with abandoning Iraq or admitting defeat. The result has been a search for some kind of politically moderate ''Plan B'' that would split the difference between surge and withdrawal.

The problem is that these politics do not fit the military reality of Iraq. Many would like to reduce the U.S. commitment to something like half of today's troop presence there. But it is much harder to find a mission for the remaining 60,000 to 80,000 soldiers that makes any sense militarily.

Perhaps the most popular centrist option today is drawn from the Baker-Hamilton commission recommendations of last December. This would withdraw U.S. combat brigades, shift the American mission to one of training and supporting the Iraqi security forces, and cut total U.S. troop levels in the country by about half. This idea is at the heart of the proposed legislative effort that Domenici threw his support behind last week, and support is growing on both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill.

The politics make sense, but the compromise leaves us with an untenable military mission. Without a major U.S. combat effort to keep the violence down, the American training effort would face challenges even bigger than those our troops are confronting today. An ineffective training effort would leave tens of thousands of American trainers, advisers and supporting troops exposed to that violence in the meantime. The net result is likely to be continued U.S. casualties with little positive effect on Iraq's ongoing civil war.

The American combat presence in Iraq is insufficient to end the violence but does cap its intensity. If we draw down that combat presence, violence will rise accordingly. To be effective, embedded trainers and advisers must live and operate with the Iraqi soldiers they mentor—they are not lecturers sequestered in some safe classroom. The greater the violence, the riskier their jobs and the heavier their losses.

That violence reduces their ability to succeed as trainers. There are many barriers to an effective Iraqi security force. But the toughest is sectarian factionalism. Iraq is in the midst of a civil war in which all Iraqis are increasingly forced to take sides for their own survival. Iraq's security forces are necessarily drawn from the same populations that are being pulled apart into factions. No military can be hermetically sealed off from its society—the more severe the sectarian violence, the deeper the divisions in Iraqi society become and the harder it is for Americans to create the kind of disinterested nationalist security force that could stabilize Iraq. Under the best conditions, it is unrealistic to expect a satisfactory Iraqi security force anytime soon, and the more severe the violence, the worse the prospects.

The result is a vicious cycle. The more we shift out of combat missions and into training, the harder we make the trainers' job and the more exposed they become. It is unrealistic to expect that we can pull back to some safe yet productive mission of training but not fighting—this would be neither safe nor productive.

If the surge is unacceptable, the better option is to cut our losses and withdraw altogether. In fact, the substantive case for either extreme—surge or outright withdrawal—is stronger than for any policy between. The surge is a long-shot gamble. But middle-ground options leave us with the worst of both worlds: continuing casualties but even less chance of stability in exchange. Moderation and centrism are normally the right instincts in American politics, and many lawmakers in both parties desperately want to find a workable middle ground on Iraq. But while the politics are right, the military logic is not.

Mr. KYL. The reason I want to put this article in the RECORD is that it very clearly points out the problem with the strategy of many of the Democrats that I have just outlined, including the notion that somehow you could reduce our forces by perhaps half or more and still achieve this goal of defeating al-Qaida and training up the Iraqi units.

One of Biddle's key points is that the only way you can successfully train up these Iraqi units is having relative stability in the country, that if you have an out-of-control war going on, you have to be fighting that war, and it is very difficult to at the same time be training up these forces. The best way to train the Iraqi military is to work in conjunction with U.S. units, as General Petraeus has devised, go into an area, clear it, and then leave primarily Iraqi units behind to continue to maintain control in the area. But if you have constant fighting and you haven't been able to clear or hold the area, those Iraqi troops never have that opportunity or the experience of holding the area.

So, as Mr. Biddle points out, you can't have it both ways. This compromise may satisfy some political requirements back home, but it is totally unworkable in the place where it matters, and that is in Iraq. You can't withdraw half or more of the troops quickly and have any chance of success in maintaining peace and stability and in helping to train up the Iraqi forces.

So why are people in the Senate focused on bringing the troops home or otherwise micromanaging the way the President deploys the units to achieve the mission's objectives? Well, it is either one of two things. Now, from outside this body, I know there are a lot of people who have a motive of trying to make the President look bad and undercutting his authority and undermining the strategy he is following, I gather both for partisan reasons and because they just don't think it can work. But within the body, here in the Chamber, I know my colleagues do not want any American life to have been lost in vain and that they treasure every life that has been put on the line. That is why it is troublesome to me to have to defeat amendments which have as their core point undercutting the President's authority, micromanaging the war from the Congress, and specifically calling for early withdrawal, and by early I mean before the surge has even had an opportunity to play out.

In that regard, I would like to place in the RECORD a piece that was carried this morning in the Washington Post by Charles Krauthammer, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From washingtonpost.com, Jul. 13, 2007]

DESERTING PETRAEUS

(By Charles Krauthammer)

''The key to turning [Anbar] around was the shift in allegiance by tribal sheiks. But the sheiks turned only after a prolonged offensive by American and Iraqi forces, starting in November, that put al-Qaeda groups on the run.''—The New York Times, July 8.

Finally, after four terribly long years, we know what works. Or what can work. A year ago, a confidential Marine intelligence report declared Anbar province (which comprises about a third of Iraq's territory) lost to al-Qaeda. Now, in what the Times's John Burns calls an ''astonishing success,'' the tribal sheiks have joined our side and committed large numbers of fighters that, in concert with American and Iraqi forces, have largely driven out al-Qaeda and turned its former stronghold of Ramadi into one of the most secure cities in Iraq.

It began with a U.S.-led offensive that killed or wounded more than 200 enemy fighters and captured 600. Most important was the follow-up. Not a retreat back to American bases but the setting up of small posts within the population that, together with the Iraqi national and tribal forces, have brought relative stability to Anbar.

The same has started happening in many of the Sunni areas around Baghdad, including Diyala province—just a year ago considered as lost as Anbar—where, for example, the Sunni insurgent 1920 Revolution Brigades has turned against al-Qaeda and joined the fight on the side of U.S. and Iraqi government forces.

We don't yet know if this strategy will work in mixed Sunni-Shiite neighborhoods. Nor can we be certain that this cooperation between essentially Sunni tribal forces and an essentially Shiite central government can endure. But what cannot be said—although it is now heard daily in Washington—is that

the surge, which is shorthand for Gen. David Petraeus's new counterinsurgency strategy, has failed. The tragedy is that, just as a working strategy has been found, some Republicans in the Senate have lost heart and want to pull the plug.

It is understandable that Sens. LUGAR, VOINOVICH, DOMENICI, SNOWE and WARNER may no longer trust President Bush's judgment when he tells them to wait until Petraeus reports in September. What is not understandable is the vote of no confidence they are passing on Petraeus. These are the same senators who sent him back to Iraq by an 81 to 0 vote to institute his new counterinsurgency strategy.

A month ago, Petraeus was asked whether we could still win in Iraq. The general, who had recently attended two memorial services for soldiers lost under his command, replied that if he thought he could not succeed he would not be risking the life of a single soldier.

Just this week, Petraeus said that the one thing he needs more than anything else is time. To cut off Petraeus's plan just as it is beginning—the last surge troops arrived only last month—on the assumption that we cannot succeed is to declare Petraeus either deluded or dishonorable. Deluded in that, as the best-positioned American in Baghdad, he still believes we can succeed. Or dishonorable in pretending to believe in victory and sending soldiers to die in what he really knows is an already failed strategy.

That's the logic of the wobbly Republicans' position. But rather than lay it on Petraeus, they prefer to lay it on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and point out his government's inability to meet the required political ''benchmarks.'' As a longtime critic of the Maliki government, I agree that it has proved itself incapable of passing laws important for long-term national reconciliation.

But first comes the short term. And right now we have the chance to continue to isolate al-Qaeda and, province by province, deny it the Sunni sea in which it swims. A year ago, it appeared that the only way to win back the Sunnis and neutralize the extremists was with great national compacts about oil and power sharing. But Anbar has unexpectedly shown that even without these constitutional settlements, the insurgency can be neutralized and al-Qaeda defeated at the local and provincial levels with a new and robust counterinsurgency strategy.

The costs are heartbreakingly high—increased American casualties as the enemy is engaged and spectacular suicide bombings designed to terrify Iraqis and demoralize Americans. But the stakes are extremely high as well.

In the long run, agreements on oil, federalism and de-Baathification are crucial for stabilizing Iraq. But their absence at this moment is not a reason to give up in despair, now that we finally have a counterinsurgency strategy in place that is showing success against the one enemy—al-Qaeda—that both critics and supporters of the war maintain must be fought everywhere and at all cost.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, what Charles Krauthammer, who is a very knowledgeable analyst and writer on this subject, has said is that the Petraeus plan has the makings of a successful strategy, it has already begun to show some positive results, and that it would be folly to declare it a failure before it even has a chance to play out.

Everybody knows General Petraeus is going to report back to the Congress and to the President in September of this year, and he will be accompanied by Ambassador Crocker, our Ambassador to Iraq, who will give us a report on the status of the situation. Now, it has never been contemplated that that is the end of the matter by any stretch of the imagination since it will have only been a few months since the strategy will have been in place, but at least he can give us an idea of how it is working. Why anybody would want to set a different course now, before he gives that report, is beyond me and certainly beyond Charles Krauthammer.

Krauthammer points out that this new strategy has already begun to show success. For example, in the Anbar Province, which was an area that was almost exclusively controlled by al-Qaida—let me digress for just a moment to make this point. We heard discussions several months ago about a civil war in Iraq. It is true, there were elements of Sunni and Shiite Iraqis who were fighting each other, and some were calling that a civil war. But two things are important to know about that.

The first is that much of that fighting was instigated by al-Qaida. Al-Qaida had come into the Sunni areas and had a declared intention to start a fight between the Shiites and the Sunnis. When the fight didn't materialize, al-Qaida went to Samarra, a holy place for Shiites, and blew up one of their most revered shrines, the Golden Mosque. In fact, it has been twice attacked, thus, in effect, poking the nose of the bear to the point that the bear had to react, and the Shiites did react. They said: If the Iraqi Army cannot protect our holy sites, by golly, we will—or whatever the Iraqi phrase is—and they created militias that began attacking Sunnis, and we did have a lot of Shiite on Sunni and vice versa violence. But the first point is it was largely instigated by al-Qaida, who knew precisely what it was doing and had a declared strategy to begin that fight. We have the intelligence to demonstrate that.

The second point is that al-Qaida, since that violence has to some extent now subsided because of the surge—we have gone into these Shiite neighborhoods, for example, and we have persuaded the Shiite leadership to stop the militias from acting, stop the violence, and calm the neighborhoods down so that life can return to normal, and in at least half of Baghdad that has now been what is occurring.

In the Sunni areas, we went to the tribal leaders there and said: Look, al-Qaida is causing you more problems than it is solving. Eventually, these tribal leaders came back to our troops and to the Iraqi leadership and said: You are right. We have now seen what life under al-Qaida would be like as a Taliban kind of rule, where they don't let us do anything; they impose this very harsh penalty on anybody who isn't conforming to their way of life.

Most of the al-Qaida are coming into Iraq from other countries. They are foreigners to the Iraqis, and many of these tribal sheiks, almost all of them in the Anbar Province, said: We are tired of dealing with these al-Qaida terrorists, and we want to join you in fighting them. By the hundreds and thousands, young Iraqis began joining the police and army to fight al-Qaida. And Anbar Province now, as Charles Krauthammer details in his article and as our intelligence has also made very clear, has become one of the strongest anti-al-Qaida areas in the country. It has largely been pacified. It is a good example of how this new strategy can work.

What Krauthammer says is: We don't know yet if this same strategy will work in the next Sunni-Shiite areas, but we can see how it has worked and how it could work if we allow time for the Petraeus plan to play out. He points out that a month ago, Petraeus was asked whether we could still win in Iraq. I am going to quote here:

> The General, who had recently attended two memorial services for soldiers lost under his command, replied that if he thought he could not succeed, he would not be risking the life of a single soldier.

That is a very important concept for us to remember back here because when people talk about supporting the troops, it seems to me the first type of support we should be providing is the moral support for these soldiers, to support their mission, not only to provide everything they need in terms of material support and training but to assure them they are not risking their lives in vain, that we will continue to support the mission we have sent them on that they think they can win and believe they are winning. The worst thing we could do is to have expressions here in the Senate that we think they have lost or that they can't win, and therefore we want to begin declaring defeat and leaving the battlefield. At that point, as it was back in Vietnam, it becomes a question of who is the last man out and who is the last person to risk death, for what? For a timetable? That cannot be why we send young men and women into combat, into harm's way.

For those who believe it is already lost or that it is a failure and that we cannot succeed, I say to them, you have an obligation, then, to try to bring them home immediately because not 1 more day should pass for people to risk life for nothing more than a timetable. I don't happen to believe that. General Petraeus doesn't happen to believe that. I believe we can allow the Petraeus plan to have the time it needs to show that it can succeed, not just in Anbar Province but in other places in Iraq as well.

Let me quote another couple of sentences from Krauthammer's article:

> Just this week Petraeus said that the one thing he needs more than anything else is time. To cut off Petraeus's plan just as it is beginning—

Krauthammer says—

the last surge troops arrived only last month—on the assumption that we cannot succeed is to declare Petraeus either deluded or dishonorable.

Well, he is clearly not deluded or dishonorable.

I regret that some of my colleagues believe the only way to resolve the situation in Iraq is to begin leaving now. That would be a strategy for failure.

I ask my colleagues this: We have in this body made pronouncements that we need to help people in places such as Darfur where there is genocide occurring, and we have always tried to help people, whether it be in Kosovo or Afghanistan or—and incidentally, isn't it interesting that in two of those places, we are talking about largely Muslim countries, and in places such as Somalia, also a predominance of Muslims—we cannot as a nation ignore what would happen in Iraq were we to leave prematurely. Almost all of the intelligence in the Baker-Hamilton report which is cited by many of my colleagues confirms this as well, acknowledges that if we leave Iraq before the Iraqis can maintain peace and stability, the kind of genocide and killing and terrorism that would ensue would be almost incalculable. Thousands, if not hundreds of thousands and more, would die. Many believe that blood would be on our hands if we are the ones who walk out before they have the ability to prevent that kind of violence.

Al-Qaida clearly is the primary enemy now. As I talked about before, the largely Shiite-Sunni violence has subsided to a significant degree, and most of what is occurring against our forces and against other Iraqis today is being perpetrated by al-Qaida—Al-Qaida in Iraq. If we leave and al-Qaida in Iraq is allowed basically a free hand, most predict that it will have created a situation where, like it did in Afghanistan, al-Qaida will have the ability to train, to plan attacks, and to have refuge from any kind of action to stop them from doing so. They would also have access to the oil wealth of the country of Iraq and to the other resources of the country. To the extent that anybody in Iraq has tried to be a friend of the United States or cooperate with the Iraqi Government—all of those people, remember, with the purple thumbs—would be targeted by the thugs and terrorists who would reign in Iraq. They would undoubtedly be executed.

Think of Saddam Hussein's regime. Think back when the North Vietnamese came sweeping into South Vietnam and all of the boat people fled and those who didn't get away were sent to the ''reeducation camps'' or killed. Think of Cambodia, when we left there with 3 million Cambodians killed.

Were we to leave Iraq, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people will die—largely innocent people. That blood will be on our hands.

Mr. President, that is not the worst of it. The U.S. security will have been significantly jeopardized because we will have ceded the central battle in the war against the terrorists to the terrorists. We will have been defeated by the terrorists, much more than their sneak attack on September 11 defeated us. It killed 3,000 Americans. It was, like Pearl Harbor, the attack that awoke the ''sleeping giant'' to finally recognize that after having been attacked, I believe, six times previously by al-Qaida, we finally realized we are in a war with those people. Whether we want to fight or not, they are going to attack us, and we better fight back.

We began to do that. I fear that there is a tiredness beginning to seep into some around the world—and even among some Americans—in fighting this enemy that is very elusive and generally doesn't fight us on the battlefield but, rather, waits and waits and, as soon as we relax, engages in a sneak attack. They have tried to do it against our allies. They have done it in Great Britain and in Spain, for example. Other activities have been thwarted. We have been fortunate because our homeland security has thwarted those attacks here at home.

We are not always going to have a battlefield on which to confront them. What confuses me is the argument of some of my colleagues that we should cede the one place where they have directly confronted us on the battlefield in Iraq—cede that battle to the enemy by prematurely withdrawing our troops and somehow reconfiguring our effort to fight them in a different way at a different place. The argument that, if we leave Iraq, we can focus on them in Afghanistan is a false choice. We are fighting them in both places. If we need more elements of support in Afghanistan, then we should send them there. That is supposed to be a NATO exercise, and a lot of our NATO friends could be doing more there to help us. I think we could use more help there.

It is a false argument to say we should not fight them in both places, when the enemy has finally come out onto the battlefield and is confronting us in the one area where we can defeat them with the U.S. military. Nobody can beat our military, the best military in the world and that has ever existed. Al-Qaida is no match for our military. When they are willing to basically come out of their holes and confront us in Iraq, for us not to directly attack, kill, or capture as many of them as possible would be the ultimate in negligence and fecklessness in fighting the war against terrorists. They are the terrorists; they are there. We are able to kill them there. Why we would not engage the enemy in the place where there are the most of them is beyond me.

Now, what that means is that we are putting our young men and women in harm's way. They have volunteered for this mission in which they believe deeply because they have looked into the eye of the enemy and have seen the evil that is there, and they have been willing to lay their lives on the line. Given that fact, and given the fact that we have a brilliant commander with a strategy that appears to be working, why would the United States Congress pull the rug out from under the operation of General Petraeus and our troops when they have their hands around the neck of the enemy and can deal a very severe blow to this evil enemy? That is beyond my comprehension. It takes nothing from the argument that we should be engaged in intelligence operations around the world, that we should be trying our best to get Osama bin Laden, and their argument suggests that somehow we are not. That denigrates the efforts of our special forces and others who, believe me, are trying their very best to get this guy and the other leadership of al-Qaida. But to somehow suggest that we should leave Iraq because the enemy exists in other places is not only totally illogical but, as I said, would be a very feckless approach in trying to win this war against the terrorists.

Another thing that bothers me relates directly to the bill we are debating. We are going to see it next week, and we saw it this morning. It is the notion that has begun to creep into the discussion that maybe this is not really a war at all. One of the candidates for President called this just a bumper sticker. Well, their effort to make this a criminal enterprise—in other words, to criminalize the war rather than treat it as the war that it is—is very troublesome to me.

This morning, we had an amendment that was drafted to provide that instead of a $25 million reward to get Osama bin Laden, it upped it to $50 million for the capture or information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden.

Mr. President, I was not aware there was a limit on time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a 10-minute time limit on morning business.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 more minutes.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, how much time is left in total?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is a 10-minute limitation on each speaker, and if it is not objected to, the Senator may continue to speak.

Mr. KYL. I wasn't aware that Senator BROWNBACK was here. I ask unanimous consent to speak for another 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, this amendment was drafted to provide money for the capture or information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden. Senator SUNUNU and others looked at that and said: Wait a minute, this is a war. It may well occur that we cannot just capture him, he may have to be killed. So we added the words ''or death'' to

the amendment by a second-degree amendment. That was adopted this morning.

Next week, we are going to get right back to the argument about criminalization versus war. There is in the bill—and we are going to have to strike the language with an amendment—language that requires us to send lawyers over to Iraq and Afghanistan to represent these terrorists we capture on the battlefield. We would have to give them legal representation in theater, and we would have to show them classified information that may be used in their prosecution or continued detention.

Mr. President, I have said that is nuts. I hate to use that kind of a phrase on the Senate floor, but I don't think it represents good policy. We are going to have to strike that language from the bill. That is criminalization of the war. This is a war against evil people who will kill us if they can. The sooner we recognize that fact and deal with them, the sooner we will defeat the enemy, and the enemy will no longer represent a threat to us. We cannot assume they don't really mean it. We cannot assume we can negotiate with them. We cannot treat them as if they are defendants in an American criminal trial. They are evil terrorists who deserve to be dealt with on the battlefield, as we have dealt with, historically, all of our enemies.

So I hope that next week we can turn from some of the amendments that have been used here to primarily undercut the strategy in dealing with the Iraq war and debate some key provisions of the Defense authorization bill, which do need our attention—I have a couple of amendments I hope we can deal with—and that we can also strike from the bill the provision that would allow a new theory of criminal law to intrude into the battlefield to deal with the POWs or detainees there as if they are criminal defendants in an American court rather than the POWs or enemy detainees that, in fact, they are.

I hope at the conclusion of the debate next week we will have continued to defeat these amendments that undercut our efforts in Iraq, continued to support the mission of the troops, and thereby the troops, and strengthened the Defense authorization bill so that for the next year we will have a bill that strongly supports the troops and provides for the national security of the United States of America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I want to make a few comments. I appreciate the Chair staying here and facilitating this and allowing us to speak about a very important issue—the key issue of our time—the war in Iraq and what is taking place there.

I want to focus my brief comments on what we need to do on a political solution. I think we are caught up with the idea that we need to be on a military solution. A military solution is not going to ultimately solve the situation in Iraq. You have to have a political, durable solution. Unless we are willing to sit there for an indefinite number of years with troops engaged in a very active military setting, we have to get a political, durable situation in Iraq and on the ground if we are going to be realistic about what we are going to do.

I have worked with Senator BIDEN on this proposal. I will talk about a resolution that we have worked together on for a political solution. He chairs the Foreign Relations Committee. I have been on that committee for a number of years. I think we have to realize the population we are dealing with. The situation is not dissimilar, in some respects, to when we saw what took place in the former Yugoslavia. We had a number of different populations where history had washed over that place with different waves of different individuals' thoughts and philosophies. After Tito leaves and you take off this big military apparatus and intelligence apparatus that was willing to kill people to enforce power, you are left with sectarian groups that don't get along. Now Yugoslav has six countries in two autonomous regions after hundreds of thousands of people were killed and multiple sets of civil wars that took place. I think that is instructive from the standpoint of that is what takes place when you take a big military apparatus off of areas where you have nonuniform or a homogenous region. We are seeing this in Sudan. You have in Sudan a north dominated by Arab and Muslim and a south that is Black and Christian, by and large. They don't get along. There were 2 million killed in the south. The south is going to secede. You have genocide in Darfur by this government—a militant Islamic regime in Khartoum. The world is growing in awareness of what is taking place in Darfur.

I think we have to recognize the situation in Iraq and that you have several different populations. The Kurdish population is separate and distinct and operating in its own area and doing a nice job. There is growth taking place there—not everyplace, but it is doing pretty well. You have a mixed Sunni and Shia population in the rest of the country—dominant Sunni in some areas and dominant Shia in others, and Baghdad is a mixed federal city. I think we have to look at that situation and recognize the mixture and the combustibility of that mixture and get to a more durable political solution.

You are seeing now an ongoing migration of Iraqis inside their own country, which I think suggests Iraq will eventually do what would be called a soft partition. That is the logical thing that would take place, and it is taking place today. There is an outcome of many historical precedents—most notably in Bosnia in the 1990s. Senator BIDEN and I introduced a resolution calling on Iraqis to reach an agreement that would formalize a federal system in Iraq consistent with their Constitution that would allow for Kurds, Sunnis, and Shia to manage their own affairs, with Baghdad remaining a federal capital city.

It is increasingly clear to me that we should start taking interim steps now to facilitate a three-state, one-country solution in Iraq. We should begin by acknowledging that many Iraqis whose lives are threatened because of their sectarian affiliation are on the move. More Iraqis are facing sectarian violence and are considering moving. As tragic as these movements seem now, they are preferable to the mass migration that would occur if Iraq were to implode.

There are steps we can take now to ease the process of internal migration. We can start by authorizing our commanders on the ground to help families who express a desire to relocate to areas where they would join a sectarian majority. Relocating families will require secure passage to safer areas and reliance probably on economic assistance to reestablish them. Those who wish to relocate should be assisted in this fashion.

I don't expect that the Iraqi people will create three completely homogeneous regions. In fact, the level of Sunni and Shia marriage would preclude such an outcome. We should be attentive to those who believe security is enhanced by moving out of mixed neighborhoods, where they do not face the danger of sectarian violence.

Indeed, there was reporting of people swapping houses who were Sunni in a dominant Shia area, and Shia in a dominant Sunni area, so they would feel more secure after one of their families had been killed or kidnapped. I think that makes sense. As populations continue to move, we also need to take steps to avert other aspects of an implosion. We need to ensure that the Kurdish region, which has been a bedrock of stability to this point, remains a stable area. Turkey is rightly concerned about the threat of terrorism coming from across the Iraqi border. We need to reassure them, and we should bolster counterterrorism capabilities of Iraqi forces deployed in that region—much as we have done in Georgia and in other nations where terrorists tried to establish a safe haven and destabilize their region. Our military strategy certainly depends on a stable Kurdish region. Our political vision of Iraq also requires the Kurdish area to remain strong, and I hope we can move quickly to address terrorism issues there.

There are other steps we should take to prepare Iraq for a federal political settlement. We must take additional steps to secure the Iraq-Iranian border, which would be of great benefit to the troops executing the surge, as well as mitigate any attempt Iran might make or thinks that it has to exploit a future three-state, federal version of Iraq.

Last, we should place new emphasis on local and provincial elections in Iraq.

I raise these issues because I do not believe we can precipitously pull out of Iraq, nor should we. But I think we have to recognize the situation on the ground for what it is and facilitate it before we see more mass sectarian violence taking place. We can do this and, in a civil fashion, save lives. That is what this is about. It is about saving lives.

We have seen this play before. We have seen it recently in Yugoslavia. We are seeing it today in Sudan. Why can't we see this and say we are going to save lives by facilitating this rather than creating a combustible situation that blows up on us later. This is consistent with the Iraqi Constitution. It is a more robust political solution which matches our need militarily on the ground.

I finally, say, Mr. President, I have traveled the country a lot. I hear a number of people out there. They don't want to lose in Iraq, but they don't see us on a track to win. What they are after is us coming together here to provide that solution of how we can win. What I am talking about is a political solution that is as aggressive as our military solution. The military gives us space for the political side to act. But we have to get it moving, and that is a situation where we can win and we can go to the American people and say we are on track to win and be able to pull our forces from the frontlines and reduce the death loss we are experiencing as a country, that my State is experiencing, that the Big Red One stationed at Fort Riley, KS, is experiencing.

We can do this. We need to show some foresight and bipartisanship to get it done. That is why I call, along with my colleague, Senator BIDEN, for this proposal, and I urge other colleagues to join us as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1585

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator LUGAR, I send to the desk an amendment to H.R. 1585.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is considered submitted.

EFFORTS TO STALL PROGRESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to outline some of the legislative activities of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Some would rather pick fights about controversial judicial nominees. The disappointing decisions from this year's Supreme Court term remind us that this President has been quite successful in moving the Federal courts to the right. This President has not only appointed two members of the Supreme Court but has also already appointed almost one-third of the 871-member Federal judiciary. When the appointments of his father and other Republican Presidents are considered, more than two-thirds of all current Federal judges were appointed by Republican Presidents.

Of course, the Judiciary Committee has been engaged in oversight efforts this year with regard to the U.S. attorney scandal and other examples of White House interference with Federal law enforcement. Despite the attitude of the current administration, our Constitution does not include the phrase ''unitary executive'' or ''executive privilege.'' What the U.S. Constitution does provide in the oath of office is that the President must swear to ''faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States'' and ''preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'' His essential duties require him to ''take care that the Laws be faithfully executed.'' I have great concern with regard to how this administration is fulfilling those essential duties. The political intrusion into the law enforcement functions of the Government through the scheme to fire and replace our U.S. attorneys is most troubling.

The recent decision to override a prosecution, jury trial, conviction and prison sentence for one of his aides, to excuse his lying to Federal investigators and a grand jury and his perjury, and to reward his silence and purportedly bad memory seems an abuse of the constitutional pardon power. The lack of accountability for anyone in the Bush administration has reached new heights—or depths.

The secret determination to ignore our surveillance laws and engage in years of warrantless wiretapping of Americans is another instance we are investigating that appears at odds with the Constitution's directive to ''take care that the Laws be faithfully executed'' and that the liberties of the American people secured by the Constitution be protected.

While our oversight efforts have taken a good deal of time and effort, we have simultaneously succeeded in an ambitious legislative agenda. That is what I would like to focus on for a few minutes. While the committee has been productive in reporting a number of bipartisan measures to the Senate, Republican holds have to date been blocking Senate action on these measures.

Republican holds and filibusters have not been limited to obstructing our efforts to support our troops, rebuild our National Guard, and bring an end to the failed policies that have led to the deaths of so many in a civil war in Iraq.

Let me mention a few examples of beneficial legislation that are being stalled, as well:

We just observed the 41st anniversary of the Freedom of Information Act ''FOIA'' on July 4. An important bipartisan FOIA reform measure—the Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act, the OPEN Government Act, S. 849,—was favorably reported in April. Its consideration has been blocked by a Republican objection.

The OPEN Government Act promotes and enhances the public disclosure of government information pursuant to FOIA. This legislation will also provide much-needed reforms to strengthen FOIA by, among other things, helping Americans to obtain timely responses to their FOIA requests and improving transparency in the Federal Government's FOIA process.

This bill is cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 14 Senators, including my lead Republican cosponsor Senator CORNYN. The OPEN Government Act is also supported by more than 115 open government, business and news media organizations from across the political and ideological spectrum, including, the American Library Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, OpenTheGovernment.org, Public Citizen, the Republican Liberty Caucus, the Sunshine in Government Initiative and the Vermont Press Association.

The passage and enactment of this important FOIA reform legislation will improve government transparency and openness for all Americans. The bill has now been stalled by Republican objection for several weeks.

A second measure the committee reported months ago that has been stalled by unspecified objection from the other side of the aisle is The War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2007, S. 119. This bill provides a significant new tool for Federal law enforcement to combat the scourge of war profiteering, which is needed now more than ever given the ongoing reports of rampant fraud, waste, and abuse in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill now has the support of Senator SESSIONS, after being modified to eliminate potential objections to specific language in the bill and we have circulated an amendment to combine it with the Sessions-Landrieu Emergency and Disaster Assistance Fraud Penalty Enhancement Act of 2007, S. 863, to be a legislative package that should win overwhelming bipartisan Senate support. Passage of this measure is long overdue and is being blocked by unspecified Republican objection.

A third measure that the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported was the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act, S. 535. This is a good bill, authored by Senator DODD and Representative JOHN LEWIS in the House. The Senate bill and Senate consideration of the House-passed companion measure have been blocked by yet another Republican objection.

These are just three examples of matters currently being delayed and obstructed by unspecified objection from the other side of the aisle. The American people may begin to see a pattern.

Each of these measures should command majority support in the Senate. They may be able to command supermajority support on their merits. If we could only get to their merits. So while the Judiciary Committee has remained productive, its efforts to enact helpful, remedial legislation continue to be thwarted by Republican objections.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHNATHON M. MILLICAN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor the heroic sacrifice of a courageous Alabamian who selflessly risked himself to save members of his unit under attack.

PFC Johnathon M. Millican was tragically killed on January 20, 2007, in Karbala, Iraq. A member of the 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Richardson, AK, he risked his own safety to cover an enemy grenade with his body during an attack by insurgents.

For his gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States, Private First Class Millican was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, our Nation's third highest award for combat valor. While this is a great honor and one deserving of Private First Class Millican's actions, I believe his act of heroism and bravery deserves our Nation's highest honor. Therefore, I have asked the Department of Defense to consider him for the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States. Private First Class Millican went beyond the call of duty and risked his own life not only to protect our Nation but to save members of his unit.

I offer my thoughts, prayers and condolences to Private First Class Millican's family. His loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for our county. His service represented his commitment to protect his family, community, and our Nation.

I am honored to stand before the Senate today to pay tribute to the life and service of PFC Johnathon Millican. Private First Class Millican's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come. It is my hope that he will be duly honored with the Medal of Honor, but even if Private First Class Millican is not awarded the Medal of Honor, he is no less a hero.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE McGOVERN

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 35 years ago, thousands of young people entered politics for the first time by working on the Presidential campaign of George McGovern—a champion for social and economic justice and leading progressive.

Senator McGovern's legacy of progressive politics dates back to volunteering for Henry Wallace's Presidential campaign in 1948.

At 19, and still in college, I was one of those who volunteered for Senator McGovern during a time of great social and political upheaval in our Nation.

We looked to Senator McGovern for his leadership on ending the Vietnam war; for his vision of a nation defined by equal rights, equal opportunity, and unwavering support for those in need.

I remember being struck by the strength of his faith and by his patriotism.

When he thought our Nation needed to go to war, he served in uniform—earning the Distinguished Flying Cross during World War II.

And when he knew it was a war that was wrong, he spoke out early, and often, as was the case with the Vietnam war.

Whether he courageously spoke out against the war from this Chamber as a U.S. Senator, or spoke out for social justice on the Presidential campaign trail, Senator McGovern gave hope—and purpose—to a generation of Americans.

He changed lives and improved a nation.

Senator McGovern's work continues today.

A former U.N. Global Ambassador on World Hunger, Senator McGovern's outreach has helped feed literally millions of families around the world.

Together with Senator Bob Dole, he founded the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which helps feed children in developing nations.

And Senator McGovern continues to influence the national debate, speaking out on the Iraq war and weighing in on behalf of disenfranchised populations in our Nation and throughout the world.

Senator McGovern changed forever political activism and grassroots organizing. He opened the door for millions of activists attracted by his idealism, many of whom remained in public service their entire lives.

More than public servant, Senator McGovern has been a beloved husband and father.

The Senator was married to his wife Eleanor for nearly 64 years, before her passing earlier this year.

Together, they raised five children, Ann, Terry, Susan, Mary, and Steven.

Nearly 35 years after running for President, and marking his 85th birthday, Senator McGovern is ready to help lead us all into the next progressive era of our Nation.

I am humbled by Senator McGovern's service to our Nation and feel privileged to call him my friend.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE CHILD ABUSE LISTENING, INTERVIEWING AND COORDINATION CENTER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Child Abuse Listening, Interviewing and Coordination Center, CALICO Center.

CALICO Center was established in 1997 to provide a supportive environment for children in Alameda County who have suffered from abuse. By providing a safe and secure place where children are the first priority, CALICO Center successfully minimizes the trauma that these children face when dealing with the after effects of abuse. As a multidisciplinary center, CALICO Center brings together law enforcement, child welfare workers, and prosecutors to coordinate Alameda County's response to child abuse. CALICO Center also works with the community to increase the prosecution of child abusers who engage in such heinous crimes.

Since it first opened, CALICO Center has effectively served more than 5,000 children, most of whom were victims of violence in their homes and communities. It also connects children and families with critical therapeutic, medical and legal support services that are essential to the healing process.

I commend CALICO Center's dedicated staff and volunteers, who have worked tirelessly and unrelentingly to help children and end child abuse in Alameda County for the past decade. They have an incredibly difficult job, but the men and women at CALICO Center prove every day that they are truly community heroes by helping these innocent victims of child abuse.

Child abuse is one of the most vicious crimes known to humanity. Since 1997, CALICO Center has served as a model for how to successfully engage the entire community in protecting its most vulnerable citizens. Its dedication to the community is inspiring and impressive. I congratulate CALICO Center on its 10th anniversary and wish them many more years of success.•

HONORING COLONEL STEPHEN L. HILL

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I honor COL Stephen L. Hill and the exceptional service he has provided as commander of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the period from July 16, 2004, to July 13, 2007. My colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SPECTER, has joined me to honor Colonel Hill.

On Friday, July 13 in Pittsburgh, PA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District military Change of Command ceremony will honor the services of the outgoing commander, COL Stephen L. Hill, and welcome the incoming commander, COL Michael P. Crall.

Colonel Hill will leave a legacy of excellence. His leadership focused the district's capabilities on executing vital programs for the region and the Nation. His superb managerial skills and emphasis on building relationships and encouraging open and honest communication increased confidence in the

ability of the district to accomplish its mission.

During his tenure as district commander, the district's workload expanded and its annual operating budget increased from less than $100 million in Fiscal Year 2004 to over $184 million in Fiscal Year 2007. Colonel Hill skillfully managed resources and reengineered district processes to efficiently accomplish the planning, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of Pittsburgh district's 23 locks and dams, 16 multipurpose reservoirs, local flood protection projects and environmental infrastructure projects covering 26,000 square miles and portions of five States.

Colonel Hill knew that an important aspect of commanding the district was developing relationships with key leaders in the region. He took the time to meet with officials, visit projects, evaluate the issues, and work to understand the various perspectives of the experts in the region. He established and improved relations with local, State and Federal officials, culminating in changes to outdated lock and dam operating schedules, resulting in cost savings and efficiencies. Colonel Hill's partnerships resulted in the revitalization in projects affecting the critical waterways in the Lower Monongahela and Upper Ohio River. He championed efforts with the Upper Ohio River Study, Asset Management, Charleroi construction, the district's Strategic Business Initiative, SBI, and a number of other high priority projects. These efforts and accomplishments greatly improved the district's image and reputation among the public, stakeholders, congressional staff and the workforce.

Colonel Hill recognized the importance of working across and beyond the district's boundaries. He led by example, deploying to Louisiana to assist in the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort, serving as part of Task Force Hope. More than 25 percent of the Pittsburgh District team members also deployed to assist in the hurricane recovery effort.

Colonel Hill's exceptional service reflects great credit upon himself, the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army.

Colonel Hill's next duty assignment is Commander of the gulf region South District at Base Camp Adder, Iraq. The South District covers more than 65,000 square miles, manages more than 1,500 projects that are valued at over $3.3 billion. Colonel Hill will oversee 107 U.S. military and civilian professionals, 263 contract security personnel and nearly 124 Iraq professionals who work side-by-side to provide the transitional support in order to create a viable and stable democracy in the country.

Pennsylvania has been honored to experience the leadership and passion that COL Stephen Hill provided to the Pittsburgh District. Along with my colleague, Senator SPECTER, I thank the colonel for his service to our country and wish him a safe tour of duty in Iraq and much success throughout his entire career.

I ask to have printed in the RECORD a biography of Colonel Hill.

The material follows:

Colonel Stephen L. Hill assumed command of the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 17, 2004. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. with a Bachelor of Science Degree and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Engineers in 1982. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University and a Masters Degree in Strategic Planning and Policy from the Army War College. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Armor Officer Advanced Course and the Engineer Officer Basic Course.

Since graduation from the Military Academy, Col. Hill has served in command and staff positions in Germany, Haiti, Japan, Kuwait, Egypt and the United States. Prior to his assignment in Pittsburgh, Col. Hill served as the Senior Engineer Trainer—Sidewinder 07—at the Army's National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, Calif. training soldiers and leaders while assisting in the development of training doctrine for contemporary operations and emerging asymmetric threats. He commanded the 317th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division and led the battalion during deployments to Kuwait, Egypt and the NTC. Prior to battalion command, he served with Headquarters, U.S. Forces, Japan as a joint engineer staff officer responsible for bilateral negotiations with the Government of Japan and management of a $1 billion facility improvement program. Before duties in Japan, Col. Hill served as an operations officer in the 82nd Airborne Division and staff engineer for the Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. He served as program and project manager for classified special mission unit projects throughout the country and deployed to Haiti with Task Force Black to assist the Ambassador and country team with initial efforts to restore security and democratic leadership.

Earlier in his career, Col. Hill commanded the 58th Combat Engineer Company, 11th Armored Calvary Regiment and Delta Company, 54th Engineer Battalion with missions along the Fulda Gap. He served as project officer and assistant Resident Engineer for the Corps of Engineers' Seattle District at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont. He also managed several EPA superfund projects and assisted with the development of the environmental project and program management baseline plan for Seattle's engineering division.

Col. Hill's next duty assignment is Commander of the Gulf Region South District at Base Camp Adder, Iraq.

Col. Hill's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award and other unit and service awards. He is a SAME fellow, Master Parachutist and wears the Air Assault Badge. He is qualified as a Joint Specialty Officer.

Col. Hill is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Susan Mills from Nichols, N.Y. They have a son, Ross, who recently completed his freshman year in Chemistry at Boston University.●

THE CENTENNIAL OF ELIDA, NEW MEXICO

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to mark the centennial of Elida, NM.

In July 1907, the town of Elida was officially incorporated, and for the last 100 years this small New Mexico town has remained a close-knit ranching community. Although much has changed in Elida during the last 100 years, many things have not. Elida is still the kind of town where neighbors take the time to help one another and come together for a Fourth of July barbeque every year. I believe that kind of community is something special and those individuals who call Elida home should be proud.

As the residents of Elida and the surrounding area gather this weekend to celebrate the history of their town, I would like to wish them well and I hope Elida has another wonderful 100 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ERIN RATH

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my longtime communications director and friend Erin Rath, who for the past 9 years has had the unenviable task of turning a sow's ear to a silk purse, of explaining what I ''really'' meant and consoling reporters whose call I missed.

Erin comes from hearty New Hampshire political stock and was brought up in an environment where politics and community service was very much a part of her life. Her mother Chris is a leading educator in Concord, serving as superintendent of schools, and her father Tom is a bit of a legend in New Hampshire politics for offering sound advice to Presidential candidates who wander into the Granite State. But, anyone who knows Erin will tell you she has always cut her own path, willing to take any task and accomplishing it with a smile. Whether it was dealing with a not so media friendly member or an aggressive reporter, Erin has perfected the skills needed to pitch any story with style and grace. She understands how to craft a message and have it be understood, whether by a weekly paper in New Hampshire or the Wall Street Journal.

On those rare days that I didn't want to do press, Erin was always the one coming to me and promoting an interview or conference call and, even when temporarily rebuffed, would find a way to cheerfully get her mission accomplished. And, when she was left to translate the day's events to a press corps that was disinterested or confused, Erin would find a way to make the story intelligible and get it in print or across the airwaves.

Erin has also worn another very important hat in my office as the lead on appropriations issues. She excelled at organizing and managing my appropriations requests and making sure worthy New Hampshire projects were

not overlooked. Erin has been responsible for helping to deliver hundreds of millions of dollars to better our State.

Just as important to Kathy and I has been the friendship that went well beyond the office. Knowing Erin since she was rather young, allowed us the rare opportunity to watch a bubbly, redheaded, star athlete mature into a charming and professional woman and soon to be mother. Whether it was house-sitting or helping watch over our active family, Erin has long been a part of the Gregg family.

Erin has decided to delay the dream many of us had for her of running for Congress in New Hampshire until after the birth of her first child and move to Minnesota with her husband Dan Moos as he begins his teaching career at the Gustavus Adolphus College. Erin, after being in the eye of the storm for the past 9 years, will enjoy living in a frozen, quiet land where community spirit is derived from singing the Golden Gophers fight song.

Kathy joins me in wishing Erin continued great success and in thanking her for all that she has done for the Gregg family, our office, and New Hampshire.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 13, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1701. An act to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2829. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–129).

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. INHOFE:

S. 1786. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to encourage the most polluted areas in the United States to attain clean air standards; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1787. A bill to conduct 1 or more higher education and career readiness demonstration projects for rural, low-income students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 1788. A bill to provide for the mandatory revocation of passports of individuals whose child support payments are more than $2,500 in arrears; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 271. A resolution honoring Lady Bird Johnson; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. Res. 272. A resolution praising Muslim-American physicians who condemned recent attempted terrorist acts in the United Kingdom; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 456

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of S. 456, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the creation of a National Court Teams Resource Center, to assist local Court Teams, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income of controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1606, a bill to provide for the establishment of a comprehensive policy on the care and management of wounded warriors in order to facilitate and enhance their care, rehabilitation, physical evaluation, transition from care by the Department of Defense to care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and transition from military service to civilian life, and for other purposes.

S. 1629

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1629, a bill to request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband Internet transmission over power lines.

S. 1748

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1748, a bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

S. 1785

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1785, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish deadlines by which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue a decision on whether to grant certain waivers of preemption under that Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 2019

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from New

York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2019 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2056

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2056 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2063

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2063 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name and the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2086 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2125

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2125 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2135

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2135 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2171

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2171 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1787. A bill to conduct 1 or more higher education and career readiness demonstration projects for rural, low-income students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, all students, regardless of where they live, need appropriate tools to compete in today's global economy. Today, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will ensure students in rural areas are equipped with the resources they need. If approved, the Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act of 2007 would improve the educational and career outcomes and build the leadership skills of students in rural communities. I am pleased to be working my colleague, Senator SPECTER, on this important and timely legislation.

Roughly one in four public schools is located in rural America, accounting for 14.5 percent of total public school enrollment. Unfortunately, studies have shown students attending these rural schools generally have lower educational aspirations than their urban and suburban peers. In addition, roughly half of rural high school students live and attend schools in counties that do not have colleges.

These facts are daunting and present a major hurdle in improving education for students in rural communities. However, if our country is to successfully compete for jobs in the marketplace of the 21st century, we must ensure all students have access to an excellent education. These are some of the many reasons why Senator SPECTER and I have joined together to introduce the Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act of 2007.

This legislation will establish partnerships between nonprofit entities and rural school districts to improve the academic motivation and educational performance of rural, low-income students. Under these partnerships, students in grades 7–12 will receive 25 hours of program workshops during the school year to develop career awareness and build their leadership skills. Furthermore, these programs will provide information for students about the opportunities for and the importance of higher education while increasing understanding of the future labor needs in their State.

This legislation also calls for a rigorous evaluation of the program's impact. The results of this evaluation will not only tell us the rates of participation in dual enrollment courses, advanced placement courses, or other related programs of our rural students, but also provide models of best practices for partnerships so others can replicate their success.

The Rural Students College, Career, and Community Readiness Act emphasizes the improvement of human capital through education as an important engine for economic development for rural communities. This legislation is needed to increase the number of rural students engaged in rigorous, college-preparatory coursework, improve their high school graduation rates, and prepare the next generation of leaders in rural communities.

I am hopeful my Senate colleagues will join us to move this legislation to the floor without delay.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 1788. A bill to provide for the mandatory revocation of passports of individuals whose child support payments are more than $2,500 in arrears; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer legislation to ensure that noncustodial parents pay child support, instead of fleeing off to hide from their responsibilities. I commend my fellow Kansas colleagues, Congressman DENNIS MOORE and Congressman JERRY MORAN, for introducing similar legislation in the House.

The problem is this: noncustodial parents could potentially avoid paying their responsible share of child support by leaving the country. State child support enforcement agencies must certify cases to the State Department for passport denial if the child support debt is over $2,500. The loophole that emerges is for those deadbeat parents who already have a passport. Under current implementation of the law, the next opportunity for enforcement is at the renewal of the passport, which could be several years down the road. The legislation I offer today closes that loophole, and simply instructs the State Department to revoke, in addition to denying, a noncustodial parent's passport once the individual's child support debt exceeds $2,500. Studies show that the receipt of child support is a key factor that keeps a child and single parent family from living in or near poverty. Beyond the financial security that steady child support provides, there is a greater likelihood that noncustodial parents are personally involved in their child's life. If a parent shows responsibility financially, there is a bigger chance that he or she is involved emotionally. The impact of a noncustodial parent's involvement in his child's life, in many cases, results

in better grades and fewer behavioral problems.

In Kansas alone, there are currently 131,000 child support cases open, including those receiving public assistance, and those above that income bracket. Last year, the Kansas Child Support Enforcement Program collected $156 million in child support.

Now, you might ask: What percentage of the population will this help? I would concede that, although this may not impact a high percentage of those children and families receiving child support, the impact on an individual family is very significant. According to my state's limited records on this issue, approximately 50 passport applications and renewals are denied on a yearly basis. That figure does not include those passports that should be revoked. The Kansas Child Support Enforcement Program estimates that the number of deadbeat parents affected would increase to 250. The security afforded by the steady stream of child support could be the lone determinant of a family living in poverty or existing on adequate financial ground.

I encourage my colleagues to add their support to this important fix. We must ensure that the tools provided to the states have the teeth necessary to discourage deadbeat parents from running out on their financial responsibilities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 271—HONORING LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 271

Whereas Americans throughout the nation are mourning the passing of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson, who served as First Lady with honor and grace during the Administration of her husband, President Lyndon Baines Johnson;

Whereas Mrs. Johnson was born near Karnack, Texas and received the nickname ''Lady Bird'' as a young child;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was known as an excellent student and graduated from the University of Texas;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson met Lyndon Johnson in 1934 and the 2 were married later that year;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was a successful businesswoman who helped build a small radio station into a multimillion-dollar radio and television enterprise;

Whereas throughout her husband's political career in Congress and the White House, Lady Bird Johnson played an important supportive role as a partner and confidante;

Whereas as wife of the Vice President, Lady Bird Johnson visited 33 foreign countries as an ambassador of goodwill;

Whereas, as First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson earned widespread respect and affection not only for the tone of dignity with which she represented her husband and the Nation, but for her active involvement in efforts to serve the public, such as her work to improve the environment and to address the problem of poverty in the United States;

Whereas millions of travelers and commuters have Lady Bird Johnson to thank for the colorful flowers that line many of our roads, which represent a living, lasting legacy of the woman who guided the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 U.S.C. 131, 135 note, 136, 319) into law;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Lady Bird Johnson continued to serve the Nation in many ways, including helping to found the National Wildflower Research Center, supporting the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and serving on the Board of the National Geographic Society as a trustee emeritus; and

Whereas, in addition to her service to the Nation, Lady Bird Johnson was a devoted and loving mother to her 2 daughters, Lynda Bird and Luci Baines, as well as her 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson;

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Johnson's family;

(3) honors and, on behalf of the nation, expresses deep appreciation for Lady Bird Johnson's important service to her country; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Johnson.

SENATE RESOLUTION 272—PRAISING MUSLIM-AMERICAN PHYSICIANS WHO CONDEMNED RECENT ATTEMPTED TERRORIST ACTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 272

Whereas in early July 2007, acts of terrorism were attempted at Glasgow Airport and in London;

Whereas early indications suggest that Muslim physicians allegedly were responsible for the attempted acts of terrorism;

Whereas thousands of Muslim-American physicians living and practicing in the United States are an important and welcome component of American society;

Whereas Muslim-American physicians, through the Islamic Medical Association of North America, publicly stated that the association ''condemns in the strongest terms the attack on Glasgow Airport, the attempted attack in London; and all attacks by which innocent people are killed or harmed in any manner and all attacks that result in destruction of the property of innocent people''; and

Whereas the Islamic Medical Association of North America further stated, ''Such attacks, regardless of whether or not they have been perpetrated by physicians, are against the most basic teachings of our religion, Islam, and are contrary to the very basic principles of our profession, regardless of religion or creed. Suicide is also strictly prohibited in Islam.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the recent attempted attacks in the United Kingdom;

(2) commends the Islamic Medical Association of North America for swift, clear, and public denunciation of the attacks;

(3) encourages Muslim voices in the United States and abroad to continue speaking out against terrorism; and

(4) condemns bigotry and acts of violence against any American, including Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2189. Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI , Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2190. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2191. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2192. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2193. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2063 submitted by Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms.

LANDRIEU, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2194. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2195. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2196. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2197. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2198. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2199. Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2200. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2201. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2202. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2203. Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2204. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2205. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOND, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2206. Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2207. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2208. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2209. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2189. Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. FAIRNESS DOCTRINE PROHIBITED.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Broadcaster Freedom Act of 2007''.

(b) FAIRNESS DOCTRINE PROHIBITED.—Title III of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by inserting after section 303 (47 U.S.C. 303) the following new section:

''SEC. 303A. LIMITATION ON GENERAL POWERS: FAIRNESS DOCTRINE.

''Notwithstanding section 303 or any other provision of this Act or any other Act authorizing the Commission to prescribe rules, regulations, policies, doctrines, standards, or other requirements, the Commission shall not have the authority to prescribe any rule, regulation, policy, doctrine, standard, or other requirement that has the purpose or effect of reinstating or repromulgating (in whole or in part) the requirement that broadcasters, including the American Forces Network, present opposing viewpoints on controversial issues of public importance, commonly referred to as the 'Fairness Doctrine', as repealed in General Fairness Doctrine Obligations of Broadcast Licensees, 50 Fed. Reg. 35418 (1985).''.

SA 2190. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 269, line 20, insert after ''management.'' the following: ''The position of Principal Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

On page 270, line 10, insert after ''management.'' the following: ''The position of Principal Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

On page 270, line 23, insert after ''management.'' the following: ''The position of Principal Deputy shall be designated as a critical acquisition position under section 1733 of this title.''.

SA 2191. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 703. LIMITATIONS ON CERTAIN INCREASES IN HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Career members of the uniformed services and their families endure unique and extraordinary demands, and make extraordinary sacrifices, over the course of 20-year to 30-year careers in protecting freedom for all Americans.

(2) The nature and extent of these demands and sacrifices are never so evident as in wartime, not only during the current Global War on Terrorism, but also during the wars of the last 60 years when current retired members of the Armed Forces were on continuous call to go in harm's way when and as needed.

(3) The demands and sacrifices are such that few Americans are willing to bear or accept them for a multi-decade career.

(4) A primary benefit of enduring the extraordinary sacrifices inherent in a military career is a range of extraordinary retirement benefits that a grateful Nation provides for those who choose to subordinate much of their personal life to the national interest for so many years.

(5) Many private sector firms are curtailing health benefits and shifting significantly higher costs to their employees, and one effect of such curtailment is that retired members of the uniformed services are turning for health care services to the Department of Defense, and its TRICARE program, for the health care benefits in retirement that they earned by their service in uniform.

(6) In some cases, civilian employers establish financial incentives for employees who are also eligible for participation in the TRICARE program to receive health care benefits under that program rather than under the health care benefits programs of such employers.

(7) While the Department of Defense has made some efforts to contain increases in the cost of the TRICARE program, a large part of those efforts has been devoted to shifting a larger share of the costs of benefits under that program to retired members of the uniformed services.

(8) The cumulative increase in enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments being proposed by the Department of Defense for health care benefits under the TRICARE program far exceeds the 33-percent increase in military retired pay since such fees, deductibles, and copayments were first required on the part of retired members of the uniformed services 11 years ago.

(9) Proposals of the Department of Defense for increases in the enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments of retired members of the uniformed services who are participants in the TRICARE program fail to recognize adequately that such members paid the equivalent of enormous in-kind premiums for health care in retirement through their extended sacrifices by service in uniform.

(10) Some of the Nation's health care providers refuse to accept participants in the TRICARE program as patients because that program pays them significantly less than commercial insurance programs, and imposes unique administrative requirements, for health care services.

(11) The Department of Defense has chosen to count the accrual deposit to the Department of Defense Military Retiree Health

Care Fund against the budget of the Department of Defense, contrary to the requirements of section 1116 of title 10, United States Code.

(12) Senior officials of the Department of Defense leaders have reported to Congress that counting such deposits against the budget of the Department of Defense is impinging on other readiness needs of the Armed Forces, including weapons programs, an inappropriate situation which section 1116 of title 10, United States Code, was intended expressly to prevent.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense and the Nation have a committed obligation to provide health care benefits to retired members of the uniformed services that exceeds the obligation of corporate employers to provide health care benefits to their employees;

(2) the Department of Defense has many additional options to constrain the growth of health care spending in ways that do not disadvantage retired members of the uniformed services who participate or seek to participate in the TRICARE program, and should pursue any and all such options rather than seeking large increases for enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments for such retirees, and their families or survivors, who do participate in that program;

(3) any percentage increase in fees, deductibles, and copayments that may be considered under the TRICARE program for retired members of the uniformed services and their families or survivors should not in any case exceed the percentage increase in military retired pay; and

(4) any percentage increase in fees, deductibles, and copayments under the TRICARE program that may be considered for members of the uniformed services who are currently serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, and for the families of such members, should not exceed the percentage increase in basic pay for such members.

(c) PHARMACY BENEFITS PROGRAM.—Section 1074g(a)(6) of title 10, United Stated Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) The amount of any cost sharing requirements under this paragraph may not be increased in any year by a percentage that exceeds the percentage increase of the most recent increase in retired pay for members of the armed forces under section 1401a(b)(2) of this title. To the extent that such increase for any year is less than one dollar, the accumulated increase may be carried over from year to year, rounded to the nearest dollar.''.

(d) PREMIUMS FOR TRICARE STANDARD FOR RESERVE COMPONENT MEMBERS WHO COMMIT TO SERVICE IN THE SELECTED RESERVE.—Section 1076d(d)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ''The monthly amount'' and inserting ''(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the monthly amount''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) Effective as of October 1, 2007, the percentage increase in the amount of the premium in effect for a month for TRICARE Standard coverage under this section may not exceed a percentage equal to the percentage of the most recent increase in the rate of basic pay authorized for members of the uniformed services for a year.''.

(e) COPAYMENTS UNDER CHAMPUS.—Paragraph (3) of section 1086(b) of such title is amended in the first sentence by striking ''during the period beginning on April 1, 2006, and ending on September 30, 2007.'' and inserting ''after March 31, 2006''.

(f) PROHIBITION ON ENROLLMENT FEES FOR CERTAIN PERSONS UNDER CHAMPUS.—Section 1086(b) of such title is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) A person covered by subsection (c) may not be charged an enrollment fee for coverage under this section.''.

(g) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS UNDER CHAMPUS.—Section 1086(b) of such title is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) A person covered by subsection (c) shall not be subject to denial of claims for coverage under this section for failure to enroll for such coverage. To the extent enrollment may be required, enrollment shall be automatic for any such person filing a claim under this section.''.

(h) PREMIUMS AND OTHER CHARGES UNDER TRICARE.—Section 1097(e) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The Secretary of Defense''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) Effective as of October 1, 2007, the percentage increase in the amount of any premium, deductible, copayment or other charge prescribed by the Secretary under this subsection may not exceed the percentage increase of the most recent increase in retired pay for members and former members of the armed forces under section 1041a(b)(2) of this title.''.

SA 2192. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1204. ASSISTANCE FOR GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS INITIATIVE PARTNER COUNTRIES DEPLOYING FOR PEACE OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2008 and 2009, the Secretary of Defense may, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, provide assistance to foreign countries that have committed to deploying units trained by the United States or its partners under the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) to peace operations.

(b) SELECTION OF COUNTRIES.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly select the countries described in subsection (a) for which assistance may be provided under that subsection.

(c) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided under subsection (a) may include only the following:

(1) Inspection of—

(A) units described in subsection (a) in order to determine their readiness and ability to carry out peace operations; and

(B) the equipment depots to be used by such units in deployments for peace operations.

(2) Identification of the training and equipping shortfalls, if any, of the units described in subsection (a).

(3) Provision of additional training to the units described in subsection (a), if required, in order to ensure that such units can carry out peace operations.

(4) Provision of equipment for units described in subsection (a), if required, pending deployment for a peace operation.

(5) Assistance in addressing deficiencies in personnel with specialized skills of units described in subsection (a) or in headquarters staffs of such units.

(6) Facilitation of the deployment of units described in subsection (a), if required, for missions under a peace operation.

(d) FORMULATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall jointly formulate the provision of assistance under subsection (a).

(e) NOTICE ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR NOTICE.—Whenever the Secretary of Defense exercises the authority under subsection (a) by taking the action described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall notify the committees of Congress specified in paragraph (3) of the exercise of the authority. Any such notification shall be prepared in coordination with the Secretary of State.

(2) ELEMENTS OF NOTICE.—Any notification under paragraph (1) on the exercise of authority shall include—

(A) a description of the country and unit or units to be provided assistance;

(B) a description of the type of assistance to be provided; and

(C) a statement of the amount of funding to be provided for each country and for each type of assistance.

(3) COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The committees of Congress specified in this subsection are the following:

(A) The Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(B) The Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(f) RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.—Assistance may not be provided under subsection (a) to a unit of forces unless the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State jointly determine that the unit and its personnel maintain a record on human rights that meets requirements of the following:

(1) Section 8060 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–289; 120 Stat. 1287).

(2) Section 551 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102; 119 Stat. 2218).

(g) APPLICABLE LAW.—Any services, defense articles, or funds provided under this section shall be subject to the authorities and limitations in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Arms Export Control Act, and any Acts making appropriations to carry out such Acts.

(h) FUNDING.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by section 301 for operation and maintenance for the Department of Defense, $200,000,000 may be available in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for the provision of assistance under subsection (a).

SA 2193. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2063 submitted by Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 5, strike line 4 and all that follows through the end and insert the following:

(9) The President announced a new strategy for United States involvement in Iraq to the American people on January 10, 2007, which included sending approximately 30,000 additional troops to Iraq as well as increasing United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iraq.

(10) Pursuant to the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110-28), the President submitted to Congress a report on the progress of this new strategy on July 12, 2007.

(11) According to that report, the United States has filled one-half of the 300 additional personnel slots for the Provincial Reconstruction Teams which are part of the President's new strategy, and the full complement of those personnel will be in place in December 2007.

(12) The last of the 30,000 additional troops that the President announced in January 2007 that he would send to Iraq as a part of his new strategy became fully operational in Iraq on June 15, 2007.

SEC. 1543. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, the United States Government should—

(1) establish a ''New Diplomatic Offensive'' to deal with the problems of Iraq and of the region;

(2) support the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq;

(3) encourage other countries in the region to stop the destabilizing interventions and actions of Iraq's neighbors;

(4) secure the borders of Iraq, including through the use of joint patrols with neighboring countries;

(5) prevent the expansion of the instability and conflict beyond the borders of Iraq;

(6) promote economic assistance, commerce, trade, political support, and, if possible, military assistance for the Government of Iraq from non-neighboring Muslim nations;

(7) energize the governments of other countries to support national political reconciliation in Iraq;

(8) encourage the governments of other countries to validate the legitimate sovereignty of Iraq by resuming diplomatic relations, where appropriate, and reestablishing embassies in Baghdad;

(9) assist the Government of Iraq in establishing active working embassies in key capitals in the region;

(10) help the Government of Iraq reach a mutually acceptable agreement on the future of Kirkuk;

(11) assist the Government of Iraq in achieving certain security, political, and economic milestones, including better performance on issues such as national reconciliation, equitable distribution of oil revenues, and the dismantling of militias;

(12) encourage the holding of a meeting or conference in Baghdad, supported by the United States and the Government of Iraq, of the Organization of the Islamic Conference or the Arab League, both to assist the Government of Iraq in promoting national reconciliation in Iraq and to reestablish their diplomatic presence in Iraq;

(13) seek the creation of the Iraq International Support Group to assist Iraq in ways the Government of Iraq would desire, attempting to strengthen Iraq's sovereignty;

(14) engage with the Governments of Iran and Syria in order to obtain their commitment to constructive policies toward Iraq and other regional issues;

(15) provide additional political, economic, and military support for Afghanistan including resources that might become available as United States combat forces are redeployed from Iraq;

(16) remain in contact with the Iraqi leadership, conveying the clear message that there must be action by the Government of Iraq to make substantial progress toward the achievement of the milestones described in section 1550, and conveying in as much detail as possible the substance of these exchanges in order to keep the American people, the Iraqi people, and the people of countries in the region well informed of progress in these areas;

(17) make clear the willingness of the United States Government to continue training, assistance, and support for Iraq's security forces, and to continue political, military, and economic support for the Government of Iraq until Iraq becomes more capable of governing, defending, and sustaining itself;

(18) make clear that, should the Government of Iraq not make substantial progress toward the achievement of the milestones described in section 1550, the United States shall reduce its political, military, or economic support for the Government of Iraq;

(19) make clear that the United States Government does not seek to establish permanent military bases in Iraq;

(20) restate that the United States Government does not seek to control the oil resources of Iraq;

(21) make active efforts to engage all parties in Iraq, with the exception of al Qaeda;

(22) encourage dialogue between sectarian communities and press religious leaders inside and outside of Iraq to speak out on behalf of peace and reconciliation;

(23) support the presence of neutral international experts as advisors to the Government of Iraq on the processes of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of militias and other armed groups not under the control of the Government of Iraq; and

(24) ensure that reconstruction efforts in Iraq consist of great involvement by and with international partners that actively participate in the design and construction of projects.

SEC. 1544. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON SECURITY AND MILITARY FORCES.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement with the Government of Iraq a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) gives the highest priority to the training, equipping, advising, and support for security and military forces in Iraq and to supporting counterterrorism operations in Iraq; and

(2) supports the providing of more and better equipment for the Iraqi Army by encouraging the Government of Iraq to accelerate its requests under the Foreign Military Sales program and, as United States combat brigades redeploy from Iraq, provides for the transfer of certain United States military equipment to Iraqi forces.

SEC. 1545. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON STRENGTHENING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) directs the Secretary of Defense to build healthy relations between the civilian and military sectors, by creating an environment where senior military leaders feel free to offer independent advice to the civilian leadership of the United States Government;

(2) emphasizes training and education programs for the forces that have returned to the United States in order to restore the United States Armed Forces to a high level of readiness for global contingencies;

(3) provides sufficient funds to restore military equipment to full functionality over the next 5 years; and

(4) assesses the full future budgetary impact of the war in Iraq and its potential impact on—

(A) the future readiness of United States military forces;

(B) the ability of the United States Armed Forces to recruit and retain high-quality personnel;

(C) needed investments in military procurement and in research and development; and

(D) the budgets of other Federal agencies involved in the stability and reconstruction effort in Iraq.

SEC. 1546. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON POLICE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN IRAQ.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement with the Government of Iraq a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) transfers the Iraqi National Police to the Ministry of Defense, where the police commando units will become part of the new Iraqi Army;

(2) transfers the Iraqi Border Police to the Ministry of Defense, which would have total responsibility for border control and external security;

(3) establishes greater responsibility for the Iraqi Police Service to conduct criminal investigations and expands its cooperation with other elements in the judicial system in Iraq in order to better control crime and protect Iraqi civilians;

(4) establishes a process of organizational transformation, including efforts to expand the capability and reach of the current major crime unit, to exert more authority over local police forces, and to give sole authority to the Ministry of the Interior to pay police salaries and disburse financial support to local police;

(5) proceeds with efforts to identify, register, and control the Facilities Protection Service;

(6) directs the Department of Defense to continue its mission to train Iraqi National Police and the Iraqi Border Police, which shall be placed within the Iraqi Ministry of Defense;

(7) directs the Department of Justice to proceed with the mission of training the police forces remaining under the Ministry of the Interior;

(8) provides for funds from the Government of Iraq to expand and upgrade communications equipment and motor vehicles for the Iraqi Police Service;

(9) directs the Attorney General to lead the work of organizational transformation in the Ministry of the Interior and creates a strategic plan and standard administrative procedures, codes of conduct, and operational measures for Iraqis; and

(10) directs the Attorney General to establish courts, train judges, prosecutors, and investigators, and create strongly supported and funded institutions and practices in Iraq to fight corruption.

SEC. 1547. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON OIL SECTOR IN IRAQ.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement with the Government of Iraq a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) provides technical assistance in drafting legislation to implement the February 27, 2007, agreement by Iraq's Council of Ministers on principles for the equitable sharing of oil resources and revenues;

(2) encourages the Government of Iraq to accelerate contracting for the comprehensive oil well work-overs in the southern

fields needed to increase oil production, while ensuring that the United States no longer funds such infrastructure projects;

(3) supports the Iraqi military and private security forces in their efforts to protect oil infrastructure and contractors;

(4) implements metering at both ends of the oil supply line to immediately improve accountability in the oil sector;

(5) in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund, encourages the Government of Iraq to reduce subsidies in the energy sector;

(6) encourages investment in Iraq's oil sector by the international community and by international energy companies;

(7) assists Iraqi leaders to reorganize the national oil industry as a commercial enterprise, in order to enhance efficiency, transparency, and accountability;

(8) encourages the Government of Iraq to post all oil contracts, volumes, and prices on the Internet so that Iraqis and outside observers can track exports and export revenues;

(9) supports the efforts of the World Bank to ensure that best practices are used in contracting; and

(10) provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Oil for enhancing maintenance, improving the payments process, managing cash flows, improving contracting and auditing, and updating professional training programs for management and technical personnel.

SEC. 1548. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON IMPROVING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN IRAQ.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) provides for the United States to take the lead in funding assistance requests from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian agencies;

(2) creates a new Senior Advisor for Economic Reconstruction in Iraq reporting to the President, with the authority to bring interagency unity of effort to the policy, budget, and implementation of economic reconstruction programs in Iraq and the authority to serve as the principal point of contact with United States partners in the overall reconstruction effort;

(3) gives the chief of mission in Iraq the authority to spend significant funds through a program structured along the lines of the Commander's Emergency Response Program, with the authority to rescind funding from programs and projects—

(A) in which the Government of Iraq is not demonstrating effective partnership; or

(B) that do not demonstrate substantial progress toward achievement of the milestones described in section 1550;

(4) authorizes and implements a more flexible security assistance program for Iraq, breaking down the barriers to effective interagency cooperation; and

(5) grants authority to merge United States assistance with assistance from international donors and Iraqi participants for the purpose of carrying out joint assistance projects.

SEC. 1549. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON BUDGET PREPARATION, PRESENTATION, AND REVIEW.

It shall be the policy of the United States to formulate and implement a plan, consistent with the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, that—

(1) directs the President to include the costs for the war in Iraq in the annual budget request;

(2) directs the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of National Intelligence to provide United States military and civilian personnel in Iraq the highest possible priority in obtaining professional language proficiency and cultural training;

(3) directs the United States Government to provide for long-term training for Federal agencies that participate in complex stability operations like those in Iraq and Afghanistan;

(4) creates training for United States Government personnel to carry out civilian tasks associated with complex stability operations; and

(5) directs the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense to devote greater analytic resources to understanding the threats and sources of violence in Iraq and institute immediate changes in the collection of data and violence and the sources of violence to provide a more accurate picture of events on the ground in Iraq.

SEC. 1550. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED UNITED STATES SUPPORT IN IRAQ.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to condition continued United States political, military and economic support for Iraq upon the demonstration by the Government of Iraq of sufficient political will and the making of substantial progress toward achieving the milestones described in subsection (b), and to base the decision to transfer command and control over Iraqi security forces units from the United States to Iraq in part upon such factors.

(b) MILESTONES.—The milestones referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Promptly establishing a fair process for considering amendments to the constitution of Iraq that promote lasting national reconciliation in Iraq.

(2) Enacting legislation or establishing other mechanisms to revise the de-Baathification laws in Iraq to encourage the employment in the Government of Iraq of qualified professionals, irrespective of ethnic or political affiliation, including ex-Baathists who were not leading figures of the Saddam Hussein regime.

(3) Enacting legislation or establishing other binding mechanisms to ensure the sharing of all Iraqi oil revenues among all segments of Iraqi society in an equitable manner.

(4) Holding free and fair provincial elections in Iraq at the earliest date practicable.

(5) Enacting legislation or establishing other mechanisms to ensure the rights of women and the rights of all minority communities in Iraq are protected.

SEC. 1551. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REDEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES FORCES FROM IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) with the implementation of the policies specified in sections 1544 through 1550 and the engagement in the increased diplomatic efforts specified in section 1543, and as additional Iraqi brigades are being deployed, and subject to unexpected developments in the security situation on the ground, all United States combat brigades not necessary for force protection could be redeployed from Iraq by the first quarter of 2008, except for those that are essential for—

(A) protecting United States and coalition personnel and infrastructure;

(B) training, equipping, and advising Iraqi forces;

(C) conducting targeted counterterrorism operations;

(D) search and rescue; and

(E) rapid reaction and special operations;

(2) except in the event of unforeseen circumstances or developments, the President's new strategy for Iraq, announced in January 2007, should not be significantly altered until General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker report to Congress on the progress of that strategy in September 2007; and

(3) the redeployment should be implemented as part of a comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors and the international community for the purpose of working collectively to bring stability to Iraq.

SEC. 1552. REPORT ON POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report on the actions that have been taken to implement the policies specified in sections 1543 through 1550.

SA 2194. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON USE OF EARMARKS TO AWARD NO BID CONTRACTS AND NONCOMPETITIVE GRANTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) CONTRACTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, all contracts awarded through congressional initiatives shall be awarded using competitive procedures in accordance with the requirements of section 303 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 253), section 2304 of title 10, United States Code, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

(B) BID REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), no contract may be awarded through a congressional initiative unless more than one bid is received for such contract.

(2) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no funds may be awarded by grant or cooperative agreement through a congressional initiative unless the process used to award such grant or cooperative agreement uses competitive procedures to select the grantee or award recipient. Except as provided in paragraph (3), no such grant may be awarded unless applications for such grant or cooperative agreement are received from two or more applicants that are not from the same organization and do not share any financial, fiduciary, or other organizational relationship.

(3) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an agency head does not receive more than one bid for a contract under paragraph (1)(B) or does not receive more than one application from unaffiliated applicants for a grant or cooperative agreement under paragraph (2), the agency head may waive such bid or application requirement if the agency head determines that the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is essential to the mission of the agency.

(B) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—If an agency head waives a bid requirement under subparagraph (A), the agency head must, not later than 10 days after exercising such waiver, notify Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives of the waiver.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2008, and December 31 of each year thereafter, the head of each executive agency shall submit to Congress a report on congressional initiatives for which amounts were appropriated or otherwise made available for the fiscal year ending during such year.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include with respect to each contract and grant awarded through a congressional initiative—

(A) the name of the recipient of the funds awarded through such contract or grant;

(B) the reason or reasons such recipient was selected for such contract or grant; and

(C) the number of entities that competed for such contract or grant.

(3) PUBLICATION.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available through the Internet website of the executive agency.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE.—The term ''congressional initiative'' means a provision of law or a directive contained within a committee report or joint statement of managers of an appropriations Act that specifies—

(A) the identity of a person or entity selected to carry out a project, including a defense system, for which funds are appropriated or otherwise made available by that provision of law or directive and that was not requested by the President in a budget submitted to Congress; and

(B) the amount of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available for such project.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

(d) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply with respect to funds appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2007.

SA 2195. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. JOINT SPACE INTELLIGENT DECISION SUPPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not proceed with the Joint Space Intelligent Decision Support (JSDIS) program unless the Secretary determines that the program is necessary and essential to the national defense of the United States.

(b) FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION.—If the Secretary determines to proceed with the Joint Space Intelligence Decision Support program in accordance with subsection (a), the Secretary may award the contract for that program only after full and open competition.

SA 2196. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. NDIC CLOSURE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be used for the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, except those activities related to the permanent closing of the NDIC and to the relocation of activities performed at NDIC deemed necessary or essential by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies.

SA 2197. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2864. REPEAL OF MORATORIUM ON IMPROVEMENTS AT FORT BUCHANAN, PUERTO RICO.

Section 1507 of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106–398; 114 Stat. 1654A–355) is repealed.

SA 2198. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title V, add the following:

SEC. 555. NAVY SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA.

The Secretary of the Navy may establish and maintain a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program under section 2102 of title 10, United States Code, at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida.

SA 2199. Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title II, add the following:

SEC. 256. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DEFENSE EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an assessment of the effectiveness of the Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the tangible results and progress toward the objectives of the program, including—

(A) an identification of any past program activities that led to, or were fundamental to, applications used by, or supportive of, operational users; and

(B) an assessment of whether the program has expanded the national research infrastructure.

(2) An assessment whether the activities undertaken under the program are consistent with the statute authorizing the program.

(3) An assessment whether the various elements of the program, such as structure, funding, staffing, project solicitation and selection, and administration, are working effectively and efficiently to support the effective execution of the program

(4) A description and assessment of past and ongoing activities of State planning committees under the program in supporting the achievement of the objectives of the program.

(5) An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of having an institution-based formula for qualification to participate in the program when compared with the advantages and disadvantages of having a State-based formula for qualification to participate in supporting defense missions and the objective of expanding the Nation's defense research infrastructure.

(6) An identification of mechanisms for improving the management and implementation of the program, including modification of the statute authorizing the program, Department regulations, program structure, funding levels, funding strategy, or the activities of the State committees

(7) Any other matters the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

SA 2200. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. CONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS OUT OF UNIFORM DURING HOISTING, LOWERING, OR PASSING OF FLAG.

Section 9 of title 4, United States Code, is amended by striking ''all persons present'' and all that follows through the end and inserting ''those present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, or if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.''.

SA 2201. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1205. REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS' PROTECTION ACT OF 2002.

(a) REPEAL OF LIMITATIONS.—Section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7426) is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is further amended—

(1) in section 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7422)—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''SECTIONS 5 AND 7'' and inserting ''SECTION 2005''; and

(ii) by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''SECTIONS 5 AND 7'' and inserting ''SECTION 2005''; and

(ii) by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(C) in subsection (c)(2)(A), by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005'';

(D) in subsection (d), by striking ''sections 2005 and 2007'' and inserting ''section 2005''; and

(E) in subsection (e), by striking ''2006, and 2007'' and inserting ''and 2006''; and

(2) in section 2013 (22 U.S.C. 7432), by striking paragraph (13).

SA 2202. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 604. PAYMENT OF INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING TRAVEL COSTS FOR CERTAIN SELECTED RESERVE MEMBERS.

(a) PAYMENT OF TRAVEL COSTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 408 the following new section:

''§ 408a. Travel and transportation allowances: inactive duty training

''(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned may reimburse a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve described in subsection (b) for travel expenses for travel to an inactive duty training location to perform inactive duty training.

''(b) ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—A member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve described in this subsection is a member who—

''(1) is—

''(A) qualified in a skill designated as critically short by the Secretary concerned;

''(B) assigned to a unit of the Selected Reserve with a critical manpower shortage, or is in a pay grade in the member's reserve component with a critical manpower shortage; or

''(C) assigned to a unit or position that is disestablished or relocated as a result of defense base closure or realignment or another force structure reallocation; and

''(2) commutes a distance from the member's permanent residence to the member's inactive duty training location that is outside the normal commuting distance (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense) for that commute.

''(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The maximum amount of reimbursement provided a member under subsection (a) for each round trip to a training location shall be $300.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 408 the following new item:

''408a. Travel and transportation allowances: inactive duty training.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2007. No reimbursement may be provided under section 408a of title 37, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), for travel costs incurred before October 1, 2007.

SA 2203. Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1070. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FAMILY CARE PLANS AND THE DEPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE MINOR DEPENDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) single parents who are members of the Armed Forces with minor dependents, and dual-military couples with minor dependents, should develop and maintain effective family care plans that—

(A) address all reasonably foreseeable situations that would result in the absence of the single parent or dual-military couple in order to provide for the efficient transfer of responsibility for the minor dependents to an alternative caregiver; and

(B) are consistent with Department of Defense Instruction 1342.19, dated July 13, 1992, and any applicable regulations of the military department concerned; and

(2) the Secretary of Defense should establish procedures to ensure that if a single parent and both spouses in a dual-military couple are required to deploy to a covered area—

(A) requests by the single parent or dual-military couple for deferments of deployment due to unforeseen circumstances are evaluated rapidly; and

(B) appropriate steps are taken to ensure adequate care for minor dependents of the single parent or dual-military couple.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AREA.—The term ''covered area'' means an area for which special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger is authorized under section 310 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) DUAL-MILITARY COUPLE.—The term ''dual-military couple'' means a married couple in which both spouses are members of the Armed Forces.

SA 2204. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

SEC. (_____). COMPETITION FOR PROCUREMENT OF RIFLES.

(a) COMPETITION REQUIRED.—Each military service shall conduct full and open competitions for the procurement of rifles based on the requirements described in (b).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall certify a rifle requirement no later than December 31, 2007 that shall—

(1) be based on performance; and

(2) not require commonality with the technical specifications of current weapons.

(c) PROCUREMENTS COVERED.—This section applies to the procurement of individual weapons less than .50 caliber.

SA 2205. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOND, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1044. REPORT ON SIZE AND MIX OF AIR FORCE INTERTHEATER AIRLIFT FORCE.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) to conduct a study on various alternatives for the size and mix of assets for the Air Force intertheater airlift force, with a particular focus on current and anticipated capabilities and costs of the C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft fleets.

(2) SELECTION OF FFRDC.—In order to enhance the utility of the study, the Secretary shall, select to conduct the study a federally funded research and development center that is currently engaged in force mix analyses of other military mobility aircraft fleets.

(3) UTILIZATION OF OTHER STUDIES.—In conducting the study, the federally funded research and development center shall utilize the results of the recent Mobility Capabilities Studies of the Department of Defense, the on-going Intratheater Airlift Fleet Mix Analysis, and other appropriate studies and analyses. The study should also include any results reached on the modified C–5A aircraft configured as part of the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program (RERP) configuration, as specified in section 132 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136; 117 Stat. 1411).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall address the following:

(1) The adequacy of the current intertheater airlift force, including whether or not the current target number of 299 airframes for the Air Force heavy lift aircraft fleet will

be sufficient to support future expeditionary combat and non-combat missions, as well as domestic and training mission requirements, in light of each of the following:

(A) Current and future military combat and support missions.

(B) The planned force structure growth of the Army and the Marine Corps.

(C) Potential changes in lift requirements arising from the deployment of the Future Combat Systems by the Army.

(D) The utilization of the heavy lift aircraft in intratheater combat missions.

(E) The availability and application of Civil Reserve Air Fleet assets in future military scenarios.

(F) The potential foreign military demand for military airlift aircraft and the value to the Air Force of a global infrastructure associated with a common aircraft fleet.

(G) Any increased air mobility requirements associated with the Global Rebasing Initiative of the Department of Defense.

(H) Potential increases in United States military support for peacekeeping and humanitarian missions around the globe.

(I) Potential changes in lift requirements based on equipment procured for Iraq and Afghanistan.

(2) The state of the current intertheater airlift fleet of the Air Force, including the following:

(A) The extent to which the increased use of heavy airlift aircraft in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and other ongoing operations is affecting the aging of the aircraft of that fleet.

(B) The extent to which the accelerated aging of such aircraft will affect the replacement schedule for such aircraft.

(3) The optimal mix of C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft for the intertheater airlift fleet of the Air Force, and any appropriate mix of C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft for intratheater airlift missions, including an assessment of the following:

(A) The cost-benefits of replacing C–5A aircraft with C–17 aircraft, including costs associated with the C–5 Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program (RERP) and Avionics Modernization Program (AMP).

(B) The military capability of the airframes for the C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft, including number of lifetime flight hours, cargo and passenger carrying capability, and mission capable rates for such airframes.

(C) The effect of replacing C–5 aircraft with C–17 aircraft on a one-for-one airframe basis, rather than upgrading the C–5 aircraft under the Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program and the Avionics Modernization Program, on airlift capabilities, including whether replacing C–5 aircraft with C–17 aircraft would create an equivalent one-for-one tradeoff in military capability.

(D) The tactical capabilities of strategic airlift aircraft, the potential increase in use of strategic airlift aircraft for tactical missions, and the value of such capabilities to tactical operations.

(E) The value of having more than one type of aircraft in the strategic airlift fleet, and the potential need to pursue a replacement aircraft for the C–5 aircraft that is larger than the C–17 aircraft.

(4) Strategic issues associated with closing the production line for the C–17 aircraft, particularly the risks associated with losing the industrial capacity of that production line in the light of future military requirements.

(5) The means by which the Air Force was able to restart the production line for the C–5 aircraft after having closed the line for several years, and the actions to be taken to ensure the production line for the C–17 aircraft could be restarted should a decision to close the line be made, including an analysis of the following:

(A) The costs of closing and re-opening the production line for the C–5 aircraft, and an assessment of the costs of closing and re-opening the production line for the C–17 aircraft on a similar basis.

(B) The risks inherent in permitting a production line to close when compared with the potential savings or favorable aspects of keeping a production line open.

(6) The financial effects of retiring or upgrading and maintaining the C–5A aircraft fleet on procurement decisions relating to the C–17 aircraft.

(7) The impact that increasing the role and use of strategic airlift aircraft in intratheater operations will have on the current target number for strategic airlift aircraft of 299, including an analysis of the following:

(A) The appropriateness of using C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft for intratheater missions, as well as the efficacy of these aircraft to perform current and projected future intratheater missions.

(B) The interplay of existing doctrinal intratheater airlift aircraft (such as the C–130 aircraft and the future Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA)) with an increasing role for C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft in intratheater missions.

(C) The most appropriate and likely missions for C–5 aircraft and C–17 aircraft in intratheater operations and the potential for increased requirements in these mission areas.

(D) Any intratheater mission sets best performed by strategic airlift aircraft as opposed to traditional intratheater airlift aircraft.

(E) Any requirements for increased production or longevity of C–5 and C–17 aircraft, or for a new strategic airlift aircraft, in light of the matters analyzed under this paragraph.

(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exclude from the study under subsection (a) consideration of airlift assets other than the C–5 aircraft or C–17 aircraft that do or may provide intratheater and intertheater airlift, including the potential that such current or future assets may reduce requirements for C–5 aircraft or C-17 aircraft.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2009, the Secretary Defense shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report on the study under subsection (a).

(2) FORM.—The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SA 2206. Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1535. STUDY AND INVESTIGATION OF WARTIME CONTRACTS AND CONTRACTING PROCESSES IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

(a) COMMISSION ON WARTIME CONTRACTING.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a commission to be known as the ''Commission on Wartime Contracting'' (in this subsection referred to as the ''Commission'').

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, as follows:

(A) 2 members shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(B) 2 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Members of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(E) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

(F) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(3) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—

(A) CHAIRMAN.—The chairman of the Commission shall be a member of the Commission selected by the members appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) but only if approved by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The vice chairman of the Commission shall be a member of the Commission selected by the members appointed under subparagraphs (C) and (D) of paragraph (2) but only if approved by the vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

(4) DUTIES.—

(A) GENERAL DUTIES.—The Commission shall study and investigate the following matters:

(i) Federal agency contracting for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

(ii) Federal agency contracting for the logistical support of coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

(iii) Federal agency contracting for the performance of security and intelligence functions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

(B) PARTICULAR DUTIES.—In carrying out the study under this paragraph, the Commission shall assess—

(i) the extent and impact of the reliance of the Federal Government on contractors to perform functions (including security, intelligence, and management functions) in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;

(ii) the performance of the contracts under review, and the mechanisms used to manage the performance of the contracts under review;

(iii) the extent of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement under such contracts;

(iv) the extent to which those responsible for such waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement have been held financially or legally accountable; and

(v) the appropriateness of the organizational structure, policies, and practices of

the Department of Defense and the Department of State for handling contingency contract management and support.

(5) REPORTS.—

(A) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress an interim report on the study carried out under paragraph (3), including the results and findings of the study as of that date.

(B) OTHER REPORTS.—The Commission may from time to time submit to Congress such other reports on the study carried out under paragraph (3) as the Commission considers appropriate.

(C) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the study carried out under paragraph (3). The report shall—

(i) include the findings of the Commission;

(ii) identify lessons learned on the contracting covered by the study; and

(iii) include specific recommendations for improvements to be made in—

(I) the process for developing contract requirements for wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations;

(II) the process for awarding contracts and task orders for wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations;

(III) the process for managing and providing oversight for the performance of wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations;

(IV) the process for holding contractors and their employees accountable for waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement under wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations;

(V) the process for determining which functions are inherently governmental and which functions are appropriate for performance by contractors in an area of combat operations (including an area of a contingency operation), including a determination whether the use of civilian contractors to provide security in an area of combat operations is a function that is inherently governmental;

(VI) the organizational structure, policies and practices of the Department of Defense and the Department of State handling contract management and support for wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations; and

(VII) the process by which roles and responsibilities with respect to wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations are distributed among the various departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and interagency coordination and communication mechanisms associated with wartime contracts and contracts for contingency operations.

(6) OTHER POWERS AND AUTHORITIES.—

(A) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission or, on the authority of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof, may, for the purpose of carrying out this subsection—

(i) hold such hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, subpoena, administer such oaths; and

(ii) require the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, and documents, as the Commission or such designated subcommittee or designated member may determine advisable.

(B) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Commission may secure directly from the Department of Defense and any other department or agency of the Federal Government any information or assistance that the Commission considers necessary to enable the Commission to carry out the requirements of this subsection. Upon request of the Commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information expeditiously to the Commission. Whenever information or assistance requested by the Commission is unreasonably refused or not provided, the Commission shall report the circumstances to Congress without delay.

(C) PERSONNEL.—The Commission shall have the authorities provided in section 3161 of title 5, United States Code, and shall be subject to the conditions set forth in such section, except to the extent that such conditions would be inconsistent with the requirements of this subsection.

(D) DETAILEES.—Any employee of the Federal Government employee may be detailed to the Commission without reimbursement from the Commission, and such detailee shall retain the rights, status, and privileges of his or her regular employment without interruption.

(E) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—The appropriate departments or agencies of the Federal Government shall cooperate with the Commission in expeditiously providing to the Commission members and staff appropriate security clearances to the extent possible pursuant to existing procedures and requirements, except that no person shall be provided with access to classified information under this section without the appropriate security clearances.

(F) VIOLATIONS OF LAW.—

(i) REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Commission may refer to the Attorney General any violation or potential violation of law identified by the Commission in carrying out its duties under this subsection.

(ii) REPORTS ON RESULTS OF REFERRAL.—The Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on each prosecution and conviction that results from a referral made under this subparagraph.

(7) CONTINGENCY OPERATION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''contingency operation'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) INVESTIGATION OF WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, AND MISMANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall, in cooperation with the Inspector General of the Department of Defense and Inspector General of the Department of State and in consultation with the Commission on Wartime Contracting established by subsection (a), conduct a series of audits to identify potential waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in the performance of—

(A) Department of Defense contracts and subcontracts for the logistical support of coalition forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

(B) Federal agency contracts and subcontracts for the performance of security and intelligence functions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

(2) SCOPE OF AUDITS OF DOD CONTRACTS.—Each audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) shall focus on a specific contract, task order, or site of performance under a contract or task order and shall examine, at a minimum, one or more of the following issues:

(A) The manner in which requirements were developed.

(B) The procedures under which the contract or task order was awarded.

(C) The terms and conditions of the contract or task order.

(D) The contractor's staffing and method of performance, including cost controls.

(E) The efficacy of Department of Defense management and oversight and Department of State management and oversight, including the adequacy of staffing and training of officials responsible for such management and oversight.

(F) The flow of information from the contractor to officials responsible for contract management and oversight.

(3) SCOPE OF AUDITS OF OTHER CONTRACTS.—Each audit conducted pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) shall focus on a specific contract, task order, or site of performance under a contract or task order and shall examine, at a minimum, one or more of the following issues:

(A) The manner in which the requirements were developed and the contract or task order was awarded.

(B) The manner in which the Federal agency exercised control over the contractor's performance.

(C) The extent to which operational field commanders are able to coordinate or direct the contractor's performance in an area of combat operations.

(D) The extent to which the functions performed were appropriate for performance by a contractor.

(E) The degree to which contractor employees were properly screened, selected, trained, and equipped for the functions to be performed.

(F) The nature and extent of any incidents of misconduct or unlawful activity by contractor employees.

(G) The extent to which any incidents of misconduct or unlawful activity were reported, documented, investigated, and (where appropriate) prosecuted.

(4) CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3001(o) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 5 U.S.C. App. 8G note), the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction shall not terminate until the completion of the audits required by this subsection.

(B) REAFFIRMATION OF CERTAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—Congress reaffirms that the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction retains the duties and responsibilities in sections 4 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 4; relating to reports of criminal violations to the Attorney General) and section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5; relating to reports to Congress) as expressly provided in subsections (f)(3) and (i)(3), respectively, of section 3001 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004.

(5) COMPLETION OF AUDITS.—The Special Inspector General shall complete any audits conducted under this subsection by not later than December 31, 2008.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be required to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SA 2207. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROGRAMS FOR USE OF LEAVE BY CAREGIVERS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS PERFORMING CERTAIN MILITARY SERVICE.

(a) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) CAREGIVER.—The term ''caregiver'' means an individual who—

(i) is an employee;

(ii) is at least 21 years of age; and

(iii) is capable of self care and care of children or other dependent family members of a qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(B) COVERED PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The term ''covered period of service'' means any period of service performed by an employee as a caregiver while the individual who designated the caregiver under paragraph (3) remains a qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(C) EMPLOYEE.—The term ''employee'' has the meaning given under section 6331 of title 5, United States Code.

(D) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''family member'' includes—

(i) individuals for whom the qualified member of the Armed Forces provides medical, financial, and logistical support (such as housing, food, clothing, or transportation); and

(ii) children under the age of 19 years, elderly adults, persons with disabilities, and other persons who are unable to care for themselves in the absence of the qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(E) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The term ''qualified member of the Armed Forces'' means—

(i) a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces as described under section 10101 of title 10, United States Code, who has received notice to report to, or is serving on, active duty in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation as defined under section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code; or

(ii) a member of the Armed Forces on active duty who is eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger special pay under section 310 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Office of Personnel Management shall establish a program to authorize a caregiver to—

(A) use any sick leave of that caregiver during a covered period of service in the same manner and to the same extent as annual leave is used; and

(B) use any leave available to that caregiver under subchapter III or IV of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, during a covered period of service as though that covered period of service is a medical emergency.

(3) DESIGNATION OF CAREGIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A qualified member of the Armed Forces shall submit a written designation of the individual who is the caregiver for any family member of that member of the Armed Forces during a covered period of service to the employing agency and the Office of Personnel Management.

(B) DESIGNATION OF SPOUSE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)(ii), an individual less than 21 years of age may be designated as a caregiver if that individual is the spouse of the qualified member of the Armed Forces making the designation.

(4) USE OF CAREGIVER LEAVE.—Leave may only be used under this subsection for purposes directly relating to, or resulting from, the designation of an employee as a caregiver.

(5) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

(6) TERMINATION.—The program under this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2012.

(b) VOLUNTARY PRIVATE SECTOR LEAVE PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) CAREGIVER.—The term ''caregiver'' means an individual who—

(i) is an employee;

(ii) is at least 21 years of age; and

(iii) is capable of self care and care of children or other dependent family members of a qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(B) COVERED PERIOD OF SERVICE.—The term ''covered period of service'' means any period of service performed by an employee as a caregiver while the individual who designated the caregiver under paragraph (4) remains a qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(C) EMPLOYEE.—The term ''employee'' means an employee of a business entity participating in the program under this subsection.

(D) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''family member'' includes—

(i) individuals for whom the qualified member of the Armed Forces provides medical, financial, and logistical support (such as housing, food, clothing, or transportation); and

(ii) children under the age of 19 years, elderly adults, persons with disabilities, and other persons who are unable to care for themselves in the absence of the qualified member of the Armed Forces.

(E) QUALIFIED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The term ''qualified member of the Armed Forces'' means—

(i) a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces as described under section 10101 of title 10, United States Code, who has received notice to report to, or is serving on, active duty in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation as defined under section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United States Code; or

(ii) a member of the Armed Forces on active duty who is eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger special pay under section 310 of title 37, United States Code.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a program to authorize employees of business entities described under paragraph (3) to use sick leave, or any other leave available to an employee, during a covered period of service in the same manner and to the same extent as annual leave (or its equivalent) is used.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to leave made available under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

(3) VOLUNTARY BUSINESS PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall solicit business entities to voluntarily participate in the program under this subsection.

(4) DESIGNATION OF CAREGIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A qualified member of the Armed Forces shall submit a written designation of the individual who is the caregiver for any family member of that member of the Armed Forces during a covered period of service to the employing business entity.

(B) DESIGNATION OF SPOUSE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)(ii), an individual less than 21 years of age may be designated as a caregiver if that individual is the spouse of the qualified member of the Armed Forces making the designation.

(5) USE OF CAREGIVER LEAVE.—Leave may only be used under this subsection for purposes directly relating to, or resulting from, the designation of an employee as a caregiver.

(6) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

(7) TERMINATION.—The program under this subsection shall terminate on December 31, 2012.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2010, the Government Accountability Office shall submit a report to Congress on the programs under subsections (a) and (b) that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the success of each program; and

(2) recommendations for the continuance or termination of each program.

(d) OFFSET.—The aggregate amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 for the use of the Department of Defense for research, development, test and evaluation shall be reduced by $2,000,000.

SA 2208. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XV, add the following:

Subtitle D—Iraq

SEC. 1541. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has vital national security interests in Iraq and the Middle East region.

(2) These vital interests include the prevention of Iraq or any piece of its territory from being used as a safe haven or training ground for terrorists or as a repository or assembly point for weapons of mass destruction; the prevention of acts of violence and disorder that upset wider regional stability, undermining friendly governments, expanding refugee flows, impairing the international shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf, or destroying key oil production or transportation facilities; the prevention of Iranian domination of or aggression toward nations or areas of the Middle East, which would have potentially serious consequences for weapons proliferation, terrorism, the security of Israel, and the stability of friendly governments; and the protection of U.S. credibility in the region and throughout the world.

(3) On January 10, 2007, the President announced the ''New Way forward'' (hereinafter known as ''the President's strategy''), which consists of four basic elements: political, regional, economic, and military.

(4) The central component of the military element of the President's strategy is an increased emphasis on population security with augmented Iraqi and Coalition force levels in Baghdad and elsewhere. This element required the deployment of five additional U.S. brigade combat teams, with the fifth brigade combat team having been deployed and having become operational in June 2007.

(5) It is widely recognized that there is no purely military solution to the situation in Iraq. The Iraqi leaders must, as a unified government, reach political settlements in order to achieve reconciliation, for their failure to do so greatly contributes to the violence and disorder in Iraq.

(6) The viability of the President's strategy within Iraq depends upon: 1) military success at reducing violence and instability in Iraq to a degree that creates greater political

normalcy to conclude political compromises; 2) the willingness of Iraqi leaders to subordinate their personal, tribal, and sectarian loyalties and agendas to allow for meaningful and lasting compromises on key questions of economic and political power, such as the equitable distribution of hydrocarbon resources, the enactment of a debaathification policy, the enactment of provincial election law, the completion of the Constitutional review process, and the settlement of the Kirkuk question; and 3) the ability of these potential compromises to achieve a sufficient level of national reconciliation to sustain a stable, unified government, security forces loyal to that government, and a cohesive society despite the continuing risk of terrorism or sectarian violence.

(7) According to the Initial Benchmark Assessment Report, issued on July 12, 2007, under the requirements of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 110–28), enacted May 25, 2007, the Administration has scored satisfactory progress toward 8 of 18 benchmarks, but unsatisfactory or mixed progress is being marked in 10 others. Specifically, in the Security sector, while the report grades ''satisfactory progress toward providing three trained and ready Iraqi brigades to support Baghdad operations, ''the Iraqi Government has made unsatisfactory progress toward increasing the number of Iraqi Security Forces units capable of operating independently'', and has not made satisfactory progress ''in ensuring that Iraqi Security Forces are providing even-handed enforcement of the law. . .''

(8) The Administration's Initial Benchmark Assessment Report of July 12, 2007, indicates clearly that none of the benchmarks set forth in P.L 110-28, nor those milestones recommended by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group in December 2006 in the areas of national reconciliation, security and governance have been reached in their entirety.

(9) Sectarian agendas, heightened by current power struggles and the memory of the oppressive rule of Saddam Hussein, have generated fear, distrust, and hatred in many parts of Iraq leading to ethnic cleansing, violence, sabotage, economic discrimination, and uncompromising political agendas that have hindered attempts to achieve political reconciliation.

(10) Many leaders of the Iraqi government and sectarian factions have not demonstrated a commitment to the concept of a pluralist government; nor have they demonstrated the ability to control many subfactions within their sects.

(11) The difficulty of achieving short-term political accommodation in Iraq has been complicated by absenteeism in Parliament, personal feuds among leaders, factional boycotts, and the demands of making policy by consensus in a fragmented society.

(12) Though some Iraqi military and security units have achieved a commendable, professional degree of capability and have performed courageously in combat, a measure of sectarian loyalties, agenda, and corruption still afflict the Iraqi security services.

(13) Given continuing high levels of violence in Iraq and few manifestations of political compromise among Iraq's factions, the optimal outcome in Iraq of a unified, pluralist, democratic government that is able to police itself, protect its borders, and achieve economic development is not likely to be achieved in the near future.

(14) American military and diplomatic strategy in Iraq must adjust to the reality that sectarian factionalism is not likely to abate anytime soon and probably cannot be controlled from the top.

(15) The U.S. military's capacity to interpose itself indefinitely between sectarian factions in Iraq is limited by the high tempo of deployments to Iraq during four and a half years of conflict have impacted the overall readiness of our armed forces, complicated the all-volunteer policy of recruitment, and strained the quality of life for military families.

(16) The extended Iraq deployments have potential consequences for U.S. abilities to respond to other national security threats, including challenges in Afghanistan.

(17) The safety and security of our military forces, as well as our credibility in the region require that any military withdrawal or redeployment from Iraq be carefully planned and executed.

(18) Some level of American military presence in or near Iraq would improve prospects that the United States could respond to terrorist threats, protect petroleum flows, help deter a regional war, and reassure friendly governments of America's commitment to Middle East security.

(19) Our military planners and diplomats must have as much time as possible to develop and implement the elements of any follow-on policy to the President's strategy, including securing the cooperation of the Iraqi government and key states in the region and establishing the logistics to support a residual or temporary American military presence.

(20) A poorly-planned or precipitous withdrawal from Iraq could compound the risks of a wider regional conflict stimulated by Sunni-Shia tensions, damage U.S. credibility among regional allies, expose Iraqis who have worked with the Coalition to retribution, increase the magnitude of destabilizing refugee flows, undercut economic and development projects currently underway in Iraq, and signal that the United States was abandoning efforts to prevent Iraqi territory from being used as a terrorist base.

(21) The December 2006 report issued by the Iraq Study Group advocated a comprehensive strategy that includes ''new and enhanced diplomatic and political efforts in Iraq and the region, and a change in the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq that will enable the United States to begin to move its combat forces out of Iraq responsibly;''.

(22) A new strategy should reference the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, which consulted nearly 200 leading officials and experts, including senior members of the Government of Iraq, the United States Government, and key coalition partners and received advice from more than 50 distinguished scholars and experts from a variety of fields who conducted working groups in the areas of economy and reconstruction, military and security, political development, and the strategic environment in Iraq and the Middle East.

(23) The long term importance of Iraq and the Middle East to American economic and national security requires that our policy in Iraq be militarily sustainable and that it command the greatest degree of public and Congressional support possible.

(24) The report of the Iraq Study Group opened with a letter from the co-chairs, James A. Baker, III and Lee H. Hamilton, which states ''Our political leaders must build a bipartisan approach to bring a responsible conclusion to what is now a lengthy and costly war. Our country deserves a debate that prizes substance over rhetoric, and a policy that is adequately funded and sustainable. The President and Congress must work together. Our leaders must be candid and forthright with the American people in order to win their support''.

SEC. 1542. REPORTING AND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) The President shall require the Director of National Intelligence to review and update, as required, the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) titled ''Prospects for Iraq's Stability: A Challenging Road Ahead'', dated January 2007, not later than September 4, 2007. The updated NIE shall include an assessment specifically of the consequences of the various courses of action reducing U.S. forces in Iraq on the future of Iraq, the Middle East region, U.S. national interests, and U.S. partners and allies.

(b) The President, in close coordination with the Secretaries of Defense and State, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior military leaders, shall, as a matter of prudence, consider all options and initiate planning to:

(1) transition U.S. combat forces from policing the civil strife or sectarian violence in Iraq;

(2) redeploy or reallocate those forces in a responsible manner as conditions permit;

(3) refocus U.S. military operations on maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq, denying international terrorists a safe haven, conducting counterterrorism operations against al Qaeda in Iraq and its associates, protecting U.S. forces and facilities, and training and equipping Iraqi forces to take full responsibility for their own security; and

(4) address the findings of the Independent Assessment of the Iraqi Security Forces as provided by PL 110-28 to include decision points for the redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq that are based upon the readiness of Iraqi Security Forces.

(c) The aforementioned plans shall be presented to Congress, in a format determined by the Administration, not later than October 16, 2007, and shall be accompanied by the results from modeling and simulation efforts by appropriate departments and agencies of the U.S. government that address the consequences of the courses of action proposed and analyzed. The results of that modeling and simulation shall be made available to Congress.

(d) We recommend that the President and the Administration design plans to be executable beginning not later than December 31, 2007.

SEC. 1543. AUTHORIZATION OF THE USE OF FORCE.

Findings:

(1) In the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 110–28), enacted May 25, 2007, the Congress enacted broad legislation, part of which originated in the Senate, and the President signed the legislation which specifically mandated that the President take the following actions:

(A) ''The President shall submit an initial report, in classified and unclassified format, to the Congress, not later than July 15, 2007, assessing the status of each of the specific benchmarks established above, and declaring, in his judgment, whether satisfactory progress toward meeting these benchmarks is, or is not, being achieved''.

(B) ''The President, having consulted with the Secretary of State, The Secretary of Defense, The Commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, and the Commander of U.S. Central Command, will prepare the report and submit the report to Congress''.

(C) ''If the President's assessment of any of the specific benchmarks established above is unsatisfactory, the President shall include in that report a description of such revisions to the political, economic, regional, and military components of the strategy, as announced by the President on January 10, 2007. In addition, the President shall include

in the report, the advisability of implementing such aspects of the bipartisan Iraq Study Group, as he deems appropriate''.

(D) ''The President shall submit a second report to the Congress, not later than September 15, 2007, following the same procedures and criteria, outlined above''.

(E) ''Prior to the submission of the President's second report on September 15, 2007, and at a time to be agreed upon by the leadership of the Congress and the Administration, the United States Ambassador to Iraq and the Commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq will be made available to testify in open and closed sessions before the relevant committees of the Congress''.

(F) The Department of Defense ''will commission an independent, private-sector entity, which operates as a 501(c)(3), with recognized credentials and expertise in military affairs, to prepare an independent report assessing the following:

(i) The readiness of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to assume responsibility for maintaining the territorial integrity of Iraq, denying international terrorists a safe haven, and bringing greater security to Iraq's 18 provinces in the next 12-18 months, and bringing an end to sectarian violence to achieve national reconciliation;

(ii) The training, equipping, command, control and intelligence capabilities, and logistics capacity of the ISF;

(iii) The likelihood that, given the ISF's record of preparedness to date, following years of training and equipping by U.S. forces, the continued support of U.S. troops will contribute to the readiness of the ISF to fulfill the missions outlined in subparagraph (A)''.

(iv) It is anticipated that the ''Independent Report on the Iraqi Security Forces,'' will, in whole or in part, be available before September 5, 2007.

(2) Two successive reports by the President, a report from the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, a report from the Commander of Multinational Forces—Iraq, and the Independent Assessment of the Iraqi Security Forces, thereby provide a comprehensive body of information available to the American public and to the Congress, upon which they can establish opinions and evaluate decisions on the future course of U.S. involvement in Iraq and the surrounding region.

(3) The findings that supported H.J. Res. 114, Public Law 107–243, which was enacted in 2002 and which authorized the President to use the Armed Forces of the United States against Iraq, require review and revision. Therefore, as part of his September 15, 2007, report, Congress expects that the President will submit to Congress a proposal to revise Public Law 107–243.

SEC. 1544. STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT.

The President shall direct the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, to initiate negotiations with the Government of Iraq on a Status of Forces Agreement with a goal to complete work not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1545. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN IRAQ AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

(a) Findings

(1) The Iraq Study Group recommended a diplomatic offensive, stating ''all key issues in the Middle East – the Arab-Israeli conflict, Iraq, Iran, the need for political and economic reforms, and extremism and terrorism, are inextricably linked''. The report stressed that diplomacy aimed at solving key regional issues would ''help marginalize extremists and terrorists, promote U.S. values and interests, and improve America's global image''.

(2) Members of the Gulf Cooperation Council-Plus-Two issued a joint statement on January 16, 2007, reflecting ''their collective desire to prevent Iraq from becoming a battleground for regional international powers and urged all to help end sectarian violence in Iraq''.

(3) The Bush Administration supported and participated in the March 10, 2007, regional conference in Baghdad and the follow-up regional conference held in Egypt on May 3 and 4, 2007, and that conference produced three working groups: one chaired by Syria on Border Security, a second chaired by Jordan on Refugees, and a third by Turkey on Fuels and Energy.

(4) The redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq to other locations in the Middle East, would require the cooperation of regional governments.

(5) A revision of U.S. military policy in Iraq could increase the chances of stimulating greater economic and diplomatic assistance for Iraq from multi-lateral organizations and European allies, who have sought to limit their association with an unpopular war.

(6) Regional players, including– Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, the Gulf States, and others have substantial concerns about Iran's disruptive agenda in the region that converge with U.S. interests.

(7) All states in the region, including Iran and Syria have some interest in preventing political turmoil and refugee flows from emanating from Iraq or the break-up of Iraq into sectarian regions.

(8) All nations that depend on oil imports, particularly those who are dependent on Persian Gulf oil, have a strong economic and security interest in maintaining stability in the Gulf region.

(b) It is the Sense of Congress that the United States Government should work vigorously with like-minded governments, including the Iraqi government, to establish a predictable and regular multi-lateral diplomatic forum related to Iraq that meets frequently and is open to all parties in the Middle East.

(c) Such a forum could be based on the existing structure of the May 2007 foreign ministers conference at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt that plans to reassemble in Istanbul at a date to be determined, or it could be initiated with a new structure.

(d) U.S. goals in advancing the forum should include promoting international support for reconciliation in Iraq, dealing with refugee flows emanating from Iraq, protecting the territorial integrity of Iraq, advancing Iraqi economic development, and containing any conflict that might spread from Iraq.

(e) The United States should work with other nations at the forum to promote transparency of national interests and actions so that the risks for neighboring states of pursuing armed aggression or destructive sectarian agendas are heightened and all parties avoid miscalculations that could lead to conflict.

(f) In the context of a drawdown of American forces in Iraq, the United States should attempt to secure contributions of resources or military personnel for international efforts to stabilize Iraq's borders.

(g) Although focused on a multi-lateral approach to issues related to Iraq, the United States should encourage opportunities to discuss other regional concerns and to facilitate bilateral contacts between those in attendance, when appropriate.

(h) As the United States attempts to establish a more sustainable policy in Iraq, our government should launch a broader diplomatic offensive in the region aimed at repairing alliances, assuring regional governments of our staying power in the Middle East, enlisting greater help international help in combating terrorism, stabilizing oil prices, and making progress in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

SA 2209. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 143. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TANKER AIRCRAFT FLEET.

It is the sense of Congress that timely replacement of the Air Force aerial refueling tanker fleet is a vital national security priority for the reasons as follows:

(1) The average age of the aircraft in the Air Force aerial refueling tanker fleet is now more than 43 years, with the age of the aircraft in the KC–135 tanker fleet averaging 46 years.

(2) The development and fielding of a replacement tanker aircraft will allow the United States military to continue to project combat capability anywhere in the world on short notice without relying on intermediate bases for refueling.

(3) Under current plans, it will take more than 30 years to replace the current fleet of KC–135 tanker aircraft, meaning that some KC–135 tanker aircraft are scheduled to remain operational until they are nearly 80 years old.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Sullivan and Asmita on Senator HARKIN's staff be granted floor privileges during today's debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING DAY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 268, and that the Senate then proceed to its 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. 268) designating July 12, 2007, as ''National Summer Learning Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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, en bloc, 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. 268) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 268

Whereas all students experience a measurable loss of mathematics and reading skills when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer months;

Whereas summer learning loss is greatest for low-income children, who often lack the academic enrichment opportunities available to their more affluent peers;

Whereas recent research indicates that ⅔ of the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities, which results in low-income youth being less likely to graduate from high school or enter college;

Whereas recent surveys indicate that low-income parents have considerable difficulty finding available summer opportunities for their children;

Whereas structured enrichment and education programs are proven to accelerate learning for students who participate in such programs for several weeks during the summer;

Whereas students who participate in the Building Educated Leaders for Life (''BELL'') summer programs gain several months' worth of reading and mathematics skills through summer enrichment, and students who regularly attend the Teach Baltimore Summer Academy for 2 summers are ½ year ahead of their peers in reading skills;

Whereas thousands of students in similar programs make measurable gains in academic achievement;

Whereas recent research demonstrates that most children, particularly children at high risk of obesity, gain weight more rapidly when they are out of school during the summer;

Whereas Summer Learning Day is designed to highlight the need for more young people to be engaged in summer learning activities and to support local summer programs that benefit children, families, and communities;

Whereas a wide array of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities, museums, libraries, and summer camps in many States across the United States, will celebrate annual Summer Learning Day on July 12, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 12, 2007, as ''National Summer Learning Day'', in order to raise public awareness about the positive impact of summer learning opportunities on the development and educational success of the children of our Nation;

(2) urges the people of the United States to promote summer learning activities, in order to send young people back to school ready to learn, to support working parents and their children, and to keep the children of our Nation safe and healthy during the summer months; and

(3) urges communities to celebrate, with appropriate ceremonies and activities, the importance of high quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young students and their families.

HONORING LADY BIRD JOHNSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 271, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 271) honoring Lady Bird Johnson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 271) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 271

Whereas Americans throughout the nation are mourning the passing of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson, who served as First Lady with honor and grace during the Administration of her husband, President Lyndon Baines Johnson;

Whereas Mrs. Johnson was born near Karnack, Texas and received the nickname ''Lady Bird'' as a young child;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was known as an excellent student and graduated from the University of Texas;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson met Lyndon Johnson in 1934 and the 2 were married later that year;

Whereas Lady Bird Johnson was a successful businesswoman who helped build a small radio station into a multimillion-dollar radio and television enterprise;

Whereas throughout her husband's political career in Congress and the White House, Lady Bird Johnson played an important supportive role as a partner and confidante;

Whereas as wife of the Vice President, Lady Bird Johnson visited 33 foreign countries as an ambassador of goodwill;

Whereas, as First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson earned widespread respect and affection not only for the tone of dignity with which she represented her husband and the Nation, but for her active involvement in efforts to serve the public, such as her work to improve the environment and to address the problem of poverty in the United States;

Whereas millions of travelers and commuters have Lady Bird Johnson to thank for the colorful flowers that line many of our roads, which represent a living, lasting legacy of the woman who guided the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (23 U.S.C. 131, 135 note, 136, 319) into law;

Whereas after leaving the White House, Lady Bird Johnson continued to serve the Nation in many ways, including helping to found the National Wildflower Research Center, supporting the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library, and serving on the Board of the National Geographic Society as a trustee emeritus; and

Whereas, in addition to her service to the Nation, Lady Bird Johnson was a devoted and loving mother to her 2 daughters, Lynda Bird and Luci Baines, as well as her 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of Claudia Taylor (Lady Bird) Johnson;

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Johnson's family;

(3) honors and, on behalf of the nation, expresses deep appreciation for Lady Bird Johnson's important service to her country; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask that I be made a cosponsor of that resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRAISING MUSLIM-AMERICAN PHYSICIANS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 272, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 272) praising Muslim-American physicians who condemned recent attempted terrorist acts in the United Kingdom.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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. 272) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 272

Whereas in early July 2007, acts of terrorism were attempted at Glasgow Airport and in London;

Whereas early indications suggest that Muslim physicians allegedly were responsible for the attempted acts of terrorism;

Whereas thousands of Muslim-American physicians living and practicing in the United States are an important and welcome component of American society;

Whereas Muslim-American physicians, through the Islamic Medical Association of North America, publicly stated that the association ''condemns in the strongest terms the attack on Glasgow Airport, the attempted attack in London; and all attacks by which innocent people are killed or harmed in any manner and all attacks that result in destruction of the property of innocent people''; and

Whereas the Islamic Medical Association of North America further stated, ''Such attacks, regardless of whether or not they have been perpetrated by physicians, are against the most basic teachings of our religion, Islam, and are contrary to the very basic principles of our profession, regardless of religion or creed. Suicide is also strictly prohibited in Islam.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the recent attempted attacks in the United Kingdom;

(2) commends the Islamic Medical Association of North America for swift, clear, and public denunciation of the attacks;

(3) encourages Muslim voices in the United States and abroad to continue speaking out against terrorism; and

(4) condemns bigotry and acts of violence against any American, including Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 975, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 975) granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, 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 bill (S. 975) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 975

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

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The consent and approval of Congress is given to an interstate forest fire protection compact, as set out in subsection (b).

(b) COMPACT.—The compact reads substantially as follows:

"THE GREAT PLAINS WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

''THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the State, Provincial and Territorial wildland fire protection agencies signatory hereto, hereinafter referred to as 'Members'.

''FOR, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the following terms and conditions, the Members agree:

''ARTICLE I

''The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, and by providing for reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and any adjoining sate of a current member state.

''ARTICLE II

''This compact is operative immediately as to those states ratifying it if any two or more of the member states have ratified it.

''ARTICLE III

''In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control may act as compact administrator for that state and may consult with like officials of the other member states and may implement cooperation between the states in forest fire prevention and control. The compact administrators of the member states may organize to coordinate the services of the member states and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact. Each member state may formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state.

''ARTICLE IV

''If the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, the state forest fire control agency of that state may render all possible aid to the requesting agency, consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

''ARTICLE V

''If the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state under this compact, the employees of the state shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

''No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact is liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection with rendering the outside aid.

''All liability, except as otherwise provided in this compact, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third state on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

''Any member state rendering outside and pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state receiving the aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and maintenance of employees and equipment incurred in connection with such request. However, nothing in this compact prevents any assisting member state from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such services to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

''Each member state shall assure that workers compensation benefits in conformity with the minimum legal requirements of the state are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting state pursuant to this compact.

''For the purposes of this compact the term, employee, includes any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the laws of the aiding state.

''The compact administrators may formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

''ARTICLE VI

''Ratification of this compact does not affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities of any member state.

''Nothing in this compact authorizes or permits any member state to curtail or diminish its forest fire fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities. Each member state shall maintain adequate forest fighting forces and equipment to meet demands for forest fire protection within its borders in the same manner and to the same extent as if this compact were not operative.

''Nothing in this compact limits or restricts the powers of any state ratifying the compact to provide for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws, rules, or regulations intended to aid in the prevention, control, and extinguishment in the state.

''Nothing in this compact affects any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between the United States Forest Service and a member state or states.

''ARTICLE VII

''Representatives of the United States Forest Service may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

''ARTICLE VIII

''The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact that relate to reciprocal aid in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires are operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to this compact and any other state that is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region if the Legislature of the other state has given its assent to the mutual aid provisions of this compact.

''ARTICLE IX

''This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the Legislature or the Governor of the state takes action to withdraw from the compact. Such action in not effective until six months after notice of the withdrawal has been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.''.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today until 1 p.m. for the introduction of legislation, submission of statements, and cosponsorships.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND STATEMENTS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a collection of statements made in tribute to the late First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson, together with appropriate illustrations and other materials relating to her death, be printed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, July 16; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the

morning hour be deemed expired and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 3 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1585.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as previously announced, there are no rollcall votes Monday. However, Members should be prepared for votes throughout the week.

Mr. President, 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. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PRESTON M. GEREN TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am very privileged to advise the Senate, working with the leadership on both sides, particularly Chairman LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN and myself, that I am now able to ask the Senate to proceed to executive session to consider the Executive Calendar, No. 163; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Secretary of the Army.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, this nomination is for the Secretary of the U.S. Army, and it is essential that he be in position now. I am very pleased the Senate has taken this action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. WARNER. There being no further business, Madam President, I suggest we return to the regular order of business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007, at 2 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, July 16, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:11 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 16, 2007, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Friday, July 13, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PRESTON M. GEREN, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS JAMIE LANGLEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the accomplishments of Ms. Jamie Langley, who was crowned Miss Alabama on June 10th, 2007.

Miss Langley, 23, is a senior majoring in communications at Jacksonville State University and a graduate of Wadley High School. Her parents, Jeff and Mailey Langley, reside in the community of Forester's Chapel just outside of Wadley, AL. Jamie's efforts to promote heart health and the development of healthy habits are an excellent example to her peers and the young women of Alabama.

I would like to congratulate Jamie on this memorable occasion and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

HONORING DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG UPON THE AWARD OF HIS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special American; a husband, father, grandfather, agricultural pioneer, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. To his family, he's Norman Borlaug, Daddy, or Two Daddy. For us, we now add "winner of the Congressional Gold Medal" to his many titles and accolades.

Joining many of my colleagues, I was proud to support the Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Act of 2006 presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Borlaug, in recognition of his enduring contributions to the United States and the world. In 1970, Dr. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his successful efforts to find a high yielding, disease-resistant wheat, which was mass produced in developing nations across the world to combat mass starvation.

It is with pleasure that I take the time to honor this great man, who, despite his unrivaled achievements maintained his humility and was always motivated by the greater good. Dr. Borlaug's agricultural achievements to combat hunger have saved countless lives and inspired others to follow in his footsteps. It is an honor to represent an American hero whose life and work has made the world a better place by elevating the human condition.

Dr. Borlaug's untiring efforts to feed the hungry stem from his college years during the Great Depression, when he earned meals by waiting tables in a restaurant. After World War II, his research to find ways to increase wheat yields developed a shorter plant which was easier to harvest, and that gave more food to people in Mexico. Before long, Dr. Borlaug was in demand both for cultivating the land and in consulting with world leaders.

Dr. Borlaug once said there is no magic in high-yielding seed, that people just have to know how to grow, when to plant, how to control weeds and how to manage water. He may be right about that, but Dr. Borlaug's almost magical ability to bring people together to learn how to produce food has been a blessing to millions. With humble thanks, I congratulate Dr. Borlaug on the occasion of the Congressional Gold Medal, an honor well-deserved for his scientific advancements that have reshaped the world for the better.

DR. NORMAN E. BORLAUG

Known as the father of the Green Revolution, Norman Ernest Borlaug was born in 1914 on a farm near Cresco, Iowa. After completing his early education in his hometown, he went on to study forestry and plant pathology at the University of Minnesota, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees and completed his doctorate in 1942. After two years as a microbiologist with the DuPont de Nemours Foundation, he took on the challenge of leading the wheat improvement efforts of the Cooperative Mexican Agricultural Program, sponsored by the Mexican government and the Rockefeller Foundation.

In Mexico, Dr. Borlaug's scientific knowledge found expression in a humanitarian mission: developing improved grain varieties to feed the hungry people of the world. A practical, energetic, hands-on researcher, Dr. Borlaug worked in the fields alongside farm workers, students, and interns, sharing his knowledge as well as the labor of producing food crops. During his twenty years in Mexico, Dr. Borlaug and his colleagues perfected a dwarf wheat variety that could produce large amounts of grain, resist diseases, and resist lodging—the bending and breaking of the stalk that often occurs in high-yielding grains. Under Dr. Borlaug's guidance, this new wheat was planted with great success, not only in Mexico, but also in India and Pakistan. In subsequent years, the wheat was planted in nations in Central and South America, the Near and Middle East, and Africa.

In 1964, Dr. Borlaug was appointed director of the Wheat Research and Production Program at the then newly established International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) near Mexico City. This position allowed him to expand his teaching mission. He shared his immense knowledge of research and production methods with thousands of young scientists from all over the world, "seeding" agricultural production in their home countries with new ideas and new productivity.

Despite having received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970—and, over the years, multitudinous honors and recognitions from universities, governments, and organizations worldwide—Dr. Borlaug remains a deeply humble and practical man who has been as productive after winning this major honor as he was before.

He came to Texas A&M University in 1984 as Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture and has continued to teach and inspire young scientists at Texas A&M and at CIMMYT. Hailed as having saved more lives than anyone else in the history of mankind, Dr. Borlaug cites as one of his most prized tributes the naming of a street in his honor in Ciudad Obregon, Sonora, Mexico—the site of some of his earliest research projects.

STRIKING TIAHRT AMENDMENT—SUPPORT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support striking the Tiahrt Amendment and to enter into the record an editorial from today's Washington Post, "Follow the Guns—It's time for Congress to free up the data on firearms."

I serve as a co-chair for the Congressional Task Force Against Illegal Guns. This bipartisan group was formed to support the Mayors Against Illegal Guns, whose current primary focus is striking the Tiahrt Amendment. The Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which is also a bipartisan group has over 220 members and the support of several local and national police organizations.

I strongly agree that action is needed now to address the issue with the trafficking of illegal guns and striking the Tiahrt Amendment is a good step. At the heart of this issue, is the gun trace data that is maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). Not too long ago, back in 2002 to be exact, ATF released gun trace data which helped law enforcement identify illegal gun dealers. That all changed, and now the police agencies in this country that work so hard every day to investigate crimes can't fully do their jobs. This does not make any sense. The police agencies need gun trace data information and Congress needs to ensure that they get it.

Some would argue that this is a Second Amendment issue. It simply is not. This issue is solely about fighting crime to protect Americans. Everyday in cities all across our great country, people are harmed and often lose their lives because criminals gained access to illegal guns.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in this crime fighting effort. I applaud the Mayors Against Illegal Guns and the police organizations who are fighting this issue to decrease crime and improve the streets of America.

[From the Washington Post, July 11, 2007]

FOLLOW THE GUNS—IT'S TIME FOR CONGRESS TO FREE UP THE DATA ON FIREARMS

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) used to release analyses of data gained by tracing the history of

guns used in crimes. These reports yielded valuable information for local law enforcement officials, researchers and the public. Some of the results were startling: For example, 57 percent of crime guns came from 1.2 percent of licensed dealers, the ATF estimated in 2000. The guns the bad guys use don't just come from the black market, in other words; a huge proportion come from a handful of unscrupulous vendors.

But since Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.) added a rider to the Justice Department's budget in 2003, the ATF has been prohibited from sharing such gun-trace information with the public, keeping additional insights that might be gained from the data out of public view and making it harder for local authorities to connect the dots. Every year since, the so-called Tiahrt Amendment has gotten more restrictive, narrowing the ability of local police to gain access to or apply gun-trace information. The worst iteration yet came last month, when the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a version from Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) that threatens to put police officers in prison if they use federal gun-trace data for any purpose other than to advance specific, ''bona fide criminal investigations''—for proactively tracking and interdicting illicit guns, for example, or identifying problem gun sellers.

The House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider a less restrictive, but still odious, provision tomorrow. The panel should remove the Tiahrt language, and the House Democratic leadership should encourage its members to do so. District Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) and New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (I) yesterday called for repeal at a joint news conference, and their cause is backed by more than 200 other mayors and scores of law enforcement organizations and police chiefs. Striking the Tiahrt rider is not about chipping away at Second Amendment rights. It is about empowering local authorities to do basic police work.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS, OHIO DIVISION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their many years of service to the Polish-American community in the great State of Ohio.

The Polish American Congress, since its founding in 1944, has been a symbol of the strong relationship between the United States and Poland, and a testament to the contributions of the rich Polish culture.

For many years the Polish American Congress has worked to unite and to support Americans of Polish origin in the United States, regardless of political, religious, or other affiliation. This great organization provides all Polish groups of Ohio the opportunity to express pride and celebrate their heritage and culture through educational, artistic and cultural events.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Polish American Congress, Ohio Division, for their continuing support of the Polish American people in Ohio, and for their important efforts in helping people to connect to their heritage.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL KELLY DULLE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Kelly Dulle, 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 601, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Michael has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Kelly Dulle 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 CITY OF SALEM FOR BEING DESIGNATED A PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Salem, OR for being recognized as a community proud of its heritage, proud of its history, and committed to preserving its historic resources so that they may be enjoyed for generations to come.

I was not surprised to learn that First Lady Laura Bush and the Preserve America Initiative had recognized Salem for its historic and cultural preservation efforts and had named the city a Preserve America Community. I grew up in Salem and know that it is exactly the type of community that we want to preserve.

Salem, Oregon's capital is one of Oregon's oldest communities. It grew as a pioneer settlement around the Oregon Institute that is now Willamette University, and Salem's location in the center of the fertile Willamette Valley has allowed it to play an important role in Oregon's agricultural economy since statehood.

Over the past few years, a 33-member citizens' taskforce created the Downtown Revitalization Toolbox which has sought to address vacancy and rehabilitation concerns in the Historic Downtown by providing matching grants for historic building improvement projects. Through public-private partnerships, thousands of volunteer hours have been logged and over $8.5 million invested in Salem's Historic Downtown District.

There is a saying that good citizens are the riches of a city. Knowing the effort that has been made by the citizens of Salem to preserve historic treasures and create economic opportunities for local businesses, I can safely say that Salem is a wealthy city indeed.

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Salem and the other communities across the country that have been designated as Preserve America Communities. It is through their efforts that our collective history and culture will be secured for future generations.

NEW YORK CARIBNEWS ARTICLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York CaribNews, for the week ending July 10, titled "President George Bush to Send U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings to Caribbean." While the Caribbean Community—CARICOM—nations were in the United States last month, they highlighted the education challenges the region is facing. The article discusses Secretary of Education Spellings' upcoming visit to the region following up on their concerns, in the hopes of developing a cooperative solution to boost CARICOM's educational systems.

The Secretary's trip will focus on the need to foster stronger tertiary educational systems throughout the region. By sharing our experiences in addressing the challenges of education, we can strengthen our efforts to reach the goal of better education for all throughout the region. Quality education for all is a recipe for growth and innovation that leads to economic and social development. Education is a way out of poverty and fosters democracy, as well as respect for human rights.

In her visit to the CARICOM nations, I also encourage her to visit the nation of Haiti. This country is the most economically vulnerable of the CARICOM states and would benefit greatly from methodologies to address their education challenges. Haiti is a nation of 9 million habitants and it is estimated that more than half of the population is unable to read and write. This trend cannot continue due to the increased interdependency of countries caused by globalization. It does not benefit the United States or the Western Hemisphere to continue to leave behind the thousands of Haitian children each year by allowing illiteracy to prevail. Lack of education leads to poverty and it is my contention that poverty puts the security of the region at risk.

I cannot underscore enough the importance of a consistent and progressive relationship between the United States and the Caribbean. Educational collaboration with our partners in the western hemisphere will lead to higher living standards and stronger democracies.

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO SEND U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, MARGARET SPELLINGS, TO CARIBBEAN

(By Tony Best)

U.S. Secretary of Education is going to Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and their neighbors to see how they can work together to boost CARICOM's educational system.

Margaret Spellings, the first mother of school-aged children to serve as Education Secretary, is being sent to the region by President George Bush.

The proposed visit is a follow up to the recent summit in Washington between the United States chief executive and CARICOM leaders held at the State Department in Washington in June.

Dr Ralph Gonsalves, St. Vincent's Prime Minister, who until yesterday was chairman of CARICOM and is being succeeded by Barbados' Prime Minister Owen Arthur, first disclosed plans for Spellings' visit at the behest of President Bush.

Dr. Gonsalves, a former political science lecturer at the Cave Hill campus of the University of the West Indies before studying law and entering active politics in his homeland, said that the President indicated to the Caribbean Prime Ministers and President that the Education Secretary would go to the region to meet with government officials and educators.

''We welcome any opportunity to work with the United States to expand our educational institutions. The President told us that the Secretary of Education, a member of his cabinet is eager to visit the Caribbean to meet with us,'' he said.

Spellings, a key architect of President Bush's ''No Child Left Behind'' education program, is expected to pay considerable attention to the Caribbean's efforts to boost tertiary level educational opportunities and to link universities and colleges at the regional and national levels, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Universities of Guyana, Suriname Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago and other colleges in the Bahamas, Barbados and the OECS.

''The linking of the colleges and the university is something we consider to be very important,'' said Gonsalves.

Barbados' Foreign Minister, Dame Billie Miller, who confirmed the proposed Spellings visit, described it as a natural follow-up to the extensive discussions about education at the summit.

''All sides agreed it was the most important thing, education and training,'' she said. ''Indeed, it was pointed out to President Bush that in some areas we in the region are the donor community.''

Specifically, 60 per cent of the doctors trained at the University of the West Indies end up working in the United States.

''This was part of a discussion with the President, the Ways and Means and the Foreign Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives as to why so many Caribbean students were now choosing to go to Cuba for training because it was at a fraction of the cost of training in the United States,'' she pointed out.

As a matter of fact, Guyana's President Bharrat Jagdeo went to great lengths to explain that training provided by Cuba to West Indian students was to ''offset the brain drain'' from the Caribbean to the United States.

''In that respect, we are the donor rather than the donee committee. It was generally discussed that technology transfer was really very important and we had to do a lot more work at the post secondary and tertiary education stages.

The heads spoke of the vision in this region among the universities, not only the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados but the Universities in Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and now the University of Trinidad and Tobago and soon to be the University College of Barbados and another independent university in Jamaica as well.

''It was felt that we had to have a far greater interface in the region because gone are the days when most of our graduates doing post graduate work would go to Europe,'' she added.

The dates and the itinerary for Spellings' visit have not yet been worked out. Dr. Gonsalves said his country was the beneficiary of scores of scholarships offered by Cuba, Venezuela, Mexico, China and Malaysia.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS A. DELURY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas A. Delury, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas A. Delury for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO FALLEN HERO KORY WIENS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the solemn duty of memorializing the passing of an American Hero.

Corporal Kory D. Wiens and his canine partner Cooper were killed while on patrol in Muhammad Sath, Iraq.

Some of us remember the news reports about Kory and his companion; it was a heartwarming story of a special bond between a young man and very special retriever. Once introduced to each other at Lackland, they were never far apart.

Even in death, Kory and Cooper remain a team. Together they gave their last full measure of devotion performing their duty—together they earned the peace of knowing they lived a good, meaningful life.

Today, Kory lives on in our memories.

Sadly he is not the first—and will not be the last—to fall in this war.

However, we cannot allow the mounting enormity of loss diminish the sacrifice—the life and loss—of Kory or those that follow.

Colleagues, I ask you to put down pen and paper; pause for a moment and reflect upon our circumstance.

Take this moment: honor the service of Kory Wiens—mourn his passing—and accept the gift of life and liberty he freely gave.

Kory Wiens was born and raised in the Willamette Valley of Oregon.

He was a cub scout, a wrestler, and a quarterback at West Albany High School. Kory was an all-American: a young man that believed our Nation was worthy of its promise; a patriot that lived a life of standing up for those that could not stand on their own.

Kory and his brother Kevin, who is still serving in Iraq, exemplified the kind of courage that made our Nation, State, and community the home of the brave, and land of the free.

Today, we know that Corporal Wiens' law enforcement career will not extend beyond his service in the Army.

We know that the ''Brotherhood of Wiens'' is now one member smaller, but that Kory, Kevin, and Kyle will never again fully celebrate their special bond.

And we know that we as a people—that we as a Nation—will never be what it could have been without him.

Kory wanted to serve his community. His life can serve as a lesson for us all, if we choose to embrace its meaning and we choose to honor his legacy.

What if we all took our responsibilities as seriously?

What if we worked at being selfless more, selfish less?

What if we helped each other realize the promise of our ideals and cooperated with each other to make America the kind of place worthy of young men like Kory Wiens?

We have that choice.

Together we can use the life and legacy of Kory Wiens to rekindle the spirit of our America.

Together we can keep the spirit of Kory Wiens—and all those like him—alive through a daily commitment to make this place better than we find it.

And together we can work for a time when peace replaces war, when service and sacrifice are celebrated without loss.

Let us commit ourselves anew to earning the gifts given.

NEW MEXICO WATER PLANNING ASSISTANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1904, the New Mexico Water Planning Assistance Act. I would like to thank my colleague from New Mexico for her work on this legislation and on the issue. It is an extremely important issue to us in New Mexico, and throughout the Southwest.

Like other states in the arid west, New Mexico suffers from water scarcity. Drought often impacts municipal water supply, agricultural water supply, and increases volatility in high fire-risk areas. Economies and ecologies alike are threatened when scarce water resources are not properly managed. Ensuring careful management of this precious resource is a top priority in communities throughout New Mexico. This bill would allow New Mexico communities to unite under statewide water plans, formulated from comprehensive statewide research and quantification of water resources.

Through grants and technical assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, this bill authorizes funding for resource mapping and studies assessing the quality and quantity of both surface and groundwater throughout the state. The bill further allocates funds to develop models for several of the state's rivers, many of which are threatened by overuse and excessive impoundment. This year, the Rio Grande was included in the World Wildlife Fund's list of the

world's top 10 most threatened rivers, and the Santa Fe River was listed as the Nation's Most Endangered River this year by American Rivers. Research and conservation along these rivers will positively impact New Mexicans and the greater southwest region.

This bill will provide New Mexico with information and resources that will enable the state to sustainably manage and conserve its precious water resources. By facilitating comprehensive surface and groundwater studies, this bill will allow New Mexicans to make sound decisions on water resource management that will impact the entire southwestern United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step towards sustainable water management in New Mexico and the Southwest. A comprehensive approach to hydrologic resource management is necessary to confront the challenges of New Mexico's growing communities and precarious fluctuations in climate. This bill provides New Mexico with the tools needed to meet these challenges in a sustainable manner, and I urge its passage.

ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit for the record an Op-Ed published in the New York Times, on July 2, 2007, entitled, "A Much-Needed Second Chance." The editorial highlights the efforts taken by Texas and Kansas to address reintegration of former inmates into their communities, as well as the lack of a federal initiative to address the challenges communities face because they do not have the social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work. Unfortunately, the current system of corrections seems far more focused on punishment than rehabilitation, an approach that exacerbates crime rather than reducing it.

One-third of all correction departments provide no services to released offenders, and most departments do not offer a transitional program, placing a heavy burden on families and communities.

Most men and women released face tremendous obstacles as they try to reenter society successfully, encountering imposing impediments to attaining gainful employment, overcoming drug addictions, gaining custody of their children, or finding affordable housing. In fact, two-thirds of those released will be arrested within three years of leaving prison.

These men and women deserve a second chance. Their families, spouses and children, deserve a second chance and their communities deserve a second chance. A second chance means an opportunity to turn a life around; a chance to break the grip of a drug habit; a chance to support a family; a chance to make positive contributions to society; and a chance to be self-sufficient.

I strongly urge you to join me and the other 91 members of Congress in encouraging community safety through recidivism prevention by cosponsoring H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007.

[From the New York Times, July 2, 2007]

A MUCH-NEEDED SECOND CHANCE

The United States now has more than two million people behind bars, a number that has been rising steadily for decades. But state lawmakers who once would have rushed to build new prisons have begun to see that prison-building is not the best or most cost-effective way to fight crime or protect the public's safety.

Several states have instead begun to focus on developing community-based programs that deal with low-level, nonviolent offenders without locking them up. And they have begun to look at ways to control recidivism with programs that help newly released people find jobs, housing, drug treatment and mental health care—essential services if they are to live viable lives in a society that has historically shunned them.

Texas and Kansas have recently made important strides in this area. But corrections policy nationally would evolve much faster if Washington put its shoulder to the wheel. Congress needs to pass the Second Chance Act, which would provide grants, guidance and assistance to states and localities that are developing programs to reintegrate former inmates into their communities.

The states have made a good start, thanks in part to the efforts of the Council of State Governments and its prison policy arm, the Justice Center. The center's analysis of corrections patterns has led to sweeping changes in Texas, where the Legislature was facing a projected upsurge in the prison population and a projected outlay of more than a billion dollars to build several new prisons.

The surge in Texas was not being driven by crime, which had risen only slightly, but by a breakdown in the parole and probation systems, which were unable to process and supervise the necessary numbers of released prisoners. Mental health and drug treatment services were also lacking. By expanding those services, along with other community-based programs, the Legislature projects that it could potentially avoid the need for any new prisons.

A similar solution was found in Kansas, where about 65 percent of the state's admissions to prison were traced to technical violations of probation or parole, often by people with drug addictions or mental illnesses. The Legislature has expanded drug treatment behind bars and created a grant program that encourages localities to provide more effective supervision and services as a way of keeping recently released people away from crime and out of prison.

The social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work are virtually nonexistent in most communities. To put those networks together, the states need to require that disparate parts of the government apparatus work together in ways that were unheard of in the past.

It is encouraging that state officials are willing to break out of the old patterns. But they need help. The Second Chance Act would bolster the re-entry movement with money, training, technical assistance—and the federal stamp of approval.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SERGEANT BRUCE HORNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of SGT Bruce Horner, United States Army, and to celebrate his service to our country.

Sergeant Horner served in the United States Army for 18 years. His dedication and leadership skills made him an invaluable member of the 127th Military Police Academy out of Fliegerhorst, Germany. He was killed on June 1, 2007, in Baghdad, while serving his first tour in Iraq. He fulfilled his duty with honor and distinction.

Sergeant Horner had a strong relationship with his church and with God. His faith played an important part in his life and guided him. It is my sincere hope that the Horner family is strengthened by the strong faith that sustained him in life. He leaves behind his wife, Erin, and mother and father, who reside in Cleveland, Ohio. Everyone Sergeant Horner touched will be forever changed because of his influence.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring SGT Bruce Horner for his service in the defense of the nation. May his dedication to country, faith and family serve as a model for us all.

RECOGNIZING DAVID M. CROWE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David M. Crowe, 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 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David M. Crowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO BEYOND HOUSING IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PAGEDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in celebration of the efforts and improvements achieved by the Pagedale Community Association in association with Beyond Housing in the city of Pagedale.

Since 1980, Beyond Housing has assisted many St. Louisans in the 1st Congressional district. Beyond Housing has sought to provide affordable housing, propagate home ownership, and help low-economic families achieve stability. Beyond Housing has used their history of beneficial rehabilitation for St. Louis citizens to support the PCA and re-building efforts in the city of Pagedale.

The newly created Pagedale Community Association (PCA) has made many fruitful, laudable efforts over a small period of time. The PCA has assisted Beyond Housing in providing some 100+ homes for the residents of the 1st Congressional district of Missouri in Pagedale. Along with providing homes, the PCA has established a community center with multiple functions that each assist in community growth.

I am thrilled with the progress that has been made in Pagedale and excited for the years and further progression to come. The initiative taken by the residents of Pagedale is admirable and the economic development, incredible. Along with commending Beyond Housing and the PCA, I would like to thank St. Louis County for their financial interest in the projects in Pagedale. I am happy to see Missouri residents coming together to help one another.

I truly extend my gratitude and support to the Pagedale Community Association and Beyond Housing in St. Louis, Missouri. It is my pleasure to commend them on their excellent work in my district and beyond. I hope their progress continues.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF GREAT MUSIC STAX RECORDS COSPONSOR H. RES. 154

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Stax Records for its contributions to American culture as one of the oldest recording labels. For 50 years, Stax Records has been providing great music and recordings of blues, soul, and R&B.

Originally created as Satellite Records in 1957 in Memphis, Tennessee and changing its name in 1967, Stax Records has released albums from artists like Otis Redding, Richard Pryor, Isaac Hayes, and Angie Stone. Founded by Jim Stewart and Estelle Axton, the label had undergone a series of stages. It was sold to a Gulf and Western firm, but was forced to declared bankruptcy. It was later purchased by Concord Records, which was sold to Fantasy Records in 2004.

Revered as producing the 1st multiracial bands, the record label continues to make its presence known for over half century. Stax Records released its new album on March 27, 2007, titled Interpretations: Celebrating The Music of Earth Wind and Fire.

I urge my colleagues to please join me in cosponsoring H. Res. 154, and praising Stax Records for the courage that it has displayed and for 50 years of great music.

IN RECOGNITION OF TRANSITIONAL HOUSING INCORPORATED

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Transitional Housing Incorporated for more than 20 years of dedicated service to the homeless women in the Cleveland area.

Transitional Housing Incorporated was formed in 1986 by three nuns who had been working in Cleveland's homeless shelters. Today, it provides a variety of programs based on personal development plans reflecting each individual's need and unique potential for a better life.

The committed employees of Transitional House Incorporated have reached out to more than 1,400 women in Cleveland, providing them with a safe environment and services such as education and training, in order to help them gain self-sufficiency and independence.

Transitional Housing is a shining example of what a community can accomplish when we all offer a hand to help our fellow citizens in need. Their care and dedication is a testament to the ethic of solidarity that holds our community together.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Transitional Housing Incorporated for their outstanding efforts to end the cycle of homelessness for many women in the Cleveland area, and for giving hope to those in need.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE YMCA OF THE ROCKIES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the 100th anniversary of the YMCA of the Rockies Association. The YMCA of the Rockies, a nonprofit organization, began in Colorado in 1907. It was organized as a national training center for the Young Men's Christian Association. Since its foundation, the YMCA of the Rockies has grown into the largest two YMCA conference and family centers in the world—at the Estes Park Center adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, and at Snow Mountain Ranch between Winter Park and Granby, Colorado. It also runs a traditional summer residential youth camp at Camp Chief Ouray, located at Snow Mountain Ranch.

YMCA of the Rockies serves conferences, family reunions, retreats, recreational and educational groups, families, individuals, and youth by providing lodging, meeting space, dining, programming and recreation.

Estes Park Center has 860 acres and can accommodate 3,500 people in its 7 lodges and 206 family cabins. Snow Mountain Ranch has over 5,000 acres with a Nordic Center and can accommodate 2,500 people in its 4 lodges and 60 family cabins. Over 900 full-time and seasonal staff members work each year at both centers. They include senior retirees, college students and international students participating in a hospitalities services certification program.

As noted on their website, the Mission of the YMCA of the Rockies,

''[P]uts Christian Principles into Practice through programs, staff and facilities in an environment that builds healthy spirit, mind and body for all. We will accomplish this by serving conferences of a religious, educational, or recreational nature; providing unifying experiences for families; offering traditional summer camping experiences for boys and girls; and serving our staff with leadership opportunities and productive work experiences. Our core values are: Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith.''

As a result of putting the values expressed in this mission statement into practice, the YMCA of the Rockies annually brings more than 250,000 visitors to its two centers, serves more than 800 family reunions, educates more than 19,000 students in outdoor education programs, and continues to be major employer in Grand and Larimer counties of Colorado. The YMCA of the Rockies hires seasonal staff from more than 20 countries to help expose their guests to many cultures, has a membership base of 3,500, raises more than $350,000 in annual campaigns, and have over 100 staff members who donate money to the YMCA Staff For Kids program.

The YMCA of the Rockies does an outstanding job of exposing kids and adults to the splendor of nature and the values that come from collective outdoor experiences. But it is not just about learning and growing both intellectually and spiritually. It is also about fun. The YMCA of the Rockies' camps provide nearly every outdoor recreational opportunity that Colorado has to offer from skiing, camping, horseback riding, hiking, fishing, swimming, rock climbing, rafting, canoeing, archery, golf, ice skating, snowshoeing, sledding, and arts and crafts. It's an opportunity for kids, families and adults to experience these activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

In addition, the YMCA of the Rockies has been an important facility for the surrounding communities and others who share their Mission. Officials at the YMCA of the Rockies have opened up their facilities for use by other organizations such as Rocky Mountain National Park, the Colorado Mountain Club, the National Wildlife Association and the Sierra Club. At Snow Mountain Ranch, officials are pursuing the protection of many acres through conservation easements, ensuring that the outdoor splendor can be enjoyed by future generations. They have also worked to reduce the threat of wildfire and bark beetles by thinning dense stands of trees on their property, thus providing an example to their neighbors on creating defensible space and helping to reduce fire risks to surrounding communities and properties.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter declared July 19, 2007 as the official recognition of the YMCA of the Rockies Centennial. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this centennial and all of the great things that the YMCA of the Rockies does to enhance the quality of life for all Americans and visitors from throughout the world.

PRAISING AMBASSADOR MICHAEL KING'S COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to praise His Excellency Michael I. King, Ambassador of Barbados to the United States, for

his commitment to protect the environment in the Caribbean. His remarks at the opening ceremony of the Third Conference on the Environment indicated his support for environmental sustainability and compliance with the international environment agenda in order to foster partnerships for preservation in the region.

During his speech, Ambassador King encouraged students and professionals to transition to sustainable business and support nongovernmental organizations that make such business a priority. He also challenged his audience to utilize the expertise of Caribbeans abroad that have experienced success in environmental sustainability.

Ambassador King insisted on strengthening stewardship, advocacy, public education, and innovation in the absence of great financial resources in order to improve the environment. While he marked the progress made by Caribbean nations in terms of securing trained and knowledgeable staff on environment and development issues, he acknowledged the narrow scope of much of the expertise due to limited resources forcing specialization.

Ambassador King gave the example of The University of the West Indies (UWI) as a Caribbean institution of higher learning that should adopt sustainable energy and recycling programs to better the environment of the Caribbean. With a focus on such programs, graduates of UWI, and other Caribbean universities, would be more dedicated to achieving sustainability in the environment as well as building upon existing exercises aimed at biological diversity.

Article 58 of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), details the framework wherein member nations are to operate in order to protect and manage their biological and natural resources. Ambassador King encouraged CARICOM members to develop a vision for environmental sustainability, with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States setting the precedence.

THE TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 29th, 2007, the United States and the Republic of Panama signed the Trade Promotion Agreement, which is the result of the tireless negotiations between both the United States and Panama. After the agreement is signed, Congress will have an opportunity to comprehensively review it, an opportunity that I wholeheartedly welcome.

This agreement will increase much needed access to medicines for developing countries, strengthen provisions in labor, environment and national security. This agreement also sees to it that significant cuts are made to trade barrier tariffs. Additionally, this bill seeks to improve on the growing commercial relationship between both countries on the growing Panamanian market which has a strong affinity for American goods, demonstrated by the 67 percent trade deficit Panama currently holds with the U.S.

Small businesses stand to benefit from this agreement as well. The elimination of Panamanian tariffs on our goods will lower the transaction costs. This would create a mutually beneficial relationship between small business sellers in the United States and buyers in Panama.

This agreement is about more than the commercial exchange of goods and services. I would like to note that our relationship with Panama is a long standing one since its independence from Colombia in 1903. We have an uncompromising commitment to providing opportunities for the people of Panama to work towards a better future while providing American businesses the opportunity to expand their market access in another country.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the $5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal which will create additional unique opportunities. Three of the four contracts for this project have already been awarded to U.S businesses.

Madam Speaker, I submit for your further consideration the text of the proposed U.S. Panama Trade Promotion Agreement. I look forward to a productive and informative discussion about it in the weeks and months to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was required to be back in my home district to assist my mother, who recently had surgery. For this reason, I was unable to attend recorded votes for yesterday, Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, which will cut excess subsidies paid by the federal government to lenders in the student loan industry and reinvest those funds to allow for the single largest investment in higher education since the GI bill, at no new cost to taxpayers.

Over the last few decades, the cost of a postsecondary education in our country has more than doubled for graduates with student loans, from $9,250 to $19,200—a 108 percent increase (58 percent after accounting for inflation). As the richest nation in the world, we have a moral obligation to eliminate the barriers this de facto economic segregation erects. No child should be forced to forgo the dream of a college education due to fear of debt, and no child should have that potential debt dictate their future career choice.

The College Cost Reduction Act will provide us with a real chance, a $15.1 billion chance, to roll back the spiraling cost of higher education in this country. By cutting interest rates in half on subsidized student loans and increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship, this act makes College more affordable and moves more Americans into the middle class.

Passing H.R. 2669 will also provide upfront tuition assistance to students committed to teaching at public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas. Furthermore, this legislation provides loan forgiveness to encourage students who choose to pursue careers as public servants. By enacting these provisions, we will be allowing students to become a nurse, public defender, prosecutor or firefighter free from the restraints of debt.

Finally, the College Cost Reduction Act Congress will be making a landmark, $500 million investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribally-Controlled, Native or Predominately Black Institutions, ensuring that students can not only enter college, but count on continued support through graduation.

In the first 50 legislative hours of the 110th Congress, the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives took up and passed H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act, which cut the interest rates in half on certain subsidized student loans over the next five years. In passing that legislation, we kept our promise of making college more affordable and accessible. Today, with H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act, we build on this effort and once again prove that the 110th Congress is on the job and fighting for a better America.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing bipartisan legislation, the Private Property Rights Protection Act of 2007, along with my friend and colleague from California.

This legislation would prevent the federal government or any authority of the federal government from using economic development as a justification for exercising its power of eminent domain.

The protection of private property rights lies at the foundation of American government. As James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers, ''[G]overnment is instituted no less for the protection of property than of the persons of individuals.''

Two years ago, the Supreme Court held in Kelo v. City of New London that ''economic development'' can be a ''public use'' under the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. The 5–4 decision has substantially weakened the rights of private property owners by handing the government a raw taking power with negligible accountability to the ''public use'' requirement in the Fifth Amendment's Taking Clause.

The ''public use'' requirement imposed an important limitation on eminent domain power to ensure the government may not force individuals to forfeit their property for the benefit of another private party.

However, Kelo transformed established constitutional principles when it permitted the government to seize the private property of one

small homeowner and to give it to a large corporation for a private business use in the interest of creating a more lucrative tax base.

The dissenting opinion of that case made clear the far-reaching implications of the decision. Justice O'Connor wrote, "Any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party. The government now has the license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more. The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result." Houses of worship and other religious institutions that are by their very nature nonprofit and almost universally tax-exempt, render their property singularly vulnerable. The NAACP and the AARP faulted Kelo's failing reasoning by stating: "The takings that result from the Court's decision will disproportionately affect and harm the economically disadvantaged and, in particular, racial and ethnic minorities and the elderly."

In response, I introduced H.R. 4128, the Private Property Rights Restoration Act of 2005 to restore to all Americans the property rights the Supreme Court took away. H.R. 4128 passed with the clear support of this House with a vote of 376–38. Since the Kelo decision, 41 States have passed laws to rein back eminent domain power. Yet, these laws exist on a varying degree, and the need to ensure that property rights are returned to all Americans is as strong now as it was 2 years ago.

Like H.R. 4128, this year's legislation also establishes a penalty for States and localities that abuse their eminent domain power by denying those States and localities that commit such abuse all Federal economic development funds for a period of 2 years. This legislation sets up a clear connection between the Federal funds that would be denied and the abuse Congress is intending to prevent while providing States and localities with an opportunity to cure any violation by either returning or replacing the improperly taken property before they lose any Federal economic development funds.

Included in this legislation is an express private right of action to ensure access to the State or Federal court and a fee-shifting provision identical to those in other civil rights laws, which allows a prevailing property owner to be awarded attorney and expert fees as part of the costs of bringing the litigation to enforce the bill's provisions. A change in this year's version of the bill includes a provision to protect not only property owners, but also tenants. Tenants who may lose their homes if the government exercises its eminent domain power deserve the same right of action as homeowners. Another improvement to this bill allows the Attorney General to file suit; this will help homeowners and tenants without the means to file a case on their own behalf.

I am very mindful of the long history of eminent domain abuses, particularly in low-income and often predominantly minority neighborhoods, and the need to stop it. I am also very mindful of the reasons we should allow the government to take land when the way in which the land is being used constitutes an immediate threat to public health and safety. I believe this bill accomplishes both goals.

Property rights are civil rights. I urge all my colleagues to join me in protecting property rights of all Americans and limiting the dangerous effects of the Kelo decision on the most vulnerable in society.

HONORING LEO A. (AL) LONG

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Leo A. Long for 50 years of dedicated service to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.

Mr. Long, currently the administrative assistant within the Office of the Budget Officer for the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, has served at the Capitol since 1957.

Mr. Long began his congressional career as a temporary clerk-typist in the Architect's office during the administration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1958, he was transferred from his temporary position to the full-time position of payroll-clerk. By 1963, Mr. Long had been relocated to the position of assistant personnel officer and was promoted to administrative assistant in the Office of the Budget Officer in 1969, which is the job he continues to hold today.

Throughout his impressive career, Mr. Long has acquired a wealth of historical knowledge of the Architect's office through his diligent tracking of relevant legislation in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Mr. Long has also supported major construction, restoration, and renovation projects throughout the Capitol Complex. Thus, he has seen the groundbreaking and completion of the new Dirksen Senate office building, the Rayburn House office building, and the Hart Senate office building.

Many things have changed over the course of Mr. Long's career. When he first began his service at the Capitol he commuted to work using a cable car and used pencil and paper. Today, despite the use of online resources, Mr. Long's historical knowledge of past projects and old paper records is of tremendous value. Whenever questions arise over matters that took place decades ago, colleagues come to "Al" in hopes of benefiting from his past experience and expertise. Mr. Long has made a lasting impact over the past fifty years and his service to Congress and the American people is commendable. I look forward to his continued work in the years to come.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Leo A. Long for 50 years of service and dedication to the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 615, on passage of H.R. 986, Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Act, I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHARON WAGNER BRAITEH

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, devoted mother and grandmother, and outstanding advocate for service work in her community and throughout the country, Mrs. Sharon Wagner Braiteh.

In 1995 she was one of the top five nominees for the Houston Mayors Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. In 2000 she was recognized by the Legal Assistants Division of the State Bar of Texas with the Exceptional Pro Bono Award for her work with Child Advocates, the Texas Volunteer Lawyers Association, and as a speaker and educator in numerous HIV/AIDS events. In 2001 she was recognized by Catholic Charities as their volunteer of the year. She served six summers as a counselor for the Texas Children's Hospital/AIDS Foundation Houston CAMP H.U.G. She is a 2003 graduate of Project LEAP, and has served as a volunteer with the Texas Medical Center Hospice. She has also worked with the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine annually since 1998.

In 2004 Sharon was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. As she had done before she immediately became involved in helping cancer patients throughout the country by becoming an integral part of the Angel Flight Organization that provides free air transportation for patients seeking treatment in major medical centers throughout the country.

Despite her ongoing battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Sharon remains an integral part and member of her church, Palmer Memorial Episcopal, and as a member of the Community of Hope and Angel Flight continues to give aid and assistance to patients who come from out of town to the Texas Medical Center for treatment.

The Rotary Club of Lake Conroe will plant a Texas native Live Oak Tree in Memory Park adjacent to the new Charles B Stewart Library in Montgomery in Sharon's honor to commemorate her efforts on behalf of all the causes she has championed and as a reminder to the citizens of Montgomery County, the entire Eighth District and all the world of her tireless and devoted efforts for those in need.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this outstanding woman and in applauding her work in expanding education and service to all who seek it and have benefited from it, and in inspiring many to love and serve, including her daughter who is nearing completion of her nursing degree at Lamar University.

JUDICIAL ACTIVISM: THE CONSERVATIVES' SECRET PASSION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, in few areas of our public life is there a greater gap between what people say and

what they do than with regard to conservatives who decry ''judicial activism.'' It is a constant refrain from conservatives that judges should not be intervening in the policy process to impose their own particular views, and that it is especially egregious when appointed judges make fundamental decisions that ought to be left to elected officials. Their indignation is of course at its highest when decisions by some of those elected officials are in fact overturned by judges in the name of some judicial principle.

As Adam Cohen shows in his very thoughtful essay in the New York Times for July 9th in fact, conservative judges—generally to the great applause of their co-ideologues—are far more energetic judicial activists in this sense than their liberal counterparts. Few examples of conservative indignation at the Supreme Court equal in volume the anger that came when a 5–4 majority of the court decided not to overrule the decision of elected officials in Connecticut regarding eminent domain. Conservatives vigorously objected to the Court's failure to intervene and cancel the decisions of these elected officials. In the most recent Supreme Court term, the Court ended its work for the year by invalidating several important actions taken by elected officials—regarding school integration and campaign finance reform to name two of the most prominent. The Eleventh Amendment jurisdiction of the court under the conservatives' rule—a great expansion of the constitutional prohibition against suits against States—has been used repeatedly to knock out the application of congressional statutes that seek to prevent discrimination against vulnerable groups.

As the internal headline on Mr. Cohen's piece says with regard to judicial activism, ''The conservatives forgot that they're opposed to it.'' It is important, Madam Speaker, for people to be honest about what they believe and not simply to misuse principle as a means of enacting substantive positions without having fully to defend them. I ask in the interests of informed debate on this question of who are the judicial activists that the article by Mr. Cohen be printed here.

[From the New York Times, July 9, 2007]

LAST TERM'S WINNER AT THE SUPREME COURT: JUDICIAL ACTIVISM

(By Adam Cohen)

The Supreme Court told Seattle and Louisville, and hundreds more cities and counties, last month that they have to scrap their integration programs. There is a word for judges who invoke the Constitution to tell democratically elected officials how to do their jobs: activist.

President Bush, who created the court's conservative majority when he appointed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito, campaigned against activist judges, and promised to nominate judges who would ''interpret the law, not try to make law.'' Largely because of Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, the court has just completed one of its most activist terms in years.

The individuals and groups that have been railing against judicial activism should be outraged. They are not, though, because their criticism has always been of ''liberal activist judges.'' Now we have conservative ones, who use their judicial power on behalf of employers who mistreat their workers, tobacco companies, and whites who do not want to be made to go to school with blacks.

The most basic charge against activist judges has always been that they substitute their own views for those of the elected branches. The court's conservative majority did just that this term. It blithely overruled Congress, notably by nullifying a key part of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, a popular law designed to reduce the role of special-interest money in politics.

It also overturned the policies of federal agencies, which are supposed to be given special deference because of their expertise. In a pay-discrimination case, the majority interpreted the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in a bizarre way that makes it extremely difficult for many victims of discrimination to prevail. The majority did not care that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has long interpreted the law in just the opposite way.

The court also eagerly overturned its own precedents. In an antitrust case, it gave corporations more leeway to collude and drive up prices by reversing 96-year-old case law. In its ruling upholding the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, it almost completely reversed its decision from 2000 on a nearly identical law.

The school integration ruling was the most activist of all. The campaign against ''activist judges'' dates back to the civil rights era, when whites argued that federal judges had no right to order the Jim Crow South to desegregate. These critics insisted they were not against integration; they simply opposed judges' telling elected officials what to do.

This term, the court did precisely what those federal judges did: it invoked the 14th Amendment to tell localities how to assign students to schools. The Roberts Court's ruling had an extra fillip of activism. The civil rights era judges were on solid ground in saying that the 14th Amendment, which was adopted after the Civil War to bring former slaves into society, supported integration. Today's conservative majority makes the much less obvious argument that the 14th Amendment protects society from integration.

With few exceptions, the court's activism was in service of a conservative ideology. The justices invoked the due process clause in a novel way to overturn a jury's award of $79.5 million in punitive damages against Philip Morris, which for decades misrepresented the harm of smoking. It is hard to imagine that Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito, who were in the majority, would have supported this sort of ''judge-made law'' as readily if the beneficiary were not a corporation.

The conservative activism that is taking hold is troubling in two ways. First, it is likely to make America a much harsher place. Companies like Philip Morris will be more likely to injure consumers if they know the due process clause will save them. Employers will be freer to mistreat workers like Lilly Ledbetter, who was for years paid less than her male colleagues, if they know that any lawsuit she files is likely to be thrown out on a technicality.

We have seen this before. In the early 1900s, the court routinely struck down worker protections, including minimum wage and maximum hours laws, and Congressional laws against child labor. That period, known as the Lochner era—after a 1905 ruling that a New York maximum hours law violated the employer's due process rights—is considered one of the court's darkest.

We are not in a new Lochner era, but traces of one are emerging. This court is already the most pro-business one in years, and one or two more conservative appointments could take it to a new level. Janice Rogers Brown, a federal appeals court judge who is often mentioned as a future Supreme Court nominee, has expressly called for a return to the Lochner era.

The other disturbing aspect of the new conservative judicial activism is its dishonesty. The conservative justices claim to support ''judicial modesty,'' but reviews of the court's rulings over the last few years show that they have actually voted more often to overturn laws passed by Congress—the ultimate act of judicial activism—than has the liberal bloc.

It is time to admit that all judges are activists for their vision of the law. Once that is done, the focus can shift to where it should be: on whose vision is more faithful to the Constitution, and better for the nation.

IN HONOR OF SGT KEITH KLINE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate SGT Keith Allen Kline, born and raised in Oak Harbor, Ohio, and whose life was tragically cut short when he died in service in Iraq. He was mortally wounded while on patrol in Baghdad on July 5, 2007. Over the weekend his community will honor his memory and comfort his family, and Sergeant Kline will be laid to rest in Oak Harbor's Union Cemetery on Monday, July 16, 2007.

In his poem the ''Psalm of Life'', Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes:

WHAT THE HEART OF THE YOUNG MAN SAID TO THE PSALMIST

. . . Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

. . . In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

. . . Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;—

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Sergeant Kline lived the spirit of this message and the poem's words serve as an epitaph as we recall his life and honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Keith Kline graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 2002. A talented wrestler, he also played soccer and football and participated in school plays. He enlisted in the United States Army following his graduation. At Fort Gordon, Georgia, he completed his Advanced Individual Training and was assigned to Bravo Company, 96th Civil Air Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade. In Iraq 3 months, he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Team supporting the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In his brief career his distinguished service brought him four Army Achievement Medals, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Basic Parachutist Badge. His death

brought him the posthumous award of the Purple Heart Award, Bronze Star Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

More than a soldier, Keith Kline was known as "a good hearted person that was full of life, and a very hard worker." He was a NASCAR fan, he reveled in family get-togethers and his favorite holiday was July 4th. Cherishing his memory and celebrating the gift of his life are his mother Betty and brother John, his stepfather, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We offer them our sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude as they struggle through this difficult time. May they find comfort in their loved one's memory and recall the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven."

IN HONOR OF THE REVEREND C.K. YARBER, SR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor dear friends of mine for their 50 years of dedicated service to the city of Texarkana and to the State of Arkansas through their ministries. Reverend C.K. Yarber, Sr., and his wife, Inez Yarber, are true leaders who have provided a model example and have built a solid foundation for future generations.

This year, the Yarbers celebrate a milestone anniversary of ministering at Lonoke Baptist Church, Miller County and across southwest Arkansas for the past 50 years. The Yarbers first began their ministry at Lonoke Baptist Church when it had just a few dozen members, but now the congregation boasts over 600 worshipers each Sunday. Reverend Yarber is also currently serving as moderator of the Southwest District Association, a position he has held for the past 12 years.

Reverend Yarber is a native of Ashdown, Arkansas, and a graduate of the United Theological Seminary School in Monroe, Louisiana. Soon after seminary, Reverend Yarber began his life's work of giving back to his community by nourishing and strengthening a church family that has literally changed and impacted countless lives for a half century.

The Yarbers' service does not end at the church steps as they continue to contribute throughout the State of Arkansas to enhance the world for so many. Reverend Yarber was the first African American to serve on the Texarkana, Arkansas School Board. The couple is also active with the Arkansas Voter Registration Committee, the Miller County NAACP, the Civil Service Commission of the Arkansas State Police, and through their ministries in the Arkansas Prison System, among many others.

I am deeply honored to recognize one family's tremendous faith and devotion towards making our world a better place to live. Reverend C.K. Yarber and Inez Yarber have spent their lifetime together reaching out and teaching youth, adults and seniors alike about the positive healing influence faith can have on a person's life. The vision and work of this couple is remarkable and I congratulate them for reaching this 50-year mark and for the countless contributions they have made to our society through their steadfast ministries and selfless outreach. I am proud of their service and I am honored to call them my friends.

IN HONOR OF HERITAGE VILLAGE

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today in honor of Heritage Village in Southbury, Connecticut. Heritage Village, the largest and oldest condominium complex in the Northeast, is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary. For 40 years, Heritage Village has stood as a model community for mature living.

Heritage Village is home to 4,000 residents covering 1,000 acres in scenic Southbury. More than just a housing complex, Heritage Village combines residential services with a diverse range of activities to create an active and wonderfully vibrant community.

The success and longevity of Heritage Village is a testament to the strength of such a tight-knit and active environment. From day one, Heritage Village was planned as much more than just a place to live—it was designed as a place where activity and opportunity would be encouraged and where neighbors caring for each other would define its legacy. That mindset, situated in one of the most beautiful settings in Connecticut, has allowed Heritage Village to thrive and grow.

For 40 years, Heritage Village has been a shining example of community living, and I know it will continue in that tradition for years to come. I am therefore extremely proud to come before my colleagues in this House to recognize Heritage Village, its administrators, residents, and staff for their contribution to Southbury and to the State of Connecticut.

TRIBUTE TO PATTI WINKLER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, whom I have known for over 30 years. On July 20, 2007, Patti Winkler will retire after 34 years working for See's Candies.

Patti Winkler was born in Canada and moved to the United States as a child. She lived with her mother, father, brothers and sisters in South Sacramento, CA until the late eighties when the family moved to Roseville. Today, Patti still lives in Roseville and shares her home with her mother, Rita, her two sisters Maxine and Mary Jane, her nephew Robbie, and five dogs. Patti enjoys visiting her family cabin in Cascade Shores, where she and her sisters spend time boating in Scott's Flat Lake, pulling the children behind on tubes, and then returning to the cabin at the end of the day to play card games.

In her life, Patti's family has always come first. She takes great pleasure in accompanying her mother to play bingo, helping her nephew through college, and cooking one of her famous BLT sandwiches for anyone in the family. Her loving and generous spirit is particularly evident during the Christmas season, as she cooks for her family and brings cookies and toffee in for her coworkers.

As a frequent customer, I always look forward to seeing Patti when I visit the See's Candies store in Roseville. Patti began working for See's in November 1973 at the Arden Fair Mall. Both her mother and sister Janie also worked for See's. On September 29, 1988, she opened the See's store in Roseville, which she managed until 2003. Patti knows the workings of the shop better than anyone else, and is special not only to the store's customers, but also to the people she works with who truly cherish Patti's friendship. She makes the shop warm and inviting to anyone who works there and goes out of her way to make everyone feel like part of the team. While her family will benefit from spending more time with Patti in her retirement, her coworkers and customers are truly sad to see her go.

During her retirement, Patti is looking forward to splitting her time between her home in Roseville and their cabin in Cascade Shores. She also plans to continue traveling, as she enjoys taking cruises with her family to Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean, and through the east coast. I join everyone who knows Patti in wishing he any happy moments in retirement, and thanking her for the joy she brings to everyone she knows.

CELEBRATING THE 190TH ANNIVERSARY OF LYME CONGREGATIONAL UCC IN BELLEVUE, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an amazing achievement. Lyme Congregational United Church of Christ in Bellevue, Ohio, celebrates its 190th anniversary in July 2007. A series of events through the month of July commemorate this historic occasion.

On July 15 and July 17 of 1817, a total of 10 people were examined to form the charter membership of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheatsborough. According to church documents, traveling minister Reverend John Seward charged the members to "walk worthy of their high calling." Throughout the year, Reverend Alvin Coe, a Presbyterian missionary to the American Indians, occasionally preached to the largely Congregationalist membership. In March 1820, Lot B. Sullivan came to Lyme looking for employment and was soon ordained and installed as the congregation's first minister. This ordination was the very first performed west of the Cuyahoga River, and ministers came from 100 miles around to participate in the "laying on of hands." Church records note that early salaries were $400 per year, two-thirds of which was in the form of produce for the minister and his family.

In 1828, the community of Lyme built a new schoolhouse. For the next 7 years, the church held its services in that school building. In 1835 the congregation built its own church building, which was dedicated in 1836. The building is the only church the congregation

has known and has been in continuous use for 171 years. Hand-hewn and built to stand the test of time, the church remains a beautifully simplistic structure.

Formally incorporated as a Congregational Church in 1873, Lyme Congregational U.C.C. calls itself ''A Family Church Where All Are Welcome'' and this motto rings as true today as at the church's founding. Families have grown and maintained the church through many markers of history: It was founded less than 10 years after the first settlers arrived in the Firelands of Northwest Ohio and only 2 years after the first people came to Bellevue. It was standing for 6 years already when the Erie Canal opened, and 16 years when Oberlin College—the first in the U.S. to admit women and African Americans—was established. The church continued in witness to history as our Nation passed through the Civil War, the joining of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1886, the Wright Brothers' Kitty Hawk flight in 1903, the introduction of the Model T Ford, World War I, the Suffrage of Women in 1919, World War II, the Korean War, the dawn of the space program, the first moon walk in 1969, the Vietnam War and the tragic shootings at Kent State University nearby, the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York in 2001, two Gulf Wars and United Nations missions, from telegraph to telephone to cellular phones, from the writing of letters to radio to television to computers and digital cameras. Through all of these incredible changes in one continuous thread of history, 36 ministers have led this flock. The members celebrate their history and have carefully preserved artifacts and documents from the church's founding nearly two centuries ago.

In the Book of Psalms in the Holy Bible Psalm 100 tells Christians, ''Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting and His truth endures to all generations.'' Few congregations can attest to the message in this Scripture as well as that of Lyme Congregational United Church of Christ. I am very pleased to acknowledge this anniversary celebration and join in a remembrance of the past, reflection of the present, and hope for the future.

HONORING MR. CHARLES TISDALE FEARLESS CHAMPION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the life of Mr. Charles Tisdale, a fearless champion of civil rights within the African-American community. Mr. Tisdale was the owner of The Jackson Advocate Newspaper, which gave a voice to African-Americans in Jackson and throughout the state of Mississippi.

Charles Tisdale, an Alabama native who fought for civil rights as owner and publisher of Mississippi's oldest black-owned newspaper was born November 5, 1926, in Athens, Alabama. Tisdale purchased The Jackson Advocate in 1978 from the newspaper's first owner, Percy Green. For 20 years, Mr. Tisdale's influential talk show on WMPR in Jackson, often took elected leaders, both black and white, to task for not effectively serving their communities.

Mr. Tisdale was not only a civil rights activist but a front-line leader. He did not write from a dark room but led several marches, putting his life in danger to advance the civil rights of African-Americans in his community. Tisdale's civil rights record extends back to the 1960s, when he joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in protest marches. Mr. Tisdale was with Dr. King when the civil rights crusader was assassinated in Memphis.

Mr. Tisdale often faced repercussions for his outspoken nature. He received several death threats, some of which resulted in his newspaper office in Jackson being firebombed on two separate occasions. The last occurrence was in 1998, when gasoline was doused over furniture and molotov cocktails were thrown through the windows. The 1998 attack resulted in $100,000 damages. Clinton Moses, of Jackson, later pleaded guilty to the crime and told authorities that Louis Armstrong, a member of the Jackson City Council paid him $500 to commit the firebombing. Mr. Armstrong was never charged in the case. Throughout the years of adversity, Mr. Tisdale continued his courageous fight.

Despite sagging circulation of the Jackson Advocate over the past five years, the newspaper continued to receive several honors, including the National Black Chamber of Commerce Newspaper of the Year, the Nation of Islam Freedom Fighter Award and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Journalism Award. Mr. Tisdale's reputation spread far beyond the state of Mississippi. The National Newspaper Publishers Association, a trade association of more than 200 black-oriented community newspapers, has named one of its top awards after him.

He took the lead in publishing articles on civil rights violations and was unrelenting in his fight against racism, injustice, discrimination and corruption by government officials. He never gave up on a story and in the end the truth always prevailed.

I will always remember Charles Tisdale as a man of extraordinary courage, who cared deeply about the struggles of African-Americans fighting for justice.

Please join me today in honoring a truly courageous civil rights leader, Mr. Charles Tisdale.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI NARDUS GROEN

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, son, veteran, and community leader—Rabbi Nardus Groen, who passed away on Wednesday, June 13 after living a full life of community service.

Rabbi Nardus Groen was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on December 18, 1919 and grew to become a hero and a family man. As a member of the Dutch Underground during World War II, Rabbi Groen was captured by German soldiers multiple times and heroically managed to escape each time. One particular act of heroism occurred in 1940 when Groen was guarding a Jewish hospital in the Netherlands during its evacuation. Although the patients had escaped, Groen was protecting a group of Jewish nurses as the Nazis approached. Selflessly, he slipped on a Red Cross arm band and escorted the nurses into a room. When the Nazis asked who was in the room, Groen explained that he was caring for patients with Scarlet Fever. Fearing the illness, the Nazis spared the Jewish nurses, including Groen's future wife, the former Sipora Rodriguez-Lopes.

After World War II, Rabbi Nardus Groen served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina under the American Marine Corps. Following his stint with the Marines, Groen worked as a psychologist at a Jewish orphanage for Holocaust survivors. He helped countless youths cope with one of the greatest tragedies in human history. Two years later, he began to serve as a rabbi at the oldest congregation in the Western Hemisphere in Surinam. Groen led a mixed Sephardic Ashkenazic congregation in Surinam until 1952 when he served as a rabbi in Einhoven, the Netherlands. He became one of the foremost leaders of his community, uniting two different cultures in one synagogue.

Nardus Groen moved to Lansdale, PA as a renowned rabbi in 1963 where he served as Beth Israel Synagogue's rabbi for 13 years. He provided guidance and spiritual leadership to Beth Israel's community, helping his community grow to the vibrant Jewish center it is today. Groen moved back to Europe and retired in 1986 as the chief rabbi for the eastern six provinces of the Netherlands. He lived what he preached and will be remembered across the Netherlands.

After his retirement, Rabbi Groen and his loving wife Sipora lived in the Netherlands and Delray Beach, Florida after his retirement before permanently settling in Florida in 2005. Rabbi Groen spent his last years as a loving father to Marcel Groen, Leo Groen, Ruben Groen, David Groen, and Debra Groen; a loving brother to Meyers Groen and Sophia Groen; a loving grandfather and great grandfather to twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and a loving husband to Sipora Groen.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring and remembering Rabbi Nardus Groen. Through his hard work, Rabbi Groen has spread hope across three continents and will be remembered as a strong leader, a caring mentor, and a true mensch.

HONORING MR. JOHNNY L. SUTTON, FORMER MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CIBOLO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Johnny L. Sutton, the former

mayor of the City of Cibolo, in honor of his exemplary leadership in the growth of the city during his tenure.

Johnny Sutton served for two years as Mayor of the City of Cibolo starting in 2005. During his tenure, Mr. Sutton established the Cibolo Economic Development Corporation, the Capital Improvement Plan Citizens' Oversight Committee, and the Community Development Department. He also helped instill several civic programs to increase pedestrian and driver safety at schools. Mr. Sutton increased levels of police protection, ended the four-year cycle of deficit budgets, and secured over 14 million dollars in capital improvement with no tax increase.

Under Mayor Sutton's leadership, Cibolo constructed new draining projects, reconstructed streets, and purchased agricultural facilities for conversion to public recreational use. During his tenure, the city saw its population expand by over 50 percent and developed resources through partnerships with Canyon Regional Water Authority and the Regional Water Alliance. Mr. Sutton brought his prior experience as Councilman in the City of Cibolo to his role as Mayor.

Mr. Johnny Sutton truly led by example and it is to his credit that the City of Cibolo has seen an improvement in its business capital, and a renewal of infrastructure projects. The city is a better place because of him.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have this time to recognize former Mayor Johnny L. Sutton, and I thank you for this time.

TRIBUTE TO BOURNS, INC. ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose contributions to the community of Riverside, California are exceptional. Riverside has been fortunate to have dynamic and outstanding businesses that enrich the lives of their employees, produce quality products and help make Riverside a wonderful place to live and work. On Saturday, July 14, 2007 Bourns, Incorporated will celebrate its 60th Anniversary.

Bourns, Inc. was founded by Marlan and Rosemary Bourns—two exceptional individuals who are also celebrating sixty years of marriage—six decades ago. They started out in a 384 square foot space in Altadena, California. The goal of the company was to provide a method of accurately determining an aircraft's pitch attitude which would solve a crucial problem for pilots. The success in providing this method catapulted them onto the world stage—they became a global corporation and manufacture a range of products that impact almost every aspect of today's electronics industry.

Bourns, Inc. moved their headquarters to Riverside, California located in my congressional district and have nine other locations around the world. Throughout the years, Bourns has prided itself on quality, value and innovation. Their product line now includes precision potentiometers, panel controls, encoders, resistor/capacitor networks, chip resistors/arrays, inductors, transformers, resettable fuses, thyristor-based overvoltage protectors, line feed resistors, gas discharge tubes, telephone station protectors, 5–pin protectors, industrial signal, irrigation and petroleum protectors, CATV coax protectors, signal data protectors, indoor and outdoor POTsplitters, network interface devices, and integrated circuits.

Bourns, Inc. is a multiple recipient of the Supplier Excellence Award, Top Supplier Award, Outstanding Performance Award, Preferred Supplier award, among others. They serve a wide-range of industries including Automotive Electronics, Test and Measurement, Medical Electronics, Consumer Equipment, Telecommunications, and Portable Electronics. Bourns, Inc. continues to grow, innovate and lead.

It is my pleasure to recognize Bourns, Inc. and its world-class employees for sixty years of exceptional service as well as thank them for their contributions to the community of Riverside, California. Bourns, Inc. not only provides quality products to their customers but also provides a positive place to work. I know that many community leaders are grateful for Bourns, Inc. and salute them on their 60th Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF SPRINGS RESCUE MISSION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions made by Springs Rescue Mission to the Colorado Springs community. Over the past eleven years, through its tireless dedication to the teachings of Christ, Springs Rescue Mission has served more than one million meals, provided countless household goods, offered instruction, and ministered to the less fortunate.

A member of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, the largest provider of free meals and shelter in the world, Springs Rescue Mission is funded entirely by the contributions of private citizens, corporations, and churches. It is through this generosity that the Mission is able to hold its annual "Great Thanksgiving Banquet" and Christmas dinner, boast the second largest food bank in Colorado Springs, and, through its Samaritans Kitchen feed the hungry with over 2,500 meals per week. In addition to providing food, clothing, and furniture, the Mission also offers career development and an opportunity for self-sufficiency.

On July 20th, the Mission will open the doors of its newly renovated Resource Center which will provide no-cost emergency services to men, women, and children who lack the basic necessities of life. In addition to this center, the Mission also has an upcoming project to house as many as fifty men facing homelessness or substance abuse. Springs Rescue Mission welcomes those for whom hope seems lost—knowing that "joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:7). Through instructing participants about the love of God and the power of prayer, these programs provide the tools necessary for rebuilding lives.

Today, I offer my sincere congratulations to the Springs Rescue Mission on this newest achievement. I am grateful for all that the organization has done for my constituents in Colorado Springs, and am pleased to see this wonderful institution growing and expanding to meet the needs of our community.

LIAM SWAN'S "ODE TO THE FALLEN SOLDIERS OF IRAQ"

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor Liam Swan, a constituent of mine who is currently a student at Oliver Pierce Middle School in Ramona, CA. One of our local hometown papers in San Diego County, the Ramona Home Journal, recently printed a poem written by Liam that memorializes and pays tribute to the servicemen and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting to preserve freedom in Iraq. His poem, titled "Ode to the Fallen Soldiers of Iraq," follows:

To all you brave soldiers who have fallen in Iraq,
Who left the comforting embrace of
Family, friends, and home
To fight and protect the freedom of others
In a faraway dry, dusty and desolate land,
We Americans honor and salute you.

Like dry leaves we must crumble and toss
Our differences aside.
Where you are
Hawk or Dove,
Democrat or Republican,
Liberal or Conservative,
We must first be Americans
Who honor the fallen heroes that fought for us.

For you bravely laid down your lives,
Spilling your blood and dreams
In a foreign land,
For a foreign people
For an American Cause,
Know that you will be greatly missed,
Know that you will always be remembered
For your sacrifice,
For your courage and convictions.
Your bright and promising light
Extinguished too soon,
We celebrate and honor your memory
You fallen soldiers of Iraq.

As ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, I share Liam's strong support, appreciation and respect for our servicemen and women. I am particularly pleased each time I learn about Americans, like Liam, who are willing to use their creative talents to ensure the memory of those who have voluntarily left the comfort of their homes to defend and protect the interests of the American people, are never forgotten.

Madam Speaker, Liam's words reflect our Nation's overwhelming gratitude to the millions of uniformed military men and women that have answered the call to duty with unquestioned courage and commitment. I wish Liam continued success in his academic efforts and it is with absolute pride that I rise today to share his inspiring and patriotic tribute with my colleagues.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OWYHEE DAM

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Bureau of Reclamation's Owyhee Project in Malheur County, Oregon, located in the district I represent. This momentous occasion will be celebrated at a major community event at the dam this weekend. At the time of its construction, the Owyhee Dam was the highest in the world. The dam rises 417 feet above the river with nearly another 100 feet below the river surface. The arch section of the dam spans the distance of 2 football fields. The dam created the Owyhee Reservoir, which is 52 miles long and holds enough water to cover 13,900 acres with 1 foot of water.

You may be wondering how it came to be that one of the largest concrete structures in the world was built in a true American frontier. In the early 19th century, scouts, trappers, and traders began to explore all parts of the Northwest; the high-desert region of what would become the Oregon Territory was no exception. This area was and currently is home to bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, golden eagles, coyotes, and mule deer. The settlers in the area also discovered that the ground, provided with adequate water, could grow just about any crop including barley, oats, sorghum, wheat, alfalfa, beans, peppermint, spearmint, sugar beets, sweet corn, and more.

At the turn of the 20th century the need for more water became apparent and the Reclamation Service (now the Bureau of Reclamation) investigated several dam sites and irrigation plans. It finally issued a proposal in 1925 to construct the dam. The following year, Interior Secretary Hubert Work and President Calvin Coolidge approved the plans and in 1928 contracts were awarded and construction began.

However, as with any significant construction project, challenges arose. John Terry, a retired copy editor for The Oregonian and a member of the Oregon Geographic Names Board, recently highlighted a few of those challenges.

"The Bureau of Reclamation built a construction camp with housing, administrative buildings, water and sewer facilities," Terry wrote. "Crews labored around the clock, although the winter of 1930–31 produced subfreezing temperatures and a 53-day work stoppage."

In 1935, the first water was delivered to ranchers, farmers and communities in Oregon and Idaho. And while the dam continues to provide irrigation water, it also provides numerous other benefits, including flood control, recreational fishing, and excellent habitat for bighorn sheep, mule deer, pelicans, and cormorants.

At the dedication ceremony, President Herbert Hoover sent along his congratulation in a written statement "commemorating the completion of the highest dam in the world."

"The sympathy of the administration and the Congress and the wholehearted and fine spirit of the people of this community have cooperated to make the completion of this dam possible," President Hoover said.

We should emulate the cooperative work of those who raised this dam when demanding it meet the needs of today's farmers, ranchers, communities, and wildlife. I congratulate Owyhee Irrigation District Manger Jay Chamberlin and his staff on commemorating the completion of the dam. And I thank the local elected officials and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Robert Johnson for their efforts to steward the water resources provided by the Owyhee Dam. May the next 75 years for the Owyhee Project be as successful and prosperous as the first 75.

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHARLES LINDBERG

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Lindberg, an honorable soldier and citizen, a great Minnesotan and American. Mr. Lindberg passed away on June 24, at the age of 86, the last surviving member of the squad who raised the original flag on a mountaintop during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Charles Lindberg, with five other men, climbed his way to the top of Mount Suribachi during the morning of February 23, 1945. He dodged enemy fire, engaged enemy pillboxes and for his valor and bravery was awarded the Silver Star. At the foot of the mountain he repeatedly exposed himself to machinegun fire and hand grenades, almost surprised to make it to the top. Years later he would express wonder for merely having survived the day, which saw some of the most intense fighting of the war: "We thought it would be a slaughterhouse up on Suribachi, I still don't understand why we were not attacked."

It wasn't planned ahead of time, they hadn't been ordered to do it; but after a long, arduous climb, during a brief reprise in the gunfire, two members of Lindberg's squad noticed a long pipe up on top of the mountain—and it just so happened that one of them was carrying a flag. They scoured the mountaintop for the highest point, and raised the Stars and Stripes up over the island—the first American flag to make it on Japanese soil. Lindberg would later recall the reaction of the American forces that day, lamenting how "down below, the troops started to cheer, the ships' whistles went off, it was just something that you would never forget."

As such moments always seem, the peace and celebration was too soon shattered. Enemy troops began emerging from their caves, and Lindberg's squad continued the fight. Three of the six men wouldn't survive to see the photographs taken on the mountaintop that morning. Lindberg himself survived a gunshot wound through the arm a week later, for which he received a purple heart. When he was discharged from the Marines he went home to South Dakota, and in 1951 moved to Richfield, MN, to become an electrician. He spent his life speaking to school groups and veterans, ensuring that the story of his fallen comrades lives on in memory as an illustration of the price we pay for our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I am honored and humbled in recognizing Mr. Charles Lindberg in the event of his passing, and as a Minnesotan, proud to claim such an illustrious American as one of our own. Charles, on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JERRY FITZGERALD

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend Jerry Fitzgerald, on the occasion of his retirement from Oakwood Healthcare System after 41 dignified years of service.

A Native Detroiter, Jerry received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Detroit and went on to attain a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Michigan. He is also an American College of Healthcare Executives, ACHE, Fellow, as well as an adjunct instructor for the University of Michigan's Program in Health Care Administration.

Jerry began his work at Oakwood Hospital & Medical Center as the Assistant Director in 1966. In 1980, he was named the President and CEO and held that position until his sage leadership led to the successful union with the People's Community Hospital Authority to form the doubly large Oakwood Healthcare System. The new system immediately established itself as the premier healthcare provider in southeastern and western Wayne County. Under Jerry's guidance Oakwood has earned the reputation as one of the top 100 cardiac hospitals in the Nation for 7 out of the past 8 years, serving over one million residents.

Jerry's vision for exceptional service and excellent healthcare has fueled a myriad of initiatives and improvements, all of which have established Oakwood's outstanding status. His vision and efforts have been met with extensive gratitude and support from the community, as he is the recipient of the American College of Healthcare Executives Senior Healthcare Leadership Regent's Award, the Sy Gottlieb Award from the Greater Detroit Area Health Council, the Universal Partnership Award from the American Arab Chamber of Commerce and the Lawrence A. Hill Award of Excellence from the University of Michigan.

Although this marks the closing of one chapter in Jerry's career, it does not signal the end of Jerry's commitment to the community, as he currently serves as the chairman of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, MHA, Board of Trustees and is actively involved in American Hospital Association. He holds several board membership positions throughout the Greater Detroit Area including the Detroit Regional Chamber, the Detroit Economic Club, the Dearborn Community Fund Board, the Downriver Community Advisory Board, Michigan Colleges Foundation Board of Trustees, the University of Detroit Mercy College of Health Professions Advisory, and the Detroit Sacred Heart Major Seminary Foundation.

Jerry's years of service have been essential in shaping the healthcare system of the Greater Detroit Area and southeast Michigan. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in wishing Jerry all the best in a happy, long and active retirement.

HONORING MS. TRUDY KRAMER

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise on behalf of New York's first congressional district in order to recognize the extraordinary achievements of Ms. Trudy C. Kramer, who will retire at year's end after 26 years of service to the Art Museum Parrish in Southampton, Long Island.

For over a century, the Parrish Art Museum has been devoted to the collection and preservation of American art with particular focus on displaying art of the eastern end of Long Island. The museum is a landmark in my district, known for its commitment to bringing art and people together in its education and outreach programs. Trudy Kramer has been an integral part of that mission for almost three decades, serving as the museum's director.

Trudy is widely admired for her vision and foresight, which helped expand the museum's membership and prestige. During her tenure, the museum also built upon its impressive collection of new works by renowned artists. She directed the acquisition of the museum's neighboring library, now known as the Carroll Petrie Center for Education. And she has been instrumental in the museum's expansion, which includes a truly breathtaking new facility in Water Mill, Long Island.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of a proud community that has long admired the Parrish Art Museum's contributions to the artistic legacy of Long Island's east end, I am especially proud to recognize Trudy Kramer's role in the museum's success and congratulate her on her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. ROBERT E. LOWERY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and deep sadness that I take this time to remember one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery, pastor of Saint Timothy Community Church in Gary, IN. On Tuesday, July 10, 2007, Reverend Lowery passed away at the University of Chicago Medical Center at the age of 82. A constant fixture in the community, Reverend Lowery understood how to communicate with all people. For this, Reverend Lowery appropriately earned the nickname, ''Everyman's Preacher.''

Robert E. Lowery was born on the west side of Chicago. An accomplished scholar, he obtained degrees in theology from the Chicago Theological Seminary, the Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, and a Bachelor of Science degree from George Williams College in Chicago. Though Chicago was his home, he eventually relocated to Gary, Indiana and took over as pastor of Saint Timothy Community Church in 1957. For the past 50 years, Reverend Lowery has called Gary his home, and the impact he has had on his congregation and the entire community will forever be remembered. Under his leadership, Saint Timothy has grown to become one of the city's largest congregations with over 1,600 members.

Reverend Lowery's lifetime of service to his community goes far beyond his pastoral duties. Knowing that preaching was only a small part of the impact he could have on people's lives, Reverend Lowery became actively involved in many local organizations. Realizing the need to reach people at an early age, he dedicated himself to programs aimed at improving the lives of the youth in the community and enhancing their opportunities to lead successful lives. Reverend Lowery felt a tremendous responsibility to reach out to the youth, and it was for this reason that he became active in the Boy Scouts of America. Fully dedicated to the mission of the Boy Scouts, Reverend Lowery served as Scoutmaster for Troop 53 at Saint Timothy, and he also served as an executive board member of the Calumet Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Reverend Lowery's generosity and commitment to the children of Northwest Indiana will forever be remembered by the children he mentored.

Recognized for his work in his community, Reverend Lowery was the recipient of many awards, both local and national. While it would be impossible to name them all, Reverend Lowery's efforts led to him being honored with the prestigious Drum Major Award, presented by the Gary Frontiers Service Club in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his most worthy induction into Gary's Steel City Hall of Fame in 1990.

Reverend Lowery leaves to cherish his memory three daughters: Gay Marlene Lowery, Jan Avis Lowery, and Lynn Michele Lowery-Darby, as well as an entire community whose lives have been improved by such a caring and benevolent friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Reverend Dr. Robert E. Lowery for his outstanding devotion to his congregation and to all of Northwest Indiana. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to the people he served is worthy of the highest commendation. Reverend Lowery's selflessness was an inspiration to us all. While the entire community is saddened by his passing, his message will live on through the many lives he has touched.

RECOGNIZING THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HACU) NATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM'S 15TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, HACU, National Internship Program in providing Hispanic students invaluable real world working experiences that have allowed these students to make more educated career choices.

Over the past 15 years, the HACU National Internship Program (HNIP) has offered more than 6,500 meaningful paid internships with federal and corporate partners during spring, summer and fall sessions. HNIP has become the largest Hispanic college internship program in the United States.

On July 26, 2007, the HACU National Internship Program will celebrate its 15th Anniversary at a Gala in Washington, DC. This gala will showcase the achievements of former and current interns as part of a summer-long itinerary of special events marking this remarkable program's first 15 years.

We applaud HACU and the HACU National Internship Program for exposing these students to public- and private-sector career opportunities and specifically helping address the historic underrepresentation of Hispanics in the federal work force.

The HACU National Internship program began in 1992 with 24 interns. In 2006 alone, the program provided internships to 616 college students in 22 federal agencies and nine private corporations.

This competitive program selects top students from among HACU's 450 member and partner colleges and universities, which collectively serve more than two-thirds of all Hispanic higher education students. HNIP provides meaningful work experiences to these students by matching their skills and career goals with the objectives of federal and corporate partners, enabling these students to make more informed career choices.

The Office of Personnel Management, OPM, also recognizes the value of the HACU National Internship Program and has included it as a best practice in its fourth annual report on Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government.

As the youngest and now largest ethnic population, Hispanics already make up one of every three new workers in the overall workforce, and by 2050 are projected to make up one of every two new workers. Yet, it is well documented that Hispanics remain the only underrepresented ethnic group in the Federal Government. Today, Hispanics represent 7.5 percent of the Federal workforce—5.1 percent below the current civilian labor employment level. With the help of HNIP we are lowering this gap and creating a pipeline of qualified Hispanics in the Federal workforce.

We salute the HACU National Internship Program and applaud its success at opening the doors of opportunity for new generations of exceptional students while enhancing workforce diversity.

IN HONOR OF OFFICER DAYLE WESTON HARDY, PLANO'S POLICE OFFICER KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, many are grieving the death of Officer Dayle Weston Hardy. The 9-year veteran of the Plano Police Department leaves behind a wife and 3-year-old twin girls. He died in the line of duty shortly after he was hit by a car while in pursuit of a traffic violator.

His sudden and unfortunate death reminds us of the crucial role first responders play and the courage and selflessness they exhibit

while protecting the American people and keeping our vibrant North Texas community safe. Wes impacted the lives of many people and he will be dearly missed.

He is the second police officer in Plano to die in the line of duty, the first one since 1920. His death has truly rocked the area. To his family—please know that Shirley and I grieve Officer Hardy's death. We grieve for you. We grieve with you. And we lift you and your daughters up in prayer.

Wes was a shining example of public service and inspiring courage. God bless him and God bless America.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FERNANDO REY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RODRIQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise here today to pay tribute to a man who exemplifies leadership, Mr. Fernando Rey of San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Rey was born in 1940 in Southern California and comes from a family of veterans with his father and seven uncles having served in World War II. While he was unable to serve in the armed forces, he remained dedicated to commemorating the sacrifices of others by becoming a lifelong historian of World Wars I and II.

For nearly two decades, Mr. Rey has worked to bring recognition to our nation's Medal of Honor recipients for their valor and bravery.

The Heroes & Heritage organization was founded in 1995 in order to recognize the achievements of our military heroes and to encourage higher standards of education for our youth. Thanks to Mr. Rey's leadership as Executive Director, the Heroes & Heritage organization gained a reputation for having a direct and positive impact on the future of our armed forces and the community of San Antonio.

Mr. Rey's displayed outstanding and natural leadership in the planning and coordination of the Department of Defense's participation in the first student career fair and symposium presented by Heroes & Heritage. By exposing hundreds of college and high school students to career and employment opportunities in military science and technologies, Mr. Rey immeasurably expanded their horizons and opened the doors to endless possibilities.

As a motivational speaker, Mr. Rey helps many high school and university students understand the importance of patriotism and service to our country by sharing and thus preserving the legacy of our distinguished veterans.

Recently, Mr. Rey was presented with a Certificate of Special Achievement from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness for his accomplishments and contributions.

I congratulate Mr. Fernando Rey, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director for Educational Programs with Heroes & Heritage, for this well-deserved recognition.

COMMENDING THE MUNTU DANCE THEATRE OF CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, great societies are often described by their cultural attributes which are often weaved into the fabric of a community, a city and a nation bringing joy, satisfaction and hope into the hearts and minds of the people. Such has been the case and the experiences of the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago which was founded in 1972 and has developed a remarkable history and a great legacy.

The Muntu Dance Group is more than dances, they are a concept, an embodiment of psychic movement. They are a program, a place, an opportunity for young people, for people of all ages to be engaged, involved and influenced. Madam Speaker, the Muntu is an art form to be copied, preserved and proliferated throughout the world and that is why their capital campaign is so vitally important.

The Muntu Group is well into a $17 million capital campaign to build its own performing center at 71st and Ellis on the South Side of Chicago. The Muntu Dance Group has come a long way in 35 years and I am pleased to commend and congratulate them on their outstanding achievement.

AFRICA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT'S BENEFITS TO AFRICA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this morning the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health held a hearing on the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This law provides duty-free and quota-free access to the U.S. market for certain goods from designated countries in sub-Saharan Africa. It was based on the congressional finding that it is in the mutual interest of the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa to promote stable and sustainable economic growth and development on the continent. The criteria for beneficiary countries includes evidence of progress toward a market-based economy, rule of law, economic policies to reduce poverty and promote economic growth, a system to combat corruption and bribery, and protection of internationally recognized worker and human rights.

The recent report from the U.S. Trade Representative to Congress contains some impressive information about AGOA's impact. Since it was enacted in 2000, trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa has increased 143 percent, and AGOA has played an important role in this increase. In 2006, over 98 percent of U.S. imports from AGOA-eligible countries entered the United States duty-free. U.S. imports from AGOA countries totaled $44.2 billion in 2006, which was an increase of 16 percent over the previous year.

It is disappointing, however, that most of this increase in 2006 was due to oil, and non-oil trade increased by only 7 percent after having declined a precipitous 16 percent in 2005. Non-oil AGOA trade constituted only $3.2 billion of the total. These latter statistics indicate a need for greater attention to the non-oil potential on the continent.

The Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations that I chaired held a hearing on a five-year assessment of the act in October 2005, which included two witnesses who we heard from again today: Ms. Florizelle Liser and Mr. Steve Hayes. One of the issues that I raised at the prior hearing was the protection of labor and other human rights in AGOA-eligible countries. Ms. Liser testified at the time that AGOA was having a positive impact on worker and human rights, and she provided examples of reforms that had been undertaken by beneficiary countries which included the prevention of child trafficking and addressed the worst forms of child labor.

It is important that this issue be examined, particularly in light of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report that was released by the State Department last month. It contains a "Tier 2 Watch List" of countries that have a serious trafficking problem and that do not fully comply with minimum standards to eliminate trafficking. These countries will be the subject of particular scrutiny by the State Department's Trafficking Office during the coming year to ascertain whether they are making sufficient efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

It is disturbing that eight countries on the Tier 2 Watch List are AGOA beneficiaries, and that each of these countries are cited in the TIP report for child and/or forced labor concerns. Sexual exploitation, particularly of children, as cited in some of these reports would also be relevant in the AGOA context as gross violations of international human rights standards. In addition to the other human rights assessments that are legislatively mandated as part of the AGOA eligibility process, one would expect the tier placement for trafficking in persons to be a critical consideration. I would strongly encourage the U.S. Trade Representative to collaborate with the State Department Trafficking in Persons office on this issue.

While questions may be raised concerning the relation between AGOA and improvement in human rights, it does seem that the act together with the Millennium Challenge Account is providing an impetus for other advances. The World Bank is reporting that corruption in Africa is declining, stating that even some of the poorest countries have made "significant progress" in improving governance and fighting corruption over the past decade. This trend is certainly attributable to a significant extent to the eligibility requirements for both of these U.S. initiatives.

AGOA and the MCA are also addressing infrastructure and technical capacity that are essential for long-term development, but which are arguably not receiving sufficient emphasis from other assistance sources. As I indicated earlier and in the subcommittee's recent hearing on the MCA, Congress needs to look at ways to improve and strengthen these benefits in both pieces of legislation.

And finally, one should not minimize the good will and positive bilateral relationships in Africa that are being reinforced through AGOA and the MCA, together with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This latter

consideration, though intangible, is critical if the United States is to maintain and strengthen its presence in this region of the world that is becoming increasingly important for our own national security and global peace and prosperity.

CONGRATULATING PAULINE SHERRER AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE TENNESSEE PRESS ASSOCIATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to congratulate Pauline Sherrer of Crossville, Tennessee, on her succession as President of the Tennessee Press Association. Pauline will join a long line of talented and dedicated journalism professionals in taking the helm of the TPA.

Pauline's family has long been an integral part of the Tennessee media. In 1981, the Sherrer family purchased the Crossville Chronicle, the hometown paper of Cumberland County. Pauline maintained her role as publisher of the Chronicle through two sales of the paper, providing the people of Cumberland County with fair and accurate reporting on the issues that affect them most. Loved by the Chronicle staff and lauded by her peers, Sherrer's leadership has set a standard for meeting the needs of readers.

With over 36 years of experience with the press and now as the first woman to hold a position on all three of Tennessee's press association boards, Pauline is a model for young women and anyone interested in a career in journalism. A mother and a grandmother, business leader and volunteer, Pauline serves her work, family and community with her strong voice and will.

It is my privilege to congratulate and honor Pauline Sherrer for her work, service and commitment, and to welcome her as the new President of our State's Press Association.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST DAVID WILKEY, JR., OF ELKHART, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of U.S. Army Specialist David Wilkey, Jr., of Elkhart, Indiana, who died on June 18, 2007 while serving in Baghdad, Iraq. Just two weeks shy of his 23rd birthday, David lived a life worthy of admiration and respect, a life that we mourn today as cut tragically short.

Growing up in the wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, David loved the outdoors. As his step-mother Margaret put it, ''His passion was nature. If he had to pick where he was going to live, he would've picked a cabin in the middle of the woods with a pond nearby.'' The pond, of course, was for fishing, for David loved to both hunt and fish. His uncle, Wayne McDonald, frequently went hunting with David, and considering his future absence on these trips Wayne could only say ''It's going to be real hard this fall.''

Those trips with his uncle combined two of David's most cherished loves. For as much as David loved the woods, he loved his family more. From his niece Victoria, whose eyes got big and thought ''Yay!'' whenever he arrived, to his Aunt Diane, who will miss his smile and wink most of all, family was the heart of David's life. He loved his family dearly. According to his wife, Melinda, ''He wanted a big family and he was a very close family man.''

In marrying Melinda in December of 2005, his dream of a big family found a great partner. He loved Melinda deeply, and that love showed immediately. It showed in the way he treated his stepson Christian as his own. It showed in the birth of his son Blayke. It shows in their third child that Melinda is pregnant with right now.

David was truly a remarkable man, a remarkable American. In his love of nature and family, he displayed this. He also displayed it in his sense of duty. Having been laid off just as he married Melinda, he could have simply collected unemployment and looked for other work. But his sense of duty to provide for his family as well as his plans to attend college and build a more secure future led David to choose service in the Army. Where so many are content to let others provide for them, this was not enough for David. His sense of duty, his ready courage, his sense of duty to his family—these qualities are the simple and small touches of everyday nobility that make America great, and made David Wilkey, Jr. great.

David was an avid fisherman and hunter, a devoted father and husband, and a magnetic and fun person who made a lasting impression on those around him. His father, David Wilkey, Sr., stated ''He had a big heart, and he's a son that any father could be proud of.'' Today I honor David Wilkey, Jr. as a son who not only his father is proud of, but our entire Nation is proud of. As I register a Nation's pride, it is my regretful duty to also note our grief. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends. We join with his wife Melinda, his father David, and his mother Cindy to mourn his loss. While we struggle to come to terms with the sorrow over this loss, we can take pride in his example and joy in the memory of his life. May God Bless David and all those he loved.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BARBARA JEAN CAMPBELL

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, today I rise with the support of my colleague, Hon. ZOE LOFGREN, to honor the life of Barbara Jean Campbell, who recently passed away. Barbara dedicated her life to public service and committed herself to expanding educational resources for the community around her. Her persistent efforts to improve the conditions of public libraries as well as the retirement benefits of former public employees have greatly benefited and enriched our community.

Barbara Jean Campbell was born on March 3, 1929 in Oakland, California. She remained in the city of Berkeley for her education, attending local primary and secondary schools, and then obtaining her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics and library science respectively from the University of California, Berkeley.

Barbara began her career in library management at the Berkeley Public Library. Subsequently, she managed a library for the Untied States Air Force in England for three years. After returning to the Berkeley Library, she was recruited by the Santa Clara County Library system, where she served for the remainder of her career.

During her tenure at Santa Clara County, Barbara was among the first women to shatter the glass ceiling when she was appointed county librarian in 1973. She oversaw the opening of libraries in Morgan Hill, Campbell, Gilroy, Woodland, Saratoga, Alum Rock, and Milpitas. Furthermore, when Proposition 13 reduced library funds, Barbara played a vital role in keeping the libraries operating smoothly. By the time of her retirement in December 1984, she had left a legacy of eloquence and distinction in every task she undertook.

While others may have viewed their retirement as an end to community service, Barbara only gave more of her time and energy to serve the public. She joined the California State Library Foundation's Board of Directors in 1992 and served as secretary of the Board. Although the board meetings were held in Sacramento, Barbara faithfully attended despite the long commute from the Santa Clara Valley. Her understanding of the inner workings of a library and her insight as a former professional library administrator provided skillful guidance for the organization while her enthusiastic personality brightened every meeting.

In addition, Barbara devoted numerous hours to the Retired Public Employees Association (RPEA) of California in both the state and local chapters. In the Local Chapter 31, she served as president for two terms. At the state level, she served as secretary-treasurer from 1990 to 1996. In 1996, she was appointed as President of the State Association, where she oversaw approximately 35,000 members and promoted the mission of RPEA: to preserve, protect, and enhance the retirement benefits of former public employees. After her service as president, she continued to aid the association as Immediate Past President and a member of the RPEA Volunteer Committee.

Besides her extensive work in the California State Library Foundation and RPEA, Barbara was also a 50-year member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) where she was an original member of the branch's evening bridge group. As education was a particular interest of hers, Barbara participated in the scholarship committee of various organizations, including Friends of the Campbell Library, California Association of Librarians and Trustees and Commissioners (CALTAC), and the Soroptimist Club. In her free time, Barbara enjoyed playing blackjack in Reno and bridge with AAUW. She was an avid San Francisco giants fan, loved to delve into mystery novels, and often shopped for kitchen appliances.

Barbara Jean Campbell passed away on April 11, 2007 at the age of 78. She will be greatly missed by her many friends, including the Dean family, the Holt family, and her three

godchildren Ralph Holt, Barbara Rosellini, and David Holt. She left a legacy of benevolence and exemplified the true meaning of service. Throughout her life, Barbara advocated for those that others overlooked. We are forever grateful for her commitment to enhance public resources, and her contributions are proof that one person can make a positive impact on a community.

HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE IN EL SALVADOR

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a disturbing human rights violation currently taking place in El Salvador under the guise of stopping terrorism, a situation brought to my attention by a dedicated group of Philadelphians that has just returned from that nation.

Philadelphia maintains a U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities connection to the rural village of Las Anonas, where most residents live in poverty and must still deal with the after-effects of the devastating civil war and a 1992 ceasefire that ended the bloodshed but brought little real change. This Sister Cities program is one of 20 that link U.S. communities and groups with rural El Salvador under the sponsorship of CRIPDES, a Salvadoran group for rural community development, and the Archbishop Romero Interfaith Center, which is based in Philadelphia and its suburbs.

About 27 men, women and teenagers from the Interfaith Community Building Group in Northwest Philadelphia, including Catholics, Jews, Protestants and Muslims, were hard at work laying the foundation of a new community center in the village of El Milagro last week. They were shocked to learn that the president, vice president and two other members of CRIPDES, their sponsor, were seized on July 2 by police on the highway on their way to join a peaceful demonstration in the town of Suchitoto.

The charges were originally ''creating public disorder,'' even though they had not even arrived at their destination. When supporters rallied outside the police station and demanded the release of the CRIPDES leaders, 10 more people were arrested and the ARENA government quickly escalated the charges. Now the prisoners have been charged with ''acts of terrorism'' under a new anti-terrorism law that went into effect last November. The law even created a special court to try such suspects. CRIPDES leaders, including President Lorena Martinez, who has visited Philadelphia, and a Salvadoran journalist covering the events, face up to 60 years in prison under this so-called ''anti-terrorism'' law in what is a clear attempt to stifle and silence dissent.

The ARENA government, ruling with a bare majority and looking toward the next election, is counting on almost a half-billion dollars in U.S. aid that is dependent upon adherence to human rights principles. El Salvador is also the only nation in Latin America to maintain troops in Iraq as part of the ''Coalition of the Willing.'' Meanwhile ARENA presides over a country so desperately poor that an estimated two million Salvadorans have emigrated to the United States, most of them undocumented.

The Philadelphia group was warned that if members raised their voices in protest to the arrests at Suchitoto, they could be immediately deported and barred from future trips. All this was occurring in the days immediately before and after the celebration, by fellow Philadelphians back home in the Cradle of Liberty and Birthplace of Independence, of the Fourth of July.

The arrests led to a massive protest demonstration in San Salvador, the capital, on July 7. I am pleased to learn that Amnesty International has taken up this case, and that friends of CRIPDES, the United States-El Salvador Sister Cities Program and the Romero Interfaith Center are all raising the alarm. The Philadelphians, who have made six trips to El Salvador in the past decade, are not alone. Delegations of community builders, educators and citizen witnesses from Sister Cities across the U.S. continue to travel to El Salvador, to join the cause of rural development and empowerment with their hands and hearts.

The ARENA government needs to know that the citizens of the United States and the world are watching what happens to CRIPDES and other peaceful, effective community development groups in their midst. Those in El Salvador's government who look to the United States for model behavior need to look beyond the shameless quick-fix of crying ''terrorism'' under cynically created laws. Instead they must heed the principles forged in Philadelphia two centuries ago.

CELEBRATING FRANKLIN COUNTY, TENNESSEE'S BICENTENNIAL

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, it was over 200 years ago that Major William Russell and Jesse Bean reportedly traveled in search of a ripe landscape to settle the Franklin County we know today. The county was named for one of our Founding Fathers, Ben Franklin, and finally took its place amongst Tennessee's other counties when recognized officially by the Tennessee Assembly in 1807. Since then, statesmen and sportsmen, farmers and craftsmen, war heroes and great scholars alike have represented the culture of Franklin County to the State and the country. I am proud today to recognize the successes and history of Franklin County, and to wish upon its people a future as blessed as the inception of the county they call home.

Named for a soldier of the American Revolution and the first Speaker of the Tennessee Assembly, the town of Winchester was designated as the Franklin County seat in 1809. Winchester today offers visitors a host of curiosities, festivals and other Tennessee fun. From the Dogwood Festival to the yearly Jamboree, Winchester gives plenty of reason to visit and more than enough for Franklin County residents to stay and make their home.

High atop the Cumberland Plateau and not far from Winchester, Franklin County offers another great treasure in the town of Sewanee, and the University of the South. Since it's founding in 1860, Sewanee has produced writers and theologians, and 25 Rhodes scholars to make Tennessee and Franklin County proud. The school has undergone a series of name changes, too, finally settling on ''Sewanee: The University of the South.'' Plenty of us in Tennessee and Franklin County just call it ''The Mountain,'' but whatever the name, it's a fine piece of the Tennessee tradition.

Construction of the University came to a halt when the cornerstone was destroyed by Union soldiers in the Civil War. In the midst of its 200 year history, like so many Tennessee counties, Franklin County endured the hardships of that difficult time in our Nation's history, and today still commemorates those lost to the Civil War so many years ago.

From its first settlers to the friends and neighbors who live their today, Franklin County has honored its namesake and our forefather, Ben Franklin, with its history and the traditions they will maintain for years to come. As Franklin himself advised, ''wish not so much to live long as to live well.'' This month, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the continuing story of Franklin County, a 200 year history lived long and well in Tennessee.

EXPLAINING VOTE FOR THE EMANUEL AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2829

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify for the record my vote on June 28th in support of the Emanuel Amendment to H.R. 2829, the ''Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act''.

During consideration of H.R. 2829, Rep. EMANUEL offered an amendment that would strip funding from the Office of the Vice President.

I voted in support of this amendment for two reasons. First, I believed that it was important to send a strong rebuke to Vice President CHENEY for inappropriately claiming that his office was not in fact a part of the Executive Branch, a claim made as part of a flimsy effort to reject compliance with an executive order relevant to safeguarding classified national security information. Additionally, it was apparent that the amendment did not have the requisite votes needed for successful passage and consequently my vote would not result in the actual denial of funding for operations within the Executive Branch, but my vote would help strengthen the rebuke.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2007, I was unable to vote on Roll No. 615. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

TRIBUTE TO MR. CHRISTOPHER WESTHOFF, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Christopher Westhoff, Assistant City Attorney—Public Works General Counsel with the City of Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Westhoff is an environmental champion for the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the nation. He is an exceptional leader and public steward dedicated to the improvement of L.A.'s water quality and public health. It is my pleasure to congratulate Mr. Westhoff on being named the new President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Westhoff has been a public servant in California for almost his entire career. He began as a prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office and has been the General Counsel to the Board of Public Works for over 15 years. Mr. Westhoff is the Public Works Department's legal counsel on wastewater and other environmental regulatory issues including air and stormwater.

Mr. Westhoff has played a leadership role in guaranteeing clean and safe water for future generations of Californians by helping ensure an upgrade of the Hyperion Treatment Plant to full secondary treatment, developing and defending policies that have helped clean up the Santa Monica Bay, and achieving 100% beneficial reuse of the city's biosolids.

His role in negotiating a landmark settlement agreement for L.A.'s collection systems resulted in benefits to all parties and led to a reduction in sewer spills of more than 70%.

Another achievement of Mr. Westhoff's of particular significance is his role in developing and defending Los Angeles' model program to increase the participation of minority and woman-run business enterprises as part of city contracts. Mr. Westhoff successfully defended this vital program before the California State Supreme Court.

Mr. Westhoff will become NACWA's president later this month, after serving as NACWA's Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. The City of Los Angeles is a founding member of the Association and Mr. Westhoff was elected to the Board of Directors in 1999.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues of the 110th Congress to please join me today in congratulating Chris Westhoff on becoming President of NACWA and for his tireless commitment to Los Angeles, our state of California and our country. With Chris Westhoff as President, NACWA will no doubt build on its reputation as the leading advocate for responsible national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. I am certain the association will continue to flourish under his able leadership.

EXPLAINING VOTE AGAINST H.R. 1830

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to clarify for the record my vote on June 27th in opposition to H.R. 1830, which extends the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008.

When an issue is complex and worthy of substantial analysis, and a bill is presented to us in a format which short-circuits that analytical process and legislative debate, it is my policy to resolve any possible doubt in the direction of a "No" vote. Bringing up this bill as a suspension was inappropriate. Furthermore, the Ways and Means Committee marked up H.R. 1830 on the same day that the House considered the bill. Under such circumstances, members of the House had virtually no time to review the bill and I felt obliged to vote no.

Had the bill been reported under a rule that allowed perfecting amendments to be considered, I might have reached a different conclusion.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a Resolution relating to human rights problems in the Republic of Azerbaijan. I am pleased to be joined by Representative THADDEUS MCCOTTER and Representative GARY ACKERMAN as original cosponsors of the Resolution.

The Resolution calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to release Farhad Aliyev and his brother, Rafiq, from detention during trial. Both of them have been detained in solitary confinement from October 2005 until today, when their trial is already in progress. It also calls on Azerbaijan to assure that their right to a fair and open trial before an independent and impartial tribunal is honored. Importantly, the resolution calls on the Azeri government to fulfill all its international obligations respecting the rule of law, including those relating to Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), among others.

Farhad Aliyev, a pro-market advocate and former government minister, was originally arrested on charges of complicity in an alleged attempted coup d'etat during the 2005 parliamentary elections. He is now facing trial on unrelated financial charges. Rafiq, the former president of the oil company Azpetrol, was arrested the same day on minor customs violations, and is being tried on similar financial charges.

The 2007 Freedom House Country Report has this to say about the rule of law in Azerbaijan: "The judiciary is corrupt, inefficient and subservient to the executive branch. Arbitrary arrest and detention are common, particularly for members of the political opposition. Detainees are often held for long periods of time before trial, and their access to lawyers is restricted."

From the beginning, the arrest and trial of Farhad and Rafiq Aliyev have been marked by numerous violations of international legal norms, a view shared by independent observers, including the OSCE, the Council of Europe and many human rights organizations, not to mention the U.S. State Department. The Aliyevs have been systematically denied due process and a fair and open trial, as well visitation by family, medical and international legal advisers.

As the Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and having served as an election observer in Azerbaijan, I am aware that international human rights organizations, and the U.S. State Department, have raised concerns about human rights in Azerbaijan, including lack of free elections, arbitrary arrest and detention, and imprisonment of journalists, among other issues. I am particularly concerned about the ongoing crackdown on independent journalists. The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media has often criticized Azerbaijan about its violations of media freedoms, noting that at present there are more journalists in jail in Azerbaijan than in any other OSCE state. This resolution calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to release these journalists from prison and to identify and prosecute those who have been attacking reporters and editors.

I am well aware of the challenges and opportunities presented by the countries in the Caucasus region. Azerbaijan is a country with vast potential and is an important economic and strategic ally of the United States. I respect the role it is playing in the war on terror. But this is all the more reason for the U.S. Congress to urge the government in Baku to comply with its international human rights commitments.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE "CONTRACTORS AND FEDERAL SPENDING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative TOWNS (D–NY), I reintroduce legislation, the "Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act," that will fortify the current federal suspension and debarment system.

The United States is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world spending more than $419 billion on procurement awards in FY2006 and $440,000,000,000 on grants in FY2005.

Yet the federal government's watchdogs, the federal suspension and debarment officials, currently lack the information that they need to protect our business interests and taxpayers' dollars. We have no centralized and comprehensive government-wide method to account for the performance of our contractors and assistance participants, and those who repeatedly violate federal law may still receive millions of dollars from the federal government.

According to data from the Project on Government Oversight (POGO), since 1995, of the top fifty federal contractors based on total contract dollars received, nine have a total of twelve resolved cases totaling $161 million in penalties paid. Additionally, those fifty contractors have paid approximately $12 billion in fines and penalties.

"The Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act" establishes a centralized and comprehensive database on actions taken against federal contractors and assistance participants, requiring a description of each of these actions. This will provide debarring officials with the information that they need to protect the business interests of the United States. It places the burden of proving responsibility and subsequent eligibility for contracts or assistance on the person seeking contracts or assistance should they have been previously convicted of two exact or similar violations that constitutes a charge for debarment. Additionally, it improves and clarifies the role of the Interagency Committee on Debarments and Suspension, and requires the Administrator of General Services to report to Congress within 180 days with recommendations for creating the centralized and comprehensive federal contracting and assistance database.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on June 28, 2007, I inadvertently failed to vote on the Stearns Amendment to H.R. 2829 (Rollcall Vote No. 604). Had I voted, I would have voted "no."

DEMOCRATIC HOUR ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, while our national crime rates have fallen over the last decade, we have seen an unprecedented explosion in our prison and jail populations. Over two million prisoners are now held in Federal and State prisons and local jails. Each year, approximately 650,000 people return to their communities following a prison or jail sentence, resulting in more than 6.7 million Americans under some form of criminal justice supervision. In large part, these people are casualties in our war against drugs.

The weight of the drive to incarcerate has fallen disproportionately on the African-American community. Although drug use and sale cuts across racial and socioeconomic lines, law enforcement strategies have targeted street-level drug dealers and users from low-income, predominately minority, urban areas. As a result, the arrest rates per 100,000 for drug offenses are 6 times higher for blacks than for whites. The rate of imprisonment for black men is more than eight-times that of white men; and over the last 10 years, the incarceration rate of black men has increased at 10 times that of white men.

This disproportionate rate of incarceration has created havoc in our communities. One of the most significant costs of these policies is the impact on children, the weakened ties among family members. According to the 2001 national data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 3,500,000 parents were supervised by the correctional system. Prior to incarceration, 64 percent of female prisoners and 44 percent of male prisoners in State facilities lived with their children. Obviously, the long-term generational effects of a social structure in which imprisonment is the norm and law-abiding role models are absent are difficult to measure, but undoubtedly exist.

The social and criminal justice policy decisions generated by the drug war have also resulted in massive collateral damage negatively limiting critically important access to housing, employment, public benefits, education, and political participation.

A vast infrastructure of barriers, often legislatively mandated, combine to erect seemingly insurmountable roadblocks at every turn, creating a host of proscriptions blanketed under a "one shoe fits all" regime. For example, in some States, it is impossible for an ex-felon to get a barber's license, an extreme prohibition when cutting hair is a skill that can be acquired in prison.

There is a pressing need to provide the more than 650,000 men and women who reenter our communities from prison each year with the education and training necessary to obtain and hold onto steady jobs, undergo drug treatment, and get medical and mental health services. For that very reason, I have been active in supporting and introducing reentry legislation for well over a decade.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I was pleased to join my colleague DANNY DAVIS in this Congress in supporting the Second Chance Act. The Committee passed this legislation on March 28th and we await action on the floor. This bipartisan legislation is a critical step in expanding the foundation for comprehensive re-entry programs at the Federal, State and local level.

The bill focuses on development and support of programs that provide alternatives to incarceration, expand the availability of substance abuse treatment, strengthen families and expand comprehensive re-entry services. The bill is a product of multi-year bipartisan negotiations and enjoys support from across the political spectrum.

The statistics underlying the needs of our prison population are staggering. As detailed by many researchers, these deficiencies include limited education, few job skills or experience, substance and alcohol dependency, and other health problems, including mental health. Evidence from the Department of Justice indicates that the needs of the prison population are not being met under the current system. If we allow them to return to communities with few economic opportunities, where their family and friends are often involved in crime and substance abuse, we can only expect to extend the cycle of recidivism.

For example, 57 percent of federal and 70 percent of State inmates used drugs regularly before prison, with some estimates of involvement with drugs or alcohol around the time of the offense as high as 84 percent. Further, over one-third of all jail inmates have some physical or mental disability and 25 percent of jail inmates have been treated at some time for a mental or emotional problem.

In the face of these statistics, I believe that we can be cautiously optimistic in the support of re-entry programming through the Second Chance Act. Researchers at the Washington State Institute for Public Policy have determined that programs employing "best practices" have yielded up to 20 percent declines in re-arrest rates. Spread across the thousands of arrests each year, these practices could yield a significant decline in recidivism, with a commensurate reduction in community and victim costs.

Family-centered programs are one of the hallmarks of this legislation. Family-based treatment programs, for example, have proven results for serving the special population of female offenders and substance abusers with children. An evaluation by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of family-based treatment for substance abusing mothers and children found that at six months post treatment, 60 percent of the mothers remain alcohol and drug free, and drug related offenses declined from 28 to 7 percent.

As we move toward passage of the bill, I hope that we are not caught in the trap of attempting to solve this problem on the cheap or over-reacting to misinformation. In past Congresses, there have been objections to the cost of this bill and past re-entry initiatives.

I must point out that Section 101, the demonstration projects at the heart of the legislation, works out to less that $200 for each of the more than 650,000 people released into the community each year. Moreover, there are no perks—Blackberries or cosmetic surgery—for ex-offenders. This bill is a truly modest measure when balanced against the more than $60 billion each year spent on incarceration.

If we are going to continue to send more and more people to prison with longer and longer sentences, we should do as much as we reasonably can to assure that when they do return they don't go back to prison due to new crimes. The primary reason for doing so is not to benefit offenders, although it does—the primary reason for doing so is because it better assures that all of us and other members of the public will not be victims of crime due to recidivism.

COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act. Too many of our country's promising young men and women do not go to college because of the prohibitive cost of tuition. Many of those students who decide to attend institutions of higher education require loans to finance their education. A college education has always been expensive. But it is quickly becoming unaffordable for students and their families. Tuition rates at four-year colleges have increased by approximately 35 percent

over inflation during the last five years. The rising cost of tuition causes approximately 200,000 students annually to delay beginning college or forgoing the chance to study for a higher degree altogether. This disturbing trend must change. The adoption of H.R. 2669 will help make college as affordable as possible for every qualified student who would like to earn an advanced degree, without new costs to taxpayers.

H.R. 2669 would authorize an increase to the maximum value of the Pell Grant scholarship by $500 over the next five years. The legislation would also cut interest rates in half on need-based student loans, reducing the cost of those loans for millions of student borrowers. H.R. 2669, moreover, would prevent student borrowers from facing unmanageable levels of federal student debt. It does this by guaranteeing that borrowers will never have to spend more than 15 percent of their yearly discretionary income on loan repayments and by allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years.

H.R. 2669 also promotes the development of the next generation of high-quality teachers and public servants. It does this by authorizing tuition assistance for excellent undergraduate students who agree to teach in public schools and authorizing loan forgiveness for college graduates that enter public service professions.

Of particular importance to my constituents is the Upward Bound program which seeks to increase high school completion, college participation, and graduation rates among low-income and first-generation college students. H.R. 2669 would provide $228 million in funding over four years for Upward Bound, restoring critical funding for programs that were not funded in fiscal year 2007, as well as fund over 100 new programs. Students from minority communities—including the Asian and Pacific Islander American community—make up nearly 50 percent of all Upward Bound participants.

What is more, this legislation would make significant and needed investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving institutions. I commend my colleague from California (Mr. MILLER) for his commitment to assisting the minority serving institutions. I do, however, have two concerns with respect to this aspect of H.R. 2669. I respectfully request that they be favorably considered as this legislation proceeds through the legislative process.

First, section 311 of H.R. 2669 establishes categories of minority serving institutions that would be eligible to participate in a Centers of Excellence grant program that would provide funds to help recruit and prepare teachers. Institutions that traditionally serve Asian and Pacific Islander American students would benefit from eligibility for such grants. Unfortunately, the category Asian American and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution does not appear in the bill. I respectfully request that my colleagues support my efforts to make Asian American and Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions eligible for these grants.

Second, section 411 of H.R. 2669 establishes a College Access Challenge grant program for eligible students from underserved populations who enter and complete college. The term ''State'' is defined under this section as each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Students who attend institutions of higher education in the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States (FAS)—the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau—would be prohibited from participating in this grant program as a result of the limited definition for the term ''State.'' I respectfully request that my colleagues support the efforts to expand the definition of the term ''State'' in this section of H.R. 2669 to include the U.S. territories and the Freely Associated States.

I support this bill. Its provisions will help ensure that many talented young Americans can afford the benefits of a college education. I urge my colleague to support H.R. 2669.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act.

It is long past time for a change of direction in Iraq. For far too long, this institution merely acted as a rubber stamp and never asked the hard questions necessary of the Administration.

That begins to change today. The passage of this bill will require the Administration to confront the consequences of their bad choices and, more importantly, set us on a responsible path for ending our involvement in Iraq.

This legislation would begin the responsible redeployment of U.S. troops within 120 days and complete redeployment by April 1, 2008. In addition, troops could remain in Iraq for the limited purposes of fighting terrorism or to train Iraqi forces.

This bill is a measured response to the quagmire we find ourselves in. As has been clear for some time, Iraq is currently engulfed in a vicious civil war. This strife between Sunnis and Shiites goes back 1400 years and the American people never signed up for refereeing a civil war.

Moreover, this bill expressly allows for our troops to remain in the region for the purposes of fighting terrorism or to train Iraqi forces.

Our enemy in this conflict is Al Qaeda. They are the ones who attacked us on 9/11, they are the ones who declared war on the United States, and they are the ones we were told were in Iraq. This bill allows our troops to do whatever is necessary to root out Al Qaeda and ensure they will not be able to use Iraqi territory as a safe haven.

Moreover, by augmenting our ability to train Iraqi police forces, this bill places the onus for Iraqi security squarely where it belongs—on the Iraqis themselves. This Administration has only given lip-service to the importance of training Iraqi soldiers and has allowed the bulk of the security responsibility to rest on the shoulders of our brave American men and women.

This is not only unfair, it is counterproductive. We keep hearing—''we'll stand down when the Iraqis stand up.'' This bill, by beginning the belated shift of responsibility from the American military to the Iraqis, will finally force the Iraqis to stand up.

As many have said, the problem of Iraq will not be solved militarily. No less than our military commander in Iraq—General Petraeus—has said that Iraq will not be solved with military means. Only by engaging the full weight of our diplomacy we will be able to force the political compromises necessary that will bring some measure of stability to Iraq. This bill, by redeploying our troops and thus signaling our recognition of the importance of diplomacy, will finally put the Iraqis on a path towards peace.

The time is now. The American people are clamoring for a change in our Iraq policy and, despite the recalcitrance of the Administration, a change in policy will come. After close to 5 years, billions of dollars spent, thousands of our soldiers dead, maimed, or wounded—we simply must chart a new course.

As always, this Congress stands ready to work the President to find a bipartisan solution to Iraq. However, veto threats and refusals to deal with the reality on the ground are no longer tolerable. We must all negotiate an end to this conflict in good faith with a clear and honest recognition of the challenges we face. For my part, I stand ready to work with my colleagues to engage in such a constructive dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, let's end this. Let's bring our soldiers home and thank them for a job well done. Let's pass the Responsible Redeployment Act.

RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2956, and I appreciate the fact that we are again addressing this important issue today. I want to start by recognizing the ongoing sacrifices and tremendous bravery of the men and women of our armed forces. Their dedication inspires us all and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Very simply put, it is time to bring our troops home. The effort they are making has not been met by the Iraqi government, and there is no reason to believe that the situation is going to improve there in the foreseeable future. The various reports we have received just this week underscore this point. As I have said for some time, we are beyond the point of being able to impact events in a meaningful way militarily. The political decisions that the Iraqis need to make will not be made as long as our soldiers are there, and I seriously doubt they will be made when we are gone. All we are doing is letting an untenable situation drag on, with our soldiers caught in the crossfire. We are spending over $329 million every day in Iraq. That is a staggering sum of money. We can redirect that money to better fighting the war on terror and also addressing important domestic initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I did not vote to authorize this war, I did not vote for the troop surge and I have voted for a time line to bring our troops home. The vast majority of the American people see that the President's dream for Iraq is not going to happen. They want him to wake up and face reality. This bill provides a plan on how to do that. I support the approach in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

TRIBUTE TO THE ''FLIGHT 93 AMBASSADORS''

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 13, 2007

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the ''Flight 93 Ambassadors,'' a community organization that has dedicated countless hours to the Flight 93 memorial site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This organization, created by members of the Somerset community after the tragic events of September 11th, serves both the country and the memory of those aboard Flight 93 by protecting the site and recounting the heroic story of the passengers' brave intervention against the terrorists to the memorial's visitors.

The Flight 93 Ambassadors will be honored for their service on July 26th at the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce's Third Annual Summer Barbeque. Somerset County has been trademarked ''America's County'' after two major national events took place there. For the past three years the Chamber of Commerce has used this distinction to recognize American heroes. Previously the Chamber paid tribute to the nine miners who were rescued from the Quecreek Mine accident. This year's recognition of the Flight 93 Ambassadors by ''America's County'' is fitting and appropriate as these volunteers are responsible for maintaining one of the most distinguished symbols of American courage and unity.

The Flight 93 Ambassadors contribute much of their time to the preservation of the Flight 93 memorial and serve as a link to the families of the Flight 93 victims. These selfless volunteers plan events and work tirelessly to maintain the integrity of this important site and in doing so, ensure that the heroism of the passengers of Flight 93 is never forgotten. The ambassadors are the epitome of American unity and strength in the wake of tragedy, and their initiative and persistent work with the Flight 93 site is greatly appreciated by the community.

I am sure that every American, in addition to the members of the Shanksville community, would join me in thanking the Flight 93 Ambassadors for their selfless dedication and leadership in immortalizing the memory of September 11th and all of the heroes of Flight 93.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGROFUEL RURAL ENERGY EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 13, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act, which is designed to help American farmers better meet the economic and environmental challenges inherent in the handling and disposal of manure. The bill is also intended to spur investments in another source of much-needed renewable energy.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), American concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and animal feeding operations (AFOs) generate over 335 million tons of dry matter annually. While animal manure provides important nutrients for crop production and organic matter that enhances soil properties, its improper management can pose a threat to soil, water, and air quality. Moreover, manure can negatively impact human and animal health and associated odors can decrease quality of life.

Anaerobic digestion technologies can help improve the manner in which American farms manage manure, reducing water pollution, odors, and the emissions of greenhouse gases while producing energy. As our nation is seeking ways to reduce its dependence on carbon-based fuels and particularly foreign oil, we should encourage the development of anaerobic digestion technologies.

The Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act would further the development of these important technologies. First, the bill would make anaerobic digestion business ventures eligible for guaranteed loans. Secondly, it would make anaerobic digestion projects eligible for monies available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The bill would be particularly beneficial to the handling of manure on the 72,500 dairy farms in the United States, nearly 2,000 of which are in my Central and Northern New York Congressional District.

Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact the Agrofuel Rural Energy Empowerment Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 13, 2007

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in votes on the floor of the House of Representatives on July 11, 2007. I was absent to attend a military funeral and to be present for a major announcement from the National Science Foundation in South Dakota. I submit this statement today to establish for the record how I would have voted had I been present for these votes.

On the morning of July 11, 2007, the House of Representatives held four votes for which I was absent.

The first vote was a motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The second vote was on the H. Res. 531, a Rule Providing for the Consideration of the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The third vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the H. Res. 526, supporting home ownership and responsible lending. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

The fourth vote was on a motion to suspend the rules and agree to the S. 1701, a bill to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes. Had I been present, I would have voted 'yea' on that question.

RECOGNIZING 2007 AS THE YEAR OF THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN COLOMBIA

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I am glad to rise in support of House Resolution 426, recognizing 2007 as the Year of the Rights of Internally Displaced Persons in Colombia.

Internal displacement is a massive problem in Colombia. As noted in this resolution, the number of displaced over the past 20 years is roughly equivalent to eight percent of the Colombian population. If we applied this ration to the population of the United Sates, this would equal twenty-four million displaced persons roughly the population of the State of Texas.

Unfortunately, this tragically large number continues to grow by about 200,000 every year.

The civil conflict, of course, is at the root of the problem, but this explanation is worth a closer look. There is a guerrilla war being waged by the group calling itself the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in conflict with the Colombian government and their paramilitary allies and surrogates, and combat has displaced many Colombians. Also, resorting to violence as a means of resolving conflicts over land and other resources has become commonplace and exacerbates the problem.

Afro-Colombians, whose rights to communal land holdings were not properly recognized until 1991, have been hit particularly hard by deliberate displacement aimed at securing valuable or strategic land areas, principally by paramilitaries and the Colombian state. The FARC has also been known to engage in this reprehensible practice. Often the land at issue is stolen from its residents because it is favorable to agriculture, has sub-surface resources, or is needed for the completion of large construction projects.

Due to economically motivated displacement and other factors, including their general political marginalization in Colombian society, Afro-Colombians are disproportionately over-represented in the displaced population, as noted in the resolution.

Because of their marginal position, Afro-Colombians, therefore, find it even more difficult than other Colombians to access the resources and assistance they need to rebuild their lives. In this dismal context, a return to their land, to their proper home, may be a deeply held hope, but it is difficult to imagine.

The plight of the displaced deserves our immediate attention. Not only have we involved ourselves in the Colombian civil conflict and armed the Colombian state—a government which our own State Department has stated cooperates with the pararmilitaries, but this nation's appetite for cocaine has inflamed the situation by generating income for all sides in the conflict.

I wholeheartedly support this resolution and hope for an overwhelming vote in favor of its adoption. I call on my colleagues to support this resolution and to pay sustained attention to the plight of the displaced throughout this year and beyond, as we work to redirect our policies toward building a just peace for the people of Colombia.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9189–S9227

Measures Introduced: Three bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1786–1788, and S. Res. 271–272. **Page S9211**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 2829, making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–129) **Page S9211**

Measures Passed:

National Summer Learning Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 268, designating July 12, 2007, as "National Summer Learning Day", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9224–25**

Honoring Lady Bird Johnson: Senate agreed to S. Res. 271, honoring Lady Bird Johnson. **Page S9225**

Praising Muslim-American Physicians: Senate agreed to S. Res. 272, praising Muslim-American physicians who condemned recent attempted terrorist acts in the United Kingdom. **Pages S9225–26**

Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 975, granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact, and the bill was then passed. **Page S9226**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S9190–99**

Adopted:

By 87 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 247), Dorgan/Conrad Amendment No. 2135 (to Amendment No. 2011), relative to bringing Osama bin Laden and other leaders of al-Qaeda to justice, as amended. **Pages S9190–93**

Pending:

Nelson (NE) (for Levin) Amendment No. 2011, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S9190–99**

Levin Amendment No. 2087 (to Amendment No. 2011), to provide for a reduction and transition of United States forces in Iraq. **Page S9190**

Reed Amendment No. 2088 (to Amendment No. 2087), to change the enactment date. **Page S9190**

Cornyn Amendment No. 2100 (to Amendment No. 2011), to express the sense of the Senate that it is in the national security interest of the United States that Iraq not become a failed state and a safe haven for terrorists. **Page S9190**

The following occurred on Wednesday, July 11, 2007:

Nelson (FL) Amendment No. 2013 (to Amendment No. 2012), to change the enactment date, fell when Webb Amendment No. 2012 (to Amendment No. 2011) was withdrawn.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the bill at approximately 3 p.m. on Monday, July 16, 2007.

Lady Bird Johnson Tributes—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that a collection of statements made in tribute to the late First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson, together with appropriate illustrations and other materials relating to her death, be printed. **Page S9226**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Secretary of the Army. **Page S9227**

Messages from the House: **Page S9211**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9211–12**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9212–13**

Additional Statements: **Pages S9209–11**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S9213–24**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S9224**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—247) **Pages S9192–93**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:11 p.m., until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 16, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S9226–27.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 1 public bill, H.R. 3044, and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 185 and H. Res. 545–546, were introduced. **Page H7783**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7783–84**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3043, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–231);

H.R. 980, to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–232);

H. Res. 375, honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–233); and Supplemental report on H.R. 2641, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008 (H. Rept. 110–185, Pt. 2). **Page H7783**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 4:04 p.m. and adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D942)*

S. 277, to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision. Signed on July 13, 2007. (Public Law 110–47)

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 16 through July 21, 2007

Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, at 3 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 18, to hold hearings to examine modernization of Federal Housing Administration programs, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

July 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the semiannual monetary policy report to the Congress, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 17, Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, to hold hearings to examine improving air services to small and rural communities, 10 a.m., SR–253.

July 18, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the federal response to ensuring the safety of Chinese imports, 10 a.m., SR–253.

July 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1769, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate number portability in order to increase consumer choice of voice service provider, S. 1780, to require the FCC, in enforcing its regulations concerning the broadcast of indecent programming, to maintain a policy that a single word or image may be considered indecent, S. 1582, to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, S. 1771, to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, to educate the public about pool and spa safety, S. 1778, to authorize certain activities of the Maritime Administration, S. 1492, to improve the quality of federal and state data regarding the availability and quality of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation, and the nominations of Jonathan W. Bailey, and Philip M. Kenul, both to be Rear Admiral, for the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 19, to hold hearings to examine S. 1634, to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 17, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Boldrey, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, Kristine L. Svinicki, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and R. Lyle Laverty, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 18, business meeting to consider the nominations of David H. McCormick, of Pennsylvania, to be an Under Secretary, and Peter B. McCarthy, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, Kerry N. Weems, of New Mexico, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Tevi David Troy, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Charles E. F. Millard, of New York, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 10 a.m., SD–215.

July 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine aviation financing, focusing on industry perspectives, 2:15 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 17, Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the efficacy of democratic developments in Sub-Saharan Africa, 10 a.m., SD–419.

July 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Finland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, signed at Helsinki May 31, 2006 (the ''Protocol'') (Treaty Doc. 109–18), protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Copenhagen May 2, 2006 (the ''Protocol'') (Treaty Doc. 109–19), protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and to Certain Other Taxes, Signed on August 29, 1989, signed at Berlin June 1, 2006 (the ''Protocol''), along with a related Joint Declaration (Treaty Doc. 109–20), patent Law Treaty and Regulations Under the Patent Law Treaty (the ''Treaty''), done at Geneva on June 1, 2000, between the Governments of 53 countries including the United States of America (Treaty Doc. 109–12), and the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs (the ''Agreement''), adopted in Geneva on July 2, 1999, and signed by the United States on July 6, 1999 (Treaty Doc. 109–21), and the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks (Treaty Doc. 110–2), 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

July 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the war in Iraq, focusing on an update from the field, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 17, Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging, to hold hearings to examine the federal response to the Alzheimer's epidemic, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

July 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 625, to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, S. 1183, to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, S. 1551, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to making progress toward the goal of eliminating tuberculosis, and S. 579, to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 17, to hold hearings to examine federal acquisition, focusing on ways to strengthen competition and accountability, 10 a.m., SD–342.

July 17, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to continue hearings to examine the readiness of the Census Bureau for the 2010 census, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

July 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the military's role in disaster response, focusing on progress since Hurricane Katrina, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

July 19, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine the mayoral proposal to reform the District of Columbia's public school system, focusing on assessments, assurances, and accountability, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 19, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine draft legislation to amend and reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act, 9:30 a.m., SR–485.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 17, to hold hearings to examine the prosecution of Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 248, honoring the life and achievements of Dame Lois Browne Evans, Bermuda's first female barrister and Attorney General, and the first female Opposition Leader in the British Commonwealth,

S. Res. 236, supporting the goals and ideals of the National Anthem Project, which has worked to restore America's voice by re-teaching Americans to sing the national anthem, S. 1060, to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, S. Res. 261, expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffry Herbert, fondly known as ''Mr. Wizard'', a bill entitled, ''School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvements Act'', and the nominations of Roslynn Renee Mauskopf, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, William Lindsay Osteen, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Martin Karl Reidinger, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Timothy D. DeGiusti, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Janis Lynn Sammartino, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, and Joe W. Stecher, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 19, Full Committee, business meeting to continue consideration of S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 248, honoring the life and achievements of Dame Lois Browne Evans, Bermuda's first female barrister and Attorney General, and the first female Opposition Leader in the British Commonwealth, S. Res. 236, supporting the goals and ideals of the National Anthem Project, which has worked to restore America's voice by re-teaching Americans to sing the national anthem, S. 1060, to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, S. Res. 261, expressing appreciation for the profound public service and educational contributions of Donald Jeffry Herbert, fondly known as ''Mr. Wizard'', a bill entitled, ''School Safety and Law Enforcement Improvements Act'', and the nominations of Roslynn Renee Mauskopf, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, William Lindsay Osteen, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, Martin Karl Reidinger, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, Timothy D. DeGiusti, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Janis Lynn Sammartino, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, and Joe W. Stecher, of Nebraska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nebraska, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 19, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sharion Aycock, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, Jennifer Walker Elrod, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and Richard A. Jones, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, 2:45 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: July 18, to hold hearings to examine increasing government accountability and ensuring fairness in small business contracting, 2 p.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: July 17, business meeting to mark up the nomination of Charles L. Hopkins, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Operations, Preparedness, Security and Law Enforcement), Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

July 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense collaboration and cooperation and the education needs for the returning service members, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 19, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: July 18, to hold hearings to examine abuse of elderly citizens, focusing on prevention methods, 10:30 a.m., SD–628.

House

Committee on Agriculture, July 17, 18 and 19, to consider H.R. 2419, Farm Bill Extension Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations. July 18, to consider the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Bill, Fiscal Year 2008, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, July 18, hearing on Iraq: Trends and Recent Security Developments, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

July 18, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, to continue hearings on A Third Way: Alternatives for Iraq's Future, Part 2, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

July 18, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on U.S. nuclear weapons policy, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

July 19, Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces and the Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, joint hearing on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Vehicle Program, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, July 17, hearing on Budgeting to Fight Waste, Fraud, and Abuse, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, July 18, to mark up H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 17, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Diminished Capacity: Can the FDA Assure the Safety and Security of the Nation's Food Supply?—Part 2,'' 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, July 17 and 18, hearings on Monetary Policy and State of the Economy, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 17, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing on H.R. 920, Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

July 19, full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2895, National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 17, hearing on U.S. Policy Options in the Iraq Crisis, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 17, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migrating Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Oceans, and Other International Fisheries Agreements of U.S. Interest in Asia and the Pacific, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 18, Subcommittee on Africa, and Global Health, to mark up H.R. 2003, Ethiopia Democracy and Accountability Act of 2007, 10:15 a.m., followed by a hearing on Food Security in Africa: The Impact of Agricultural Development, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 18, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on the Impact of Coup-Related Sanctions on Thailand and Fiji: Helpful or Harmful to U.S. Relations? 3 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

July 18, Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia and the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, joint hearing on Reconstruction in Iraq's Oil Sector: Running on Empty? 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

July 19, full Committee, hearing on Beyond Iraq: Envisioning a New U.S. Policy in the Middle East, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, July 17, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, to mark up H.R. 1955, Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, July 19, hearing on H.R. 2534, To permit statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia to be placed in Statuary Hall in the same manner as statues honoring citizens of the States are placed in Statuary Hall, 1 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 17, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Working Families in Financial Crisis: Medical Debt and Bankruptcy, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 19, Antitrust Task Force, hearing on Credit Card Interchange Fees, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

July 19, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, joint oversight hearing on Law Enforcement Confidential Informant Practices, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, July 18, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 673, Cocopah Lands Act; H.R. 1696, To amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirements for membership in that Tribe; H.R. 2120, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to proclaim as reservation for the benefit of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians a parcel of land now held in trust by the United States for that Indian Tribe; H.R. 2863, To authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe; H.R. 2952, To authorize the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests owned by the Tribe; S. 375, A bill to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

July 19, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 783, Mesa Verdi National Park Boundary Expansion Act of 2007; H.R. 1266, Butterfield Overland Trail Study Act; and H.R. 1674, Battle of Camden Study Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, July 18, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement, hearing on Federal Contracting: Do Poor Performers Keep Winning? 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 19, full Committee, hearing on FEMA Trailers; followed by a markup of pending business, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

July 19, Subcommittee on Federal Work Force, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia, hearing on Inquiring Minds Want to Know: What is the Postal Service Contracting Out? 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, July 16, to consider the following: H.R. 3043, Making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008; and a resolution providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1) to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, 5 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, July 17, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight and the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, joint hearing on the Department of Energy's Support for the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory (SREL), Part I, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

July 17, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing on Amendments to the Patent and Trade Act of 1980—the Next 25 Years, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

July 19, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment and the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, joint hearing on Tracking the Storm at the National Hurricane Center, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, July 18, hearing entitled "Medicaid Drug Reimbursements: Are CMS Cuts Bad Medicine for Small Businesses and Beneficiaries?" 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 17 and 19, hearings on the Status of the Nation's Waters, including Wetlands, Under the Jurisdiction of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

July 17, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on FAA's Oversight of Falsified Airman Medical Certificate Applications, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

July 19, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing on Federal Leadership by Example on Energy Conservation: No Cost Quick and East Steps for Immediate Results, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, July 17, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 2623, To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of copayments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 2874, Veterans' Health Care Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 1315, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide specially adaptive housing assistance to certain disabled members of the Armed Forces residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member; H.R. 760, Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007; H.R. 513, National Heroes Credit Protection Act; and H.R. 23, Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

July 19, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Vet Centers, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, July 19, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, hearing on Health Care for Children in Foster Care, 10 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, July 18, hearing entitled ''Voluntary Carbon Offsets—Getting What You Pay For,'' 9:30 a.m., room to be announced.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

2 p.m., Monday, July 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3:00 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, National Defense Authorization Act.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

12:30 p.m., Monday, July 16

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 2547—FDIC Enforcement Enhancement Act; (2) H.R. 1980—Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007; (3) H.R. 1982—Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007; (4) H. Res. 408—Recognizing and honoring the Cathedral Square Corporation on its 30th anniversary; (5) H. Con. Res. 87—Supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; (6) H.R. 2570—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the ''Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building''; (7) H.R. 2293—To require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde; (8) H. Res. 208—Honoring Operation Smile in the 25th Anniversary year of its founding; (9) H. Res. 294—Commending the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the occasion of International Women's Day, for the enactment of a law to improve the status of married women and ensure the access of married women to property rights; (10) H. Res. 378—Honoring World Red Cross Red Crescent Day; (11) S. 966—Department of State Crisis Response Act of 2007; (12) H. Res. 487—Recognizing the contribution of modeling and simulation technology to the security and prosperity of the United States, and recognizing modeling and simulation as a National Critical Technology; (13) H.R. 781—To redesignate Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System near Redfield, Arkansas, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 24, 1946, as the ''Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam''; (14) H. Res. 375—Honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States; and (15) H.R. 799—Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007.

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