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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 24, 2007.

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

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for 5 minutes.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, 2 years ago, on September 24, Hurricane Rita smashed into Louisiana and Texas, making landfall first in my district at Johnson Bayou in Cameron Parish, a small town in southwest Louisiana. The storm was one of the worst ever to enter into the Gulf of Mexico, causing \$11 billion of damage to the area.

Hard-working individuals at the community level have had the greatest impact on our recovery and reconstruc-

tion, and that's despite fits and starts with government health and so forth. It's the individuals, local officials, families on the ground that made the difference.

This storm also caused unprecedented damage to the oil and gas industry. Again, individuals working in those companies got our oil and gas infrastructure back up and running in record time, so that we could fuel America's energy needs.

At the Federal level, funds have been appropriated for assistance, but they have been clearly slow to arrive, because of bureaucracy. This has been an ongoing battle that we in Congress have had to fight with and local officials have had to fight with as well.

Two weeks ago, I was down there at Johnson Bayou, that little town where they struggled to get their school back. Actually, private funding allowed the school to come back before we could even get Federal funds down there, because of the bureaucracy. That took 2 years, but private funds allowed for the school to be rebuilt. It was one of the first schools to be rebuilt back in Louisiana.

I was down there 2 weeks ago for a very special time. We had a ribbon-cutting for a new health clinic in Johnson Bayou down in Cameron Parish. This little town did not have a health care clinic. It never had one. In fact, families had to drive many, many miles on small roads or oftentimes had to rely on a ferry to cross a body of water to receive health care, and if that ferry was down, they were stranded.

But with the opening of this health clinic, for the first time, families at Johnson Bayou now have access to health care. This was very special, because a family donated the land for the clinic. A company actually put up money, \$2 million to build the clinic, and an additional \$1 million to fund its ongoing operations for the next 3 years. For the first time what we have

now seen is a health care clinic in Johnson Bayou, where the community came together to put this in place to create access for health care.

You know, we all talk about how all politics is local, but I would submit that all health care is local. If we don't have access to health care, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what's available in Boston, Massachusetts, or in San Francisco and New York, because if the folks down in Johnson Bayou don't have access to health care, then what good is it? What good is the great advance in Boston or the wonderful hospitals around the country if folks can't even enter into the health care system in their own community?

Access is critically important, and there are many, many things, many factors that affect access. I know this firsthand, as a cardiovascular surgeon before coming to Congress, that many rural communities don't have access because there aren't doctors in these rural communities, or there are no clinics in these rural communities.

We have a severe shortage of physicians nationwide right now, and there are many reasons we have shortages. I have asked for a GAO study in the past on this and tried to pass an amendment in the higher education bill last year to look at why we have these shortages. Clearly there are a number of factors, and we need to correct those deficiencies to get a sufficient physician workforce to fill our rural communities and provide access.

There are cost issues that limit access, cost for families, where they can't afford health insurance. There are costs, actually, reimbursement factors for physicians which do not provide adequate incentives for physicians and nurses to be in rural communities. We have a severe shortage of nurses. All health care is local, and we have to remember that if we are going to reform the health care system.

The United States has one of the best health care systems in the world, and

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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we spend significantly more on health care than any other nation. Health care costs have doubled between 1993 and 2004, growing to nearly \$2 trillion annually.

In addition to this, malpractice premiums have continued to skyrocket. Physicians premiums rose 15 percent between 2000 and 2002, and as much as 33 percent for some specialties. Many physicians are basically retiring early from their practices because of the severe costs imposed by malpractice premiums.

Some of my Democratic colleagues and some of the presidential hopefuls have lately been advocating a government-run universal health care program, saying that this is the only way we can have universal coverage. But I will tell you this, and I know this as a physician, that universal coverage does not equate to access. Coverage is one thing, but if you don't have the facilities, you don't have the physicians, you don't have the nurses, you don't have the clinic or you can't afford insurance, or you can't find access, it doesn't matter about the coverage. It's access that's important.

Now, one of the things that Congress is looking at is the SCHIP bill. One of the things that SCHIP fails to recognize is that the measure fails to take into account that children's health, separated from the parents' health coverage, is not going to be good enough. Again, it's access.

I think we have to have three principles, information, choice and control in health care. In a subsequent speech, I will get into more of those things.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KANJORSKI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

At worship this weekend, Lord, Your people heard this admonition from the sacred scriptures:

"First of all, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered for all peoples, especially for rulers and those in positions of authority; that we may be able to lead undisturbed and tranquil lives, with solid piety and true dignity."

Lord, by Your grace, even in our prayer, You lead us beyond self-concern to embrace the needs of others.

As a priority, Lord, help us to pray with sincerity for lawmakers in this Congress and around the world. Their decisions and their indifference has a ripple effect upon other nations. Guide them, that Your people everywhere may live in security and flourish with human ingenuity, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. POE 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.

HATEMONGER SPEAKS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the University of Hate has a new branch campus and it is called Columbia University.

Madman, maniac, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is speaking today at Columbia. The Iranian President believes in the murder of the Jewish people in Israel. He is a hater of Americans. He is sending money, arms, and ammunition to Iraq that is used to kill American troops. Not the kind of person that deserves a U.S. audience.

But Columbia doesn't care. The University said that they would have even invited warmonger Hitler to speak on their campus.

But the university does have some people that they refuse to allow on campus. This is the same university that, in 1969 during the Vietnam War and peacenik movement, banned the ROTC from campus. And in spite of current law and a Supreme Court ruling, still bans the ROTC.

Columbia University clearly shows a pattern of being anti-American by promoting forums to warmongers and by preventing the U.S. military ROTC program on campus. Maybe the university should just relocate to Tehran. And in the meantime, the U.S. taxpayers have no business sending American money to the University of Hate.

And that's just the way it is.

AHMADINEJAD AND COLUMBIA

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, there is quite a bit of disgust with what is taking place in New York City today with Ahmadinejad at Columbia University. There is disgust also with the United Nations. And rightfully so. And we are hearing from our constituents about this.

And then to top it off, the New York Times, who for 2 weeks denied that they gave special price breaks to moveon.org for the liberal group's ad attacking General Petraeus, finally yesterday through their public editor or their ombudsman had to come clean with the truth.

Yes, indeed, moveon.org should have paid \$142,000 for that ad, but somehow it was cut in half. The reduced price was a mistake, they said, and they admitted they had violated their own advertising policy of barring attacks of a personal nature. Two pretty glaring mistakes, don't you think?

The Times claims it is not a poster child for the liberal media, but in the recent admission that sometimes reporters had fabricated stories while management cut a deal to a liberal attack group and violated their own ethics, well, as my grandmother would say, their little actions sure are speaking a lot louder than their words. Bless their little hearts.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 21, 2007, at 11:25 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3580.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 634) encouraging participation in hunting and fishing, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Hunting and Fishing Day and the efforts of hunters and fishermen toward the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 634

Whereas, since the beginning of the 20th century, hunters and fishermen of the United States have been among the most vocal supporters of the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment;

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt, who was himself a hunter, fisherman, and conservationist, called throughout his Presidency for laws to promote wildlife conservation and to provide lands for recreation;

Whereas, in June 1971, Senator Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire and Representative Robert Sikes of Florida sponsored a joint resolution calling for the celebration of "National Hunting and Fishing Day" on the fourth Saturday of every September;

Whereas, in 2006, an estimated 42,500,000 individuals in the United States participated in hunting or fishing activities;

Whereas, in 2006, hunters and fishermen made a significant contribution to the economy of the United States by spending nearly \$75,000,000,000 on hunting and fishing activities;

Whereas hunters and fishermen recognize the importance of natural resources to the character, heritage, and future of the United States, and work to protect and conserve those resources; and

Whereas the fourth Saturday of September would be an appropriate day to as celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) there should be established a day known as National Hunting and Fishing Day; and

(B) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate programs and activities; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) encourages participation in hunting and fishing; and

(B) commends the contributions of hunters and fishermen toward the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, as amended, under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 634, as amended, recognizes the contributions that American sportsmen and -women make in promoting wildlife conservation. The resolution calls on the President to issue a proclamation supporting National Hunting and Fishing Day.

There are an estimated 42.5 million Americans who hunt and fish, according to the most recent survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Aside from supporting efforts to protect our natural environment, these men and women also contribute to our economy. They spent \$75 billion in 2006 on hunting and fishing activities.

I commend Congresswoman GILLIBRAND from New York for introducing this resolution, and I urge adoption of the resolution, as amended.

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

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

First, let me thank and commend the gentleman from West Virginia for expeditiously bringing this bill to the floor. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 634, urging the establishment of a National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Since the founding of our Republic more than 230 years ago, hunting and fishing have been woven into the very fabric of our cultural heritage. There is no question that sportsmen are among the foremost supporters of sound wildlife management and the conservation of our natural resources.

In fact, without the billions of dollars that have been paid by sportsmen in excise taxes and duck stamp fees, it is likely that President Theodore Roosevelt's vision of a national wildlife refuge system would never have been achieved. Today, that system is comprised of more than 96 million acres, and more than 90 percent of those Federal lands are open to the 42 million Americans who hunt and fish.

It is appropriate that we designate a National Hunting and Fishing Day and that we celebrate on October 9, the 10th anniversary of the National Wildlife Improvement Act of 1997. This historic law, sponsored by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and myself, has the fundamental purpose of working to ensure that the American people have the finest refuge system in the world and the ability to hunt and fish on lands they largely purchased with their hard-earned dollars. It is achieving that goal that I believe is very, very important.

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of House Resolu-

tion 634, encouraging participation in hunting and fishing activities and supporting the goals and ideals of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

This past weekend Americans all over our great Nation celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day.

In 1971, Senator Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire and Representative Bob Sikes of Florida introduced a joint resolution authorizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on the fourth Saturday of September. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the first proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Thirty-five years later, thousands of events have taken place at hunting clubs and sportsmen's stores nationwide, bringing communities together in a grass-roots effort to promote outdoor activities and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we, the United States Congress, should highlight these historic national pastimes by recognizing the contributions that hunters and fishermen have on America's rich culture, and encouraging participation in hunting and fishing as a way to promote family values, environmental conservation, and stewardship of our national resources.

Each year, over 45 million Americans take part in these traditions. Many of these sportsmen and -women live in my district in upstate New York. When I hold a town hall meeting in the Hudson Valley, constituents tell me about the economic impact that these sports bring to our rural communities. I also hear from them about the need for strong conservation policies so that they may continue the tradition of sportsmanship in their families.

Many of the folks that I have had the opportunity to speak with have lived all of their lives in New York's rural communities and view hunting and fishing not only as a pastime, but also a reflection of upstate New York's historic character.

One week from today, turkey season will begin in upstate New York. Every year my mother and brother are among the very first in the woods when the season begins. My mother takes great pride in her ability to shoot a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner every year.

I now have the honor to represent over a dozen hunting wildlife management areas in three of New York State's environmental conservation regions. Nearly 700,000 New Yorkers participate in hunting and fishing each year and contribute extensively to our local and national economy through licensing, educational courses, and equipment purchases.

The promotion of hunting and fishing activities coincides with environmental stewardship. Hunters and fishermen were among the first to call for policies to protect our environment and, to this day, continue to advocate for land protection and preservation efforts to maintain our wildlife and environment for our future generations.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Americans to get into the outdoors and enjoy all that God has provided us.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this important resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 634, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKGREEN GARDENS IN MURRELLS INLET, SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 186) honoring the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 186

Whereas 2007 is the 75th year that Brookgreen Gardens is open to the public;

Whereas in 1930 philanthropist Archer M. Huntington and his wife, sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington, purchased 9,100 acres of South Carolina land that stretched from the Waccamaw River to the Atlantic Ocean;

Whereas within the tract of such land were the remnants of four rice plantations, including the Oaks, Springfield, Laurel Hill, and Brookgreen;

Whereas the Huntingtons created Brookgreen Gardens on a 300-acre parcel of land with massive live oak trees which were planted nearly two centuries earlier;

Whereas in 1932 the Huntingtons opened Brookgreen Gardens to the public and established it as both a nature preserve and a showcase for American figurative sculpture;

Whereas Brookgreen Gardens consists of two main components: the Huntington Sculpture Garden and the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve;

Whereas more than 550 works by hundreds of American artists are displayed in the Huntington Sculpture Garden;

Whereas the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve is rich with evidence of the great rice plantations of the 1800s, contains native and domestic animal exhibits, and is the only zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums on the coast of either North Carolina or South Carolina; and

Whereas Brookgreen Gardens is designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, on its 75th anniversary of being open to the public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 186, introduced by our colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Representative HENRY BROWN, honors the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina.

When Brookgreen Gardens opened to the public in 1932, they were the first public sculpture gardens in the country. The gardens reflect the distinguished career of Anna Hyatt Huntington, a sculptor whose work spanned a period of 70 years.

On October 5, 1992, the Secretary of the Interior recognized the significance of the site by designating Brookgreen Gardens as a National Historic Landmark based on the more than 550 works of American artists displayed in the sculpture portion of the gardens.

Mr. Speaker, we support House Concurrent Resolution 186 and recommend its adoption by the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 186. House Concurrent Resolution 186 recognizes Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, in honor of the 75th anniversary of its opening to the public.

In 1931, Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington founded Brookgreen Gardens to preserve the natural flora and fauna and to display objects of art within that natural setting.

Today, Brookgreen Gardens is a National Historic Landmark and contains more than 550 works from American artists in what was the country's first public sculpture garden.

□ 1415

The Gardens also offer a nature and historical preserve, small zoo, and a nature exhibition center. To honor the 1932 opening of the Brookgreen Gardens to the public, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the strong efforts of Congressman HENRY BROWN for his persistence and diligent work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 186 which honors the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens, one of the most beautiful places in coastal South Carolina.

In 1931, Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington founded Brookgreen Gardens to preserve the native flora and fauna of coastal South Carolina and to display objects of art within that

natural setting. Today, Brookgreen Gardens is a National Historic Landmark and contains more than 550 works from American artists in what was the country's first public sculpture garden.

Brookgreen Gardens also offers a nature and historical preserve; it also includes a small zoo that is accredited by American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and a nature exhibition center. The natural exhibition center and zoo exhibit educate visitors on the unique species and issues of coastal South Carolina.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the rest of my colleagues from the South Carolina delegation. They have shown unity in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens by unanimously agreeing to be cosponsors of this resolution.

To honor the 1932 opening of Brookgreen Gardens to the public, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 186.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING ALL HUNTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 193) recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 193

Whereas in 2006 there were over 16,000,000 hunters in the United States of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury during the past hunting season;

Whereas in 2006 this injury rate was lower than many other forms of recreation;

Whereas there are 70,000 hunter education instructors teaching hunter safety, ethics, and conservation to approximately 750,000 students successfully each year;

Whereas State fish and game agencies began offering hunter safety programs in 1949, and since then, more than 35,000,000 people have been certified;

Whereas much of the success of hunter safety can be contributed to hunter education training and the role of responsible hunters in the field;

Whereas Congress commends Pennsylvania hunters for setting a new State safety record in 2006;

Whereas hunters continue year after year to improve their safety record; and

Whereas hunters are the vital link in preserving and maintaining the great natural

resources in the United States, including wild places: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Pennsylvania State Game Commissioner and the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 193, a bill recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

H. Con. Res. 193, which has 91 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY on July 26, 2007. H. Con. Res. 193 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007 by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to Representative CARNEY as much time as he would consume as the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bipartisan resolution that honors our hunters for their commitment to safety. I want to particularly acknowledge the significant bipartisan support from the members of the Pennsylvania delegation, a great number of whom have signed on this bill.

This resolution honors our hunters for their commitment to safety and stewardship of the environment. Hunting is a beloved tradition. It is something I enjoyed both with my father, when I was growing up, and now with my own children.

But as any avid sportsman knows, hunters must have a commitment to safety. We recognize that this sport requires maturity and responsibility. In 2006, there were over 16 million hunters in the United States, of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury. This low injury rate demonstrates a clear commitment to safety. In fact, in 2006, hunters in Pennsylvania set a safety record, and for this I commend them.

State fish and game agencies have been offering hunter safety programs started in 1949, and since then more than 35 million people have been certified. That is why I introduced this resolution.

I want to thank hunters for their commitment to safety, and honor those who teach hunting safety. Hunters have shown that they can proudly represent the sport and put safety first, and that is something that I am proud to support.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 193 recognizes all hunters for their continued commitment to safety and to increase awareness of the organizations and programs dedicated to hunting education and safety activities. There are currently 16 million hunters in the U.S., of which less than 1 percent incurred an injury during the last hunting season. Continued education on hunting safety will ensure lower injury rates for future hunting seasons. The success of these programs has allowed more than 35 million hunters to obtain certification. Fortunately, we can continue to see high safety records with responsible and safe hunters who are well educated on hunting safety.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 193.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, in 2006 there were over 16 million hunters in the United States, of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury during the past hunting season. To ensure and raise awareness for hunter safety, there are 70,000 hunter education instructors teaching hunter safety, ethics and conservation to approximately 750,000 students successfully each year.

Hunter safety can be contributed to hunter education training and the role of responsible hunters in the field. This helps to lower the incidence of hunting accidents, improve hunter behavior and restore many species of wildlife abundance.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative CHRISTOPHER CARNEY, for introducing this legislation, and urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution, and yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 193.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A DAY OUGHT TO BE ESTABLISHED TO BRING AWARENESS TO THE ISSUE OF MISSING PERSONS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 303) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 303

Whereas each year tens of thousands of people go missing in the United States;

Whereas, on any given day, there are as many as 100,000 active missing persons cases in the United States;

Whereas the Missing Persons File of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) was implemented in 1975;

Whereas, in 2005, 109,531 persons were reported missing to law enforcement agencies nationwide, of whom 11,868 were between the ages of 18 and 20;

Whereas section 204 of the PROTECT Act, known as Suzanne's Law and passed by Congress on April 10, 2003, modifies section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5779(a)), so that agencies must enter records into the NCIC database for all missing persons under the age of 21;

Whereas Kristen's Act (42 U.S.C. 14665), passed in 1999, has established grants for organizations to, among other things, track missing persons and provide informational services to families and the public;

Whereas, according to the NCIC, 48,639 missing persons were located in 2005, an improvement of 4.2 percent from the previous year;

Whereas many persons reported missing may be victims of Alzheimer's disease or other health-related issues, or may be victims of foul play;

Whereas, regardless of age or circumstances, all missing persons have families who need support and guidance to endure the days, months, or years they may spend searching for their missing loved ones; and

Whereas it is important to applaud the committed efforts of families, law enforcement agencies, and concerned citizens who work to locate missing persons and to prevent all forms of victimization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons; and

(2) the people of the United States should be encouraged to—

(A) observe the day with appropriate programs and activities; and

(B) support worthy initiatives and increased efforts to locate missing persons.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the sponsor of this resolution, Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIS for his support of this resolution and for generously yielding.

I've introduced House Resolution 303 in order to allow all Americans to honor and reflect on the number of Americans who remain missing, and to remember their families and loved ones who hope and pray every day for their safe return.

□ 1430

This issue is especially significant for my constituents. On March 2, 1998, Suzanne Lyall, a 19-year-old sophomore at SUNY Albany, was kidnapped and never seen again. This crime captivated the country's attention and has left a permanent mark on the community that I serve. Over 9 years later, her case remains unsolved.

Tragically, similar situations occur every day in America. On any given day, there are as many as 100,000 active missing-person cases in the United States. In addition, missing-adult cases often go unreported in the media. Even though the first few days after a crime is committed are the most critical in solving a case, there can be significant delays in beginning the search for someone over the age of 18 who has gone missing. Sadly, in New York there are over 3,500 missing-person cases, including nearly 1,400 cases involving New Yorkers over the age of 18.

Furthermore, the statistics show that a disproportionate number of adults reported missing are college-aged women. Currently in New York State, over two-thirds of the college-aged individuals reported missing are female, and this group also makes up approximately half of all missing adults. It is important that the Federal Government partners with local law enforcement to protect young women as they attend college or enter the workforce.

I am honored to represent Suzanne's parents, Doug and Mary, who are leaders in New York and around the country in bringing attention to crimes involving young adults. They have used their personal nightmare to assist other parents and families who have had loved ones go missing. They founded the Center for Hope, an organization with the mission of providing resources to educate, assist, and support families and friends to cope with the disappearance of a loved one. The center works with the New York State and Federal

Government to improve our laws in order to prevent future abductions.

In 1983, President Reagan established May 25 as the National Missing Children's Day, and last May Americans marked the 25th National Missing Children's Day. This important day is set aside to draw attention to children who are still missing, whether they have been missing for a few days or for decades.

Yet a day has not yet been set aside to remember those Americans who are over the age of 18 and are missing from their families. With over 100,000 Americans unaccounted for, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, and daughters, a day must be established to remind the public of those missing and our country's dedication to solving their cases and, hopefully, reuniting them with families and loved ones.

In 2001, former Governor George Pataki established April 6, Suzanne's birthday, as the State's Missing Persons Day in New York. It is my hope that this date can also become the national day of remembrance for all missing Americans. This day will allow Americans to appropriately remember the victims, their families, and the efforts of local law enforcement and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in unanimously approving this resolution and that the President will soon establish a day to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

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

House Resolution 303 establishes a day to bring awareness to the issues surrounding missing persons. I congratulate the sponsor on this bill.

Each year tens of thousands of people go missing in the United States. Probably there isn't a day goes by that some newspaper doesn't report either a child or adult that is missing. It is a national crisis affecting thousands of families. I think these families struggle through the loss and pain of losing their loved ones and often need support and guidance during the search for their missing friends or family members.

Through effective legislation, grants have been provided to our organizations tasked with tracking missing persons and provide much-needed support services to families. Legislation has also ensured that agencies are able to keep updated databases on missing persons. It's important that we take time to recognize and applaud the work of law enforcement agencies, concerned citizens, and, of course, the families who unite together to find their loved ones and support prevention efforts.

I urge the passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,

I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 303, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day ought to be established to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons.

H. Res. 303, which has 58 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND on April 17, 2007. H. Res. 303 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, reports of missing persons have increased sixfold in the past 25 years, from roughly 150,000 people in 1980 to about 900,000 this year. The CourtTV's Crime Library estimates that 2,300 people are reported missing every day in America.

I support establishing a day to bring awareness to the issue of missing persons. We should all reflect to remember the victims, their families, and local law enforcement and community volunteers who help search for missing individuals. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, even as we speak, in my city in the area where I live, there is a young woman who has been missing now for several days, and it has created a tremendous outpouring of empathy and sympathy on the part of the people for her parents and other family members who are searching diligently, hoping and praying that she will be found safely.

So, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 303.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 584) supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 584

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in their family;

Whereas approximately 68,000,000 United States citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas life insurance products protect against the uncertainties of life by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including an assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas numerous groups supporting life insurance have designated September 2007 as "National Life Insurance Awareness Month" as a means to encourage consumers to—

(1) become more aware of their life insurance needs;

(2) seek professional advice regarding life insurance; and

(3) take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month"; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the citizens of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 584, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

H. Res. 584, which has 87 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JUDY BIGGERT on July 30, 2007. H. Res. 584 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, studies have found that when an unexpected death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage can cause significant economic hardship for the loved ones left behind. The lack of sufficient coverage drives many family members of the deceased to work additional jobs, borrow money, prematurely withdraw money from savings and investment accounts, and in many cases to move to less desirable housing. It is estimated that 68 million Americans say they lack the life insur-

ance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones.

I support the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month because it will make people more aware of their insurance needs and motivate them to seek information about obtaining life insurance.

So, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative JUDY BIGGERT, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

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

I would like to thank my colleague from Illinois, DANNY DAVIS, for managing this resolution today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 584, which supports the goals and ideals of designating September 2007 as National Life Insurance Awareness Month. I also would like to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), for introducing this resolution with me for the fourth year in a row and for his support on this important issue. Congressman KANJORSKI serves with me both on the Financial Services Committee and the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and has been an outstanding leader on the important issue of financial security.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, and the gentleman from Virginia, TOM DAVIS, for moving this resolution through the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

And, last, I would like to acknowledge and thank Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska and Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS of Georgia for their contributions to this effort. They worked with those of us on this side of the Capitol to craft identical resolutions that garnered both bipartisan and bicameral support. It's my hope that the Senate will soon pass its version of the resolution soon.

Mr. Speaker, life insurance too often is thought of only when it is too late. How many times have we heard friends or loved ones who are sadly reflecting that the deceased had no life insurance or had too little life insurance? Today, only four in 10 adult Americans own an individual life insurance policy; and among those who do have life insurance, the amount often is too small to safeguard the financial future of their loved ones. Because of insufficient coverage, family members often are forced to work extra jobs or longer hours, borrow money, or move to less desirable housing. In short, these outcomes are only symptoms of the crisis of underinsurance that exists in our Nation today.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 584 calls on the Nation to observe the month of September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education,

the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the American Council of Life Insurers, and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance providers and advocates have designated September 2007 as Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Our collective goal for this month is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their families. Many of my colleagues on both the Financial Services and the Education and Workforce Committees have been working very hard to increase the level of financial literacy and economic education in this Nation. Understanding how financial products work and how they work to build financial security are two important ingredients in a complete financial education.

It is my hope that recognizing Life Insurance Awareness Month will motivate Americans to seek out information about the benefits of life insurance so that if premature death of a loved one does occur, they will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the goals and ideals of designating September National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I will close and just simply reemphasize the importance of this legislation. Again, I want to commend Representative BIGGERT and yourself, Mr. Speaker, for leading the way.

I think many people think of resolutions like this as a simple something that has taken place; but I am reminded that in the community where I live and work, oftentimes people will die and not have the wherewithal with which to bury themselves.

□ 1445

Our young people will be killed and their families take up a collection to get them buried. And so I think that this is a very important resolution. I commend both of you, once again, for its introduction.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KANJORSKI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 584.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 605) supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 605

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing a son or daughter who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives are sacrificed in war;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs and aid members of the Armed Forces who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired Americans throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas Americans honor themselves and the mothers of America when they revere and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of the United States;

Whereas by doing so much for the home, the American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States and thus acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind; and

Whereas September 30, 2007, is being recognized as Gold Star Mothers Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 605, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

H. Res. 605, which has 108 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative PETER ROSKAM on August 1, 2007.

H. Res. 605 was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007 by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, Gold Star Mothers Day is an organization for mothers who have lost a son or daughter in service to our country. In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day to recognize and commemorate the tremendous sacrifice these courageous mothers have endured on behalf of our Nation. This wonderful group of women have turned their personal tragedy into patriotism and public service.

Today, numerous chapters of Gold Star Mothers across our Nation offer important programs and services to improve the lives of veterans and their families. They assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I support the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day. And I have the utmost respect for mothers and fathers that have sacrificed their sons and daughters for peace, freedom and the security of our Nation.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative PETER ROSKAM, for introducing this legislation and urge its swift passage.

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

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

I, too, applaud PETER ROSKAM of Illinois for his introduction of this resolution. He had every intention of being here, but unfortunately he missed his plane, so he is not able to make it at this time.

During World War I, Grace Seibold's son, George, served with the British Royal Flying Corps in France. While on combat duty, he regularly sent letters home to his family in Washington, D.C. Around Christmas of 1918, the letters stopped and the Seibold family never heard from him again. Because his military unit was under British control, the U.S. had no information of his whereabouts or safety. After months of waiting, they received notice of his death.

Throughout the war, Grace Seibold had been spending her time visiting with soldiers in military hospitals and providing solace and assistance with their recuperation. After her own son's death, she met with fellow mothers of soldiers who had been killed serving their country.

The women began to share their grief and quickly found support for each other. Their uncommon bond brought them closer and helped them to heal. The group also encouraged community service by volunteering at local hospitals for veterans.

After years of careful planning, in June of 1928, 25 mothers joined in Washington, D.C. to form the American

Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated. The mission of the organization is to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and to assist veterans with processing claims made to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The service provided by the Gold Star Mothers does not end there. They inspire patriotism and love of country. They promote peace and goodwill through annual special events. The Gold Star Mothers work in cooperation with all veterans organizations and lend their support giving many hours of volunteer work and personal service to veteran families. It is an organization that inspires community service, honor of country, and takes great pride in having our brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

I am proud to honor these brave women for their continued efforts and their tireless support of our Nation.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I will close by simply stating that I have a very active, passionate and involved chapter of Gold Star Mothers in my congressional district. And so on behalf of them, and all of the Gold Star Mothers and Fathers throughout the country, I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 605.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 210) supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 210

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States, primarily affecting African Americans;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, and restricted blood flow, damaging tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease causes episodes of considerable pain in one's arms, legs, chest, and abdomen;

Whereas Sickle Cell Disease affects over 70,000 Americans;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with Sickle Cell Disease each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 300 newborn African American infants;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 Americans have the sickle cell trait, and 1 in 12 African Americans carry the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of a person with Sickle Cell Disease is severely limited, with an average life span for an adult being 45 years;

Whereas, though researchers have yet to identify a cure for this painful disease, advances in treating the associated complications have occurred;

Whereas researchers are hopeful that in less than two decades, Sickle Cell Disease may join the ranks of chronic illnesses that, when properly treated, do not interfere with the activity, growth, or mental development of affected children;

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of researching, preventing, and treating Sickle Cell Disease by authorizing treatment centers to provide medical intervention, education, and other services and by permitting the Medicaid program to cover some primary and secondary preventative medical strategies for children and adults with Sickle Cell Disease;

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. remains the preeminent advocacy organization that serves the sickle cell community by focusing its efforts on public policy, research funding, patient services, public awareness, and education related to developing effective treatments and a cure for Sickle Cell Disease; and

Whereas the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. has requested that the Congress designate September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the Nation about sickle cell and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and prevention programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res 210, which pays homage to a tradition that both the Senate and House have honored for over two decades.

In 1983, Congress first recognized September as the month to nationally commemorate sickle cell disease awareness. And it is in that same vein

today that I ask for support of H. Con. Res 210.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder characterized by affected red blood cells that mutate into the shape of a crescent or sickle, and as such are unable to pass through small blood vessels. The horrific outcomes of this condition include considerable pain in one's arms, chest, legs and abdomen, anemia, gallstone, strokes, as well as damaging tissue in the liver, spleen, kidney, and death.

This disease affects over 70,000 Americans and cripples over 1,000 newborn babies each year in the United States. By supporting H. Con. Res 210, we acknowledge the importance of raising awareness for advance in sickle cell disease research, prevention treatment and potential cure.

As the sponsor of H. Con. Res 210, I would urge all of my colleagues to support swift passage of this bill.

I would also just note, Mr. Speaker, that the devastation of this disease on those who are affected by it is, indeed, tremendous. I have had firsthand experience with it by virtue of having run a sickle cell community education project for the University of Illinois in Chicago and came in contact with many of the patients and their families; saw the pain and suffering firsthand. And so I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

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

I congratulate Mr. DAVIS for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

This resolution seeks to bring attention to sickle cell disease and to support the designation of September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month.

Sickle cell disease is a deadly genetic blood disorder that strikes primarily people of African descent. Those affected by the disease most often appear to be healthy, but their lives are disturbed by sporadic and painful attacks in their arms, legs, chest and abdomen. SCD also causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells that results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, and restricted blood flow causing tissue damage, cardiovascular and organ damage.

Approximately 80,000 African Americans suffer from sickle cell disease, and millions are affected worldwide. Statistics shockingly show that one in every 350 African American babies born in the United States has the disease, and one in eight African American babies carry the sickle cell trait. There is a one-in-four chance that a child born to parents who both carry the sickle cell trait will have the disease. Life expectancy is limited, as an average life span for an adult with the disease is only about 45 years.

A universal cure, though, remains elusive. However, early diagnosis through newborn screening and education has improved survival and qual-

ity of life for those who suffer from SCD. Because SCD affects so many people and research funding is critical to effectively treating and ultimately preventing the disease, we are grateful for organizations such as the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America that continue to shine the light of hope for all of those affected.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support the designation of the month of September as National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month so that communities throughout the country will become aware of this disease and the need for additional research, effective treatments and prevention programs that will ultimately lead to a cure.

I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 210.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois, Representative BIGGERT, for her support of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 210.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DAY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 663) supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 663

Whereas veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection, the Nation's first major foreign conflicts, faced hardships to include a complete lack of medical care and pensions upon discharge from the service;

Whereas on September 29, 1899 the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in December 1899, the National Society of the Army of the Philippines, were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas, in subsequent years, membership in these and other veterans organizations continued to grow;

Whereas these veterans organizations, recognizing their common goals and the importance of unity, merged to form the present-

day Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States in 1914;

Whereas membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars continued to grow and reached nearly 200,000 in 1936 when the organization received its Congressional Charter;

Whereas the 2.3 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary remain committed to the organization's mission of "ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense";

Whereas the organization continues this honorable mission by effectively advocating for our Nation's veterans, to include helping establish the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs, creating the Montgomery G.I. Bill, developing the national cemetery system, and assisting combat wounded veterans receive compensation for their injuries; and

Whereas the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars celebrate the organization's establishment and achievements on September 29th while carrying on the vital mission of their predecessors: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Res. 663, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day.

□ 1500

H. Res. 663, which has 57 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative JOHN KLINE on September 19, 2007. H. Res. 663 was reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on September 20, 2007, by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, in 1899, veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection were upset by the poor treatment they received following their return from America's first major overseas conflict. As a result, the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines were established to advocate for the rights and benefits then denied to veterans of foreign conflicts.

In 1914, these veteran organizations, recognizing their common goals and the importance of unity, merged to form the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the VFW, of the United States. In the 108 years since the VFW's founding, mem-

bers have proudly carried on the organization's mission of ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense. The VFW has advocated for our Nation's veterans to include helping establish the present-day Department of Veterans Affairs, creating the Montgomery GI Bill of Rights, developing the national cemetery system, and assisting combat-wounded veterans in receiving compensation for their injuries for service to our Nation. I support the goals and ideas of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, which honors our veterans' achievements and their service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative JOHN KLINE, for introducing this legislation, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the present-day Veterans of Foreign Wars organization traces its origin to 1899 when two organizations were founded to achieve benefits and recognition for United States veterans of the Spanish-American War. These veterans were committed to ensuring that their efforts in that conflict were recognized, honored, and respected by their government.

As the United States became involved in later foreign conflicts, the number of members of the VFW grew. The VFW received its congressional charter in 1936. Currently, there are 2.3 million members of the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary. Efforts by the VFW were instrumental in establishing a Department of Veterans Affairs, the GI Bill, the national cemetery system, and assisting combat-wounded veterans to receive compensation for their injuries.

In recognition of their achievements in peacetime and the role of its members in wartime, I would ask that my colleagues honor the VFW and declare a Veterans of Foreign Wars Day. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting House Resolution 663.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I think there is no doubt there is no greater group of citizens in our country than those who have served and fought in foreign wars. I urge swift passage of this resolution.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime member of VFW Post 210 in Lakeville, Minnesota, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 663, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899, when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service.

Before that time, many of our veterans would return home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for

them, and they were left to care for themselves.

The founders of the VFW sought to remedy that and provide support and encouragement to all of our veterans who had served in foreign wars. Their mission statement was straightforward, "to honor the dead by helping the living." Over time their mission expanded to "ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services, and advocating for a strong national defense."

They have a rich history of advocacy. The VFW has been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI bill for the 20th century, the development of the national cemetery system, and the fight to ensure combat wounded veterans from all wars receive proper compensation.

In addition, they have been a powerful force behind the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II and Women in Military Service Memorials.

Today, the organization has grown to more than 2.3 million members worldwide and continues to advocate for all of our foreign veterans.

I applaud the work of these individuals. Their continued commitment to each other and this great country of ours is truly inspirational. I am humbled by the work they have done for our veterans and I am honored to be bringing this resolution to the floor.

Today, as we stand to celebrate the establishment and achievements of an organization that was born of patriotism, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I would ask each of my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 663.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work the Members the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 696 in Owensboro, Kentucky continue to do to improve their community. Post 696 has exemplified the mission of the VFW: Honor the dead by helping the living.

The Post has donated over \$22,000 to local and state organizations in the past year. Beneficiaries of their generosity have included local schools, the Boy Scouts, shelters, and churches. Their generosity has also been extended to organizations such as the Wendell Foster Center, Shriners Hospitals, the Children's Wish Foundation, the Disabled American Veterans, and JEVCO.

Post 696 recently sponsored a going away picnic for the members of Ft. Campbell's Alpha Troop and their families being deployed to Iraq. The City of Owensboro adopted Alpha Troop through the Americans Supporting Americans' Adopt-a-Unit-Program. I thank the members of the troop for their service and the City of Owensboro for this commitment to these brave soldiers.

The VFW Post 696 Honor/Color Guard has been busy serving the community as well. Since 2001, they have participated in over 400 Veteran funerals and 50 community events in Daviess County.

I want to recognize the leaders of Post 696 Commander Richard "Ike" Eisenmenger Jr., Ladies Auxiliary President Marilu Goodsell, and Color/Honor Guard Commander Joseph Hayden. They have worked tirelessly to serve veterans and improve their community.

It is my privilege to honor the members of VFW Post 696 today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for their past service to our country and continued dedication to serving their community.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 663.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HUDSON-FULTON-CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1520) to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission, the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1520

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

Sec. 101. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 102. Coordination.

TITLE II—CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 203. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 204. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Sec. 301. Definitions.

Sec. 302. Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission.

Sec. 303. Audit of Commission.

Sec. 304. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 101. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The first European exploration of the Hudson River and Lake Champlain and the introduction of steam navigation to maritime commerce were events of major historical importance, both in the United States and internationally.

(2) In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, acting in the service of the Dutch East India Company, was the first European to sail up the river later named for him in the vessel HALF MOON. Also in 1609, French explorer Samuel de Champlain was the first European to see the lake later named for him, as well as the shores of Northern New York and Vermont.

(3) These voyages were two of the most significant passages in the European exploration and discovery of America, and included two of the earliest contacts in the New World between Native Americans and Europeans.

(4) These explorations led to the establishment of Fort Orange, a Dutch (and later English) settlement of what is now the capital city of the State of New York, as well as the establishment of French trading posts, military posts, and settlements as far south as Lake George. From these early establishments came trade, commerce, cultural, and religious impact deep into the Mohawk Valley and as far west as Lake Erie. These settlements influenced the Nation's history, culture, law, commerce, and traditions of liberty that extend to the present day, and that are constantly reflected in the position of the United States as the leader of the nations of the free world.

(5) In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany in the steamboat CLERMONT, successfully inaugurating steam navigation on a commercial basis. This event is one of the most important events in the history of navigation. It revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States, transformed naval warfare, and fostered international relations through transoceanic travel and trade.

(6) In 1909, the Congress authorized a Champlain Tercentennial Commission and supported its activities. The Congress recognized the 350th anniversary by establishing a similar commission to coordinate Federal participation in the 1959 celebration of Hudson's and Champlain's discoveries.

(7) The National Park Service owns and operates significant resources in New York related to the early history of the Nation and the Hudson River Valley.

(8) In 2000, Canada's Province of Quebec established a Quebec 400 Commission with a budget in excess of \$1,000,000, of which commemoration of the 1609 Champlain voyage into the Lake Champlain region is a part.

(9) In 2002, the State of New York established a Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Commission.

(10) In 2003, the State of Vermont established a Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, to—

(1) ensure a suitable national observance of the Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain 2009 commemorations through cooperation with and assistance to the programs and activities of New York, Vermont, and the commemorative commissions formed by these States;

(2) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial interaction between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the New York and Vermont sites;

(3) assist in ensuring that Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances are inclusive and appropriately recognize the diverse Hudson River and Lake Champlain Valley communities that developed over four centuries;

(4) facilitate international involvement, including the involvement of the commemorative commission formed by Canada, in the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances;

(5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and related activities for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 2009 observances;

(6) assist in the appropriate development of heritage tourism and economic benefits to the United States; and

(7) support and facilitate the related efforts of the Lake Champlain Basin Program in the coordination of efforts to commemorate the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

SEC. 102. COORDINATION.

The two commissions established under this Act shall ensure coordination of their activities to achieve seamless and successful commemorations, and ensure consistency with the plans and programs of the commemorative commissions established by the States of New York and Vermont.

TITLE II—CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMEMORATION.—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's voyage.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission established by section 202(a).

(3) LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.—The term “Lake Champlain Basin Program” means the partnership with Federal agencies established by the States of New York and Vermont under section 120 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1270) to implement the Lake Champlain management plan entitled “Opportunities for Action”.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATES.—The term “States”—

(A) means the States of New York and Vermont; and

(B) includes agencies and other entities of each such State.

SEC. 202. CHAMPLAIN QUADRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a commission to be known as the “Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members, of whom—

(A) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of whom—

(i) one shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee of the Director); and

(ii) one shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration, who shall be appointed by the Secretary;

(B) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, are serving as members of the State of New York's Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and are residents of the Champlain Valley;

(C) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who, on the date of the enactment of this Act, are serving as members of the State of Vermont's Lake Champlain Quadricentennial Commission and are residents of Vermont; and

(D) one member shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have an interest in, demonstrated their support for, and demonstrated expertise appropriate to, the commemoration, and are knowledgeable of the Champlain Valley.

(2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) PARTIAL TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet—

(i) at least twice each year; or

(ii) at the call of the chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(B) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The vice chairperson shall serve as the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

(5) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(6) VOTING.—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

(C) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain, the first European to discover and explore Lake Champlain;

(B) facilitate Champlain-related activities throughout the United States;

(C) coordinate its activities with State commemoration commissions and appropriate Federal Government entities, including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, State, and Transportation, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Smithsonian Institution;

(D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain;

(E) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(F) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, the voyage of Samuel de Champlain;

(G) ensure that the Champlain 2009 anniversary provides a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities;

(H) assist in ensuring that the observances of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all people present when Samuel de Champlain arrived in the Champlain Valley; and

(I) consult and coordinate with the Lake Champlain Basin Program and other relevant organizations in the planning and development of programs and activities for the commemoration of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(2) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and annual

performance plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to the Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each such gift, bequest, or devise.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary a final report that contains—

(i) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

(A) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission;

(B) appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act;

(C) authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

(D) subject to the availability of appropriations, procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act, except that any contracts, leases, or other legal agreements made or entered into by the Commission directly or with administrative assistance from the Lake Champlain Basin Program shall not extend beyond the date of the termination of the Commission;

(E) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies;

(F) subject to approval by the Commission and the availability of appropriations, make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to communities, nonprofit organizations, and commemorative commissions formed by the States to develop programs to assist in the commemoration;

(G) subject to the availability of appropriations, make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyage of Champlain; and

(H) provide technical assistance to the States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to develop programs and facilities to further the commemoration.

(2) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION WITH LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM.—The Commission shall coordinate and consult with the Lake Champlain Basin Program in providing grants and technical assistance under subparagraphs (F), (G), and (H) of paragraph (1) for the conduct of activities relating to the commemoration of the voyage of Samuel de Champlain.

(e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT AND LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM EMPLOYEES.—

(A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from States (including subdivisions of States); and

(ii) reimburse States for services of detailed personnel.

(C) LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN PROGRAM EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel from the Lake Champlain Basin Program; and

(ii) reimburse the Lake Champlain Basin Program for services of detailed personnel.

(5) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(g) FACA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the States or the National Park Service concerning the commemoration.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2010, and shall transfer all documents and materials of the Commission to the National Archives or other appropriate Federal entity.

SEC. 203. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission, shall make the results of the audit available to the public, and shall transmit such results to the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 to carry out this title, of which—

(1) 45 percent shall be for New York activities relating to the Samuel de Champlain commemoration;

(2) 45 percent shall be for Vermont activities relating to the Samuel de Champlain commemoration; and

(3) 10 percent shall be for distribution by the Commission in accordance with this Act for activities relating to the commemoration.

TITLE III—HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMEMORATION.—The term “commemoration” means the commemoration of—

(A) the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s voyage in the CLERMONT; and

(B) the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage in the HALF MOON.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission established by section 302(a).

(3) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means the Governor of the State of New York.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State”—

(A) means the State of New York; and

(B) includes agencies and entities of each such State.

SEC. 302. HUDSON-FULTON 400TH COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a commission to be known as the “Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 16 members, of whom—

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the Governor;

(B) 6 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendations from the Members of the House of Representatives whose districts encompass the Hudson River Valley;

(C) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendations from the Members of the Senate from New York;

(D) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of whom—

(i) one shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee of the Director); and

(ii) one shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration, who shall be appointed by the Secretary;

(E) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have

an interest in, demonstrated their support for, and demonstrated expertise appropriate to, the commemoration, of whom—

(i) one shall be knowledgeable of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; and

(ii) one shall be knowledgeable of New York City as it relates to the commemoration;

(F) one member shall be the chairperson of any commemorative commission formed by New York, or the designee of the chairperson; and

(G) two members shall be appointed by the Secretary, after consideration of the recommendation of the mayor of the City of New York and after consultation with Members of the House of Representatives whose districts encompass the City of New York.

(2) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERM.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(ii) PARTIAL TERM.—A member appointed to fill a vacancy on the Commission shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of the member was appointed.

(3) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet—

(i) at least twice each year; or

(ii) at the call of the chairperson or the majority of the members of the Commission.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall elect the chairperson and the vice chairperson of the Commission on an annual basis.

(B) VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The vice chairperson shall serve as the chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

(5) QUORUM.—A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(6) VOTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission.

(B) NONVOTING MEMBER.—The individual appointed under subparagraph (D)(ii) of paragraph (1) shall be a nonvoting member, and shall serve only in an advisory capacity.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(A) plan, develop, and execute programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the voyage of Henry Hudson, the first European to sail up the Hudson River, and the 200th anniversary of the voyage of Robert Fulton, the first person to use steam navigation on a commercial basis;

(B) facilitate Hudson-Fulton-related activities throughout the United States;

(C) coordinate its activities with the State commemoration commission and appropriate Federal Government agencies, including the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, State, and Transportation, the National Park Service with respect to the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and the American Heritage Rivers Initiative Interagency Committee established by Executive Order 13061, dated September 11, 1997, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Smithsonian Institution;

(D) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, economic, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton;

(E) provide technical assistance to States, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration;

(F) coordinate and facilitate for the public scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of, the voyages of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton;

(G) ensure that the Hudson-Fulton 2009 commemorations provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit by assisting in the development of appropriate programs and facilities; and

(H) assist in ensuring that the observances of the voyage of Henry Hudson are inclusive and appropriately recognize the experiences and heritage of all people present when Henry Hudson sailed the Hudson River.

(2) STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan in accordance with section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and annual performance plans in accordance with section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, for the activities of the Commission carried out under this Act.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to the Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each such gift, bequest, or devise.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2010, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary a final report that contains—

(i) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(ii) a final accounting of funds received and expended by the Commission; and

(iii) the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

(d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

(A) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money or other real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission;

(B) appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act;

(C) authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action that the Commission is authorized to take by this Act;

(D) subject to the availability of appropriations, procure supplies, services, and property, and make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements, to carry out this Act except that any contracts, leases, or other legal agreements made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of the termination of the Commission;

(E) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other Federal agencies;

(F) subject to approval by the Commission and the availability of appropriations, make grants in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 to communities, nonprofit organizations, and commemorative commissions formed by the State to develop programs to assist in the commemoration;

(G) subject to the availability of appropriations, make grants in amounts not to exceed

\$20,000 to research and scholarly organizations to research, publish, or distribute information relating to the early history of the voyages of Hudson and Fulton; and

(H) provide technical assistance to the State, localities, and nonprofit organizations to develop programs and facilities to further the commemoration.

(e) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

(1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(C) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director and such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(3) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(A) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(ii) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of an employee under clause (i) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(B) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(i) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State (including subdivisions of the State); and

(ii) reimburse the State for services of detailed personnel.

(5) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(6) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(f) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the chairperson of the Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

(g) FACIA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(h) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section supersedes the authority of the States or the National Park Service concerning the commemoration.

(i) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2010, and shall transfer all documents and materials of the Commission to the National Archives or other appropriate Federal entity.

SEC. 303. AUDIT OF COMMISSION.

The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission, shall make the results of the audit available to the public, and shall transmit such results to the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011 to carry out this title, of which—

(1) 80 percent shall be for Hudson Valley activities relating to the commemoration;

(2) 10 percent shall be for New York City activities relating to the commemoration; and

(3) 10 percent shall be for distribution by the Commission in accordance with this Act for activities relating to the commemoration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 1520, a bill to establish the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission and the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission. H.R. 1520 was introduced by Representative MAURICE HINCHEY on March 14, 2007. This legislation was reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on July 19, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Hudson was hired by the Dutch East India company to try to find the Northwest Passage. On this trip in a ship called the Half Moon,

Mr. Hudson sailed to Nova Scotia and then sailed south. In 1609, he found what is now called the Hudson River. Also in 1609, a French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, was exploring Lake Champlain, as well as the shore of northern New York and Vermont.

These voyages were two of the most significant passages in the European exploration and discovery of America. They led to the establishment of a Dutch settlement of what is now the capital city of the State of New York. Also, it led to the establishment of French trading posts, military posts and settlements as far south as Lake George. These settlements had a great influence on our Nation's history, culture, law, and commerce.

In 1807, Robert Fulton navigated the Hudson River from the city of New York to Albany in a steamboat which successfully began the use of steam navigation on a commercial basis. It revolutionized waterborne commerce on the great rivers of the United States and fostered international relations through transoceanic travel and trade.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007 establishes two commissions that would ensure a national observance of the Henry Hudson, Robert Fulton, and Samuel de Champlain 2009 commemorations through cooperation with the assistance to the programs and activities of New York, Vermont, and the commemorative commissions formed by these States.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative MAURICE HINCHEY, for introducing this legislation, and I urge its swift passage.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1520 establishes two important and historically based commissions. One commission recognizes the explorations of Henry Hudson and Robert Fulton in New York and Vermont, and the other recognizes Samuel de Champlain's discoveries in the same region. The overall goal of the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission is to plan, develop, and perform activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage on the New York river named in his honor and the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's voyage.

In 1609, Englishman Henry Hudson, under the direction of the Dutch East India Company, was named the first European to sail up the river later to be named for him and his significant exploration. In 1807, Robert Fulton's breakthrough use of commercial steam navigation revolutionized water-based commerce, naval warfare, and international relations.

It was these important expeditions which brought about the earliest encounters of Native Americans and Europeans. These voyages introduced new methods of commerce and trade and also introduced new religious beliefs,

cultural exchange, and traditions which extend into the present day. Together, these two historic events will be celebrated through the creation of the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission. The same year of Hudson's exploration, Francis Samuel de Champlain became the first European to discover the New York lake later to be named in his honor.

The Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission will coordinate its festivities and celebrations with the Hudson-Fulton Commission. These commissions promote continued education and observations of historic events such as these which have helped to make our country what it is today. They influence the culture, heritage, and way of life for all early citizens of America.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 1520.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1520, the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which I have been working with the Gentleman from New York, Mr. HINCHEY, since 2003 to enact. In fact, the House previously passed our bill, H.R. 2528, by voice vote during the 108th Congress.

The bill, H.R. 1520, before the House today would authorize \$500,000 annually from fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2011 for the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission, to plan and execute programs and activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's voyage.

Likewise, H.R. 1520 would also authorize \$500,000 annually from fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2011 for a second commission, the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission, to plan and execute programs and activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage, as well as the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton's invention of the steamboat.

Samuel de Champlain, the "Father of New France," explored a great deal New York's 23rd Congressional District. In fact, he discovered Lake Champlain in 1609 and traveled extensively on the St. Lawrence River. Thus, my constituents in Northern New York, particularly those in Clinton County, have a keen interest in H.R. 1520, particularly its potential to enhance tourism.

Thus, I greatly appreciate the work the Gentleman from New York, Mr. HINCHEY, the Gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, and the Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, have done to bring H.R. 1520 to the House floor and I urge my colleagues to vote for it today.

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007, which will simultaneously pay homage to the history of New York's Hudson Valley while helping to build a vibrant future for the region.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative HINCHEY, for his leadership in drafting and introducing this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Hudson Valley has been a cradle of prosperity and a driver of growth and exploration in America since long before there

was a United States of America. The character of the region, and the history of the nation, was strongly shaped by two separate voyages that occurred almost 400 years ago.

In July of 1609, the French explorer Samuel de Champlain, having already founded the settlement of Quebec, arrived with a group of Native Americans at what would eventually be known as Lake Champlain. This expedition would lay the groundwork for the settlement of the Champlain valley by French colonists in the "New World".

The next month, Henry Hudson would begin the voyage aboard that Half Moon that would bring him into New York under the Dutch flag. His efforts to find a sea route to Asia on behalf of the Dutch East India Company travels would eventually take him up what is now the Hudson River almost to Albany. Hudson was to be the first European explorer to navigate and note the full length of the Hudson River, and along the way he noted the region's inherent beauty and engaged in trade with Native Americans.

By laying the groundwork for settlement and commerce in the region, these voyages would help establish a corridor for trade that helped to drive the prosperity of the "New World" and continues to be an economic engine of America.

Two centuries after those fateful journeys, the region was once again home to a breakthrough that would transform commerce and transportation throughout the continent. On August 17, 1807 Robert Fulton successfully sailed his steamboat from New York City to Albany in the first long-distance trip of such a vessel. This 32-hour long trip opened the gateway to a new means of trade and transportation.

The Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Act of 2007 will make sure that these events, and their contribution to the greatness of our nation, will be appropriately honored. By establishing the Champlain Quadricentennial Commemoration Commission the Hudson-Fulton 400th Commemoration Commission to plan and execute commemorative activities in the region, the bill honors the storied past of the Hudson Valley, will bring increased prosperity to the region, and perhaps open the door to the Corridor's next great adventure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1520.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1389) to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1389

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the War of 1812 served as a crucial test for the United States Constitution and the newly established democratic Government;

(2) vast regions of the new multi-party democracy, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and the Niagara Frontier, were affected by the War of 1812 including the States of Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia;

(3) the British occupation of American territory along the Great Lakes and in other regions, the burning of Washington, DC, the American victories at Fort MCHENRY, New Orleans, and Plattsburgh, among other battles, had far reaching effects on American society;

(4) at the Battle of Baltimore, Francis Scott Key wrote the poem that celebrated the flag and later was titled "the Star-Spangled Banner";

(5) the poem led to the establishment of the flag as an American icon and became the words of the national anthem of the United States in 1932; and

(6) it is in the national interest to provide for appropriate commemorative activities to maximize public understanding of the meaning of the War of 1812 in the history of the United States.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Commemoration Commission;

(2) ensure a suitable national observance of the War of 1812 by complementing, cooperating with, and providing assistance to the programs and activities of the various States involved in the commemoration;

(3) encourage War of 1812 observances that provide an excellent visitor experience and beneficial interaction between visitors and the natural and cultural resources of the various War of 1812 sites;

(4) facilitate international involvement in the War of 1812 observances;

(5) support and facilitate marketing efforts for a commemorative coin, stamp, and related activities for the War of 1812 observances; and

(6) promote the protection of War of 1812 resources and assist in the appropriate development of heritage tourism and economic benefits to the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMEMORATION.—The term "commemoration" means the commemoration of the War of 1812.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission established in section 4(a).

(3) QUALIFIED CITIZEN.—The term "qualified citizen" means a citizen of the United States with an interest in, support for, and expertise appropriate to the commemoration.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATES.—The term “States”—

(A) means the States of Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Vermont, Virginia, New York, Maine, Michigan, and Ohio; and

(B) includes agencies and entities of each State.

SEC. 4. STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 COMMEMORATION COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a commission to be known as the “Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of 22 members, of whom—

(A) 11 members shall be qualified citizens appointed by the Secretary after consideration of nominations submitted by the Governors of Alabama, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Vermont, and Virginia;

(B) 3 members shall be qualified citizens appointed by the Secretary after consideration of nominations submitted by the Mayors of the District of Columbia, the City of Baltimore, and the City of New Orleans;

(C) 2 members shall be employees of the National Park Service, of whom—

(i) 1 shall be the Director of the National Park Service (or a designee); and

(ii) 1 shall be an employee of the National Park Service having experience relevant to the commemoration;

(D) 4 members shall be qualified citizens appointed by the Secretary with consideration of recommendations—

(i) 1 of which are submitted by the majority leader of the Senate;

(ii) 1 of which are submitted by the minority leader of the Senate;

(iii) 1 of which are submitted by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

(iv) 1 of which are submitted by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

(E) 2 members shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals with expertise in the history of the War of 1812.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Commission shall be made not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(d) VOTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall act only on an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(e) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

(1) SELECTION.—The Commission shall select a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

(2) ABSENCE OF CHAIRPERSON.—The vice chairperson shall act as chairperson in the absence of the chairperson.

(f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed and funds have been provided, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(g) MEETINGS.—Not less than twice a year, the Commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or a majority of the members of the Commission.

(h) REMOVAL.—Any member who fails to attend 3 successive meetings of the Commission or who otherwise fails to participate substantively in the work of the Commission may be removed by the Secretary and the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made. Members serve at the discretion of the Secretary.

SEC. 5. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) plan, encourage, develop, execute, and coordinate programs, observances, and activities commemorating the historic events that preceded and are associated with the War of 1812;

(2) facilitate the commemoration throughout the United States and internationally;

(3) coordinate the activities of the Commission with State commemoration commissions, the National Park Service, the Department of Defense, and other appropriate Federal agencies;

(4) encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic, tourism, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in the commemoration to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the War of 1812;

(5) provide technical assistance to States, localities, units of the National Park System, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration and commemorative events;

(6) coordinate and facilitate scholarly research on, publication about, and interpretation of the people and events associated with the War of 1812;

(7) design, develop, and provide for the maintenance of an exhibit that will travel throughout the United States during the commemoration period to interpret events of the War of 1812 for the educational benefit of the citizens of the United States;

(8) ensure that War of 1812 commemorations provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit leading to protection of the natural and cultural resources associated with the War of 1812; and

(9) examine and review essential facilities and infrastructure at War of 1812 sites and identify possible improvements that could be made to enhance and maximize visitor experience at the sites.

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN; ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS.—The Commission shall prepare a strategic plan and annual performance plans for any activity carried out by the Commission under this Act.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Commission shall submit to Congress an annual report that contains a list of each gift, bequest, or devise to the Commission with a value of more than \$250, together with the identity of the donor of each gift, bequest, or devise.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2015, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary and Congress a final report that includes—

(A) a summary of the activities of the Commission;

(B) a final accounting of any funds received or expended by the Commission; and

(C) the final disposition of any historically significant items acquired by the Commission and other properties not previously reported.

SEC. 6. POWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may—

(1) solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of money, services, and real and personal property related to the commemoration in accordance with Department of the Interior and National Park Service written standards for accepting gifts from outside sources;

(2) appoint such advisory committees as the Commission determines to be necessary to carry out this Act;

(3) authorize any member or employee of the Commission to take any action the Commission is authorized to take under this Act;

(4) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government; and

(5) make grants to communities, nonprofit, commemorative commissions or organizations, and research and scholarly organizations to develop programs and products to assist in researching, publishing, marketing, and distributing information relating to the commemoration.

(b) LEGAL AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this Act, the Commission may—

(A) procure supplies, services, and property; and

(B) make or enter into contracts, leases, or other legal agreements.

(2) LENGTH.—Any contract, lease, or other legal agreement made or entered into by the Commission shall not extend beyond the date of termination of the Commission.

(c) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Commission considers necessary to carry out this Act.

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Commission in accordance with applicable laws.

(d) FACIA NONAPPLICABILITY.—Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committees Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(e) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act supersedes the authority of the States or the National Park Service concerning the commemoration.

SEC. 7. PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(1)(A), a member of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(3) STATUS.—A member of the Commission, who is not otherwise a Federal employee, shall be considered a Federal employee only for purposes of the provisions of law related to ethics, conflicts of interest, corruption, and any other criminal or civil statute or regulation governing the conduct of Federal employees.

(b) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND OTHER STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service and termination of employees (including regulations), appoint and terminate an executive director, subject to confirmation by the Commission, and appoint and terminate such other additional personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) STATUS.—The Executive Director and other staff appointed under this subsection shall be considered Federal employees under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the requirements of such section.

(3) CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The employment of an executive director shall be subject to confirmation by the Commission.

(4) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of basic pay for the executive director and other personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(A) SERVICE ON COMMISSION.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(B) DETAIL.—At the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this Act.

(C) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—Notwithstanding any other provisions in this section, Federal employees who serve on the Commission, are detailed to the Commission, or otherwise provide services under the Act, shall continue to be Federal employees for the purpose of any law specific to Federal employees, without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(2) STATE EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may—

(A) accept the services of personnel detailed from States (including subdivisions of States) under subchapter VI of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) reimburse States for services of detailed personnel.

(d) MEMBERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Members of advisory committees appointed under section 6(a)(2)—

(1) shall not be considered employees of the Federal Government by reason of service on the committees for the purpose of any law specific to Federal employees, except for the purposes of chapter 11 of title 18, United States Code, relating to conflicts of interest; and

(2) may be paid travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the committee.

(e) VOLUNTEER AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use such voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(f) SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Director of the National Park Service shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, such administrative support services as the Commission may request.

(g) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission may employ experts and consultants on a temporary or intermittent basis in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent

of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title. Such personnel shall be considered Federal employees under section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, notwithstanding the requirements of such section.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act not to exceed \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2015.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated under this section for any fiscal year shall remain available until December 31, 2015.

SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall terminate on December 31, 2015.

(b) TRANSFER OF MATERIALS.—Not later than the date of termination, the Commission shall transfer any documents, materials, books, manuscripts, miscellaneous printed matter, memorabilia, relics, exhibits, and any materials donated to the Commission that relate to the War of 1812, to Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

(c) DISPOSITION OF FUNDS.—Any funds held by the Commission on the date of termination shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

(d) ANNUAL AUDIT.—The Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall perform an annual audit of the Commission, shall make the results of the audit available to the public, and shall transmit such results to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Judiciary in the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 1389, a bill to establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

H.R. 1389 was introduced by Representative John Sarbanes on March 7, 2007. This legislation was reported from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on July 19, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, the War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain from June 1812 to the spring of 1815. During this time, a young lawyer by the name of Francis Scott Key witnessed the last assault by the British against Fort McHenry in Baltimore. He was so inspired by the

fort's still standing with its huge flag flying in the breeze of victory that Mr. Key wrote a poem celebrating this battle and the flag. He composed the lines about our great flag, the Star-Spangled Banner, which later became our country's national anthem.

I support H.R. 1389, a bill that will establish the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to encourage, plan and execute programs commemorating the historic events that are associated with the War of 1812.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, I would commend Representative SARBANES for introducing this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1389, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act. The commission established by this legislation would be responsible for developing programs, observations, and activities commemorating the historic events associated with the War of 1812. The commission would also enhance the visitor experience at the War of 1812 sites and facilitate scholarly research on the people and events associated with the War of 1812. This legislation would provide for appropriate commemorative activities to increase public understanding, particularly that of young people, of the meaning of the War of 1812 and the history of the United States.

There is much to be learned about the effect of the War of 1812 on American history, including the victories at Fort McHenry, New Orleans and Plattsburg. As one example, it is often overlooked or even forgotten that Francis Scott Key wrote the Star-Spangled Banner during the War of 1812.

The commission is intending to raise public awareness through observations that will bring this important chapter in American history to thousands of visitors. I urge support of this bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this legislation, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I want to thank Chairman DAVIS for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1389, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act, which I had the privilege of introducing. This legislation would empower a commission to plan and coordinate what I believe is going to be one of the most spectacular and memorable commemorations in recent history in this country, and that is the bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812 and the Francis Scott Key poem written during the British bombardment of

Fort McHenry, Maryland, which later became the Star-Spangled Banner, our national anthem.

The Park Service recommended the creation of such a commission in a 2004 study. Its membership would be drawn from citizens from historically significant States, from National Park Service officials, historical experts, and other individuals selected by congressional leadership.

Because we are fast approaching the bicentennial of the War of 1812, I am pleased the House has taken up this legislation. I hope that the Senate will do so as well and the measure can be signed into law in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, many refer to the War of 1812 as the "second war of independence." When the war began, our fragile experiment in democracy was still in its early stages, and the Nation found itself under attack from one of the most powerful countries in the world. Many wondered whether a democracy could hold together through the trials of war. The War of 1812 proved that it could, and set the stage for the spread of democracy around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman DAVIS for bringing this measure to the floor. I hope all of my colleagues will support the bill, which will help ensure a fitting celebration of the War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner bicentennial.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank Mr. SARBANES for introducing this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative for all Americans to know our early American history. Soon after the War of Independence and American independence, the new struggling United States had to go to war again with England to keep its independence.

Sometimes the War of 1812 is referred to as the forgotten war in American history. It is referred to as the "second American War of Independence." Be that as it may, we went to war with England a second time because the British kidnapped American sailors on the high seas and made them involuntary servants in the British Navy.

When the British invaded the United States during the War of 1812, they burned this city, Washington. They used Thomas Jefferson's books to burn this Capitol. They burned the White House. The President had to flee in the darkness of a torrential rainstorm. The United States future looked bleak.

So after capturing Washington, DC, the British headed north to finish the United States off in Baltimore. During a heated sea battle, the British bombarded Fort McHenry, defending the harbor of Baltimore. But the fort commander stood defiant, refused to surrender, and hoisted a massive American flag over the fort.

Mr. Speaker, this is no small flag. It is 30 feet by 42 feet in size. Such a flag could be seen for miles and miles away from Fort McHenry. An American lawyer named Francis Scott Key was onboard a British ship during the battle. He was there seeking the release of an American captive. After watching the night battle and seeing the glorious U.S. flag at sunrise, he wrote a poem, later turned into a song called the Star-Spangled Banner to honor this American victory.

This national anthem of ours is played at sports games and ceremonies and events across the Nation every day. In fact, I think the first time it was played at a sporting event was at a Chicago White Sox game in the early 1900s. Chairman DAVIS could correct me if that is incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that Americans understand what the anthem stands for and why it was written. I totally support H.R. 1389. This bill will create a commission to plan activities, programs and observances of history events surrounding this War of 1812. I am proud of how the United States as a new democracy developed into a great Nation during this time. This war and Francis Scott Key should be celebrated and honored and recognized.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, the British left the United States permanently after the battle of Fort McHenry and after Andrew Jackson and his boys defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the majority has offered an amendment that I think improves this bill. I support the amendment and would encourage others to join me in supporting H.R. 1389, establishing the Star-Spangled and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

I applaud the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) for his introduction of this bill, and I would urge passage.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1389, as amended, and I want to commend the gentleman from Maryland for introducing this legislation and for bringing to our attention the importance of the War of 1812, the importance of our Star-Spangled Banner.

I also take this opportunity to commend my elementary school teachers, especially Mrs. Beadie King, who taught in a one-room school, who was so good that she could teach about the Star-Spangled Banner and you could feel shivers kind of going up and down your back. I am so pleased that I can still at times feel those and recognize perhaps what Francis Scott Key may have been thinking and what he may have been feeling when he looked up and saw that the flag was still standing.

So I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) again for introducing this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1389, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which is of great importance to my constituents in Northern New York. Thus, I greatly appreciate the work the Gentleman from Maryland, Mr. SARBANES, the Gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, and the Gentleman from Virginia, Mr. DAVIS, have done to bring H.R. 1389 to the House floor.

I represent New York's 23rd Congressional District, which encompasses most of Northern New York. From Lake Champlain in the east, my District runs along the St. Lawrence River and our nation's Northern border to Lake Ontario in the west. The District encompasses territory that played an important role in our nation's early history; much of it was literally on the front lines of the War of 1812.

During the War of 1812, my District was not only the site of skirmishes but also the significant Battles of Plattsburgh and Sackets Harbor. In fact, 193 years ago on September 11, 1814, Commodore Thomas McDonough repulsed a British invasion led by Sir George Prevost at Plattsburgh Bay on Lake Champlain. McDonough's victory was significant because it ended a grave threat and gave impetus to then-ongoing peace negotiations. Likewise, but earlier during the war and on the other side of the District, Brigadier General Jacob Brown stopped a British invasion led by Sir George Prevost and Commodore James Yeo at Sackets Harbor. Of note, Sackets Harbor was the United States' main shipbuilding naval base on Lake Ontario.

In addition to providing a mechanism to properly remember and honor these and other significant events in our nation's history, H.R. 1389 is also important to my constituents because of its potential to help increase tourism. Tourism is an important component of the economy in New York's 23rd District and is a cornerstone of efforts to further much-needed economic development. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1389 today and I look forward to working further to enact this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1389, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1664) to authorize grants for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1664

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

SECTION 1. GRANTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WOODROW WILSON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to subsections (b), (c), and (d), the Archivist of the National Archives and Records Administration may make grants to contribute funds for the establishment in Staunton, Virginia, of a library to preserve and make available materials related to the life of President Woodrow Wilson and to provide interpretive and educational services that communicate the meaning of the life of Woodrow Wilson.

(b) LIMITATION.—A grant may be made under subsection (a) only from funds appropriated to the Archivist specifically for that purpose.

(c) CONDITIONS ON GRANTS.—

(1) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—A grant under subsection (a) may not be made until such time as the entity selected to receive the grant certifies to the Archivist that funds have been raised from non-Federal sources for use to establish the library in an amount equal to at least double the amount of the grant.

(2) RELATION TO OTHER WOODROW WILSON SITES AND MUSEUMS.—The Archivist shall further condition a grant under subsection (a) on the agreement of the grant recipient to operate the resulting library in cooperation with other Federal and non-Federal historic sites, parks, and museums that represent significant locations or events in the life of Woodrow Wilson. Cooperative efforts to promote and interpret the life of Woodrow Wilson may include the use of cooperative agreements, cross references, cross promotion, and shared exhibits.

(d) PROHIBITION OF CONTRIBUTION OF OPERATING FUNDS.—Grant amounts may not be used for the maintenance or operation of the library.

(e) NON-FEDERAL OPERATION.—The Archivist shall have no involvement in the actual operation of the library, except at the request of the non-Federal entity responsible for the operation of the library.

(f) AUTHORITY THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2011.—The Archivist may not use the authority provided under subsection (a) after September 30, 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 1664, a bill to authorize grants

for contributions toward the establishment of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. H.R. 1664 was introduced by Representative BOB GOODLATTE on March 23, 2007. This legislation was reported from the Oversight Committee on July 19, 2007, by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, as a statesman, scholar and President, Woodrow Wilson faced an economic crisis and a world war while serving the country as Commander in Chief. Historians believe that World War I and President Wilson's leadership radically altered the role of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy, a policy that established a new path for America's role in promoting democracies throughout the world. His vision helped shape the powers and responsibilities of the executive branch in times of war.

H.R. 1664, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Authorization Act, will allow the National Archives to provide grants for the establishment of a Presidential library to provide educational services to honor the life of former President Woodrow Wilson.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative BOB GOODLATTE, for introducing this legislation, and urge swift passage.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois and the gentlewoman from Illinois for their assistance with this legislation, as well as Mr. WAXMAN, the chairman of the Government Reform Committee, and my colleague from Virginia, Congressman TOM DAVIS, all of whom have been a great help in moving this legislation forward.

I rise in support of H.R. 1664, the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Authorization Act, which will authorize grants from the National Archives for the establishment of a Presidential library to provide educational and interpretive service to honor the life of Woodrow Wilson.

As a statesman, scholar and President, Woodrow Wilson faced economic crisis, democratic decay and a world war. Presidential historians agree that World War I and President Wilson's leadership radically altered the role of diplomacy as a tool of foreign policy, a policy that established a new path for America's role in promoting democracies throughout the world. So, too, did Wilson's high-minded ideals craft a legacy that shaped the powers and responsibilities of the executive branch in times of war.

Mr. Speaker, as a professor and president of Princeton University, Wilson created a more selective and accountable system for higher education. By instituting curriculum reform, Wilson revolutionized the roles of teachers and

students and quickly made Princeton one of the most renowned universities in the world. Due to Wilson's legacy at Princeton, I am pleased to have the support of current Princeton President Shirley Tilghman as we establish this library.

H.R. 1664 gives the National Archives the authority to make pass-through grants for the establishment of the Presidential library in Stanton, Virginia, Woodrow Wilson's birthplace, and does not create a new program. In addition, to ensure that this is a public-private partnership, this legislation mandates that no grant shall be available for the establishment of this library until a private entity has raised at least twice the amount to be allocated by the Archives. Quite frankly, more Federal public-private programs should operate in this manner.

Finally, and to ensure that the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library is not part of the Presidential Library System, this legislation states that the Federal Government shall have no role or responsibility for the operation of the library.

I am also pleased to have the support of several other presidential sites throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, known as the birthplace of Presidents, including Monticello, Poplar Forest, Montpelier, Ash Lawn, and Mount Vernon.

Mr. Speaker, in order to increase the awareness and understanding of the life, principles and accomplishments of the 28th President of the United States, I ask that you join me in supporting this legislation. I want to thank House leadership for scheduling this bill today. The cosponsors include the entire Virginia delegation. I am also grateful to the staff of the Government Reform Committee and the Office of Legislative Counsel for their assistance in crafting this bill.

As a reminder to my colleagues, this legislation is identical to a bill the House passed by a voice vote in the 109th Congress but was not considered in the Senate. At this time, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's second term of office, he decided there should be a way to preserve and maintain official records and artifacts from his Presidency and the Presidency of future generations. Until his Presidency, many historic documents had been damaged, ruined or unaccounted for over the years.

□ 1530

President Roosevelt realized the need for preserving these valuable pieces of history and sought a way to make them available to the public.

There are currently 12 Presidential libraries, including the Nixon Presidential Materials. Each is funded through private donations, and upon

completion of the library is turned over to the National Archives. These libraries are essentially museums and centers for learning about these Presidents and their terms in office. H.R. 1664 authorizes funding for the establishment of a Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library in his birthplace of Staunton, Virginia. It also states the National Archives and Records Administration will provide a matching grant towards the establishment of the library. The library will coordinate its efforts with other Woodrow Wilson museums to share exhibits and educational services.

The Presidency of Woodrow Wilson is known for many achievements, among them are establishing the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Reserve. He served his second term during World War I and worked with European nations on peace negotiations, including the Treaty of Versailles and the creation of the League of Nations.

It is critical we preserve the Presidential papers, historical records, and other artifacts of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency as we do with the previous 11 Presidents. These libraries offer citizens the opportunity to learn, study and appreciate an important period of American history. I urge my colleagues to support the passage. I applaud the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) for introducing this bill and urge passage.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, if my history serves me right, President Woodrow Wilson did not hold an elected public office prior to becoming President of the United States of America, which I think is indeed a feat in and of itself. So I want to commend the gentleman from Virginia for his introduction of this legislation, and urge its support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1664.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3540) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3540

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Subparagraph (B) of section 4081(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "September 30, 2007" and inserting "December 31, 2007".

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Clause (ii) of section 4261(j)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking "September 30, 2007" and inserting "December 31, 2007".

(2) PROPERTY.—Clause (ii) of section 4271(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking "September 30, 2007" and inserting "December 31, 2007".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 9502(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "October 1, 2007" and inserting "January 1, 2008"; and

(2) by inserting "or the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007" before the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (A).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9502(f) of such Code is amended by striking "October 1, 2007" and inserting "January 1, 2008".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2007.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48103 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting "; and"; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) \$918,750,000 for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2007."

(2) OBLIGATION OF AMOUNTS.—Sums made available pursuant to the amendment made by paragraph (1) may be obligated at any time through September 30, 2008, and shall remain available until expended.

(b) PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of such title is amended by striking "September 30, 2007," and inserting "December 31, 2007,".

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO LIMIT THIRD PARTY LIABILITY OF AIR CARRIERS ARISING OUT OF ACTS OF TERRORISM.

Section 44303(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2006" and inserting "December 31, 2007".

SEC. 6. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (C);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) such sums as may be necessary for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2007."

SEC. 7. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

"(5) such sums as may be necessary for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2007."

SEC. 8. RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (11)(L);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12)(L) and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(13) such sums as may be necessary for the 3-month period beginning October 1, 2007."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3540.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3540 extends the financing and spending authority of the Airport and Airway trust fund.

The trust fund taxes and spending authority are scheduled to expire on October 1, 2007. H.R. 3540 extends these taxes at current rates for 3 months. H.R. 3540 was unanimously reported out of the Ways and Means Committee with bipartisan support. This bill will keep the Airport and Airway trust fund taxes and operations in place until the long-term FAA Reauthorization Act is signed into law.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE—SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

H.R. 3540

Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007—As ordered reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on September 18, 2007

Summary: H.R. 3540 would extend, through the end of calendar year 2007, the existing taxes that are dedicated to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and are set to expire on September 30, 2007. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that enacting H.R. 3540 would have no effect on revenues relative to the current baseline projection for taxes dedicated to the trust fund.

The bill also would extend, through the end of calendar year 2007, the authority to expend amounts from the trust fund (including interest) for major programs administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would increase discretionary spending by \$3.1 billion over the 2008-2012 period by authorizing appropriation of revenues expected to be collected during

the first three months of fiscal year 2008. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending.

JCT has determined that the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector man-

dates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

Estimated costs to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3540 is shown in the following table. The

costs of this legislation fall within budget function 400 (transportation).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund under Current Law:						
Authorization Level ¹	11,846	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	12,310	4,714	1,944	744	214	35
Proposed Changes:						
Estimated Authorization Level ²	0	3,091	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2,782	278	31	0	0
Spending from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund under H.R. 3540:						
Estimated Authorization Level	11,846	3,091	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	12,310	7,496	2,222	775	214	35

¹ The 2007 level is the amount of discretionary budgetary resources provided from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for that year for major FAA programs. Discretionary budgetary resources include appropriations for FAA operations, facilities and equipment, and research programs as well as limitations on the obligations of contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program. It does not include additional amounts appropriated to the FAA from the General Fund.

² The estimated level is for one-quarter of fiscal year 2008. If funded for the full year, that amount would total approximately \$12.4 billion.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, JCT and CBO assume that H.R. 3540 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2008 and that appropriation actions consistent with the bill will be taken in fiscal year 2008.

REVENUES

The existing excise taxes that are dedicated to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund are scheduled to expire on September 30, 2007. The taxes consist of levies on transportation of persons and property by air, use of international air facilities, and use of aviation fuels and are estimated to generate revenues of over \$11 billion in fiscal year 2007. The bill would extend all of the taxes at the current rate through the end of calendar year 2007.

Under the projection rules in section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, which are followed for Congressional scorekeeping purposes, estimates of the revenue effects of the legislation assume that expiring excise taxes dedicated to a trust fund are extended indefinitely and are measured relative to a baseline that assumes that the expiring excise taxes are extended at the same rates that would be in place immediately before their scheduled expiration. As a result, JCT estimates no change in revenue from the three-month extension in this bill.

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

By extending, through the first three months of fiscal year 2008, the authority to expend amounts from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, CBO estimates that the bill would authorize appropriations of the amounts that CBO estimates would be deposited in the fund during that three-month period—about \$3.1 billion. Assuming appropriation action consistent with the bill, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3540 would increase discretionary spending by \$3.1 billion over the 2008–2012 period. (If the funding were authorized for the entire fiscal year, it would yield a total annualized amount of \$12.4 billion.)

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: JCT has determined that the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Previous CBO estimate: On September 18, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3539, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund Financing Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on September 18, 2007. Differences in JCT's estimates of revenues result from provisions in H.R. 3539 that would increase the excise tax rates on noncommercial aviation-grade kerosene and aviation gasoline. JCT also determined that increasing the tax rate on aviation-grade kerosene would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. In addition, CBO's estimate of discretionary spending under H.R. 3539 reflects the four-year authorization contained in that bill.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Revenues: Barbara Edwards; Federal Spending: Megan Carroll.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis; G. Thomas Woodward, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3540, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007. As the gentleman, my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, indicated, this bill is a 3-month extension of the excise taxes that currently fund the Airport and Airway trust fund.

Time is of the essence, as the Speaker knows, as these taxes are due to expire at the end of the month, and it is imperative that we do not cut off this source of funding that benefits our Nation's airports and the aviation community, as well as the tens of thousands of airline passengers. I see my colleague from Illinois nodding, and we shared a plane ride here moments ago.

In addition, there has been a lot of discussion about a way to reformulate the way we fund the trust fund. There have been some interesting ideas bandied about by different points of view. This temporary extension allows us that additional time to consider some fundamental reforms to the tax structure that finances the Airport and Airway trust fund and to spend some more time studying the NextGen air traffic control modernization proposal before we move towards conference with the Senate to consider FAA reauthorization.

As the gentleman from Michigan pointed out, this bill was reported out of our committee by voice vote. Since it extends to the end of the calendar year the existing taxes dedicated to the trust fund, there is no effect on revenues as we extend the current baseline. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO).

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3540, the FAA Extension Act of 2007.

I want to thank Chairman RANGEL, Ranking Member MCCRERY, and my friends from Michigan and Missouri on

the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. MICA, and Mr. PETRI, the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Last Thursday, the House passed H.R. 2881, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, a long-term authorization of the FAA programs. However, until H.R. 2881 is signed into law, it is imperative that we not allow the FAA's critical programs to lapse. This legislation before us today would extend the aviation trust fund taxes for an additional 3 months at their current rate.

During our last funding debate 10 years ago, there was a lapse in the aviation taxes. At that time, the uncommitted balance of the trust fund was sufficient to continue funding our aviation program and services without significant disruption to the system. Today we do not have that luxury. The trust fund balances cannot sustain a long-term lapse in taxes, which is why it is critical that we pass this legislation before us today.

In addition to extending the aviation taxes, H.R. 3540 extends the Airport Improvement Program. Because the AIP is funded by contract authority rather than discretionary appropriations, funding for it is not automatically extended by continuing resolutions. H.R. 3540 creates \$918.75 million in AIP contract authority to fund the programs for the next 3 months from October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007. When annualized, this equates to \$3.675 billion for the full fiscal year of 2008, which is the current baseline level for this program. This will ensure that airport funding is not interrupted due to a lapse in the AIP authorization.

This is not the first time we have passed a short-term extension. In 1999 and 2000, as Congress was debating what eventually became the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, or AIR-21, we passed four extensions of the FAA's contract authority.

For FAA's operations, facilities and equipment, and research and development programs, the bill authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for a 3-month period of this extension.

Finally, current law allows the Secretary to limit to \$100 million the third-party liability exposure of airlines and aircraft manufacturers for any cause resulting from a terrorist event. This authority expires on September 30, 2007. The legislation before us today extends this authority to December 31 of this year.

Aviation is too important to our Nation's economy, contributing \$1.2 trillion in output and approximately 11.4 million U.S. jobs. It is too important to allow for any lapse of taxes or funding for critical aviation programs. Until H.R. 2881 is signed into law, we must ensure that the FAA has the funds it needs to continue its vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3540 provides a short 3-month extension to ensure FAA's programs remain fully funded, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Missouri.

Last week, Members of this body considered and passed the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007, H.R. 2881, which reauthorized the FAA for the next 4 years.

Unfortunately, the authority of the FAA's programs and taxes expires this Sunday, September 30. As it is unlikely Congress will be able to send a FAA reauthorization bill to the President for signature before the September 30 deadline, we have before us H.R. 3540, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007, to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the FAA for the next 90 days through the end of this year.

H.R. 3540 provides 3 months of AIP contract authority at the budget 2007 level, authorizes such sums as are necessary for FAA facilities and equipment, research and development, and operations for 3 months and extends the authority to limit the third-party liability of air carriers arising out of acts of terrorism for 3 months.

Most importantly, the bill will ensure that our national aviation system continues to operate until a full FAA reauthorization can be enacted.

There is much work yet to be done on the reauthorization bill. We must work in a bipartisan and bicameral fashion to craft legislation that our President can sign. That's our task. That is what the communities involved and our constituents expect of us.

I support this clean 3-month extension, and I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for drafting and introducing H.R. 3540, and look forward to working with them as we continue consideration of the FAA reauthorization bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3540, the "Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2007."

The current authorization for aviation programs and taxes expires on September 30, 2007. Last week, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2881, the "FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007," to reauthorize the aviation programs for four years. Until this long-term reauthorization bill can be signed into law, there are a few critical provisions that must not be allowed to lapse at the end of this week. These important provisions are extended in H.R. 3540, the bill before us today.

I strongly support the extension of the aviation excise taxes as proposed in H.R. 3540. These taxes are necessary to support the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which in recent years has provided about 80 percent of the Federal Aviation Administration's budget. With an uncommitted cash balance of less than \$2 billion, any lapse in the aviation taxes could put the solvency of the Trust Fund at risk.

In addition to extending the aviation taxes, H.R. 3540 extends the Airport Improvement Program. Because the Airport Improvement Program is funded by contract authority, rather than discretionary appropriations, funding for it is not automatically extended by Continuing Resolutions. H.R. 3540 creates \$918.75 million in Airport Improvement Program contract authority to fund the program for the three-month period from October 1, 2007, to December 31, 2007. This amount, when annualized, equals the fiscal year 2007 amount for the program (\$3.675 billion). This provision will ensure that airport funding is not interrupted because of a lapse in the Airport Improvement Program's authorization.

The bill also authorizes the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for Federal Aviation Administration Operations, Facilities and Equipment, and Research and Development programs for the three-month period of the extension.

Finally, current law allows the Secretary to limit to \$100 million the third-party liability exposure of airlines and aircraft manufacturers for any cause resulting from a terrorist event. This authority expires September 30, 2007. H.R. 3540 extends this authority to December 31, 2007.

In summary, this bill simply continues aviation programs and financing under the same terms and conditions as current law. It ensures that these important programs continue to operate without any interruption.

I thank Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCRERY of the Committee on Ways and Means for working with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to include the aviation authorization provisions in H.R. 3540. I also thank my Committee colleagues, Ranking Member MICA, Subcommittee Chairman COSTELLO, and Subcommittee Ranking Member PETRI, for working with me on this critical legislation.

I look forward to Senate passage of its long-term FAA reauthorization bill and sending a bill to the President in the coming months.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3540.

Mr. HULSHOF. We have no other speakers remaining, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, there being no further requests on this side of the aisle, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3540, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY PROGRAMS

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 79) recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and the contributions of those programs efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 79

Whereas Hunters for the Hungry programs are cooperative efforts among hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors, and hunger relief organizations to help feed those in need;

Whereas during the past three years Hunters for the Hungry programs have brought hundreds of thousands of pounds of venison to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks; and

Whereas each year donations have multiplied as Hunters for the Hungry programs continue to feed those in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the cooperative efforts of hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors, and hunger relief organizations to establish Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States; and

(2) recognizes the contributions of Hunters for the Hungry programs to efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to encourage passage of House Resolution 79, recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and recognizing the contributions of those programs to decrease hunger and help feed those in need.

Hunters for the Hungry is a unique and innovative program that addresses hunger in communities nationwide. Hunters can donate their game and

fowl to Hunters for the Hungry which processes the meat and provides it to food banks and other feeding programs. This cooperative effort between hunters, processors, and the hunger community is an innovative example of how groups can work together toward a single worthy goal.

This legislation received unanimous support in the House Agriculture Committee, and I strongly encourage passage of this bill.

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

□ 1545

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H. Res. 79 and applaud this body for recognizing the collaborative efforts of hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors and hunger relief associations to establish Hunters for the Hungry programs across the U.S.

When a hunter donates a deer, it is processed by professional meat cutters at inspected facilities. The meat is then packaged, frozen and distributed to food banks, soup kitchens, church food pantries, the Salvation Army and other nonprofit organizations serving the States' hungry. Funds are raised to cover the cost of processing, distribution and the overhead expenses of operation so that the meat can be provided to these agencies at no cost. Through the program, food banks and soup kitchens are provided with a low-fat, high-protein meat that may not otherwise be available.

In my own State of Virginia, the Virginia Hunters for the Hungry program has distributed over 2.3 million pounds of venison since its establishment in 1991. In the first year, roughly 33,000 pounds of venison was donated, processed and distributed through the program. Now, the average exceeds 300,000 pounds a year, and this program is a reflection of the generosity of the American spirit.

I commend the generosity of Virginia hunters and all who participate in the Hunters for the Hungry program, whose contributions are a step in the right direction in the fight against hunger.

Mr. Speaker, let me say on a personal note that I have had the pleasure of supporting this organization for several years now, and just recently, a few weeks ago, attended a Hunters for the Hungry banquet, at which the spirit of not just hunters but people who are generous and want to take care of the needs of those who can use additional sustenance and I think in a very efficient way have participated in this program and showed that generosity once more.

So I commend all those, not just in Virginia but across the country, who participate in this, and I particularly commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) who has fostered this legislation.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time it's my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) such time as he may consume.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman PETERSON and Ranking Member GOODLATTE, my good friend from California (Mr. CARDOZA), my classmate, and all the members on the Agriculture Committee for bringing this resolution to the floor today during the inaugural Congressional Sportsmen's Week.

I also want to thank the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, under the leadership of co-chairs RON KIND of Wisconsin and PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin, during this Congress. This bipartisan organization, comprised of close to 300 Members of the House and Senate, focuses on protecting the interests of our Nation's sportsmen. As a proud member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I know that it works diligently for our sportsmen who have historically shaped the character and the quality of America's cultural heritage, natural resources and economic vitality.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. GOODLATTE said, I first introduced the Hunters for the Hungry resolution in the 108th Congress to bring attention to an often overlooked group, our Nation's hunters, who help feed thousands of homeless and hungry people each year. The purpose of this resolution is to praise the work of Hunters for Hungry programs across our country. These programs provide a unique way in which to address our Nation's hunger problem.

Although these organizations are called by different names across the country, Hunters for the Hungry organizations show the humanitarian and the kindhearted spirit of our Nation's hunting community. These programs are volunteer and cooperative efforts among hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, State meat inspectors and hunger relief organizations.

Over the past 3 years, these programs have brought hundreds of thousands of pounds of excess venison to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks. Each year, donations have multiplied, and many programs now cannot even cover the costs of processing, packaging, storing and distributing the abundant supply of donated venison.

Hunters for the Hungry organizations serve as a great example of how our Nation can address issues like hunger without government intervention. These organizations receive no Federal funds, and they operate from donations and volunteer service. We must raise the awareness of these organizations so they can have the resources and the volunteers to serve America's underprivileged.

One such organization, Mr. Speaker, in my district is Pure Cuts Deer Processing in Floyd County. Nick Ballinger operates this volunteer effort, and it feeds thousands of hungry people in northwest Georgia. He's always open to both financial contributions and venison donations so that he can expand the organization and feed more people annually. Nick is just one of many kindhearted hunters who donate their time and money for those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask the House to speak in one voice of gratitude and urge passage of the Hunters for the Hungry resolution to honor this great community service.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I'd like to rise to congratulate my colleague, Mr. GINGREY from Georgia, on this legislation, and also thank my colleague and friend Mr. GOODLATTE for managing it on the Republican side.

Our chairman on the Democratic side, Mr. PETERSON, is an avid hunter and, I'd like to say, a very successful one as well. I know he wants to extend his gratitude for this bill and totally supports it.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 79.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

PESTICIDE REGISTRATION IMPROVEMENT RENEWAL ACT

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1983) to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to renew and amend the provisions for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 1983

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act”.

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.

Section 3(c)(3)(B)(ii) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(c)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “within 45 days” and all that follows through “and,” and inserting “review the application in accordance with section 33(f)(4)(B) and.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (II), by striking “with-in” and inserting “not later than the applicable decision review time established pursuant to section 33(f)(4)(B), or, if no review time is established, not later than”.

SEC. 3. REGISTRATION REVIEW.

Section 3(g)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “The registrations” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The registrations”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “The Administrator” and inserting the following:

“(ii) REGULATIONS.—In accordance with this subparagraph, the Administrator”;

(C) by striking “The goal” and all that follows through “No registration” and inserting the following:

“(iii) INITIAL REGISTRATION REVIEW.—The Administrator shall complete the registration review of each pesticide or pesticide case, which may be composed of 1 or more active ingredients and the products associated with the active ingredients, not later than the later of—

“(I) October 1, 2022; or

“(II) the date that is 15 years after the date on which the first pesticide containing a new active ingredient is registered.

“(iv) SUBSEQUENT REGISTRATION REVIEW.—Not later than 15 years after the date on which the initial registration review is completed under clause (iii) and each 15 years thereafter, the Administrator shall complete a subsequent registration review for each pesticide or pesticide case.

“(v) CANCELLATION.—No registration”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) DOCKETING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), after meeting with 1 or more individuals that are not government employees to discuss matters relating to a registration review, the Administrator shall place in the docket minutes of the meeting, a list of attendees, and any documents exchanged at the meeting, not later than the earlier of—

“(I) the date that is 45 days after the meeting; or

“(II) the date of issuance of the registration review decision.

“(ii) PROTECTED INFORMATION.—The Administrator shall identify, but not include in the docket, any confidential business information the disclosure of which is prohibited by section 10.”.

SEC. 4. MAINTENANCE FEES.

(a) TOTAL AMOUNT OF FEES.—Section 4(i)(5)(C) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(i)(5)(C)) is amended by striking “amount of” and all that follows through the end of clause (v) and inserting “amount of \$22,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012”.

(b) AMOUNTS FOR REGISTRANTS.—Section 4(i)(5) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(i)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “shall be” and all that follows through the end of subclause (IV) and inserting “shall be \$71,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012; and”;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “shall be” and all that follows through the end of subclause (IV) and inserting “shall be \$123,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”;

(2) in subparagraph (E)(i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “shall be” and all that follows through the end of item (dd) and inserting “shall be \$50,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012; and”;

(B) in subclause (II), by striking “shall be” and all that follows through the end of item (dd) and inserting “shall be \$86,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.”.

(c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTING MAINTENANCE FEES.—Section 4(i)(5)(H) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(i)(5)(H)) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2012.”

(d) OTHER FEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(i)(6) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(i)(6)) is amended by striking “2010” and inserting “2014”.

(2) PROHIBITION ON TOLERANCE FEES.—Section 408(m) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) PROHIBITION.—During the period beginning on the effective date of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act and ending on September 30, 2012, the Administrator shall not collect any tolerance fees under paragraph (1).”.

(e) REREGISTRATION AND EXPEDITED PROCESSING FUND.—

(1) SOURCE AND USE.—Section 4(k)(2)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(k)(2)(A)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting “and to offset the costs of registration review under section 3(g)” after “paragraph (3)”;

(B) in clause (i), by inserting “and to offset the costs of registration review under section 3(g)” after “paragraph (3)”;

(C) in clause (ii), by inserting “and to offset the costs of registration review under section 3(g)” after “paragraph (3)”.

(2) EXPEDITED PROCESSING OF SIMILAR APPLICATIONS.—Section 4(k)(3)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a-1(k)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “2007 and 2008” and inserting “2008 through 2012”.

SEC. 5. PESTICIDE REGISTRATION SERVICE FEES.

(a) DOCUMENTATION.—Section 33(b)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) payment of at least 25 percent of the registration service fee and a request for a waiver from or reduction of the remaining amount of the registration service fee.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) PAYMENT.—The registration service fee required under this subsection shall be due upon submission of the application.

“(E) APPLICATIONS SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL FEES.—An application may be subject to additional fees if—

“(i) the applicant identified the incorrect registration service fee and decision review period;

“(ii) after review of a waiver request, the Administrator denies the waiver request; or

“(iii) after review of the application, the Administrator determines that a different registration service fee and decision review period apply to the application.

“(F) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO PAY FEES.—The Administrator shall reject any application submitted without the required registration service fee.

“(G) NON-REFUNDABLE PORTION OF FEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall retain 25 percent of the applicable registration service fee.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Any waiver, refund, credit or other reduction in the registration service fee shall not exceed 75 percent of the registration service fee.

“(H) COLLECTION OF UNPAID FEES.—In any case in which the Administrator does not receive payment of a registration service fee (or applicable portion of the registration service fee) by the date that is 30 days after the fee is due, the fee shall be treated as a claim of the United States Government subject to subchapter II of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.”.

(b) AMOUNT OF FEES.—Section 33(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003” and inserting “Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “S11631” and all that follows through the end of the subparagraph and inserting “S10409 through S10411, dated July 31, 2007.”;

(2) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

“(6) FEE ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective for a covered pesticide registration application received during the period beginning on October 1, 2008, and ending on September 30, 2010, the Administrator shall increase by 5 percent the registration service fee payable for the application under paragraph (3).

“(B) ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT.—Effective for a covered pesticide registration application received on or after October 1, 2010, the Administrator shall increase by an additional 5 percent the registration service fee in effect as of September 30, 2010.

“(C) PUBLICATION.—The Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register the revised registration service fee schedules.”.

(c) WAIVERS AND REDUCTIONS.—Section 33(b)(7)(F) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(b)(7)(F)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking “all” and inserting “75 percent”;

(2) in clause (iv)(II), by striking “all” and inserting “75 percent of the applicable.”.

(d) REFUNDS.—Section 33(b)(8)(A) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(b)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “10 percent” and inserting “25 percent.”.

(e) PESTICIDE REGISTRATION FUND.—Section 33(c) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “paragraph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (5)”;

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) WORKER PROTECTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the Administrator shall use approximately 1/7 of the amount in the Fund (but not less than \$1,000,000) to enhance scientific and regulatory activities relating to worker protection.

“(ii) PARTNERSHIP GRANTS.—Of the amounts in the Fund, the Administrator shall use for partnership grants—

“(I) for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, \$750,000; and

“(II) for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012, \$500,000.

“(iii) PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.—Of the amounts in the Fund, the Administrator shall use \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out the pesticide safety education program.”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C); and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively;

(B) by striking “Amounts” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) USE OF INVESTMENT INCOME.—After consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Administrator may use income from investments described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) to carry out this section.”.

(f) ASSESSMENT OF FEES.—Section 33(d)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(d)(2)) is amended by striking “For fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006 only, registration” and inserting “Registration”.

(g) DECISION REVIEW TIMES.—Section 33(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003” and inserting “Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “S11631” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “S10409 through S10411, dated July 31, 2007.”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) COMPLETENESS OF APPLICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after receiving an application and the required registration service fee, the Administrator shall conduct an initial screening of the contents of the application in accordance with clause (iii).

“(ii) REJECTION.—If the Administrator determines under clause (i) that the application does not pass the initial screening and cannot be corrected within the 21-day period, the Administrator shall reject the application not later than 10 days after making the determination.

“(iii) REQUIREMENTS OF SCREENING.—In conducting an initial screening of an application, the Administrator shall determine whether—

“(I)(aa) the applicable registration service fee has been paid; or

“(bb) at least 25 percent of the applicable registration service fee has been paid and the application contains a waiver or refund request for the outstanding amount and documentation establishing the basis for the waiver request; and

“(II) the application contains all the necessary forms, data, and draft labeling, formatted in accordance with guidance published by the Administrator.”.

(h) REPORTS.—Section 33(k) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “March 1, 2009” and inserting “March 1, 2014”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (ii) through and (iv) as clauses (v) through (vii), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) the number of label amendments that have been reviewed using electronic means;

“(iii) the amount of money from the Reregistration and Expedited Processing Fund used to carry out inert ingredient review and review of similar applications under section 4(k)(3);

“(iv) the number of applications completed for identical or substantially similar applications under section 3(c)(3)(B), including the number of such applications completed within 90 days pursuant to that section.”; and

(iii) in clause (vi) (as redesignated by clause (i))—

(I) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(II) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the end; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(IV) providing for electronic submission and review of labels, including process improvements to further enhance the procedures used in electronic label review; and

“(V) the allowance and use of summaries of acute toxicity studies; and”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) a review of the progress in carrying out section 3(g), including—

“(i) the number of pesticides or pesticide cases reviewed;

“(ii) a description of the staffing and resources relating to the costs associated with the review and decision making relating to reregistration and registration review for compliance with the deadlines specified in this Act;

“(iii) to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator and consistent with the authorities of the Administrator and limitations on delegation of functions by the Administrator, recommendations for—

“(I) process improvements in the handling of registration review under section 3(g);

“(II) providing for accreditation of outside reviewers and the use of outside reviewers in the registration review process; and

“(III) streamlining the registration review process, consistent with section 3(g);

“(E) a review of the progress in meeting the timeline requirements for the review of antimicrobial pesticide products under section 3(h); and

“(F) a review of the progress in carrying out the review of inert ingredients, including the number of applications pending, the number of new applications, the number of applications reviewed, staffing, and resources devoted to the review of inert ingredients and recommendations to improve the timeliness of review of inert ingredients.”.

(i) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—Section 33(m) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w-8(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2008” and inserting “2012”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “2009” and inserting “2013”; and

(ii) by striking “2009” and inserting “2013”; and

(B) in subparagraphs (B) and (C)—

(i) in the subparagraph headings, by striking “2010” each place it appears and inserting “2014”; and

(ii) by striking “2010” each place it appears and inserting “2014”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “2008” each place it appears and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on October 1, 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to encourage passage of S. 1983, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act. This reauthorization will ensure continued, stable EPA funding for pesticide registration programs, provide predictable timelines for industry, and support the introduction of new and safer products for consumers that are better for the environment.

This legislation received extensive input and strong support from a unique alliance of the pesticides industry and the environmental community. S. 1983 builds on the success of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2003 and deserves to be passed with the unanimous consent of this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, there are a few points I would like to clarify regarding the text of this legislation. Regarding section 5, the summaries of acute toxicity studies shall be based on real data to further protect public health and the environment, and acute toxicity studies shall be conducted in a manner which accomplishes that goal. The summaries of the acute toxicity studies are intended to supplement the full submission of data from the registrants, not to replace that data. Registrants must still provide a full submission of acute toxicity data in their registration application.

There are three errors in the chart printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of July 31, 2007: The registration service fee for new category No. 133 should be \$78,750, rather than \$278,250; the decision time for new category No. 47 in fiscal year 3 should be 12 months; and the action description for the new category No. 61 should read: “Non-food use; outdoor; FIFRA, subsection 2(mm) uses (1).”

And lastly, section 3 of S. 1983 amends FIFRA to add, among other provisions, a new section that is intended to reflect EPA’s current practice of identifying in the docket any information claimed, but not necessarily substantiated, as confidential business information. The language in this new section is not intended to change EPA’s responsibilities or practices, pursuant to other statutes, regarding the docketing of information claimed as confidential under FIFRA.

With this legislation, EPA will continue to have the resources to review each pesticide product using the best scientific practices in a more predictable timeframe. The pesticide registration program is a model of good government because it includes systemized

stakeholder involvement and furthers the openness and transparency for which all Federal Government programs should strive.

I strongly encourage the passage of this bill.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us represents the efforts of several constituent organizations working with the administration and the Congress to reach consensus.

Among the organizations who worked to produce this proposal were the Natural Resources Defense Council, Crop Life America and the Consumer Specialty Products Association. I appreciate their hard work and their willingness to set aside past differences to develop a fair and balanced funding mechanism for the EPA pesticide registration program that satisfies the needs of government, industry and the environment.

As Chairman CARDOZA pointed out, this legislation renews the successful program established in 2004 to fund the pesticide registration program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The original legislation had many successes including providing stable funding for the EPA, predictable timelines for industry, new products for consumers, and the necessary funding for the EPA to complete the tolerance reassessment process mandated by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. While the 2004 legislation doesn't expire until next year, the realities of Federal budgetary pressure and the resulting uncertainty regarding the adequacy of appropriations make immediate action on this reauthorization legislation critical.

S. 1983 reauthorizes the existing pesticide registration program with several enhancements aimed toward clarifying what is covered and which activities the fees can be used to support, while protecting funding for certain environmental grant programs.

Again, I want to commend the groups whose efforts were instrumental in producing this legislation. I also want to commend Chairman PETERSON and Subcommittee Chairman CARDOZA and urge all Members to join us in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further Members who seek time on my side. I just wish to also thank my colleague from Virginia for his cooperation on working together with us to extend this program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1983, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act, and encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

In 2003, with the collaboration of agriculture, pesticide manufacturers and public interest organizations, Congress established a new fee schedule and registration process timeline for the Environmental Protection Agency. This Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) was designed to improve pesticide registration and review, and PRIA has been extremely successful for all parties involved.

As the Ranking Member of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture, which has jurisdiction over pesticide issues, I am pleased the stakeholders have again worked with Congress and the EPA. This bill today continues and builds upon the successful pesticide registration process over the next five years.

Before PRIA, applicants for pesticide registration had no certainty on how long the review process at EPA would take or how much they would need to pay in fees. The EPA was under pressure from the public interest community to reassess tolerances for pesticides already registered as required under the Food Quality Protection Act. As a result, consumers who depend on effective and safe pesticide products were not always able to take advantage of new products. Delays impacted farmers' ability to access improved plant protection and pest products.

PRIA worked because it set a firm fee schedule for pesticide registration applicants, giving the EPA resources needed to do reviews. In return, the EPA was held to specific timelines in its reviews and approvals. PRIA also enabled the EPA to complete tolerance reassessments for products approved in the past through product maintenance fees from manufacturers.

By continuing the fees and increasing registration funding, S. 1983 provides the EPA with the resources needed to maintain this successful system. Additionally, the bill continues the periodic review of registered products, requiring the EPA to reassess each product every 15 years.

The pesticide registration and review process must be based on sound science. Success also requires confidence in the regulatory system. This reauthorization and enhancement of PRIA helps ensure that the EPA is using the best science to review applicants. Timelines for reviews bring more transparency to the process, and this transparency gives confidence to pesticide users such as agriculture, manufacturers and the public interest community.

I urge my colleagues to support continuation of this successful regulatory process that has brought effective and safe products to market not only for agriculture but for all consumers.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1983.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 1957, DESEGREGATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BY THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 668) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the September 25, 1957, desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 668

Whereas on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in *Brown v. Board of Education* (347 U.S. 483) that, "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place";

Whereas the *Brown* decision recognized as a matter of law that the segregation of public schools deprived students of the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas in 1957, three years after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the promise of access and equality within the realm of education remained unfilled in Little Rock, Arkansas, and throughout the Nation;

Whereas on September 4, 1957, nine African American students who would later be deemed the Little Rock Nine, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, were denied admittance to Little Rock Central High by the Arkansas National Guard at the order of the Arkansas Governor;

Whereas on September 23, 1957, the Little Rock Nine, armed with a Federal court order, again tried to attend Little Rock Central High and implement the law of the land, but protests and violence forced the group of students to leave the school;

Whereas on September 25, 1957, this Nation would realize a historic day when the Little Rock Nine, escorted by Federal troops at the order of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, successfully integrated Little Rock Central High;

Whereas throughout their tenure at Little Rock Central High, the Little Rock Nine, with conviction and dignity, championed school integration despite death threats, verbal and physical assaults, school closings, and other adversities;

Whereas the Little Rock Nine are symbolic of the victorious dismantling of school segregation, as well as the full and equal participation in American society that all citizens are entitled to, and continue to advance such principles through the Little Rock Nine Foundation;

Whereas the significance of the Little Rock Nine and their actions have been acknowledged with numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2007 Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999, the inclusion of Little Rock Central High School in the National Park System in 1998, and the designation of Little Rock Central High School as a National Historic Landmark in 1982;

Whereas on the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine, the Nation will celebrate this great civil rights achievement through forums and town halls, commemorations, and significantly, the dedication of a permanent Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitor Center; and

Whereas in 2007, as the Little Rock Nine and the entire Nation celebrates 50 years of integration, we must acknowledge recent setbacks to the guarantee of opportunity and inclusion within our educational system, in both K-12 and higher education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) acknowledges and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine;

(2) encourages all Americans, upon this 50th anniversary, to recognize the historic contributions of the Little Rock Nine, who not only secured integration for Little Rock Central High School, but hundreds of thousands of schools across the country; and

(3) commits itself, in the wake of recent challenges, to continuing the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Little Rock Nine by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am pleased to join the entire Arkansas congressional delegation, Representatives VIC SNYDER, MARION BERRY, MIKE ROSS, JOHN BOOZMAN, all in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the integration of the Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine. I would like also to recognize the distinguished members of the House Judiciary Committee, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH and former chairman, JIM SENSENBRENNER, who have joined me in the introduction of this resolution.

Fifty years ago, on September 25, 1957, the Little Rock Nine, as they were called, successfully challenged the status quo of "separate but equal." Three years earlier, we all recall the

momentous Supreme Court decision of 1954 that ruled the 14th amendment's guarantee of equal protection prohibited segregation in the public schools. This landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision struck down the notorious State-sanctioned Jim Crow in the realm of education once and for all.

Unfortunately, this critical determination would not easily be accepted. It would take nine young strong and determined African American students to begin actually implementing the new laws of the land. These nine students, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, implemented the promise of Brown v. The Board. In the footsteps of Rosa Parks, these students, too, started a movement to dismantle years of segregation and inequalities in our public school systems.

On the shoulders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., these brave young nine boys and girls faced a hatred and a violence that is embarrassing to recall, and they faced it with nonviolent resistance. They were peaceful. Dr. King himself said "to meet physical force with soul force." And that is what they did. Dr. King asked the students to think of the big picture as they moved forward, for they were going to be the frame for that picture.

So on September 25, 1957, the students who came to be known as the Little Rock Nine integrated Little Rock Central High School, and history was forever changed. Escorted by 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, the Little Rock Nine claimed the fair and equal education that they were entitled to.

It took close to a month to secure this access and opportunity, but these young men and women persevered in their mission of school integration. Defying Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, segregationists and other protestors, the Little Rock Nine were victorious in ending segregated education.

The Little Rock Nine's first attempt to attend Central High School was on September 4, 1957; but the Arkansas Governor called in the National Guard of his State to keep them out. On September 23, the Little Rock Nine, armed with a Federal court order, again tried to attend Central High School, but protests and violence forced the group of students out of the school. It was not until Federal protection was provided that the students would be able to safely attend school on September 25. This Federal protection would remain until the end of the school year, enabling African American senior Ernest Green to graduate. But, sadly, this year of progress would be tainted by the Arkansas Governor's decision to close all of the high schools the following year.

The Little Rock Nine would remain champions of education and school integration despite the fierce opposition.

After the schools reopened in 1959, three more of the Little Rock Nine would go on to graduate from Central High. All of them would become productive, contributive members of our society. From social work to education to government, the Little Rock Nine were and remain represented in all professional sectors. They have also continued their commitment to education with the founding of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, which is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to students of color.

On the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High by the Little Rock Nine, I am pleased to recognize that great progress has been made in education. But I must also acknowledge recent setbacks to the guarantee of opportunity and inclusion within our educational system. A recent Supreme Court decision now severely limits our school districts in their efforts to achieve racial balance and diversity in primary and secondary education.

But in acknowledging recent setbacks, I would be remiss to not comment on the Jena Six. Just as the Little Rock Nine stood up to the inequities of their time, we must lift up the Jena Six in response to the inequities of their time.

The Little Rock Nine did not mean to make national or world history; they were just standing up for what they believed was right.

In considering this resolution, I ask that all of our Members move forward with this same kind of determination and understanding of what our democracy is all about. On this 50th anniversary, let us all pledge to continue the legacy of the Little Rock Nine and Brown v. The Board by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all.

I omit the great work that was done by President Dwight Eisenhower and others that helped move this situation forward some 50 years ago. And I note also that Arkansas was not a hot bed of segregation. It was considered, frankly, a moderate Southern State. But things transpired so that it became that one activity in which these nine boys and girls have gone into American history. They have been celebrated, and they have been talked about. I have been hearing about them all week long as we prepare for this celebration. And I am so proud to bring this resolution on the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School before this body.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 668, commemorating the Little Rock Nine, the African American students who enrolled in Little Rock Central High School in 1957 and were initially prevented from entering that segregated school. I want to commend Chairman CONYERS for

bringing this legislation forward and our ranking member, Congressman SMITH, for his support of it as well.

President Dwight Eisenhower, following the landmark Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, sent Federal troops to enforce integration and protect the Little Rock Nine. On September 24, 1957, the President ordered the Army to Little Rock, and the nine students entered the school the next day. Thereafter, each of the students was given an individual escort inside Central High School to prevent them from harassment by other students.

It was surely a sad day when the Federal Government had to use the most powerful military in the world to integrate one high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. But it was also a proud day as well, as it demonstrated how our Constitution and each branch of government had, since the Civil War, finally had been honed and fitted to fulfill the promise of racial equality in America.

Chairman CONYERS has already listed the Little Rock Nine, but the efforts of which they themselves and their families must be most proud are deserving of mentioning them again: Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Minniejean Brown, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed, and Melba Pattillo Beals. With each step they took through the schoolhouse doors, they paved a path forward for countless other African Americans. And when the school bell rang that day, it marked not only the start of the school day; it rang for liberty and equality as well.

The Little Rock Nine were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 9, 1999. This resolution renews our commemoration of their courageous actions of the 50th anniversary of their historic first steps into history. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS), who has been serving in the Congress for a period of years and we have enjoyed a very good working relationship with him. I yield him such time as he may consume.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 668, a resolution honoring and recognizing the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine. First, I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS for his support and leadership in moving this resolution from the Judiciary Committee to the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which honors the anniversary of the nine students who gained national attention 50 years ago when Little Rock Central High School was integrated.

Little Rock Central High School found itself in the spotlight of the entire Nation on September 25, 1957, when nine students escorted by the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army walked up the front steps and integrated the school.

The names of these nine individuals are barely recognizable alone, but collectively as the Little Rock Nine they gained national attention for their strength and unified determination to make our public schools a place where everyone can learn regardless of race.

□ 1615

This resolution honors their courage by commemorating the 50th anniversary of desegregation of Little Rock Central High School and encourages all Americans to recognize the historic contributions of the Little Rock Nine, who not only secured integration for Little Rock Central High School, but for hundreds of thousands of schools across our country.

Tomorrow marks the 50th anniversary of this historic event, and I'm also proud to be taking part in the celebration of this civil rights achievement through the dedication of a permanent Little Rock Central High School Museum and Visitors Center. I'll be joined tomorrow by many of my colleagues, including the Arkansas congressional delegation, Congressmen JOHN BOOZMAN, MARION BERRY and VIC SNYDER.

The Little Rock Nine have been acknowledged with numerous awards and recognitions, including the 2007 Little Rock Central High School desegregation 50th anniversary commemorative coin, one of only two such coins that are done annually. And I want to thank my good friend from Arkansas, Congressman VIC SNYDER for leading the effort in securing this as one of the two coins for this year. They've also been recognized for the Congressional Gold Medal. That was back in 1999. This resolution adds one more recognition to this important group of individuals.

As we memorialize their legacies of bravery so that future generations of Americans will forever know their struggle, we can never forget the sacrifices endured by these nine individuals for the sake of progress on behalf of millions. The Little Rock Nine are symbolic of the victorious dismantling of school segregation, and as such, I am proud to cosponsor this resolution honoring their contributions, and I urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of it today.

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to recognize the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. DANNY DAVIS, who, himself, grew up in Arkansas. He was a distinguished alderman in Chicago before becoming a Member of Congress. He has worked with the Judiciary Committee with particular interest on re-entry programs, and he also happens to represent my counsel, Kanya

Bennett, who comes to the floor with me today. I yield the gentleman as much time as he may consume.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman CONYERS for, not only his leadership on this issue, but so many issues involving civil rights down through the years and for bringing this legislation to the floor.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, holding that the segregation in public schools was illegal. Three years later, nine black students entered Little Rock Central High: Carlotta Walls, Jefferson Thomas, Elizabeth Eckford, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Terrance Roberts, Gloria Ray, Minniejean Brown and Ernest Green. I feel a certain amount of kinship to these nine students because, at that very same time, I was a freshman in college, just 50 miles away at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. And so over the years, I had an opportunity to interact with several of them.

Of course, the most well known is Ernest Green, who became an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor and is now the managing director of Lehman Brothers investment firm.

Minniejean Brown, I spent a weekend with, down at Southern Illinois University, where she graduated just a few years ago when we were both there for some activity.

I did student teaching with Melba Pattillo's mother, Mrs. Pattillo, who was a teacher in North Little Rock, Arkansas when I did student teaching.

And so it's been a great move. It's hard to imagine that 50 years ago I was there, but I guess I was, JOHN. It's been a long time, but much has happened since then.

I simply want to congratulate Governor Beebe, the Mayor of Little Rock, all of the elected officials in Little Rock, for the tremendous display of commemoration and celebration that has taken place over these 3 days as they commemorate the tremendous movement. And I agree with Chairman CONYERS in suggesting that not only has Little Rock, but the country has come a long way since 1957. We've made tremendous progress, even though there is much further to go.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. If the gentleman is prepared to close, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself just a minute to close to observe that Arkansas, I have always connected with the former Governor of that State, the former President of this country, Bill Clinton. And I understand he's going to be there tomorrow to cut the ribbon, and I only wish that all of us who will be supporting and voting for this resolution could be there with him.

I think Arkansas has come a long way. They've made a lot of progress, and we're all working to make this a

color-free society, where the content of one's character is far more important and significant than the color of one's skin.

I urge support for Resolution 668 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in Arkansas and celebrate nine brave young people and the families that supported them, it is a day of bittersweet reflection because the dreams they sought to fulfill for generations of African Americans remain still not fully realized.

Today, as in 1957, we believe that education will help African Americans to get better jobs and to gain influence in American society. But, 50 years later, the struggle is not over. While in 1957, African American students struggled to get into high schools, today they struggle to stay in school. In describing the current state of education for African Americans, an author stated "burdened with a history that includes the denial of education, separate and unequal education, and religion to unsafe, substandard inner-city schools, the quest for quality education remains an elusive dream for the African American community." The current drop out rate among African American males is estimated at 40 percent, 72 percent are jobless, and the likelihood of being incarcerated is 60 percent. Fifty years later, the playing field is not leveled.

H. Res. 668, not only recognizes the 50th anniversary of that momentous occasion on September 25, 1957, but it also calls for all to commit to continuing the legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Little Rock Nine by protecting and advancing equal educational opportunity for all. This would be a great way to honor and continue to pay tribute to heroic actions of the Little Rock Nine. Little Rock Nine opened the door for education but we must continue to close the gap in providing quality education for all.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us in honoring the people who made history on that day, and to also join them and us in working toward the day when there will truly be equal opportunity in education in every part of our Nation.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on September 25th, our State—and our Nation—will recognize nine brave men and women who, when they were teenagers, came forward to claim their Constitutional right to an equal education despite protests, threats of violence and even the Arkansas National Guard.

I strongly support this legislation which honors not only a red-letter date in our State's history, but a seminal event in the movement to unite our country as truly one people, indivisible.

Fifty years ago, Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, and Carlotta Walls, climbed the steps of Central High School. Few other moments in our history can compare to the ascent made by the Little Rock Nine. It was an ascent to a new plateau in the relations of Americans to their fellow citizens and a new plateau on the path to the American we now know.

On September 25, 1957, when the Nine made it to the top of those Central High School steps, they stood in a place where, up till that point, others said they could not go.

Then, they did what was, in fact, the most important thing that day: They went inside to learn.

While Central High School will always be the event at the forefront of our memories when it comes to the history of desegregation, it is my hope that, as we remember the Nine, we can also remember the other schools in our State which preceded them, including Fayetteville, Hoxie, and the community of Charleston—who first broke down the barrier in Arkansas on August 23, 1954.

I would also like to remember the names of Joe Ferguson, Jessie Ferguson, Mary Ferguson, Barbara Williams, Robert Williams, Etholia Williams, Time Freeman, Betty Freeman, Myrdle Freeman, Leroy Jones, Raymond Webb, Duty Webb, and Henry Web, who joined their fellow residents of Charleston to bring about peaceful change.

As we spend this day reflecting on our past, we should remember all the brave children, families, and educators across the state who—by their courage—set in motion a chain of events which created the Arkansas of the present and will resonate in the Arkansas of the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN ACT OF 2007

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1199) to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1199

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. DRUG-ENDANGERED CHILDREN GRANT PROGRAM EXTENDED.

Section 755(c) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 3797cc-2(c)) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2006 and 2007" and inserting "fiscal years 2008 and 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1199 was introduced on February 27 of this year by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA). Currently, the legislation enjoys the support of 15 additional bipartisan cosponsors.

The measure, on its face, is quite simple and straightforward. It simply extends funding for the Drug Endangered Children Grant Program through fiscal year 2009. The current authorization for the program is set to expire this year.

The Drug Endangered program was first authorized as title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, which authorizes up to \$20 million a year for grants to address this problem.

One of the most troubling aspects of drug use is its impact on children. According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, over 15,000 children were found at methamphetamine labs from 2000 to 2004. The problem, however, is not limited to meth abuse. A Health and Human Services study found that over 1.6 million children live in homes where a variety of illicit drugs are used. These drug-infested conditions stretch child welfare agencies beyond their capacities because of the increased violence and neglect.

On February 6, the Crime Subcommittee held a hearing on H.R. 545, the Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007, which has been reported by both the Crime Subcommittee and the full Judiciary Committee. A central provision of that bill extends eligibility for drug-endangered children grants to Native American tribes. However, unless the Congress passes H.R. 1199, the authorization for the drug-endangered children grants will expire this year, negating our recent efforts to help Native American children.

With this said, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this much-needed legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act of 2007, and commend my colleague from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for his leadership on this issue.

This legislation extends the existing authorization for grants to State and local governments and Indian tribes to protect and help drug-endangered children. It is a sad consequence of our Nation's drug problem that drug traffickers have such a devastating impact on innocent children who live and play

in areas used to facilitate the production and distribution of illegal drugs.

We owe it to our Nation's children to do all that we can to protect them and provide them the services needed to allow them to grow and develop in a healthy and loving home.

It is often said that you can judge the health of a society by the way in which it treats the innocent and vulnerable, our children. Too often we hear from law enforcement about children being used or abused by drug traffickers. The consequences to our children are devastating. We must do whatever we can to protect our children from the evils of drug dealing and provide them with a safe environment in which to live.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague from Virginia who's been a tremendous supporter and assistance on this piece of legislation.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children's Act. And let me also thank, as well as my colleague from Virginia, my colleague, Mr. CONYERS, who's the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, who also assisted us in bringing this legislation to the floor. I appreciate both their efforts on behalf of our Nation's children.

Drug trafficking and abuse have a devastating impact on the children of this country and contribute to domestic violence, abuse and neglect. According to a recent study, Health and Human Services has said that over 1.6 million children live in a home where at least one parent abuses illicit drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin or prescription drugs.

In my district in the central valley of California, I have seen the harmful effects of methamphetamine on children's lives. While visiting schools in my area, I've been told by teachers and administrators and, frankly, by the students themselves, that a significant portion of the students have a parent or relative who abuses methamphetamine. Sadly, I know that I'm not alone, as similar stories could be told in other parts of the country where illicit drugs are prevalent.

I'm particularly concerned about the impact of this drug epidemic and what it's having on our foster care system. According to the National Association of Counties, 40 percent of child welfare officials nationwide report an increase in child welfare cases caused by methamphetamine.

This issue strikes close to home for me. In my home county of Merced, California, between 67 and 75 percent of foster care cases are methamphetamine-related.

□ 1630

As a father of two adopted children, I have seen firsthand the damaging im-

pact of drug abuse on the foster care system.

Ladies and gentlemen, we must do more to help these children in need. Methamphetamine is an extremely dangerous drug for children not only because meth addicts are more likely to abuse and abandon their children but also because meth-addicted parents often set up meth labs in their homes. These labs are highly toxic and susceptible to fire and explosions and therefore place innocent children in physical danger. In my district, children have been found at labs with burns from spilled ingredients from the methamphetamine production process. In addition, there is a high risk of lasting health damage from toxic fume inhalation. Tragically, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA, children are found present at 20 percent of all meth labs that are seized.

H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act, will address the challenges facing children abandoned, neglected, or abused by parents addicted to illicit drugs. The legislation would authorize the Department of Justice to make \$20 million in grants available for drug-endangered children for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The grants are designed to improve coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, children protection services, social service agencies, and health care providers to help transition drug-endangered children into safe residential environments.

The Drug Endangered Children program would build on the successful Federal, State, and local partnerships of the COPS program and the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant program. By funding coordination across jurisdictions and among several different types of government agencies, the Drug Endangered Children program would foster cooperative efforts to address the needs of children affected by drug abuse. These grants would leverage the Federal Government's investment by offering an incentive for local government to invest their own money in confronting this important problem.

It's time to pass this vital piece of legislation. The 1.6 million children across this country impacted by parental drug abuse need our help. Let us help these children by passing the Drug Endangered Children Act and rid ourselves of the scourge of drug abuse.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1199.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to pass this important piece of legislation, and I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership in introducing the bill.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Drug Endangered Children Act.

Over the last 6 years, 7,500 drug-related child abuse cases were reported in Iowa. In 2004, over 1,700 of Iowa's children tested positive for illegal drugs. Two-thirds of them

were under the age of 6. Nearly one-quarter were less than a year old.

These statistics are staggering but they have a very real face. They represent Iowa's most vulnerable population—a population that demands not only our attention but our action.

The Iowa Drug Endangered Children Program was established in 2004 to assist local communities in their efforts to protect the health and safety of children exposed to illegal, toxic drugs in their homes. In my district, Linn and Wapello counties have created community-based Drug Endangered Children programs in order to coordinate services and provide immediate intervention, long-term assistance, and follow-up care for children found in homes where illegal drugs are used, manufactured, or trafficked.

Since 2001, 4,000 methamphetamine labs have been dismantled in Iowa. Roughly 30 percent of these labs were based in homes with children. State and local law enforcement, prosecutors, and child welfare organizations are dedicated to the protection of children found to be living in homes where dangerous and illicit drugs are present, but they cannot carry out this enormous and vitally urgent task on their own.

This bill authorizes \$20 million annually for the Drug Endangered Children grant program for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. These grants will assist in the coordination of State and local agencies and will help to assure the swift and safe transition of children from dangerous homes to safe residences.

We cannot sit by while almost 2 million children nationwide continue to live in homes where illegal drugs are present. This bill is an essential step toward assuring the health and safety of our Nation's children, and I strongly urge its passage.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1199, the Drug Endangered Children Act. The Drug Endangered Children program is critically important to my congressional district and others that have been plagued by the meth scourge. Thanks to the outstanding leadership of Susan Webber-Brown, Butte County, California, was one of the first jurisdictions in the country to create a Drug Endangered Children team to focus on the safety and protection of children during law enforcement operations. However, due in part to a lack of federal support, the state of California terminated DEC grant funding in 2003. Since then, Butte and other counties have struggled to keep their programs up and running.

As a former chairman of the House subcommittee dealing with child welfare and foster care issues, I have heard countless heart-breaking stories of children trapped in some of the most awful living conditions imaginable as a result of their parents' or guardians' involvement with illegal drugs. The Drug Endangered Children program helps rescue children from these dangerous environments, provide for their immediate physical and psychological needs, and give them hope for a better life. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to reauthorize this vitally needed program.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1199.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING A VOICE FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES INVOLVED IN MISSING PERSONS AND UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS CASES

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 340) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives of the importance of providing a voice for the many victims (and families of victims) involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 340

Whereas there are more than 100,000 active missing person cases on any given day;

Whereas every year tens of thousands of people vanish under suspicious circumstances;

Whereas there are more than 40,000 sets of human remains held in the property rooms of medical examiners, coroners, and police departments across the country that cannot be identified by conventional means;

Whereas of such 40,000 sets of human remains, only six thousand sets of human remains have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and fewer have been entered into other Federal databases such as the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCap) or the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS), or the National Missing Persons DNA Database;

Whereas many cities and counties continue to bury or cremate unidentified human remains without any attempt to collect DNA and many laboratories are unable to perform timely DNA analysis of human remains, especially when they are old or are degraded;

Whereas such victims and their families have been without a voice for far too long: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is committed to giving victims involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases a voice;

(2) supports that such voice should be heard by—

(A) continuing Federal funding for DNA testing and the Combined DNA Index System;

(B) supporting greater cooperation between local, State, and Federal law enforcement;

(C) providing more comprehensive training and education for the more than 17,000 law enforcement agencies involved in missing persons cases and unidentified human remains cases;

(D) providing medical examiners and coroners with greater accessibility into Federal

databases to upload and compare evidence so that such victims ultimately may be located and identified and returned to their loved ones where they belong; and

(E) working to raise awareness among victim service providers and the general public about the use of DNA and the Combined DNA Index System to identify the unidentified dead; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Institute for Justice in the Department of Justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of House Resolution 340 to express the commitment of the House of Representatives in giving victims involved in missing persons and unidentified human remains cases a voice through advancing DNA technology.

The grief of loss of a loved one, particularly a parent's loss of a child, can only be surpassed by the endless torment of not knowing. When a loved one is missing, there is no finality, no way to begin the grieving process so that closure may eventually come and family and friends can begin healing. Going on, often hoping against hope, knowing the news they fear the most may come at any moment is a tormenting experience.

But with today's DNA technology, much of this burden can be removed. Over 6,000 samples of DNA evidence have been used to identify remains of missing persons; and with continued and increased funding, we can bring more justice to victims and peace to the families and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I further support the continued funding of DNA initiatives because of the incredible part DNA evidence has played both in determining guilt and protecting the innocent. Since 2002, over 200 wrongly convicted persons have been exonerated through DNA evidence, including death row inmates. In fact, just this weekend two incredible stories arose in the Baltimore area. On Saturday, September 22, prosecutors dropped all charges against a Baltimore man who had been held in a rape and assault of a 59-year-old woman just last month. This morning the Baltimore Sun newspaper reports that Baltimore County has solved their

18th DNA-evidence case, a rape investigation open since 1978. After 29 years, a victim will finally see justice.

Mr. Speaker, we can and must continue to fund advancing DNA technology because, although there has been much success, there remains much to do. Over 40,000 samples of biological evidence related to missing persons are in laboratories around the country ready for entry into DNA databases with the potential of identifying almost 40 percent of our missing persons. And although DNA backlog reduction grants have cleared more than 60,000 criminal cases, exonerating the innocent and identifying the guilty, the backlog level remains almost unchanged. Police departments and prosecutors recognizing the benefits of DNA evidence have been trained in its collection and are using the technology more than ever before, which adds samples at the rate that the backlog is being cleared.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support continued DNA-evidence backlog reduction grants in identifying missing persons and to exonerate the innocent and to identify the guilty. We have seen what the technology can do, and we have the wherewithal to fund those activities. Justice demands that we view continued funding as a major responsibility.

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

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

I, first of all, would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia for his leadership on this very important issue. I know Mr. SCOTT has been one of those who has cared greatly about those families that have suffered the trauma of a lost person within their family. So I want to thank Mr. SCOTT on this. And I think this is another issue in which we have seen bipartisanship in this House. Sometimes you don't see a lot of instances of that, but I think this is one where we can work together in a bipartisan fashion, and I want to thank Mr. SCOTT for his leadership on this.

Given that tomorrow is the first annual day of remembrance for murder victims, it is only fitting that we recognize and respond to a segment of the victim population that too often goes unrecognized: those victims who are missing and whose remains have yet to be identified. Unfortunately, it is far more common than one would think, just how many families are searching for some clue as to the location of the remains of their missing family members, and too often families are alone in their effort to locate their loved one.

On any given day, there are more than 100,000 active missing-person cases in this country. Just think of that: over 100,000 active cases in this Nation. Every year tens of thousands of people vanish under suspicious circumstances. Equally disturbing is the knowledge that the skeletal remains of more than 40,000 individuals are being stored with coroners, medical examiners, and police departments around

the country. And these may very well be the very persons that those families are trying to identify. They don't know what happened to their brother, their sister, their mother, their aunt, their uncle, whomever it might be. Many of these jurisdictions do not have the technology to identify these individuals. And even if they do, most States do not require these officials to obtain samples before burying or cremating the remains. Think of that. Your sister could be in the State right next door in the coroner's office or a police station and the remains may be cremated, and you may go the rest of your life and your family never knowing what happened to your sister.

I know the impact of this ineffective model on families, because in my own State of Ohio, a very good friend, somebody that, unfortunately, I have gotten to know through a terrible tragedy in her own family, Deborah Culberson, the mother of a murder victim, Carrie Culberson, has been searching for the remains of her daughter for the last 11 years. While Carrie's murderer will, hopefully, spend the rest of his life in jail, her body has never been found. Moreover, speculation exists that Carrie's remains may be in the State of Kentucky, we really don't know, which does not mandate the same requirements for identifying human remains as my State, Ohio.

Rapidly advancing DNA technology has proven to be a critical tool that law enforcement and families can access to locate and identify individuals and solve cold cases. Yet as Debbie Culberson's search demonstrates, the technology is not being utilized to its fullest. For example, many family members of the missing or unidentified do not know they can provide their own DNA to assist law enforcement. Some law enforcement officials do not know that this DNA technology can assist in solving cold cases. Even if law enforcement knows the technology exists, States may not mandate DNA testing for this segment of the victim population.

We, as elected officials, have a responsibility to take the lead in ensuring, number one, that adequate funding and effective education and training for law enforcement and the public exists; and, two, that all available resources and tools are being used to their fullest ability.

This resolution acknowledges Congress's commitment to these victims and to their families, that it will do everything within its authority to locate, identify, and return these sons, daughters, mothers, and fathers to those families who are still searching for their loved ones.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, Judge POE.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding me time and for offering this important piece of legislation.

As a former judge and prosecutor and founder of the Victims' Rights Caucus, I certainly understand how crime victims may be distraught and scared and hopeless. Some die in this emotional nightmare and some of those who die are kids. But now they need not be voiceless. Congress can be a voice for crime victims, especially those who have been murdered.

I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 340. This resolution provides a voice for victims and their families, those that are involved in missing-person cases and unidentified human remains cases.

Any given day in the United States, there are over 100,000 missing persons. There are over 40,000 remains in medical examiners' offices and coroners' offices that cannot be identified. Cities and counties bury or cremate the unidentified human remains without collecting DNA in many cases. So Congress must continue to fund DNA testing, train and educate law enforcement on these issues, and raise awareness about the use of this scientific phenomenon, DNA, so that it can be used to identify the unidentified.

□ 1645

We owe this to those silent who cannot speak for themselves.

DNA identifies missing victims as well as convicts the guilty and frees the innocent. For all of these reasons, this resolution should be adopted. So I totally support this resolution.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership in introducing this resolution. I urge the House to adopt it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIREs). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 340.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE LOW PRESENCE OF MINORITIES IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY AND MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN UPPER LEVEL POSITIONS OF MANAGEMENT

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 140) recognizing the low pres-

ence of minorities in the financial services industry and minorities and women in upper level positions of management, and expressing the sense of the Congress that active measures should be taken to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 140

Whereas the financial services industry is vitally important to the United States economy;

Whereas in 2005, employment in the financial services industry was about 7 percent of total employment in the United States, with over 10,000,000 employees;

Whereas since 1995, the average hourly earnings of non-supervisory workers in financial activities was above the private industry and increased from approximately \$13 in 1997 to \$18.80 in 2006;

Whereas minorities and women face various challenges in obtaining and maintaining positions, especially upper-level positions, within the financial services industry;

Whereas minorities and women often cite the lack of mentors and leadership training as barriers to their advancement;

Whereas in 2005, about 14.9 percent of the board seats at the Fortune 100 companies were held by minorities, and women comprised about 16.9 percent of Fortune 100 company board seats in 2005;

Whereas in the financial services industry, the percentage of black employees has slowly decreased from about 10.5 percent to 9.8 percent between 2000 to 2005;

Whereas in 2005, blacks were approximately 9.8 percent of those employed in the financial services industry and about 7.4 percent of financial managers;

Whereas from 2000 to 2005, Hispanics have been an increasing percentage of the United States workforce and the financial services industry;

Whereas in 2005, Hispanics comprised about 9.7 percent of those employed in the financial services industry, just 6 percent of financial managers, and less than 2 percent of the directors of Fortune 1,000 companies;

Whereas in 2004, Asians represented about 5.5 percent of the employees in the financial services industry and about 6.3 percent of all financial managers;

Whereas in 2004, the financial services industry ranked third in the percentage of women employed in the workforce behind healthcare and education;

Whereas approximately half of financial managers are women and the percentage of women financial managers was approximately 51.7 in 2005;

Whereas in a 2001 survey of 2,200 senior and pipeline level women and men representing approximately 60 securities firms, 65 percent of women reported that women have to work harder than men to get the same rewards, and 51 percent of women report that women are paid less than men for doing similar work;

Whereas a minority of women (32 percent) and men (43 percent) believe that promotion decisions are made fairly in their firm;

Whereas the House-approved Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2005 directed each Federal banking agency to submit biennial reports to Congress on the status of the employment by the agency of women and minorities;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office found in its report "Financial Services Industry: Overall Trends in Management-Level Diversity and Diversity Initiatives, 1993-2003", issued in June 2006, that overall diversity at the

management level in the financial services industry did not change substantially from 1993 to 2004; and

Whereas, although the Government Accountability Office acknowledged that financial services firms have initiated programs to increase workforce diversity, the Office found that these initiatives face challenges: Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Financial Services Diversity Initiative".

SEC. 2. FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVERSITY INITIATIVE.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION.—The Congress—

(1) recognizes that minorities and women still face unique challenges entering into and obtaining upper level positions within the financial services industry;

(2) encourages financial institutions to partner with organizations which are focused on developing opportunities for minorities and women to place talented young minorities and women in industry internships, summer employment, and full-time positions;

(3) encourages financial institutions to partner with inner-city high schools, girls' high schools, and high schools with majority minority populations to establish or enhance financial literacy programs and provide mentoring;

(4) encourages financial institutions, including Federal and State financial institution regulatory agencies, to build and retain a diverse staff through initiatives, including—

(A) providing financial support for minorities and women undergraduate and graduate business programs;

(B) heavily recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(C) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities; and

(D) placing job ads in newspapers and magazines oriented toward people of color;

(5) encourages financial institutions to appoint more minorities and women as board members; and

(6) encourages financial institutions, and public and private pension funds to seek qualified minority and women owned firms as investment managers, underwriters and other business relationships.

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

(1) active measures should be taken by employers and educational institutions to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry; and

(2) diversity within the financial services industry is vitally important not only to promoting innovation and creativity in the industry but to developing a more inclusive workforce for a fair and just economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the leadership of this House for bringing this resolution to the floor. I'm an individual who has great concerns about America's ability to maintain its global advantage economically in the years to come.

Globalization is making the world a much smaller place. And although globalization has improved economic conditions in many parts of the world and has contributed greatly and mightily to the United States' prosperity, it also means that competition that was once domestic is now international. Young children today don't only have to compete with people of their town for work, now they compete with the people from their region. Businesses that once faced regional competition now face international competition. Not only can you now ship products all over the globe, but modern communications now allows you to contract professional services from anywhere in the world without needing a person and personal meetings. Capital now moves across the planet instantaneously at the push of a button.

What does all this have to do with my resolution, Mr. Speaker, the Financial Services Diversity Initiative? It has to do with the fact one of America's leading industries where we have the global advantage is, in fact, financial services.

As outlined in the resolution, financial services represents 7 percent of the total employment in the United States, and the industry is a key component of the U.S. trade surplus in services.

The service sector is the largest and most dynamic force in the U.S. economy. Services account for over 80 percent of the United States' GDP and employment. Financial services is a key component of our dominance in services, along with express delivery, telecommunications, information technology, audiovisual, energy, transportation and professional services.

In every single congressional district in the United States, the majority of the workforce is employed in the service sector. In no district is there fewer than 70 percent of the workforce employed in services, and in some districts that figure is as high as 92 percent. Moreover, the service sector is projected to account for virtually all new job growth in the United States over the next half decade. And States like New York, North Carolina, Florida and California that already have major financial services, financial services will be a major component of that growth.

Despite current conditions, our long-term dominance in this area is not inevitable. As the McKenzie Report indicated, our lead in financial services is being challenged all over the globe, particularly by London. In that study, the executives surveyed stated that one of the key factors in choosing a lo-

cation from which to operate was an available and skilled workforce.

As a Member from New York, which is America's financial services capital, and a member of the Financial Services Committee, I have interacted and visited many financial services firms from the various sectors of this industry. I've been very supportive of the industry because it is of importance to America's competitive advantage and the financial health of my dear city, New York. However, the lack of diversity in the industry is glaring, particularly where African Americans and Latinos are concerned. Although women are more than 50 percent of the industry, their absence is much greater in the executive management and the boardrooms.

In a 2006 study conducted by the GAO that was requested by the Financial Services Committee, firm officials that were surveyed acknowledged that despite having problems, they still faced challenges in recruiting and retaining minority candidates. According to the report, "Some officials also said that gaining employees' buy-in to diversity programs was a challenge, particularly among middle managers who were often responsible for implementing key aspects of such programs."

To bring the issue closer to home, in New York State, the Department of Labor statistics shows that financial activities account for approximately 460,000 jobs. African Americans and Latinos together make up 53 percent of New York City's population. The same source states that nearly 40 percent of blacks and 35 percent of Latinos are unemployed. This is not to say that the financial services industry is responsible for the unemployment, but the fact of the matter is that if you are not able to place your majority population in the majority industries of your city, you're going to have a serious unemployment problem. And let's face it, whatever industry you're talking about, your greatest resource is going to be human resources.

In this resolution, I'm not asking for quotas or percentages, I'm asking for the government and the industry to take steps that are consistent with America's promise of fairness and opportunity toward increasing the diversity of the industry on all levels.

Years ago, this Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act, and banks found out that doing business with a more diverse client base was very profitable. I believe the entire industry will find the same is true with a more diverse workforce.

I strongly encourage the Members of this House to pass this resolution, which simply says that we want the best opportunities for all Americans.

Let me take a moment to thank Chairman FRANK and Ranking Member BACHUS for working in a bipartisan way in bringing this through the committee and to the floor. I also want to thank Jameel Johnson of my staff, Erika Jeffers and Jaime Lizarraga of Mr.

FRANK's staff, who happen to be two African Americans, one is a female and one is a Latino, showing how diversity works, and we are working together.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 140. This resolution recognizes the low presence of minorities in the financial services industry and minorities and women in upper-level positions of management. It also expresses the sense of Congress that active measures should be taken to increase the demographic diversity of the financial services industry.

I would like to thank the gentleman from New York, Congressman MEEKS, for introducing this resolution and for his leadership in the very important issue of diversity in the financial services industry.

As co-Chair of the Women's Caucus Business Task Force and as one of only 13 women in the U.S. Congress, including the House and the Senate, who serve on a committee overseeing the financial services sector, I would like to focus my remarks today on women in this industry.

As I have learned from my own experience on the Financial Services Committee, women are few and far between in upper-level positions of management and in financial services. This resolution acknowledges this factor and rightly encourages industry to take action to increase diversity.

Mr. Speaker, women and minorities are still just that, the minority, in corporate boardrooms throughout the financial services industry. According to a publication called "Women in Financial Services: The Word on the Street" released by Catalyst in 2001, women cited a number of reasons why they might be missing at the table.

Almost three-quarters of the women surveyed cited a lack of mentors as an obstacle barring them from advancing. Well over 50 percent of the women cited exclusion from informal networks of communication, lack of women role models, failure of senior leadership to assume accountability for women's advancement, and several additional factors as barriers to success. The same report cites that 65 percent of women have to work harder than men to get the same rewards, and that women are paid less for doing similar work.

The Government Accountability Office released the report that Mr. MEEKS just spoke about revealing that over an 11-year period, the commitment to diversity in the financial services industry was strong. However, the GAO found that this commitment has yet to translate into any real progress for women.

The GAO report also said, "Research reports suggest that minority and women-owned businesses have difficulty obtaining access to capital for several reasons." According to another Catalyst study, "a small minority of women, 18 percent, report that oppor-

tunities to advance to senior leadership in their firm have increased over the past 5 years," and "60 percent of women report opportunities to advance to senior leadership have improved somewhat or slightly."

So, what do we do about the relatively small number of women leaders in the financial services industry? I would suggest that step one is to recognize the problem, which we are doing with this resolution today, and step two is to encourage the financial services industry to take action and explore ways to increase the involvement of women and minorities in the financial services industry.

Currently, programs like those sponsored by Girls, Incorporated are working to promote economic and financial literacy among young women. I would like to commend them for their work, and also commend the efforts of all of those involved with Women's Policy Inc., Women Impacting Public Policy, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, and many others who are promoting women in business.

In addition, it is my hope that during this Congress we can go beyond this resolution. I hope that we can examine ways to propel women in business, women in financial services forward and help them secure leadership roles in the industry.

As the new ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, I intend to request that our subcommittee hold a hearing to examine the issues of access to capital for women business owners, especially those in the financial services. I hope that we can hold such a hearing during this Congress.

It is important that we continue to examine the barriers confronting women in business and find ways to help them overcome these barriers. I believe that increasing the number of qualified women in leadership roles in the financial services industry will both enrich the industry and make it more competitive.

Again, I thank the author of this resolution, Mr. MEEKS.

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume simply to thank the gentlelady from Illinois for her support in working in a clearly bipartisan manner in this particular matter so that we can get our friends in the financial services to offer opportunities to men and women who happen to be minorities, and we can move on and share in this great population.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to identify the low representation of minorities and women in the financial services industry. The Financial Services Diversity Initiative calls upon the public and private sector to provide more opportunities for minorities and women to succeed in the financial services industry.

The financial service industry has an extraordinary impact on the country, including

my home district of Dallas, TX. While many industries have successfully created a diverse workplace, the financial service industry has fallen short, creating an unacceptable disparity for minorities and women. As a society, it is our responsibility to promote the diversity in the workplace and ensure confidence in any individual's ability to succeed at all levels.

In order to raise awareness and combat these disparities, we must furnish all children a first class education. Education is the vital threshold in expanding opportunities to qualified candidates, regardless of their race or sex. The Financial Services Diversity Initiative enforce fairness and accountability to all educational and employment sectors.

Mr. Speaker, as a person of color and a woman, I know first hand the importance of equality and diversity. I strongly support the Financial Services Diversity Initiatives which offers to eliminate the inequality among minorities and women in the financial services industry.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 140, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNION MONTH

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 658) supporting the goals and ideals of Federal Credit Union Month and recognizing the importance of Federal credit unions to the economy, and their critical mission in serving those of modest means.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 658

Whereas, on June 26, 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Federal Credit Union Act, thus enabling credit unions to be organized throughout the United States under the charters approved by the Federal Government;

Whereas Federal credit unions were chartered as uniquely democratic economic organizations, founded on the principle that persons of good character and all backgrounds, including those of modest means, joining together in cooperative spirit and action, can promote thrift, create a source of credit for productive purposes, and build a better standard of living for themselves;

Whereas Federal credit unions have consistently met those purposes and exemplified the traditional American values of thrift, self-help, and volunteerism, carving out a special place for themselves among the Nation's financial institutions;

Whereas Federal credit unions operate with the credo "Not for profit, not for charity—but for service" and have consistently

reflected this philosophical tradition and the cooperative spirit of "people helping people" that gave birth to the Federal Credit Union Act;

Whereas there are over 5,000 Federal credit unions in the United States serving nearly 50,000,000 Americans in all 50 States; and

Whereas September 2007 has been designated as Federal Credit Union Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Federal Credit Union Month; and

(2) recognizes the importance of Federal credit unions to the economy, and their critical mission in serving those of modest means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thoughts about House Resolution 658, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. House Resolution 658 would designate September as National Credit Union Month. America's credit union movement began during the Great Depression with the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act. With its mission of helping people of modest means, the credit union movement has blossomed, and these financial institutions help to keep our economy vibrant. Today, credit unions serve more than 89 million members at more than 9,000 State and federally chartered institutions. These financial entities are cooperative organizations that are owned and controlled by their members. From my perspective, the credit union movement represents democratic capital of our society. The movement also represents the grass-roots of our democracy.

Among other things, credit unions provide much-needed services to young families and small businesses, often offering mortgages and startup loans at low rates. In addition, credit unions invest in the areas where they are located by assisting in community revitalization and economic renewal efforts, as well as working with underserved populations to help them gain access to our Nation's banking system.

More than 9 years ago, we passed the Credit Union Membership Access Act, which I helped to introduce. This legislation modernized Federal credit union laws. Unfortunately, however, it also imposed severe restrictions on credit

unions in several areas like capital standards, business lending, and the ability of some credit unions to provide services to underserved areas. From my perspective, we should revisit these areas and work to help credit unions operate more effectively and efficiently in the years ahead.

In closing, I am proud to be a supporter of the credit union movement and am pleased to speak in support of recognizing September as National Credit Union Month.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 658, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of designating September 2007 as Federal Credit Union Month. First, I would like to thank the Congresswoman and the Congressman from New York, Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. WALSH, for their leadership and for introducing this important resolution. I would also like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) for managing this resolution.

Second, I, too, would like to recognize credit unions for the important role that they play in our community. This resolution honors the 5,000 Federal credit unions that serve the financial needs of 50 million Americans, or about 17 percent of all U.S. citizens. Democratic organizations that are run by their members, credit unions have provided millions of Americans the credit and financial services that they need to buy cars, build homes, and pay for education. Of particular importance is that credit unions across the country promote financial education and are a part of our national effort to increase financial literacy rates, especially among our Nation's youth.

The mission of credit unions is to serve those of modest means. In my congressional district, the 13th District of Illinois, credit unions serve policemen, teachers, post office employees, airline pilots, and health care professionals. Credit unions also serve scientists, engineers, and their support staff at Argonne National Laboratory, a Department of Energy laboratory that supports cutting-edge basic research and the advanced development of advanced energy technologies ranging from next generation nuclear reactors to fuel cells for hydrogen-powered cars. It could be said that by serving scientists and engineers in my congressional district, credit unions are helping, literally and figuratively, to drive our future.

Finally, I would like to recognize all of the credit unions and associations, especially those in Illinois, for their contributions to our communities. Specifically, I would like to recognize and thank the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, and the Illinois Credit Union League. Last but not least, I would like to thank all of the

employees, in particular, Chairwoman JoAnn Johnson, at the National Credit Union Administration, the Federal credit union regulator.

Again, I thank the cosponsors of this resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize the goals and ideals of Federal Credit Union Month. Credit unions across the United States have been a vital component to economic growth and empowerment.

This month is intended to bring awareness to credit union's impact on the economy and the tremendous service they provide to their members. Our federal credit unions play an important role in the lives of many Americans, my district in Dallas, TX, included. Credit unions offer the chance for its members to participate in their financial lives as owners, rather than just account holders.

Credit unions help communities and families achieve their part of the American Dream by offering financial services and banking opportunities that many members would otherwise be denied with a privately owned institution. These opportunities enhance stability and affordability in ownership and security for credit union members.

Mr. Speaker, federal credit unions remain an important financial institution for many of our Nation's hard working people. It is important that we as a body continue to articulate support for our Nation's federal credit unions. As a loyal member of a federal credit union I strongly support the goals and ideas this month promotes.

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 658.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 193, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 668, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1199, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 340, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING ALL HUNTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 193, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 193.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 0, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 891]

YEAS—385

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Billray
Billirakis
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer

Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle

Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Finer
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes

Heller
Hensarling
Herse
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
LoBosack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern

McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meeke (FL)
Meeke (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta

Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Sonder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—47

Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Hager
Carson
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom

Delahunt
DeLauro
Engel
Etheridge
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastert
Honda
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kennedy
Kucinich

LaHood
Langevin
Lucas
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)
Rogers (AL)

Snyder
Stupak
Tiahrt
Towns
Waters
Westmoreland

□ 1856

Mr. MCNERNEY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 1957, DESEGREGATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BY THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668.

This will be a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 892]

YEAS—387

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Billray
Billirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield

Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle

Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Finer
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes

Gutierrez
Hastert
Herger
Honda
Hunter
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam

Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lucas
Murphy (CT)
Neal (MA)
Pickering
Pomeroy
Pryce (OH)

Snyder
Stupak
Tiahrt
Towns
Waters
Westmoreland
Woolsey

Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Conyers
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette

Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebbecke
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—42

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1912

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING A VOICE FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES INVOLVED IN MISSING PERSONS AND UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS CASES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 340, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 340.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 389, nays 1, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 894]

YEAS—389

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren

Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen

Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
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Cummings
Davis (AL)
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Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
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Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
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Doggett
Donnelly
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Edwards
Ehlers
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Emanuel
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English (PA)
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Fortenberry
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Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
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Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
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Hastings (FL)
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Hayes
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Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
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Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Conyers
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
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Kanjorski
Kaptur
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King (IA)
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Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
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Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette

Lee
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Lewis (CA)
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Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebbecke
Lofgren, Zoe
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Lungren, Daniel
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Maloney (NY)
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McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
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Rodgers
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Meek (FL)
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Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
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Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
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Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
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Pearce
Pence
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Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
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Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
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Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
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Sherman
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Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
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Slaughter
Smith (NE)
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Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solis
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Sullivan
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Tancredo
Tanner
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Terry
Thompson (CA)
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Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
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Schultz
Watson
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Waxman
Weiner
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Weldon (FL)
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Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1919

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 891, 892, 893, and 894.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 456. An act 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.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1495) "An Act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 661

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 661, to which I was mistakenly added.

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

There was no objection.

NAYS—1

Paul

FORECLOSURE TAX RELIEF ACT

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight as a proud cosponsor of the Foreclosure Tax Relief Act. I commend its cosponsor, my colleague from Ohio, Mr. SPACE, as well as the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL, for agreeing to take up legislation that would give a tax break to middle-class homeowners who have been caught up in the subprime mortgage fallout.

Nearly 3,000 homeowners in Suffolk County, New York alone, that's one out of every 180 homes in my district, have joined 2.2 million families nationwide whose subprime loans have already failed or will end in foreclosure. Adding insult to injury, they face massive tax bills once any portion of their mortgage is cancelled. The IRS treats that forgiven debt as income and can even tack on interest and penalties.

In response to this unfair phantom tax, the Foreclosure Tax Relief Act would set the tax exclusion for middle-class families up to \$50,000 in forgiven debt on first mortgages and primary residences. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support foreclosure tax relief legislation.

GLENVIEW GOOD GUYS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago an incredible act of bravery took place in my district. Last Saturday, three high school students were stopped at a train crossing in Glenview, Illinois. At 8:30, as Glenbrook South High School senior Tom Foust and sophomores Tyler Brown and Zach Demertzis reached the intersection, they noticed an 83-year-old woman in her vehicle stopped on the tracks. It was clear the car was stuck, spinning her tires in the gravel.

At that moment, warning bells rang. The three young men rushed to the car and tried to help her move it. They didn't know how quickly the train was coming, at 79 miles an hour. When the woman did not leave, Tom reached in the vehicle and unclipped her seat belt. He pulled her out and got only 10 feet from the southbound train when it demolished the car, spraying glass and metal everywhere. The car was pushed into the northbound tracks and was immediately hit again by another train going in the opposite direction.

No one on the ground was injured. Tom, Tyler, and Zach saved this woman's life. I know I speak for the entire 10th District when I say how proud we are of the Glenview Good Guys, new heroes. Our community is very lucky to have them.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING LINDA LOIZZO, NORTH MIAMI BEACH CHIEF OF POLICE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize City of North Miami Chief of Police, Linda Loizzo. Linda is a true trailblazer. She has served the North Miami Police Department for more than 33 years in a number of capacities: deputy chief, assistant chief of operations, major in charge of administrative services, commander in charge of the investigative division, and supervisor of several special support services units.

Linda was the first woman promoted to the rank of sergeant, the first woman promoted to rank of lieutenant and major, and the first woman promoted to the rank of chief of police for the North Miami Beach Police Department. Chief Loizzo not only broke down walls in a male-dominated profession, but she also shattered and crumbled stereotypes for women in all professions, and particularly those in law enforcement.

I congratulate Chief Loizzo on her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST DANE R. BALCON

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Specialist Dane R. Balcon, who passed away on September 5, 2007, in Balad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Balcon died of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Dane's mother, Carla, resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and his father, John, lives in Miami, Florida.

From an early age, Dane dreamed of the opportunity to serve his country. His path to the military began at Sand Creek High School in Colorado Springs, where he joined the Army ROTC program. The assistant principal at Sand Creek remembered Dane as an outstanding person and someone who had an absolute love for the military and serving his country. Immediately following graduation, Dane enlisted in the Army.

Specialist Balcon comes from a proud tradition of military service. Both his mother and father served in the military. I am grateful for their service and their selfless dedication to this great Nation.

Specialist Balcon was a remarkable soldier and a devoted son who honorably served the Nation he loved. Making the ultimate sacrifice, he died protecting our freedom and security.

I thank him, Specialist Dane R. Balcon, for his service to our country,

and I offer my deepest, heartfelt condolences to his family.

HONORING THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today enthusiastically and very humbly to honor the Little Rock Nine in the 50th year of the very brave nine young men and women who exemplified courage to stand for what is right in America, and that is equality and justice and the opportunity for all to be educated.

Armed with a Federal Court order on September 23, 1957, these children went off to Little Rock High School. Turned back by a protest and viciousness, they then went with Federal troops given to them by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Their names were Minnijean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas and Carlotta Walls.

I support the legislation. And although it is not the same, we now need Federal intervention for the Jena Six. We need justice for these young people. We need to be able to understand that these children are now being treated as the children were treated some 50 years ago.

Justice for Little Rock Nine and justice for Jena Six.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE U.S.-PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in speaking out against the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement. This is not a choice between trade and protectionism. It is a choice between fair trade, which can benefit working families across the Nation, and unfair trade, which benefits the wealthiest few at expense of the rest of us.

I cannot support, and I urge my colleagues not to support, this Bush-negotiated Peru Free Trade Agreement. It uses the same North American Free Trade Agreement model that has already failed working families here and abroad.

I feel like I am at a used car lot and the dealer is trying to sell the American people a beat-up old lemon with a new paint job. Well, we learned with NAFTA that there are no refunds for the American people when they are sold a bad bill of goods.

Let's learn from our mistakes and reject this Peru FTA junker. The American people deserve trade that works for working families, and the Peru FTA won't give us that. Vote "no" on the Peru FTA.

VOTE "NO" ON THE U.S.-PERU
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to encourage all of my colleagues to vote "no" on the Peru Free Trade Agreement. I just lost the third of four clothing factories in my district on Friday; hardworking men and women thrown out of work not because they couldn't do the job, but because they couldn't compete.

We have a responsibility as Members, whether you are Republican or Democrat, from whatever State you come from, to stand up for the American workers. I can't go back to my district and I will not go back to my district and try to explain to my workers who are losing their jobs, if you will just wait until we pass another trade deal that this President is not going to enforce.

I urge all of my colleagues to please vote "no" on the Peru Free Trade Agreement when it comes up. We can do much better, we owe it to our workers, and we will do much better.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEDICAL IMAGING SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to support legislation reversing the dangerous cuts made to medical imaging services by the last Congress.

The incorporation of imaging technology into medical practice has transformed physician practice, patient care, and improved health outcomes for millions of Americans.

Unfortunately, the Deficit Reduction Act last Congress slashed funding for imaging services. These dangerous cuts mean that women will have difficulty getting a mammogram. Doctors will begin to phase out imaging services because the reimbursement rate will cause them to lose money.

While these cuts may have saved the government money, it has increased the health risks of our Nation's citi-

zens. Patients throughout the United States depend on medical imaging because it often detects critical illnesses at their most curable stage when they are less costly to treat. Better, less invasive care often means easier recoveries and greater patient comfort are additional reasons why drastic cuts to medical imaging do not serve the patient well.

Medical imaging is an overall cost-saver for patients and the health care system in general because it results in fewer complications, earlier detection, shorter hospital stays, and better pain management.

Our goal should be keeping our workers healthy and on the job by helping them avoid surgery, long recuperation and disability. For this reason, significant cuts to medical imaging are not the solution. That is why I ask your support and need it for H.R. 1293, Access to Medical Care Imaging Act of 2007. My legislation would suspend for 2 years drastic cuts to critical diagnostic imaging services provided in physicians' offices and imaging centers.

The cuts were agreed to with little public debate by the U.S. House of Representatives, yet they account for more than one-third of the Medicare cuts in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Furthermore, as was directly pointed out by Members on both sides of the aisle during the Energy and Health Subcommittee hearing on July 18 last year, the policy was not recommended to Congress by MedPAC or CMS, and there has been no analysis of the impact of the cuts on seniors' access to imaging services.

Unfortunately, despite broad bipartisan support in Congress to delay the DRA policy, the DRA imaging cuts went into effect in January of this year. My legislation would place a 2-year hold on the implementation of the cuts and require a comprehensive GAO study on patient access and service issues relating to the availability and quality of imaging services in physician offices and imaging clinics with special attention to seniors living in rural and medically underserved areas.

Please join over 150 of my colleagues and become a cosponsor of H.R. 1293. People have to understand sometimes the cuts that we make around here are not in the best interest certainly of our constituents. Spending most of my life as a nurse, preventive care is better than letting it go. That is why our health care costs are so high. We need to do a better job of making sure that our constituents are served.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OPPOSE PERU FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the Ways and Means Committee markup on the Peru free trade agreement, I rise tonight in strong opposition to the Peru free trade agreement.

I am extremely disappointed there will be no formal committee hearing on the Peru free trade agreement. The last hearing for the Peru free trade agreement in the Ways and Means Committee was held in 2006.

Given that the administration and leadership announced proposed changes to the trade model in May, I believe it is critical to have a full hearing on the Peru trade agreement. The diversity of viewpoints on the Peru FTA have not been significantly heard by Members. Many of the newly elected freshmen Members campaigned on a platform of ensuring a significant change of course from the Bush trade policy.

The Peru free trade agreement is based on the same flawed NAFTA and CAFTA model that has been so devastating to industries across the Nation.

When I campaigned for my seat 5 years ago, the cornerstone of my campaign was fixing our broken trade policies. I have seen firsthand what they have done to the State of Maine. I firmly believe in order to address our trade imbalance, we have to change the trade model. The Peru FTA is the same old model with a little lipstick.

There is overwhelming opposition to the agreement by unions, consumers, small business, and environmental groups. They are all asking Congress to oppose the Peru FTA.

Who supports this deal? Big Business does. When Tom Donahue, president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, states that he is "encouraged by assurances that the labor provisions cannot be read to require compliance with ILO conventions," we should be very skeptical.

While we have all heard that the Peru agreement text improves labor and environmental standards, we fail to hear that they are added upon the old NAFTA and CAFTA text. The bottom line: this is another Bush NAFTA expansion.

Key unions are worried about the labor provisions. The new provisions require countries to adopt, maintain, and enforce only the terms of the ILO declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work. The new FTA language does not require signatories to meet the ILO conventions. These are the binding standards; the declarations are nonbinding. It is highly likely that changes in the environment and labor provisions will have no real effect on the ground.

We all know that the Bush administration has a long record of not enforcing the standards of past trade deals.

Why would they start now? There are so many problems with the Peru FTA, whether it is the privatization of Social Security, ban on anti-offshoring, or failure to protect our intellectual property rights, there are more than enough reasons to oppose the Peru FTA.

I could go on, but I do not have the time. I ask my colleagues to really listen to what America is saying about these trade deals. I am asking Members to vote their conscience to oppose the Peru free trade agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ESCALATION IN IRAQ WAR COSTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to draw attention to the surge, or escalation, of the occupation of Iraq. This time it is not an escalation of troops; it is the escalation in spending to continue this senseless, apparently endless occupation.

Recent estimates put the cost of the military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan at \$808 billion by the end of this year. That's just knocking on the door of \$1 trillion, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that again: we are closing in on \$1 trillion, and we haven't even begun to put together a plan to bring our troops home.

This administration has talked about a Korean- or Vietnam-like presence in Iraq. This could mean as much as 50 more years of U.S. boots on the ground. Conservative estimates put just one more decade of military spending at \$1.5 trillion. Who knows what it will be after 20 or 30 or 50 years.

The United States has an obligation, both moral and political, to help the people of Iraq to rebuild their nation. Whether through reconciliation or reconstruction, our commitment must be

ongoing. But we can't start either of these while we are funding this administration's occupation.

Despite the bravery of our men and women in uniform, we all know that we can't bring peace and stability to another country down the barrel of a gun.

A recent report by the Congressional Progressive Caucus found that this misdirection of funds may actually be endangering our own homeland. Each of my colleagues can go to my Web site, www.Woolsey.house.gov, and find out what it is costing their congressional district.

My district of Marin and Sonoma counties in California have already paid \$1.3 billion for the occupation of Iraq. That could have paid for nearly 25,000 public safety officers or nearly 18,000 port container inspectors to provide real security for our homeland.

Instead of passing on a war deficit to our children and grandchildren, we could have been investing in their future and, Mr. Speaker, we must. So far in paying for the occupation, we could have paid for 20,000 more elementary school teachers, or we could have provided almost 500,000 more children with health care, or 200,000 college scholarships to worthy students.

America's working families have demanded, they went to the polls in November, they want us to end this occupation. They want real investment in their own communities. They want this Congress to stand up to the White House and demand that our troops and military contractors be brought home, not in 10 years, not in 50 years. They want our troops home in a safe and orderly responsible manner by the holidays.

Enough of the endless occupation. Enough of the misspent billions. Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. Let's bring the troops home. Let's provide for a secure future for American and Iraqi families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CBC DISCUSSES SCHIP AND THE JENA SIX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subjects of the Congressional Black Cau-

cus Special Order message hour today that will focus on SCHIP as well as the Jena Six.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today 50 million Americans have no health insurance, including more than 8 million children. Eight out of 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families. Sadly, many of those uninsured and underinsured are African American.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings. There are millions of working uninsured Americans who go to bed every night worrying about what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In my home State of Ohio, there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured, an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We have also seen the strain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms as their source of primary care.

The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage they offer. It is a problem that affects all of us, and we cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health insurance.

Tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to expand one of the most effective government programs implemented in the last decade, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP. SCHIP is a joint State-Federal program created in order to provide health insurance to children in low-income households whose income, although meager, was still above Medicaid eligibility.

□ 1945

Currently, the program allows for States to provide health insurance to families whose household income is up to 200 percent of the poverty level. In 2006, SCHIP provided coverage to over 6.7 million children, and although it has been successful since its inception, there are still 9 million children without any health insurance, many of whom are minorities. Currently, more than 80 percent of the uninsured African American children and 70 percent of the Hispanic children are eligible for SCHIP but not enrolled.

It gives me great pleasure to lead this special hour this evening on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I'm pleased at this time to yield time to my colleague and good friend BARBARA LEE from California.

Ms. LEE. First, Mr. Speaker, let me just thank my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership, especially our Chair, Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, who has done such a wonderful job keeping us focused on “Changing Course, Confronting Crises and Continuing the Legacy.”

I also want to thank the Chair of our Ethics Committee, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her leadership on so many issues and also for her service on the House Ways and Means Committee. She has truly made history as the first African American woman serving on that committee, and as we heard tonight, her commitment to children’s health care is remarkable, and she has done so much on behalf of our children, and so I thank Mrs. JONES for her leadership and for this Special Order.

Let me first rise in solidarity with the tens of thousands of people around our Nation who took to the streets last week to protest the miscarriage of justice that has taken place in Jena, Louisiana.

Students in my district are as outraged as students throughout the country. The case of the Jena Six is yet another example of the institutional racism in our criminal justice system, and it is unacceptable.

We have come so far from the days of Jim Crow, but incidents like this one should serve as a solemn reminder of just how much further we must go in seeking liberty and justice for all.

Just with Katrina, the Jena Six demonstrates in a glaring and tragic manner the unfinished business of America. Unfortunately, these are issues in many instances of black and white.

If we are ever to overcome the tragic legacy of racism in this Nation, we have a duty to our young people to see to it that the principle of equal justice is upheld. If we truly believe in our Nation’s principle of equality under the law, then we must make sure that everyone, regardless of race, is held equal under the law.

There are Jenas everywhere in America, and it’s not just where nooses are hung from trees. Just look at the injustice and the ramifications of mandatory minimum sentences and three strikes laws. Young black men have received sentences under these laws totally disproportionate to the crime committed. It’s time for America to wake up and begin to complete this unfinished business.

Now, let me just briefly talk about children’s health care and say in no uncertain terms that it’s really incredibly irresponsible and downright shameful that the President really does not support children’s health care.

SCHIP is one of the most successful programs in our Nation, facilitating coverage for 6 million children. When I was in the State legislature, along with Congresswoman HILDA SOLIS and now-Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, we wrote the Healthy Families program, which

was the California SCHIP initiative. We were then and continue to be committed to extending the reach of the program as much as possible with the available resources, and now Healthy Families in California provides low-cost access to health care for over 800,000 children, more than any other State.

The flexibility built into SCHIP has allowed California to provide access to health, dental and vision coverage for the children that it serves, and we must continue to support that vital mission.

Providing health care coverage for our children is one of the most cost-effective investments that America can make. Children are the least costly to provide coverage for, and giving children access to adequate primary health care will create a generation of healthier, better educated and, in the end, more productive adults.

Under the Bush administration, the number of uninsured Americans has continued to grow. Employers continue to cut coverage and shift more of the burden to employees as costs continue to rise, but the SCHIP program has slowed the growth for our Nation’s children.

Additionally, comprehensive health coverage for children is an important step towards eliminating the growing, continuing, huge health disparities that plague minority populations, including 800,000 Asian Pacific Americans, 1.4 million African Americans, and 3.4 million Latinos.

Minority children make up more than 5 million of the 9 million uninsured children. These children are more than twice as likely as white children to die before their first birthday, and these mortality rates are a direct result of these children being uninsured.

So, quite frankly, I think it’s two months of the funding for this occupation of Iraq, this funding would cover every child in America for a year. It is a tragedy that children’s health care has not been funded at the level that we’re funding the occupation of Iraq.

Now, unfortunately, I have to say it seems like the President is waging war against our children, and I hope that the American people hold him accountable.

I thank you for organizing this Special Order tonight.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from the great State of California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

It gives me great pleasure at this time to yield time to my good friend from the great State of New Jersey. He is a leader in international relations and is now the Chair of a new subcommittee called Global Health as part of the International Relations Committee. I give you my good friend and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. DONALD PAYNE).

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by also expressing my accolades to the gentlewoman who is chairing this Special Order tonight from the great city of Cleveland in Ohio.

As you know, she has served with distinction in the past in the judicial system as a judge. She is a former prosecutor, of course, and esteemed attorney, and she now heads the very difficult Ethics Committee, which really says that of all of the people in this body, it was deemed that she was the most qualified and suitable, in addition to qualifications you need to be suited for a position, and so I commend you for that.

Also, as I previously mentioned, we’re very pleased with the Congressional Black Caucus as it continues to be the conscience of the Congress. Our chairperson from the great city of Detroit, Representative KILPATRICK, is doing an outstanding job.

Today, I rise to speak briefly on two subjects. First of all, I rise to speak about my support for the reauthorization of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, which expands and increases health insurance coverage for low-income children and improves the quality of health care that our children receive. But we need to pass a bill that fully funds and covers all eligible children. How could the richest Nation in the world do less than to provide for its young? It is critical and important because they are our future.

Today, our Nation is facing a health care crisis. Existing private insurance options are becoming increasingly less affordable for families, and 45 million individuals remain uninsured in our country, 9 million of whom are children. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicaid have been successful in providing 6 million children with health care coverage.

In considering the reauthorization of SCHIP, we must build on past bipartisan success and work together to ensure coverage for the 9 million children who remain uninsured.

I am proud to say that New Jersey has made significant progress in providing health insurance for its children. However, the progress cannot be maintained unless we reauthorize legislation which meets the real needs of children and for children’s health coverage, including addressing the unique needs of children with disabilities.

According to a study released by Families USA, the number of uninsured children in my home State of New Jersey could be reduced by 100,000 Statewide if SCHIP is fully reauthorized.

Without this legislation, New Jersey has more to lose than most States, unfortunately. Why? Because New Jersey did the right thing by increasing SCHIP eligibility to 3.5 times the Federal poverty level because of the cost of living, which is higher in New Jersey, especially housing costs. Similarly, New Jersey enrolled low-income parents in part because research has shown that this results in more low-income children being enrolled in the program.

However, instead of being rewarded for these actions, under the Bush administration's proposal, over 28,000 children and 80,000 parents Statewide could lose their health care coverage. In addition, thousands more children who are eligible now but not participating would never be able to enroll in the program.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government must be a responsible partner in terms of State health coverage initiatives. Forty years ago, Medicare eliminated the problem of the uninsured among the elderly. I believe we have an opportunity to take steps to do the same now with our children by fully reauthorizing this vital health care program.

Mr. Speaker, my commitment to children's health care is solid, and I urge that we support a bill that fully reauthorizes, not half, not a quarter, not three-quarters, but fully authorizes, and I hope that the bill that comes before us will do just that.

Now, if I may speak for a few minutes on the Jena Six.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Absolutely, please proceed.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much. Because we stand here on the 50th anniversary of school desegregation in the South and 43 years ago after the signing of the civil rights bill of 1964.

However, recent events, particularly in the last 2 years, give credence to the saying that all that glitters is not gold. Although we thought we were making tremendous progress, still many problems remain.

Two years ago, New Orleans washed away, exposing undertones of class and race that did not go away with the signing of those two momentous decrees, *Brown v. the Board of Ed* and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In Jena, Louisiana, the issue of race, which had been simmering below the surface, had reached the boiling point late last year. Can you imagine that an act of sitting under the unspoken white only tree will garner the reaction of nooses? Not only nooses, but nooses decorated in the school colors being hung from that same tree? There's no mistake the symbolism that nooses hanging from a tree means in the not-so-distant history of America.

As a matter of fact, the NAACP was founded in 1909 not for full employment, not for equal accommodation. The simple, original goal was simply to try to stop lynchings, just try to stop lynchings, and here we have nooses put under a tree that is the tree for whites only, to send a message that if you sit here, you don't know what might happen to you in the future.

While I find what those students did to be egregious, hanging the nooses on the tree, I am just as disgusted and dumbfounded by the reaction of the school administrators. Chalking up those actions to be a youthful stunt shows a dereliction of duty by the Jena school administrators. Have you no sense of history? Have you have no

sense of common decency? Three days of in-school suspension for the culprits of this prank equates to a slap on the wrist. That punishment says shame on you but really means no harm, no foul.

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Yet, after almost 4 months of underwhelming reactions from the school administration who are supposed to protect and advocate for the students under their care, the school imploded.

While I do not condone violence as a solution, couldn't something have happened before we even arrived at this point? Yes, one student was injured, and thankfully he has recovered. But attempted second degree murder, second degree aggravated battery and conspiracy?

The Jena school administration and the local legal system cannot run hot and cold while doling out punishments. They have the responsibility to be objective and fair, and not play with the people's lives like they are pawns in a chess game. The punishment must fit the crime. We are dealing with lives here, especially the lives of young people who still have a lot ahead of them. Threatening to take their lives away at the stroke of a pen does not ring of the necessary objectivity and fairness befitting a district attorney who looked at the black students and said, by the stroke of this pen I can have your future of your life.

And so as I conclude, Martin Luther King said, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

As Members of Congress elected by the people to represent them and to promulgate laws on their behalf, we have to speak out against these types of injustices that threaten the very foundation upon which this Nation stands, equal treatment under the law. If we fail to speak up for these young men, we will be abdicating our roles for which we were elected. What is to say that my grandchildren or your child will not be the next? Let us not sheepishly accept this type of behavior, not in the 21st century.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his comments.

Today, as I said previously, under the leadership of our Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, this is the CBC's special message hour. Today our message is on the SCHIP program and the Jena Six.

It gives me great pleasure to yield time to my colleague and good friend from the Virgin Islands. She is a medical doctor. Prior to coming to Congress, she practiced medicine right here in Washington, DC. She is the leader of the Congressional Black Caucus health brain trust. It gives me great pleasure to yield such time as she

may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands, DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you for yielding, Congresswoman, and for leading this Special Order so we can speak of these issues of importance to our constituents. And let me join my other colleagues in applauding our chairwoman, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for setting aside this hour, and let you know again how proud we are, how proud you make all Americans as the first black woman on the Ways and Means Committee and also as Chair of the Ethics Committee.

Tonight, this hour is devoted to two topics, the Jena Six case and the Children's Health Insurance Program. As I tried to decide which one of these compelling and imminent issues to speak on, it occurred to me that there is a connection between the two. Both deal with the well-being of our children and this Nation's responsibility to provide equal opportunity for them for a life of quality and of achievement.

With the case of Michael Bell, who remains locked up with no bail, as well as the other five Jena High School students, this country is witnessing firsthand the kind of injustice perpetrated on far too many African American children which results in the destroying their dreams, their hopes, and their lives. It is time for the good people of this country to rise up and say, no more. So I want to thank the leadership of the CBC and all of our members for answering the call of these young people. I thank the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the Reverend Al Sharpton, the others of the faith leadership, the NAACP, and the thousands who marched in protest, for standing up and standing with the Jena Six and for justice.

These young people and Genarlo Wilsson of Georgia are just seven of the countless others who have faced and continue to face the same fate, and we must never stop the work of protecting our children.

That applies also to the issue of the Children's Health Insurance Program. Regardless of what one hears on TV and radio, there are about 6 million children now in the program, 800,000 of whom would lose their insurance if we reauthorize it at the level the President says he will accept. There are now almost 9 million children who are uninsured, 6 million of whom are eligible for SCHIP, the children's insurance. The bill the Senate Republicans are holding us at will only add about 2 million. I believe that every eligible child must be covered, even if that means a shortened reauthorization to stay within the funding limits set in the Senate.

And the White House and Republican talking heads need to stop misinforming and distorting the truth about what we are proposing in the House bill and even proposing in the watered down version that the Senate has reached agreement on. There are no

upper middle class, even middle class children who would be covered under either the House original version or the current proposal. Coverage is provided for only up to 200 percent of poverty, which is where it has always been. The House SCHIP I still support would just finally provide adequate funding to get those already eligible, but not signed up, covered.

Our children need access to health care that includes dental care, mental health care; and it needs to begin at the very beginning by including prenatal care for their mothers. The Territories need to have State-like treatment, and we must also include immigrant children who are legally here.

The American people want us to provide health care to everyone. If we cannot begin with poor children, what kind of country are we? Do we not understand that, in keeping our children healthy, we save money by preventing more serious chronic illness later and that we build a stronger country by enabling them as healthier adults to contribute to everyone's well-being and our Nation's strength?

We in the House have built consensus around the better bill, and that was not easy. We need our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to join us on the side of right. Come on, colleagues, let's give our children what they need. Let's do the right thing. Let's send the President a bill that is truly observing of the wonderful human beings full of potential that are America's children. If he vetoes it, let it be on him, not on us.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I thank the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands.

It gives me great pleasure at this time to yield for comment to my good friend from the great State of California, former ambassador to Micronesia, a now Member of Congress, such time as she may consumer. We are glad to have her here. She is in her third term, the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman DIANE WATSON.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to give a special thanks to Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for coordinating this. She certainly has shown her leadership ability in everything that becomes her responsibility. And I thank you for the time.

I want to very quickly add my remarks to those of my colleagues referencing the Jena Six. I was horrified to see us take a step backwards into a period of time when there was fear and hatred displayed on people's faces and in their actions. And certainly we know that with every crime committed there is a punishment.

But the symbol of justice in this country of ours, the United States of America, is a symbol that has a scale and a blindfold, because justice should be blind. And in a country that uses the rule of law as its guide post, how is it that we become so unjust when we are dealing with our young people?

Certainly, things happen and anger builds up and children do things that

are illegal and sometimes foolish. But rather than looking at them as adults, let's apply the law to them as young people and apply it equally so they can learn their lesson.

With a stroke of the pen and destroying the lives of six young men, I think that sends the wrong message to the world. We are asking other countries to model their forms of government after ours here in America. And I would give a caution. We have made too many mistakes, and I would say don't take our mistakes as part of our Western-style democracy. They are truly mistakes of man, not mistakes of law. And so I would hope that, after the demonstrations, after the fury, justice will take place and people will be treated fairly.

Mr. Speaker, our American health care system is failing. According to the Census Bureau, the number of American children who lack health insurance has reached a new high, 8.7 million. Worst of all, that number has actually increased by 1 million just over the previous 2 years. Meanwhile, our gross domestic product during that same period increased by \$1.5 trillion. So at the same time our economy was growing by that amount, 1 million more children were losing their health insurance.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely shameful that, in a Nation as wealthy as ours, we leave so many children sick and vulnerable. It is shameful that the richest Nation in the world has an infant mortality rate that ranks 35th, higher than any other rich nation. It is shameful that while we vote for tax giveaways for the richest Americans, the poorest, most vulnerable Americans are left in the lurch.

I believe we were sent here to do more than just apply Band-Aids to this situation. I think we have the responsibility to make sure that every American, and certainly every child, can see a doctor when they are injured or fall ill. Politics is often about compromise, but which children should we decide not to allow the deserving health coverage? Which of us would be willing to choose between our own children, saying one can be healthy but another must be ill? I think this is a false, immoral choice; and I do not believe we should accept anything less than full coverage for every American child.

In my district, the economics range from the dangerously poor to the superrich. And I say "dangerously poor" to describe the impact of poverty on children's health. Poor children are at risk from disease, from crime, from poor education, and many other negative influences that stem from a poverty environment. This list goes on.

When we talk about homeland security, we really mean the people on the land. So providing a health delivery system for all our children is the only way to guarantee a strong Nation of future Americans. So let's invest in our children rather than in war that can take their lives too early, so regardless

of income levels, our children have a birth right to grow up healthy and strong to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Thank you, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and Mr. Speaker, for the time allowed.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I am about to yield some time to a really good friend of mine who in fact was the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission when I was a trial lawyer at the EEOC with my earlier career. But before I do that, I want to make a statement with regard to Jena Six.

I have been blessed in my lifetime to have a lot of opportunities in the law. I was an assistant county prosecutor, criminal division for 2½ years; I was a municipal court judge for 2 years; I was a general jurisdiction judge for 8 years; and I also was the Cuyahoga County prosecutor for 8 years before I came to Congress. And I give that statement, my background, so you understand the breadth and the experience that I have.

The prosecutor in Jena, as I have come to understand, as with every other prosecutor in this country, has an ethical obligation, and it is very difficult when the light is shone on you. Here we have a young man who has been in jail more than a year, a juvenile. Now a court has said to them that his trial should be overturned. That prosecutor, the prosecutor in Jena, should be saying to himself, duh, should I be rethinking the position I have taken? Should I not encourage the judge to do justice? Should I not say to that judge, grant this young man bail until we work this out?

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I'm confident it's tough on him because he's got all these other people saying, hold your ground; do what you've been doing. It's a lot easier to hold your ground than to do what's right. And I'm calling upon that prosecutor, the prosecutor in Jena to rethink, go back in a corner in his office all by himself without all the pressure, and contemplate why he was put in office.

Prosecutors are some of the most powerful people in this country, and I'm going to encourage young people who are listening to me to become an assistant county prosecutor. When you are the prosecutor, you are vested with so much discretion that you would have the opportunity to reconsider what's happened with this Jena Six.

But as I move forward, I want to say to this prosecutor, all of us talk about justice and what's happened in our judicial process, in the judicial system. Young people need to see in judicial officers and prosecutors justice so that they will have faith in the system.

Again I'm calling upon this prosecutor to rethink what he did. You know, it's very easy to overcharge. When you overcharge, then you can say to the people, well, I charged him with this, but I was able to get a plea bargain. Justice requires, ethics require that the prosecutor apply the law to

the facts and then make a decision with regard to what the charge should be.

In this instance, again, I call upon this prosecutor to take a look at the circumstances. High school kids. And we've seen fights among high school kids where the fights get rough and damage occurs and injury occurs. And I'm not saying by any stretch of the imagination that there should not be some question or responsibility for the conduct that was engaged in.

But I call upon the prosecutor again, you do justice. Don't wait for the judge to do justice. Don't wait for God to do justice. It's in your hand to do justice, to use the power that you have, that you've been vested with, that the people of America expect you to do your job; and your job will be to rethink the decisions you've made in this case and make sure that justice applies. And it's in your power to do so.

It gives me great pleasure, at this time, to call upon my good friend, one of the great lawyers in the Congressional Black Caucus who's shown leadership in every area that I can think of, my good friend, the Delegate from the District of Columbia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for such time as she may consume.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentlelady for her very gracious remarks and kind words. To the gentlelady who remarked that I first knew her when I was Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I must say to her that it gave me special personal pride to see her elected to the Congress, much more to see her become the first African American woman on the Ways and Means Committee, and she just did us proud again.

The gentlelady from Ohio has applied her distinguished career in the law to reminding the prosecutor what his first obligation is, and that is to do justice. That's why the prosecutor is given such discretion. He often doesn't prosecute, or he thinks of other things that should be done. The onus is on him.

And I found your remarks especially important in light of the fact that after what we've seen in Jena has left us to just get to one side or the other, and that's not solving the problem either.

I want to thank the gentlelady from Michigan, who is the Chair of our caucus, for delegating to you this responsibility and for her great leadership, especially in this week of the Congressional Black Caucus events where we will be discussing public policy and trying, as a group of African Americans, to contribute not only to the Congress, but to our Nation.

If the lady will, I would like to comment on both issues. I decided that the issue, the consciousness on the issue, had been raised and no words that I could say could further raise them.

But my consciousness was raised when 50,000 people went to Jena, led by young people. Now understand, yes, there were civil rights leaders here, but

not since I was a kid in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee did I see a demonstration that was generally led by young people. The organized Civil Rights Movement played its part. But nobody who looked at those television pictures can have any doubt about who organized this extraordinary demonstration. And look what it was. It was a peaceful protest in the tradition of the peaceful nonviolent protests of the 1960s and '70s.

These kids, mostly college and high school youngsters, who identified clearly with the Jena Six of their age, came to Louisiana essentially to say that adults had lost control of their town and of their society. I went and looked for what has happened, and I want to say a few words about what has happened that makes me say that adults lost control.

This event that we all know about under the tree began almost a year ago. Well, in August. Well, August 2006, as a matter of fact. Now we're already in, so that's more than a year ago. Where, interestingly, these students went and asked permission to sit under a tree. Everything thereafter, it seems to me, falls squarely on the shoulders of the adults. Here the children are asking for permission. What do kids usually do when they see a shady spot? And that's what it was, apparently, one of the few shady spots close to the school has been preempted by people of a certain color. Well, you know, the way in which children go to school and college today, tragically, in separate groups, instead of going over and simply starting a fight or simply sitting under the tree, they asked permission.

Mr. Speaker, the noose, one can argue about whether the three nooses should have resulted in expulsion or not. For myself, particularly if there's only one high school, I'm not for expelling anybody. I'm for using the good offices of the adults to try to keep from doing that. And I doubt if there was more than one high school in Jena.

But the fact is that, whether or not the kids knew what the three nooses meant, once that word reached adults, white and black, they knew for sure. And without recounting all of the events, it appears that many opportunities to try to solve this issue were lost because those in charge of the town refused to listen.

How could a prosecutor, the prosecutor of which the gentlelady spoke, have essentially used the threatening language about the stroke of a pen and making your lives disappear after a school assembly? The school assembly was the right thing to do.

But I say to the Chair of tonight's event, where is the civil rights unit of the Justice Department?

After more than a year with this thing heating up, they still have, so far as I know, this unit that does not engage in law enforcement but does help troubled communities. This is a small town. They perhaps don't have the resources or the expertise to know what

to do. But this school has gone through four lockdowns over this event; the local newspaper suggesting that the parents who tried to raise the issue at a school board meeting soon thereafter and were denied were the cause of the unrest. And there has been unrest.

The expulsion hearing for hanging the nooses becomes an issue not simply because that was not considered enough of a punishment. That's arguable. I don't want to stand here and say what was the proper punishment. It's because people look at the fact that that was mitigated to a few days and compare it to the almost instant expulsion of the black kids following a fight.

I don't regard these two things as the same. But I say to you that the reason that this appearance of unequal justice heated up is because after the expulsion was overturned to a few days' suspension, the adults did not, in fact, react to the mounting tension in the school, and it has mounted for over a year.

When the parents of the black students weren't allowed to speak at the school board meeting, they apparently went a second time and were allowed to speak, but, quote, not about the noose issue. There's nobody in Jena, and I can forgive them that, they're small-town folks, who understood that this was mounting, and if you don't get to talk it out, if you don't have small groups, if you don't have somebody helping you, it's just going to continue to mount.

Disciplinary issues continue all around this separate incident. We have incidents of young blacks being attacked by whites in the town, all around this incident without anybody, months later, heating up, incident after incident, all going back to the nooses; gun pulled on some black kids, not because they were involved with the whites who pulled the gun, but in retaliation for a prior incident. So here you have retaliation going and people going after whoever is not of their color.

And the teachers begging for somebody to do something over and over again. The recounting of what happened for a full year says the teachers are saying, for goodness sakes, help us out. We see mounting tension in this school. We had, a few months ago, a dozen teachers threatening a "sick out" if discipline was not restored in the school. And that's when the prosecutor comes forward and ups the charges of the six boys to attempted second-degree murder. That was his response to mounting racial tension in a school.

The prosecutor, I want to suggest to the gentlelady from Ohio, I believe, is in violation of Louisiana rules of professional conduct, just as the prosecutor was in violation of the North Carolina rules in the infamous case involving the woman who accused the Duke players of rape. This prosecutor has done the very same thing. He has gone before the press and spoken in

such a way that I believe he should be investigated by his own under Louisiana rules of professional conduct. And I believe and call upon the Louisiana Bar Association to do so.

But above all, I'm calling this evening on the Justice Department to lend its mediation resources to this poor little town where both the blacks and the whites are greatly in need of outside assistance. This kind of racial tension has built up over time, not only in this community, but I think young people around the country see Jena as emblematic of the abuses, overcharging in the criminal justice system.

Just as this young man who's being held in jail without bail may have been, and indeed did, if, in fact, he is found guilty now, and I do not know if he has yet been found guilty as a juvenile. The matter was thrown out when they wanted to prosecute him as adult.

If he has engaged in that violence, you will not find anybody in the Congressional Black Caucus or in this Congress saying violence was the appropriate response, given the fact that you have not been appropriately responded to on the three nooses. That, you won't find us saying.

What you'll find us saying is that every adult knew what maybe kids do not know, what three nooses have to have meant to these kids' parents and to these kids. And, Mr. Speaker, the adults in Jena allowed this to build up; beyond the adults, the Justice Department, who would have been in touch with these incidents.

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They are charged to be in touch with these incidents over the last year. They did not move in and I call upon them to do so now.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. If I could reclaim my time for a moment, in my notes with regard to Jena Six, after the new situation where the white students or whoever hung the nooses from the tree, the African American students decided to protest. So here, then, the district attorney, accompanied by the police, comes to the high school and says to them, I can be your best friend or your worst enemy. I can take away your lives with the stroke of a pen.

My position would have been, again, and I say this very clearly, that this prosecutor knows that he has power and people know that he has power. But there is this piece of poetry that says that when you are talking to young people, in essence, what they say to you is, I would rather see a sermon than hear one every day. And this district attorney should be setting the example by engaging in conduct and setting justice as his point of entree with these students versus sitting down and saying to them, along with the police, cut down what you are doing because I can be your worst enemy or your best friend. And he truly can, but being someone's worst enemy or best friend is not the gauge by which we

would hope that prosecutors in this Nation engage in their conduct and official responsibilities.

I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. NORTON. Just to respond to that and just say a few words about SCHIP, what you say is so important. Also, the power of the prosecutor, we have seen him send Members of Congress to jail. You don't need to tell him much. But above all, what the prosecutor needs to know is this is not decades ago when a prosecutor approaching black people got them to fear and trembling. These are kids. This is 2007. That was seen as a threat, and it didn't do the job. In fact, it upped the ante, and it was irresponsible conduct because he should have been aware of how his words would have been perceived. And if anything, he needed to cool it down, perhaps to say the law is here to do his job if you don't do yours, but certainly that kind of threat had the opposite effect on teens.

Maybe on you and me, we might have said, well, wait a minute, we had better stop here. But these are kids who had spent a full year fighting each other anyway. And, again, where is it going to come to an end? The youngster who remains in jail remains there. We don't know what is going to happen to him. It seems to me the only way to bring it to an end is to bring in outside forces to try to mediate this situation.

I want to say a word about SCHIP in light of the allegation that many of us simply want to give high earners access to this bill to provide health benefits for children above the normal poverty line. And the figure has been cited in some jurisdictions you can make \$60,000 or \$80,000 a year. This needs to be explained to the American people. Yes, there may be some of us who see it as a way to get universal health care, but I will tell you most of us don't see it that way. The reason we have gone to children is because we have failed utterly and know we will continue to fail in the foreseeable future to get universal child care. And so the whole point of the State health bill was to say at least let's do it for children. And the notion of doing it for people with high income needs to be explained.

Poverty benefits are not adjusted for the cost of living in particular places. That has enormous hardship. But its hardship when it comes to health costs cannot be overemphasized because of differences in the cost of living and inflationary rise of health care in particular. Health care inflation is far greater than any other kind of inflation in the society. So you are faced in large cities, for example, with people who can't possibly afford even health care provided by their employer because the cost of living in the high-cost place where they live is such that they can barely afford to live there. So what is \$61,000 in one place is not nearly what it is in a small town someplace else.

I want to point that out because these high-cost-of-living regions are

faced with a terrible dilemma, that those children who will be without health care are in a large number and the salaries as seen nationwide do not explain why.

I looked at what were these places. These places in order of highest, the top three, to lowest are Hawaii, number one; California, number two; and the District of Columbia region, the national capital region, number three.

Is anybody surprised? People can't even afford to live in the District of Columbia anymore because of the cost of living.

New York must be here coming up. I am just looking down the list.

But essentially when you consider, yes, there is some enhanced benefit from the Federal Government, but what these jurisdictions have said is that the situation has become so bad after our investigations for certain people who are, yes, above the Federal limit that we believe that hundreds of thousands of children will, in fact, be without health care unless we move. And I am astounded by the number of States that believe this, and I am chagrined that we see a preemptive strike by the Bush administration to, in fact, despite what we have passed, keep States from bringing in, up to a certain limit, certain families who have been priced out of health care in their communities.

So I call upon Americans, as they read about what we are trying to do here, to understand what we are really trying to do here, to make sure that when we say we are covering all children who need health care and could not otherwise get it, we mean that and no more.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of the District of Columbia. And I want you to know, and the people of the District of Columbia to know, we are for your having representation and a vote in the Congress, and we are going to be vigilant and keep working on that very issue.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am currently serving on the Ways and Means Committee. As many people have said this evening, I am blessed to be the first African American woman in the history of this country to serve on this committee. I am pleased this year to work my way to the Health Subcommittee. And on that committee, as a part of that committee, I have had the opportunity to work on the recent legislation passed by the House on August 1 that took a vital step towards ensuring the future health of America by approving the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. It was called the CHAMP Act of 2007.

On the Health Subcommittee, I have had the opportunity to talk with my colleagues and listen to testimony

from doctors and those in health care and those who provide kidney dialysis, et cetera, to help me begin to formulate my position on many issues.

One of the things that has been clear to me, however, is if we don't provide health care to our children, we are writing our future. I recently had the opportunity to go to university hospitals in my congressional district to participate with some young people in what's called the Healthy Children program and their focus on obesity, one of the biggest problems that faces children in our country and particularly minority children whose diet tends to be not as healthy, low-income folks, as folks who are able to choose fresh vegetables, fruit, et cetera. And as I was playing with these children, and we were doing exercises and we were rolling around the floor with these exercise balls and these various types of strings to help us lift and move our arms, I noticed that these young people were motivated, motivated, to change their eating habits as well as their lifestyle.

Obesity has claimed so many of our children. Back in the day when I was in school, I remember there was this President's requirement that you had to do so many sit-ups, you had to run so many laps, and you had to be involved in activity. And somehow we have to get our children back to that activity.

We have children with high blood pressure. We have children with diabetes. We have children who are working their way to kidney failure as a result of the lack of health care and the lack of preventative health care.

So there should be no surprise on the face of any person in the United States of America that we need to have health care coverage for all of our children.

Now, the controversy becomes how do you pay for it. And right now we are in this Congress where we are saying we want to be concerned about pay-fors. We want to be fiscally sound. So we either have to come up with a way to tax and change it, or we have to be able to reduce expenditures in other areas. I am one of those who believes that it is time to expend the money that we need to expend for health care, health care for all Americans, because I know we are spending much more than that as we fight this war in Iraq and we provide health care to the people of Iraq and still question whether we provide adequate health care to the veterans of our country who have been injured and maimed over there.

But today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, it has been my pleasure to host this message hour. We have had an opportunity to bring to the attention of the American public our concerns about the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which will be debated on the floor of this House tomorrow.

I encourage America to tune in, listen in, and call in and raise your complaints, raise your concerns, and let

Members of Congress and Members of the Senate understand how important you know that health care for children is.

And, lastly, I will focus back one more time on the Jena Six. It was great to have an opportunity with my colleagues to address that particular issue. And on behalf of our great Chair, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK of the State of Michigan, I thank the Speaker for granting us this Special Order for today.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, in the 21st century, there are some things that I had hoped we would have put behind us as a society. As we move to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Little Rock Nine," there are things that I had hoped today's children would not need to suffer. But as the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I know that we are still in search of equal justice across this Nation. There are still places where the progress of the civil rights era have not fully taken hold.

The tragedy of the Jena-6, which is unfolding right now before the eyes of the Nation, shows us that we still have some distance to travel before putting the demons of the past behind us. The controversy dates back to August 2006 when black students at Jena High School attempted to sit under a tree where white students socialized exclusively. The following day, three white students, who would later be punished only with suspensions, hung nooses from the tree. A series of racially charged episodes involving off-campus violence soon followed the noose incident. In one instance, black student Robert Bailey would be attacked in a white part of town at gunpoint. The white student who attacked Bailey would face only simple battery and probation. The white man who pulled the gun on Bailey, however, would face no consequence. Ultimately, Bailey would be charged with theft of a firearm for wresting the gun away.

Later, racial taunting directed at black students in the high school cafeteria would lead to a fight in which a white student would be injured and sent to the hospital. These injuries, however, would not prevent the student from attending a high school event that same evening. The five of the Black teens involved in the fight—Mychal Bell, Robert Bailey, Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis, and Theo Shaw were charged as adults with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder, sentences that carry up to 80 years in prison. The sixth teen will be tried as a juvenile and faces undisclosed charges.

One would have hoped that the elders of Jena would have intervened in a way that led to healing in the community. Sadly, this was not the case. Allegations of prosecutorial misconduct have been directed at LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters, who told Black students at a school assembly in response to the noose incident that "I can be your best friend or your worst enemy. With a stroke of my pen, I can make your lives disappear." This statement was proven true when Mychal Bell was convicted in June of aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy by an all-white jury. The court-appointed attorney who represented Bell called no witnesses and presented no evidence in his defense.

The families of Jena have not, however, faced this struggle alone. Just as happened in the 1960's, students, activists, and other con-

cerned citizens from across the Nation have organized, rallied, and raised money on behalf of the Jena-6. Most recently, on September 9, 2007, Reverend Jesse Jackson met with families of the Jena-6 and called upon Jena officials to reconsider the charges. Major rallies were held in Jena and around the country on September 20, the day Bell's sentencing was scheduled to occur. Tens of thousands traveled to Jena from across the country to show their support.

This show of activism has had some effect. This month, charges against Jones, Shaw and Bailey were reduced to aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy, although Purvis still faces charges of attempted murder and conspiracy. A judge also granted a motion to overturn Bell's conspiracy conviction, stating that the case should have been tried in juvenile court. In addition, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Bell's remaining aggravated second-degree battery conviction, also on the grounds that it should have been tried in juvenile court.

At the Federal, we cannot remain silent. Indeed, the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice has been in Jena for months to assist with conciliation efforts. Investigation units of the Department have also apparently reviewed the situation. It is important for members of Congress to maintain careful oversight of Federal actions to ensure that all the resources of the Justice Department are employed to protect the rights of the local community.

To that end, I will convene a panel at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference to address, the plight of the Jena-6. The forum will be held on Friday, September 28, at 3 p.m. in Room 209c of the Washington Convention Center. The panel will feature: Prof Charles Ogletree, Harvard University Law School; Tory Pegram, Louisiana Affiliate, ACLU; Family Members of Robert Bailey—Jena 6; Rep. Elijah Cummings (MD-7th); Michael Baisden, Radio Personality; Louis Granderson Scott, Attorney of Michael Bell (Jena-6); and Rev. Al Sharpton, Civil Rights Activist.

Ultimately, I believe that a Judiciary Committee oversight hearing may be warranted, as the Department of Justice has intervened with little success. The Department investigated the noose incident, but concluded that a hate crime had not been committed. However, we should explore whether the apparently hostile racial climate at the local high school opens federal jurisdiction under other civil rights statutes. Similarly, the activities of CRS should be reviewed to determine their effectiveness at dispute resolution.

We have reached a point in history where this kind of situation is no longer tolerable. I commend everyone across the country for participating in rallies, sending your support and letting these students and the rest of the country know that we, as a Nation, will not stand for this kind of injustice.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the bipartisan, bicameral plan to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, which the House will consider later this week. This crucial legislation will ensure that millions of our children receive the vital health services they need.

Even though I support this legislation, I rise today with a heavy heart. It is nothing short of a disgrace that here, in the wealthiest country

on earth, eight million children lack health insurance coverage. We ought to be ashamed that we are having this debate at all.

I am absolutely stunned that some Congressional Republicans and the President continue to oppose this legislation, particularly in light of the fact that the President used SCHIP as part of his campaign platform in 2004. Talk about shock and awe! I am shocked beyond belief that they can stand before the American people with straight faces and refuse health care for our children. I am in awe of the gall required to base the denial of these vital, life-saving services on an ideological talking point. Madam Speaker, the ideology of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle has not provided health care for these children yet. It is impossible for any serious person to believe that if this legislation is defeated the Republican ideology will suddenly start working its magic and provide health care for these children whose parents can't afford to buy it in the open market.

In my years fighting for universal health care, we have often said, "Covering children is easy. How could anyone refuse to support coverage for children?" It was coverage for adults that was always perceived as the real challenge.

But today, the Republicans have stooped lower than even I thought was possible. Not only are they saying "We can't afford to give our children health care." This is the same party, by the way, that finds money for tax cuts for the rich, that finds money to fund a disaster of a war. Many times more money than what is needed to cover these children, in fact.

Not only are the Republicans admitting that they prioritize tax cuts for the wealthy and feeding the military industrial complex over insuring our children. They are now standing before the American people and saying "It is not our job to guarantee health insurance coverage for America's children." They are refusing to make that promise.

Instead, they propose that our children's health should be subject to the ups and downs of the stock market, that it should depend on their parents' employment status, or how much they have in a bank account. It is utterly beyond conception how the Republicans can possibly think these concepts will be accepted by the American people. But I will leave my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to face the repercussions of this folly next November.

Let me move on to a more positive subject: the compromise SCHIP bill, which we will pass over these shameful objections. While I would have preferred the original House-passed bill to the more modest bicameral compromise, the House-Senate agreement is a major improvement over the President's proposal, which would result in 840,000 children currently enrolled in SCHIP losing their coverage.

The House-Senate agreement invests \$35 billion in new funding for SCHIP over five years to strengthen the program's financing, increase health insurance coverage for low-income children, and improve the quality of health care children receive. It will provide health coverage to millions of low-income children who are currently uninsured and ensures that the 6.6 million children who currently participate in CHIP continue to receive health coverage. Pending final Congressional Budget

Office estimates, the reduction in the number of uninsured children will approach 4 million children.

Under the agreement, quality dental coverage will be provided to all children enrolled in CHIP. The agreement also ensures states will offer mental health services on par with medical and surgical benefits covered under CHIP. The agreement provides states with incentives to lower the rate of uninsured low-income children. It replaces the flawed CMS August 17th letter to states with a more thoughtful and appropriate approach. In place of the CMS letter, the agreement gives states time and assistance in developing and implementing their own best practices to address crowd-out.

The compromise proposal improves outreach tools to simplify and streamline enrollment of eligible children, providing \$100 million in grants for new outreach activities to states, local governments, schools, community-based organizations, safety-net providers and others. It also establishes a new quality child health initiative to develop and implement quality measures and improve state reporting of quality data. These measures are critical to ensuring that all our nation's children get the health care they need.

Mr. Speaker, let's tell the White House and the Congressional Republicans still standing with it that it's time to stop playing political games. Let's tell them it's time to work together to ensure more children across the country have the high-quality medical care they deserve. The President might not be able to understand that it's the right thing to do, but the American people certainly will.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend, Ms. TUBBS JONES of Ohio, for organizing this special order on the very importance subject of SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. I am particularly pleased that we are having this discussion tonight because I have very serious concerns about the SCHIP legislation that comes before the House tomorrow. My major concern is that the version of the legislation that will come before the House tomorrow is less expansive than the version the House voted on previously.

This is extremely important because reauthorization of SCHIP is crucial to closing the racial and ethnic health disparities in this country. Narrowing health care coverage of our children, as this newly agreed upon version does, clearly falls far short of the goal that we had hoped for in our efforts to decrease health disparities. It is crucial that this Congress continue to bring awareness to the many health concerns facing minority communities and to acknowledge that we need to find solutions to address these concerns. My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and I understand the very difficult challenges facing us in the form of huge health disparities among our community and other minority communities. We will continue to seek solutions to those challenges.

Reauthorization of the SCHIP is crucial to realizing those solutions. However, we must not compromise away the health of millions of children who will under this new SCHIP version go without health care coverage. It is imperative for us to improve the prospects for living long and healthy lives and fostering an ethic of wellness in African-American and other minority communities.

I thank all of my CBC colleagues who have been toiling in the vineyards for years developing effective public policies and securing the resources needed to eradicate racial and gender disparities in health and wellness.

We know that the lack of healthcare contributes greatly to the racial and ethnic health disparities in this country, so we must provide our children with the health insurance coverage to remain healthy. SCHIP, established in 1997 to serve as the healthcare safety net for low-income uninsured children, has decreased the number of uninsured low-income children in the United States by more than one-third. The reduction in the number of uninsured children is even more striking for minority children.

In 2006, SCHIP provided insurance to 6.7 million children. Of these, 6.2 million were in families whose income was less than \$33,200 a year for a family of three. SCHIP works in conjunction with the Medicaid safety net that serves the lowest income children and ones with disabilities. Together, these programs provide necessary preventative, primary and acute healthcare services to more than 30 million children. Eighty-six percent of these children are in working families that are unable to obtain or afford private health insurance for their Meanwhile, health care through SCHIP is cost effective: it costs a mere \$3.34 a day or \$100 a month to cover a child under SCHIP, according to the Congressional Budget Office. There are significant benefits of the State Children's Health Insurance Program when looking at specific populations served by this program.

MINORITY CHILDREN

SCHIP has had a dramatic effect in reducing the number of uninsured minority children and providing them access to care:

Between 1996 and 2005, the percentage of low-income African American and Hispanic children without insurance decreased substantially.

In 1998, roughly 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African American children, and 18 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander children were uninsured. After enactment, those numbers had dropped by 2004 to about 12 percent, and 8 percent, respectively.

Half of all African American and Hispanic children are already covered by SCHIP or Medicaid.

More than 80 percent of uninsured African American children and 70 percent of uninsured Hispanic children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP, so reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to insuring this population.

Prior to enrolling in SCHIP, African American and Hispanic children were much less likely than non-Hispanic White children to have a usual source of care. After they enrolled in SCHIP, these racial and ethnic disparities largely disappeared. In addition, SCHIP eliminated racial and ethnic disparities in unmet medical needs for African American and Hispanic children, putting them on par with White children. SCHIP is also important to children living in urban areas of the country. In urban areas: One in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP. More than half of all children whose family income is \$32,180 received healthcare coverage through SCHIP.

CHILDREN IN URBAN AREAS

SCHIP is also important to children living in urban areas of the country. In urban areas:

One in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP. More than half of all children whose family income is \$32,180 received healthcare coverage through SCHIP.

CHILDREN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

SCHIP is significantly important to children living in our country's rural areas. In rural areas: One in three children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP or more than half of all children whose family income is under \$32,180 received healthcare coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP. Seventeen percent of children continue to be of the 50 counties with the highest rates of uninsured children, 44 are rural counties, with many located in the most remote and isolated parts of the country. Because the goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children, reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to helping the uninsured in these counties and reducing the 17 percent of uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, I would much rather we extend the deadline for reauthorization of SCHIP, while we diligently and reasonably consider the unsettled issues in this debate so that millions of the most vulnerable population, including many African American and other minority children can receive the health care coverage they need to remain healthy and develop into productive citizens of this great country. It is not as important to reauthorize an inferior bill under pressure of fast-approaching deadlines as it is to ensure that we provide health care to those children who remain vulnerable to health disparities. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring health care coverage for millions of children and reducing health disparities among the most vulnerable populations.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND OUR TAX DOLLARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor now for the next 60 minutes to address an issue that is of utmost importance to all Americans, and it is a very simple one: Where do my tax dollars go and why do I pay so much in taxes? We will see over the course of the next hour where some of the dollars go, and we will also see the fact that, quite honestly, it is hard to determine where some of those dollars go and what the Republican conference has tried to do to address that issue, to try to nail down some of what the facts are. I am referring, of course, to earmarks and transparency in the budget process because, as we all know for all too long, it has been a difficult issue to try just to figure out, when you send your taxes every April 15 to Washington, DC, where some of those hard-earned dollars go to.

These are important issues, as I said at the very beginning, to the American family because, as I have always said, I believe, as Members of Congress, that our focus should be on the family budget as opposed to focusing on the Federal budget, because when we focus on

the family budget, the American family from the east coast to the west, the fact that they have to spend day after day working hard for their money, for their income, to pay for their expenses, when we focus on those facts and when we focus on the fact that the American family has to pay for their housing, their rent or their mortgage, the education of their children, their food and their clothing and other expenses and health care and the like, if we keep our mind focused on that, maybe we in this Congress and the administration will not be amiss as to where those dollars go in the long term.

□ 2045

If you may recall, it was just a week ago this Monday that we celebrated the 220th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. The Founding Fathers, brilliant men all, had wisdom probably beyond their years and beyond their ages when they crafted, in 1787, that document that lives with us today. It is our job, as Members of Congress, to read that document, to understand that document from an original intent point of view, and by that, I mean to understand what the Founders intended at that time for generations to come.

One of the hallmarks of that document was to understand a federalist system of government. And within that, the States were sovereign in the sense that they were to take care of many factors; people were supposed to have utmost responsibility for themselves and their family, and the Federal Government was to have very limited powers. And in that Constitution it specifically set out, article I, section 8 sets out much of the limitations on the powers that Congress has.

Just shortly after the enactment of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights was created and added a portion of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. And the 10th Amendment to the Constitution says something that I think is important to our fiscal spending, and that is, "All rights not specifically delegated to the Federal Government are retained by the States and the people, respectively." Those powers that are retained by the people, all other ones are by the people and the States.

So the Constitution, if you would look at it, basically just lists what the Federal Government is supposed to do. Everything else is in the hands of the people or the States. Now, over the generations, unfortunately, especially in the last 40 or 50-some-odd years, the Federal Government has grown expansively. And because of that, so, too, has the budget, and so, too, has the burden on the American family.

We come tonight to point out that the budget we have seen crafted by the other side of the aisle continues to grow out of control without constraint and, therefore, puts an additional burden in the form of higher taxes. Here we stand 9 months into this 110th Congress, and what have we seen as far as the budget is concerned? What has this

110th Democrat-controlled Congress wrought? Most specifically, the largest tax increase in U.S. history. Let me repeat that, and I will probably say that later on, the largest tax increase in U.S. history. And why is that? Well, for a couple of reasons.

One, you have continued to see excesses in spending out of the budget coming from the other side of the aisle. That, in and of itself, is bad for the American economy and for the American taxpayer. And secondly, those higher taxes are part and parcel of the Democrat plan. Why do I say that? Well, because part of their plan when they came in here, and this is something that they championed and they said was to be good, was something called PAYGO, pay-as-you-go. Now, in the heart of things you would think that that is not a bad idea to pay as you go. When you think about it, that's how every family in America really should be operating on their budget each week or each month when they pay their bills, figure out how much is in the checkbook, and before they can go on any further they have to make sure they have enough income.

But when the American family needs additional income to pay for additional expenses, where do they get it from? Well, they have to earn it through additional work, or that American family has another alternative, just don't spend the money in the first place. Unfortunately, the other side of the aisle doesn't ever seem to want to choose that second option of decreasing spending or holding spending flat, and that's why we see spending continuing to grow out of control. And as that spending continues to grow out of control, how do they make up for it? Well, they, unlike the American family, are not out there earning those dollars for those PAYGOs. They do it the old-fashioned way; they tax it. And they take it out of my pocket and out of your pocket, out of the American taxpayers' pocket.

So we're here to discuss those dilemmas that are facing the American family. And I'm pleased to be joined this evening by a gentleman who has been fighting on this floor those very issues, fighting on the floor for the American family to make sure that the American family can retain as much of their hard-earned dollars as possible, and to address these issues that we've begun to address so far as far as spending and trying to constrain it. So right now I would like to yield the floor to the good gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, I thank my friend very much.

And as you've been pointing out, we deal with these issues within our own families. My wife and I have been married 29 years this summer, and we have three fantastic daughters. But over the years, including this weekend, I've had to tell my girls, you know, gee, I'd like to help, but money doesn't grow on trees. We're not going to be able to do it right now; perhaps in the next month

or two we can go to that and we will have the money to go forward and do that. But they've also learned that, and we don't get the arguments we did when they were younger because now they have begun to understand the value of money and the value of a dollar and how, if you don't have it, you can't spend it. That's never seemed to have stopped the Federal Government. And it appears that some Members of Congress are having a harder time these days grasping that concept than I might have imagined.

And maybe I'm a little naive. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, since this is only my second term in Congress, I have been a little naive. But in the last Congress, when our friends, Democrats across the aisle, stand up and say, you know, we've got to get this spending under control, we've got to stop this wasteful spending, we've got to quit spending more than we've got coming in, I commented to some of my Republican colleagues, you know, they're really right, we have got to do that. And some of us, including my friend, Mr. GARRETT, had come together and demanded reform in certain areas, demanded that we get some of this spending under control. And, you know, when the Republicans lost the majority in November, I thought, well, you know, one of the silver linings may be that these folks, the Democratic majority that's about to take over in January, they wouldn't have gone out on a limb over and over and over the way they did unless they really intended to control spending. Maybe that was naive. But anyway, as we've seen with every spending bill that's come before the House, it's draining American pockets with excessive tax hikes, with more spending than is necessary.

You know, I was shocked, also, that the usually bipartisan farm bill ended up being shoved over into a partisan issue, that was so extremely unusual, with a \$4 billion partisan gimmick at the expense of many taxpayers. I didn't realize until we actually took this farm bill up since I've been in Congress, apparently it comes up every 5 years and it had not come up since I'd been here, but brought the bill up, and I didn't realize 66, 67 percent of the farm bill had nothing to do with agriculture, that it had to do with entitlements, and that those were running away. Some of us began to raise the issue, wait a minute, this is going to be providing food stamps to illegal aliens, and yet we were told, well, it doesn't actually do that. It doesn't provide food stamps to illegal aliens. And that sounded good, except when you don't require documentation to prove legal status, then there is no way to determine whether someone is legally getting food stamps or not getting legal food stamps. So that seemed to fall on deaf ears as well.

When the majority was going to promise and did promise energy reform, we got an energy package that will raise taxes by potentially \$16 billion over the next 10 years. Now, also,

as the House bill on SCHIP, and we've heard a good deal of discussion before we got in here to start with this hour, but the SCHIP bill, you know, helping kids have health care, we're all for that. That's a good thing. But then when you started looking at this House version, the Democrat's version on this, to brutalize seniors on Medicare and saying we're going to take from the seniors and give to the young people, and then it turns out the bill expanded the age so it wasn't just young people, it was also adults were included. I think in the final bill, maybe that will be taken out, but even there we're not sure what is going to end up being in there; we haven't gotten to see that. But then, again, adding subsidies, and basically food stamps is what they amount to, to people in foreign countries instead of taking care of folks here? The way it takes care of folks here is folks here get to pay a whole lot more in taxes than they would otherwise if we weren't trying to take on people that illegally were getting food stamps or weren't sending such money to other countries.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOHMERT. I will certainly yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Because I think that's an important one.

Someone in my district, years ago when I first went into politics, said to me, SCOTT, when you deal with all these complicated issues that you will deal with, at that time on the State level, or now that I'm here in Washington, you have to translate it into, well, how does this impact upon me? And I remember that and try to bring it back home.

The point that you're raising here with regard to these Federal programs, SCHIP and what have you, providing benefits to illegal aliens, people coming into this country, breaking the law, and now looking to the American taxpayer to pay for their services I think is a critically important one. I think we're all too aware of the fact that there are a number of services that we would like to provide for our constituents at home, especially the low-income individuals, especially when it's something as critical as food, and many times, I'm sure you hear in your district that there's just not enough program to go around for your constituents as you would like to have them.

So when the Republican Conference said, as you suggested, that we should simply limit this program and limit American taxpayers' dollars to go to American citizens and not to illegals, that, to me, hits home as, how does that impact upon me? It means that those dollars will be going to Americans and to those who are most needy. Is that your understanding as well?

Mr. GOHMERT. I think the gentleman for yielding. Yes, that is my understanding. And I yield back.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. And if the gentleman could just refresh my

memory, how did that vote come down when we tried, and I know you were one of the leaders on the floor at that time, to make sure that that limitation would take place? If you recall how that vote actually came down.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding back. I remember very well. The amendment to prevent illegal aliens from getting such incredible amounts of Federal taxpayer dollars passed by 215-213. We've seen the video of the replay, so it's not just my recollection; it's there in the video. We passed the amendment with the Republican leadership, and as Mr. GARRETT will recall, he was a big part of that, and it was 215-213. It sat on the board for a good while, the vote was closed, the gavel came down. And then as we saw on the video, there were two people that came forward. They weren't in the well. They came forward later and changed their vote after the vote was all declared, after everything was done. The vote was final. And somehow, when the smoke cleared, it was 212-216, I believe. So a vote that would have eliminated illegal aliens from receiving benefits under this provision, it passed, and then the rules were violated and it was taken away all so that people illegally here could get the hard-earned tax dollars from legal folks that are here.

And if I could remind my gentleman friend from New Jersey, you know, we talked a great deal. And some of us put our conservative rears on the line last year by demanding earmark reform within our own Republican Party. And, in fact, there were probably 30 or so of us that told our leadership we're not voting for another major bill unless we get some type of earmark reform. So we were thrilled, I know Mr. GARRETT recalls, we were thrilled, Mr. Speaker, when we got an agreement from the Speaker and we passed the amended rule here in the House that there could not be any air-dropped earmarks, which were the biggest problem, no air-dropped earmarks into conference reports without us having the ability to make a point of order objection and get a vote on those bills. That was a big deal.

And I just saw the current Speaker out in the Capitol in Statuary Hall. She was incredibly gracious. She met some young people that are here in the District of Columbia, was very gracious to them. She didn't have to stop, she was very kind. But I recall in September of last year the current Speaker said, quote, "if you're going to have earmarks and you're going to have transparency, you have to do it in the appropriations bill and in the tax bill and in the authorization bill."

□ 2100

She said, "I would put it in writing." Democratic Chairman DAVID OBEY admitted that "the public wants us to pass significant House reform." He also said, "To deal with the problem of earmarks by only going after appropriations earmarks constituted basically

consumer fraud masquerading as lobbying reform.” He said, “To not do something about authorizing committee earmarks in the process is a joke.” That was his quote. So that sounds good. But that is not what is being done this year. Americans are kind of fed up with having empty pockets while the government has spending sprees behind closed doors.

Now, I am not for eliminating all earmarks. I think some of them are good. Where we, as the most accountable elected officials in the country, in some cases, can tell bureaucrats that are locked up in a cubicle somewhere that this is how this money should be spent, but the important thing is sunshine. It brings about great disinfecting. That is where we are having the problem. That is why so many of our colleagues have signed a discharge petition that is designed to force the House majority leadership to allow a vote on House Resolution 479 that would ensure all taxpayer-funded earmarks are publicly disclosed and subject to challenge and open debate on the House floor.

I appreciate my friend from New Jersey yielding, as he has, and I would just offer a couple more observations. Then I will yield back the time. In January, frankly, when the Democratic majority said, “We are going to have even better earmark reform than what the Republican conservatives got done last year,” I was pretty happy about that. I thought, that is a good thing. How could we object to that? That is great. But under the new rules, we were told that they did not allow any earmarks. Like I say, there are some earmarks where you have full disclosure. Let them see light of day so people know at whose request and what it is for. That can work out and still be a good thing. But no earmarks is better than having too many secret earmarks. So many of us were pleased.

Then, when the bill came out that was chockfull of earmarks, we objected, which is allowed for in the new rules, only to be told that there was a provision in the rules that said you could either have no earmarks whatsoever, or in the bill in question you could have a statement that there were no earmarks in the bill. And the bill in question before the floor, even though it had lots of earmarks, there was the statement in there that there were no earmarks; therefore, it didn't violate the rule. Now, that was quite a shock. You know, Mr. Speaker, the country wanted spending reform, not regression, not renegeing, not redoubling or retripling. They want true spending reform. So we need to clean up the wasteful pork in legislation so that American households can continue to bring home their own bacon and not send it somewhere else.

I appreciate the time that has been yielded to me by my friend from New Jersey. I appreciate, Mr. Speaker, our friend from New Jersey's battling and agreeing to take this time and concentrate on these issues.

Mr. GARRETT. More importantly, I thank the gentleman from Texas for your work in taking part in this battle. I know that you do not simply come to the floor in these matters, but you are out there in committee process and you are on part of the team to make sure that the system is run the appropriate way and also to make the battle continuous as far as making sure the American tax dollar is spent as wisely as possible. Although in this climate, I must admit it is a difficult battle to be engaged in. Thank you for your efforts.

You raised a couple of good points. Let me just touch upon these to reiterate them. One is that we all do want the same thing, as least on this side of the aisle, and that is more transparency, more openness and an understanding of where the dollars are going to.

I know from the gentleman from Texas and myself, this is not something new that we just came to the game at the last minute and are saying these things. I am now in my third term in office, my fifth year in Congress. I have had the privilege and the honor of serving on the House Budget Committee during that time. In that committee, many times I would raise the battle and raise the questions as to where our tax dollars are going, regardless of which agency we are talking about or whether we are fighting the administration. Even though it is our own administration on these issues, I voted against a budget that has come before this House, even though it is one of our own budgets, because I thought we were spending too much. So I believe I come to the well here with a track record to stand on, as does the gentleman from Texas, as well, when it comes to saying we want to be fiscally responsible.

Likewise, to the issue of earmarks, let's spend a couple more minutes on that. Likewise in this area, I think the gentleman from Texas and myself come from the same place. And that is that even when we were in the majority, there were a number of us from this side of the aisle who were battling for, and eventually achieved what we were battling for at the end of the 109th Congress, and that was the issue of earmark reform and transparency. Unfortunately, that was lost at the beginning of the 110th Congress. You may recall the history. We had to come to the floor again and literally almost shut things down on this floor in order to compel the Democrat leadership to do what they had promised in their election of November of last year.

This may be one of the biggest ironies of the day, and we continue to see it go out on this floor night after night. I think it was just last week when the Democrat conference Chair was on the floor just in the podium to the right of me making basically the same campaign speech, if you will, that was made back prior to the November election. And what was that? Well, The Republicans are the party of big spend-

ers, they were saying. They were saying that this administration was spending too much, signing on to all these budgets and signing on to all the appropriation bills that were passed out of both the House and Senate. Of course, at that time, it was under Republican control, and so all the accusations were against the Republic Party. Of course, what was being said was that Republicans were spending too much. You would think that the next line then out of the chairman's mouth would have been, and out of the other side of the aisle's comments would be, at that time, And we are going to do something about it. We are going to reduce spending. Or at the very least, as Republicans had in past years, freeze spending at the same level as last year.

But they did nothing of the sort. They did not freeze spending. They did not reduce spending. But they drastically increased spending over and over again in line item, after line item, after line item, appropriation bill, after appropriation bill. There is not a single appropriation bill that has come to the floor that you haven't seen what I am talking about: increasing in spending.

But when we bring it back to the issue of the earmarks, the same irony goes here. All during the last cycle, the 109th Congress, when the Democrats were in the minority, clamoring, saying that we were doing things wrong, saying that if they were in leadership or they were in power that they would do what? They would give us the transparency. They would give you openness. What happens once they came into power? What have we seen? What has this last 9 months wrought under Democrat leadership? Well, as the gentleman from Texas pointed out, we had to compel basically closing down the floor for a day at a time to compel them to give us some of that transparency when it comes to earmark reform. We thought we got some of that transparency, but it is really not there completely as of yet.

There was an editorial in the Las Vegas Review Journal saying: “Democratic earmark reforms lasted just 100 days. The anti-earmark reforms are just for show. Mere window dressing.” That was an editorial in the early part of the summer. They point out in there that these are just some examples of earmarks that would have been subject to an up-or-down vote on the House floor had the Republican earmark reform that we had talked about and that we had suggested and done in the last 109th Congress been in effect for the 110th Congress.

They go on to point out the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Representative MURTHA. A drug intelligence center was included in the intel authorization bill. Cost to taxpayers: \$39 million a year.

Now, we hear still to this day so much talk about the infamous, and I agree it is infamous, not famous but infamous, “Bridge to Nowhere,” a project

that some of us continue to rail against and say it was wrong. I am glad that Members on the Republican side on the Senate did all they could to see to it that those funds would not go there on a cause that truly was not worthwhile. But, you know, you hear about that in the news for around \$267 million, I believe, the price tag was there. But here is a \$400 million disaster, I think one of the papers called it. But you don't hear much about that. That, again, comes from the same gentleman, same program.

Quoting now from U.S. News and World Report, they criticized this program, the NDIC as a "drug war boondoggle." A former official with the office of National Drug Control Policy said, None of us wanted it in Johnstown. That is from the gentleman from Pennsylvania's district. "We viewed it as a jobs program Murtha wanted for his district," from U.S. News and World Report. The Washington Examiner I believe also commented on this earmark pork, as well. The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee called NDIC an expensive and duplicative use of scarce Federal drug enforcement resources. So by any rational standard, this \$400 million disaster should have been shut down a long time ago according to the editorial in the Washington Examiner.

So there is an example of a way to get around the earmark reform that the other side was touting in the last election, as Republicans continue to this day to push for, and as the gentleman from Texas indicated, now that there is what we call a discharge petition being signed, at least by the Republican side of the aisle. I will wait to see whether anyone from the other side of the aisle joins on with us with that discharge petition to compel the additional reform, additional transparency, to come to the floor for a vote. Just to give a 30-second explanation of that, a discharge petition is a mechanism of this House so that when a piece of legislation, good reform legislation like this, is in the hopper, ready to go, but the controlling leadership will not post that for a vote, because the leadership party in power is the one who decides what bills get posted, there is a mechanism in the rules in order to provide a mechanism to get that up for a yes-or-no vote. That is called a discharge petition. The Republicans are doing everything in our power to make sure that does come up for a vote.

Now, you may ask, again, why is this important to me? As I explained before to the gentleman from Texas, what it all really comes down to, it comes down to your tax dollars and where they are going to and shouldn't you have the opportunity to know where those tax dollars actually go to and how they are spent.

One thing that you might not know is that when it comes to the transparency that the Democrat majority says they have given us and the American public when it comes to earmarks,

and that really does not exist, is how the information is now being presented to the American public. Let me explain it in this manner: If it was our desire to make sure that information is being projected out to the Members of Congress in a useful fashion and also to the American public in a useful fashion, how could we do it?

□ 2115

Well, in the earmark reform package that the Republicans were able to compel the Democrats to accept, we said that what you have to do, very simply, is this: Give us a list of all the earmarks and give us a list of what the project is, how much money we are spending, and who the bill's sponsor is.

I should step back for a moment and say, just as the gentleman from Texas said, that we are not suggesting that all earmarks are bad, that all earmarks are extra-Constitutional; that is to say, outside of the bounds of what the Constitution says we should be spending it on. Not by any means. We are just suggesting that if we are going to have earmarks that are within the confines of the Constitution, what we should be spending our American taxpayer dollars on are on priority items. Shouldn't we have that basic information there, who the sponsor is, what the project is, and how much money is being spent on it? Three basic pieces of information.

That is what we achieved. But here's the rub. Here's the little secret that came about in the mechanism that the Democrat majority put together when they implemented that. Instead of putting all that information on one sheet or two sheets or three sheets, whatever you needed for all the many, many earmarks, and there are many, unfortunately, too many earmarks in one place, that we could basically, well, what, put it on the Internet so the American public and bloggers and anybody else who wanted to Google or Yahoo or use any other search engine look into it and find out what it is easily. No, they didn't do it that way.

Instead, here's what they did. They provided it in basically two sets of information. So over here you have a description of the project and how much money it is, and over here you have a description of the project and who the sponsor is. Now, these are two worthless pieces of information, unless they are joined together. Of course, we are looking at literally hundreds of pages of documents that you have to sift through in order to gather that information in one place. Basically, it would take an army of staffers, or of interns, or, maybe, and here's an idea, maybe of people out in the American public going through this, creating an Excel spreadsheet, if you will, to put all that information together so it is in one place.

You know what? That could have all been done on the first day that the appropriation bills came out of committee, by the committee staff them-

selves, and presented here before the House when these bills were voted on. All that information was there. It could have been done very cleanly, simply, so that Members of Congress and, importantly, the American public would have that information.

Unfortunately, that was not the transparent method that the Democrat majority wanted to use. Instead, we are still a case of obfuscation and trying to blur the information that is out there, and basically hiding from the American public what information should be readily available to us, information that the Republican leadership and those people who have been on the floor before and joining us now as well have been fighting for continually as far as transparency in these issues of our American tax dollars and where they are being spent.

What I would like to do in a moment, because we haven't got a chance to get into this yet, is take a look at the other side of the equation. We have spent some time now looking at earmarks and how money is spent. I think we also need to take a look at where the revenue comes from in the form of taxation.

I see I have been joined by another valiant fighter from Texas, a leader on these issues, who is also a leader of the Republican Study Committee, an organization of individuals who are dedicated to the issues and principles that we have been discussing on the floor tonight and in the past as far as adhering to the strict tenets of the Constitution and being concerned about where the American tax dollars go, and concerned about all the transparency issues, have been fighting both now under the Democratic leadership to increase the transparency and bring some fiscal constraint to these issues, but also, this is important, was also here engaged in the fight back in the days when the Republicans were the majority. There was a voice out there on the conservative right of the party.

I am pleased to be joined by my friend from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for yielding. I especially appreciate the gentleman's leadership, his principled leadership in this body. For the people of his district in New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT is somebody who is truly committed to the principles of Constitutional government, limited government, fiscal responsibility. He is a voice of sanity on this floor. He is admired and respected by all of his colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly appreciate his leadership here tonight.

It is an important topic that he has introduced here tonight, and that is the topic of earmarks, which many people know as pork-barrel spending. I know perhaps pork-barrel spending has been around since the dawn of the Republic, but too often, too often the pork-barrel spending represents a waste of the hard-earned taxpayer money.

If you look at the Federal budget, and both myself and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, serve on the Budget Committee, the dollars involved are still big. They are still big. We, in this Nation, and we should be ashamed of this, this body should be ashamed that it spends more money on earmarks than it does for the entire veterans health care system. Think about that. Think about that, Mr. Speaker. This is wrong.

In the last election, the Democrat party said they were going to be different. I agree with the gentleman from New Jersey. We are both Republicans. We were not always happy with the leadership that we saw in our party in dealing with earmarks, in dealing with the "bridges to nowhere," in dealing with the "indoor rain forest" and all the other earmarks that have come to really represent fiscal irresponsibility. But my party finally awoke to the fact that the people would not tolerate this.

The Republican party at the end of the last Congress put in reforms to at least bring in the disinfectant of sunshine into this body, so we at least knew where the earmarks were coming from, who was the sponsor, and we had the ability, we had the ability to come to this floor, to come to the people's House and offer amendments to strike those earmarks.

Now, the Democrat party had in some respects rightfully criticized the Republican party. They said, well, if you will allow us to come to power, we will be different. We'll be different. The Speaker said, "We pledge to make this the most honest, ethical and open Congress in history." She also went on to say, "I would just as soon do away with all earmarks." Yet now we wake up and the Speaker of the House, I believe, now gets more earmarks than any other Member of Congress. If you are going to lead, you have to lead by example.

So what the Democrats have done, Mr. Speaker, is that they have rolled back the transparency, they have rolled back the accountability that the Republicans put in, albeit too late, in the last Congress.

This is how under Democrat leadership we end up with the \$2 million earmark for the Rangel Center for Public Service requested by none other than Congressman CHARLES RANGEL to provide himself with an office and a library. This is transparency? This is accountability? This is fiscal responsibility? One Member of Congress decides to take \$2 million of the people's money and build a museum to himself? This is what the Democrats call responsibility? This is what they call fiscal responsibility?

There is \$1 million for the Center for Instrumental Critical Infrastructure in Congressman MURTHA's district? No one, including the chairman, no one, including the chairman who wrote the bill, could confirm that the organization even existed. But somehow they are going to end up with \$1 million.

There is \$231,000 for the Lincoln Airport Commission, an airport in Illinois that doesn't exist, and an airport that was supposed to come out of the private sector. And the list goes on and on and on.

Now, I am not here, Mr. Speaker, to say that every single earmark is a bad use of the people's money. But, more often than not, earmarking represents a triumph of seniority over merit. It represents a triumph of secrecy over accountability. And because of that, it wastes the people's money and it leads to the culture of spending.

The American people are not over-taxed. The Federal Government spends too much. We know, Mr. Speaker, already with just the government we have today, adding no new programs, no new benefits, just the government we have today is destined to bankrupt our children and grandchildren.

Don't take my word for it. The Comptroller General of America, the chief fiduciary officer of our government, has said that we are on the verge of being the very first America generation in American history to leave the next generation with a lower standard of living. Think about that, Mr. Speaker. It has never happened in the entire history of America, that we could be the first generation to break faith with all those other generations that have left us with an America with greater freedom and greater opportunity. Now here we are spending the people's money, taking away from people who do not vote because they are children and those who have not yet been born, and because of the spending patterns of the Federal Government, we are due to leave them a lower standard of living.

It was just this week on Wednesday that my wife and I celebrated our son's fourth birthday. We have a daughter who is 5½. We have a great stake in America's future. I will not be a part, the gentleman from New Jersey will not be a part, the Republican Study Committee will not be a part, the Republican Conference will not be a part of leaving the next generation with that lower standard of living; restricting their freedoms, restricting their opportunities, leaving an America that is less than the America we know. We won't be a part of it.

It all starts with the earmarks. The earmarks are the culture of spending. I wish I had been creative enough or articulate enough to come up with the line from the Senator from Oklahoma, who said, "Earmarks are the gateway drug to spending addiction."

They teach people to become dependent upon the Federal Government. It totally, totally puts the value of merit aside, and, because of that, it is critical that we reform the process and restrict the number of earmarks.

Democrats, the Democrats who in the last election on some occasions again rightfully criticized the Republicans for our earmark practice, but instead they are rolling it back.

Now, it is a little bit of inside baseball, but in Washington you have what

are known as appropriation earmarks. Ostensibly, the Democrats, our friends from the other side of the aisle, have given us some limited accountability there. But there is also something known as tax earmarks. There is something known as authorizing earmarks, more creative ways to spend the people's money. It is all pork. If you want to go on a lean pork diet, you just can't cut out the sausage. You have to cut out the bacon and the ham as well. The Democrats said they were going to do so much more, and they have done so much less.

We all know recently in what is known as the SCHIP bill, and, Mr. Speaker, we all know that Washington excels at acronyms, but in this particular bill, approximately 25 Members of Congress in the dark of night managed to cut some kind of deal in a smoke-filled backroom to get extra reimbursements for their hospitals that nobody else in America receives.

Supposedly we were supposed to have accountability. Supposedly we were supposed to have transparency. But not with all the loopholes that the Democrats have put in to their so-called earmark reform process.

So I would like to say that talk is cheap, but, unfortunately, talk is rather expensive here, costing billions and billions of dollars in earmarks that the Democrats refuse to clean up, that they claimed they would clean up in the 2006 election, and instead they keep on coming.

I remember introducing an amendment on the floor to restrict an earmark that was geared towards the Hollywood movie industry to help train people, train people for Hollywood, this struggling movie industry whose top ten box office hits from just a few weeks ago grossed almost \$1 billion. Somehow the American taxpayer has to help them recruit people for their movie sets.

The list goes on and on and on. Nothing, nothing has been done. The dollars are still going to the Saint Joseph's College theater renovation in Indiana; \$150,000 for the Kansas Regional Prisons Museum in Lansing, Kansas.

There is no accountability. There is no transparency. There is no reform here. And because of this, because of this, the next generation is looking at a lower standard of living.

That is why I am so happy that the gentleman from New Jersey has come to the floor to lead on this issue for all of the American people, and I am happy to yield back to him.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. On just your last point, you raised this a moment ago, and before I say this, happy birthday to your 4-year-old. But maybe if your 4-year-old knew exactly what the debt that he has is, he would not have been so happy at his birthday party.

□ 2130

You raised the point that the next generation for the first time in American history is not going to be as well

off as the previous generation. Before you came here, I said one of the things that I learned early on in politics from a Member from the other side of the aisle back in my county was: What does this do for me? Or in this case: What does this do to me?

In this case it really hits home for someone such as yourself or someone else who has a little one back at home. What does it do for my children? What does it do for my grandchildren? Or in this case, what does it do to them? Of course, in this case, it saddles them with a debt, an obligation, for something that they are not gaining any benefit from; but you and I and others in this generation may be gaining benefit from. But who is paying for it, your 4-year-old. And that, of course, is not fair.

So many times, so many times we hear Members come to the floor and say: here is my program. Here is my earmark. Fill in the blank for whatever it is. It is the compassionate thing to do, to spend this money on this program.

Well, I guess it might be compassionate if they were reaching into their pocket and pulling out their own money to pay for that particular program. But, gosh, in the 5 years I have been here, I have not seen any Member of Congress when they came with their program say they are going to spend for it. No, they are just going to saddle it onto America's debt.

As you said, if you have little ones out there, that debt is not necessarily paid for by you and I, the current American taxpayers. It is going to be passed on the next generation.

The question we should be asking the other side of the aisle, after they railed against the Republicans for spending so much, now they are spending even more. Now they are going to have to raise taxes under their PAYGO rules. We will get to that in a little bit. How compassionate are they when they transfer that burden, when they transfer that debt on to future generations?

Keeping to this issue of how to fix the problem, the gentleman from Texas, you might want to comment on the petition that is currently being circulated, a discharge petition which I explained earlier, and how that will address the issue of authorization language as well.

But before you do that, let me share with you a quote or two with regards to what the other side of the aisle said about this process last year when they were in the minority. This is actually something I had put forward last year to say when it comes to earmark reform, you can't just look at appropriation bills; you have to look at the authorization language. And as mentioned before with the earmark from the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the \$400 million earmark, that was in essence done through authorization language. You have to do both of these.

The other side of the aisle agreed with us at that time. They said, "You

can't just have earmarks viewed as appropriation bills unless you take up earmarks in tax bills and earmarks in authorization bills. But if you are going to have earmarks and you are going to have transparencies, you have to do it in the appropriation bills and in the tax bills and in the authorization bills. I would put it in writing." Who said that? Representative NANCY PELOSI, California.

Likewise, "To not do something about Authorizing Committee earmarks in the process is a joke, in my view." Who said that? DAVID OBEY.

So we knew where they stood last year when they had their positions on transparency. Now that they are in the majority, we wonder exactly where they stand this year, when they have the ability to do something about it. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and this is a very important issue for this body to take up.

Again, the term "discharge petition," what does it mean? It is something that shouldn't be necessary. What it says is we are asking Members to have the leadership schedule a vote on this bill so that the Democrats can't roll back the transparency and accountability reforms that the Republicans put in at the end of the last Congress. Again, we are talking about porkbarrel spending here.

Every single leader of the Democrat Party claimed they wanted more accountability. They wanted more transparency, and then they go and exempt two-thirds of the spending in what we call authorizing. So they left out huge categories of this. But we shouldn't be surprised because right after the election, when they were bringing spending bills to the floor, they actually wanted us to vote on the spending bill and then later, only later were they going to tell us what the earmarks were in the bill. They tried to hide them from us. We brought that to the attention of the American people and the American people said no. And we enjoyed a victory. Fiscal conservatives made the Democrats at least make good on that pledge and bring this transparency and accountability back here.

So this is a very important effort of the Republicans in the House, and we hope we will be joined by the Democrats who claim that they are committed to fiscal responsibility, who claim that they want to have earmark reform. They complained that the Republican earmark reforms didn't go far enough, and yet they rolled them back. All we are saying is bring us what we had at the end of the last Congress.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, you raise a point: this is what they were saying last year but they are not doing it this year. We are hopeful that at least now that we have discussed this on the floor, the information is out there, the discharge petition is going forward, although that has not been a secret because there is a line

every day that we are in session here of Republican Members standing down in the well signing the discharge petition, so they know it is coming.

But let me give you two other quotes of what folks from the other side of the aisle were saying last year about this. When they were talking about the measure that would only provide for appropriations and not authorizations last year, they said: "It is a half measure at best that would do nothing to stop wasteful and unnecessary projects like the bridge to nowhere." That was the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Finally, "My proposal requires the public disclosure of all earmarks, not just those of the Appropriations Committee, but authorizing and tax bills and much, much more." Who said that? Representative SLAUGHTER from New York, now head of the Rules Committee.

So we seem to have some very important people here last year from the other side of the aisle starting with NANCY PELOSI, Speaker, to head of the Rules Committee saying they agree with our ideas as far as broadening earmark reform and transparency.

So maybe tonight, and I think we only have a couple more minutes, I would be willing to stay with you here on the floor if you would join me, if anyone from the other side of the aisle, leadership from NANCY PELOSI's office or the Rules Committee, to come and join me and say they will sign on to our petition, or if the Speaker would agree to move that piece of legislation since that is what they wanted to do last year when they were in the minority, and if they will do it now that they are in the majority. Will you wait with me if they indicate they will come to the floor?

Mr. HENSARLING. I will be happy to stay here as long as necessary to have the Democrat leadership commit to the words they made before the election and have their actions after the election comport with those words before the election.

And if I could, and I know that time is coming to a close, I would like to add, as you brought up, every Member who comes to this floor with an earmark says this is a good thing; the money can be used for a good cause. I don't doubt that. There are many good causes in America. The YMCA, the Girl Scouts, cut flowers. There are a lot of great causes. But the question is, number one: Is it a Federal priority and how do we pay for it today?

Today, since the Federal Government continues to run a deficit, although under our President's leadership with more tax revenue from economic growth, it is falling. But right now, the money for a earmark can only come from one of three sources, number one, by raiding the Social Security trust fund. Is the earmark worth taking money away from our seniors?

Under the Democrats, we now have a plan for the single largest tax increase

in history, almost \$3,000 per family. More earmarks lead to more taxes. Is it worth putting a \$3,000 tax burden on a family of four to pay for the Charlie Rangel Museum to himself? Or debt to our children and grandchildren? Is the Charlie Rangel Museum to himself, is that worth passing on \$2 million of debt to our children and grandchildren? It is not worth passing on that debt to my children, and it is not worth passing on that debt to the children of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, much less the children of the people of America.

And so I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership, his principled leadership, in trying to reform earmarks.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I think our time is just about up, and I appreciate your efforts not only tonight, but throughout your entire time here. It has been a pleasure working with you in the House while you stand beside the American family and the American family budget.

Americans place much responsibility in the hands of their Representatives in Congress. The American public deserves to know where their hard-earned tax dollars go. They have a right to this information. If the Democrat majority is not going to literally open the books in a clear and concise manner so the American public and Members of Congress know where the dollars go, if the Democrat majority is not going to give us the transparency that the American public deserves when it comes to where their dollars go, then the Republican Party and the Republican minority will see to it that the job is done on behalf of the American public.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2155

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa) at 9 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 976, CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-346) on the resolution (H. Res. 675) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill

(H.R. 976) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and September 25 on account of official business.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of official business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family matters.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. HERGER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and September 25 on account of illness.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family health issues.

Mr. POE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 7:00 p.m. and September 25 on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. JONES of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICHAUD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 28 and October 1.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 28 and October 1.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and September 25, 26, 27, and 28.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, September 25.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 456. An act 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 pro-

grams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and Labor for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3528. An act to provide authority to the Peace Corps to provide separation pay for host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

3417. A letter from the Chief, Recruiting Policy Branch, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recruiting and Enlistments [Docket No. USA-2007-0017] (RIN: 0702-AA57) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3418. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Housing Operating Fund Program; Revised Transition Funding Schedule for Calendar Years 2007 Through 2012 [Docket Number FR-5105-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AC72) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3419. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices: Immunology and Microbiology Devices: Classification of In Vitro Human Immunodeficiency Virus Drug Resistance Genotype Assay [Docket No. 2007N-0294] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3420. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Charleston and Englewood, Tennessee) [MB Docket No. 05-273 RM-11273 RM-11307] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3421. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Waukomis, Oklahoma)

Reclassification of License of Station KYQQ (FM), Arkansas City, Kansas [MB Docket No. 06-46 RM-11256 File No. BLH-19880120KA] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3422. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: TN-68 Revision 1 (RIN: 3150-AI21) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3423. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — NRC Size Standards; Revision (RIN: 3150-AI15) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3424. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3425. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3426. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-18; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket FAR-2007-002, Sequence 3] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3427. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2006-032, Small Business Size Representation [FAC 2005-18; FAR Case 2006-032; Item I; Docket 2007-001, Sequence 4] (RIN: 9000-AK78) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3428. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, (OCAO), GSA, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-18; Introduction [Docket FAR-2007-002, Sequence 3] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3429. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife & Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2007-2008 Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (RIN: 1018-AV36) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3430. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch for Trawl Catcher Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XB81) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3431. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch In the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XB86) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3432. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Haddock Size Limit Change [Docket No. 070709299-7300-01] (RIN: 0648-AV75) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3433. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 070213032-7032-01] (RIN: 0648-XB79) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3434. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Processor Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XB89) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3435. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Rock Sole, Flathead Sole, and "Other Flatfish" by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 070213033-7033-01] (RIN: 0648-XB88) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3436. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Individual Fishing Quota Program; Community Development Quota Program [Docket No. 0612242964-7332-02; I.D. 080106C] received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3437. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ridgeway, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23907; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-03] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3438. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Troy, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-24318; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-007] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3439. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Jersey Shore Airport, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23904; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-02] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3440. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Wellsboro, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23909; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-005] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3441. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tunkhannock, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23895; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-01] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3442. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Wilkes Barre, PA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23908; Airspace Docket No. 06-AEA-004] received September 14, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3443. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — NAFTA: MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEE EXEMPTION AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS [USCBP-2006-0090 CBP Dec. 07-76] (RIN: 1505-AB58) received September 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3444. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 1.817-5: Diversification requirements for variable annuity, endowment, and life insurance contracts (Also 408(p), 408(q), 408A, 415(m), 457(f).) (Rev. Rul. 2007-58) received September 4, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3445. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 807. — Rules for Certain Reserves (Also 805, 812, 832) (Rev. Proc. 2007-61) received September 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3446. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2008 Transition Relief and Additional Guidance on the Application of 409A to Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plans [Notice 2007-78] received September 12, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3447. A letter from the SSA Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Amendment to the Attorney Advisor Program [Docket No. SSA 2007-0036] (RIN: 0960-AG49) received September 4, 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. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3046. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance Social Security account number privacy protections, to prevent fraudulent misuse of the Social Security account number, and to otherwise enhance protection against identity theft, and

for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110-339). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3121. A bill to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 110-340). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1199. A bill to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children (Rept. 110-341 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1943. A bill to provide for an effective HIV/AIDS program in Federal prisons (Rept. 110-342). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota: Committee on Agriculture. House Resolution 79. Resolution recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and the contributions of those programs efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need (Rept. 110-343). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota: Committee on Agriculture. House Concurrent Resolution 25. Resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber (Rept. 110-344 pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3375. A bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months; with an amendment (Rept. 110-345). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 675. Resolution providing for the consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 976) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-346). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1199 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform and Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1400 referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources discharged. H. Con. Res. 25 referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on September 21, 2007]

H.R. 1400. Referral to the Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than September 24, 2007.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. AKIN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. POE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. HARE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H.R. 3633. A bill to provide for export controls of certain items relating to civil aircraft; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 3634. A bill to establish and determine the eligibility of individuals for a loan forgiveness program for professional engineers in order to provide incentives for engineers currently employed and engineering students and other students pursuing or considering pursuing a degree in science, technology and engineering, and for the support of students pursuing such secondary and postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. REYES, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 3635. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Organ and Tissue Donor Registry Resource Center, to authorize grants for State organ and tissue donor registries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 3636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the financing of the Superfund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. WU, and Mr. BUCHER):

H.R. 3637. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish and evaluate sustainability programs, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic and social sustainability initiatives, and to direct the Secretary of Education to convene a summit of higher education experts in the area of sustainability; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 3638. A bill to end the cycle of illegal immigration in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 3639. A bill to establish a program of research and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 3640. A bill to establish the James Madison Memorial Commission to develop a plan of action for the establishment and

maintenance of a James Madison memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 3641. A bill to allow teachers in rural areas who are highly qualified in one subject to have 3 years from their hiring date to become highly qualified in each additional subject they teach; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 3642. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for expanded learning time schools and programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. PELOSI (for herself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 3643. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 3644. A bill to establish a nonpartisan Commission on Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ):

H.R. 3645. A bill to implement recommendations of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Education and Labor, House Administration, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEARNS:

H.R. 3646. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor to conduct a joint study on the fields of employment for which the greatest need for employees exists in various geographic areas; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. ADERHOLT):

H.R. 3647. A bill to delay for 6 months the requirement to use tamper-resistant prescription pads under the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACA:

H.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted to the Congress by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services requiring certain lawful permanent residents to apply for a new Permanent Resident Card; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DINGELL (for himself and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H. Con. Res. 217. Concurrent resolution to correct technical errors in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 3580; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina:

H. Con. Res. 218. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding United States immigration and border security laws; to the Committee on Homeland

Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H. Res. 670. A resolution recognizing College Summit for its achievements in increasing the college enrollment rate of low-income students, and encouraging the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to determine how the Federal Government can support the efforts of College Summit; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Ms. DELAURO):

H. Res. 671. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. LATHAM):

H. Res. 672. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H. Res. 673. A resolution recognizing the importance of National Preparedness Month and encouraging all Americans to take precautions to preserve lives and minimize the effects of a terrorist attack; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. WEXLER (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LINDER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RENZI):

H. Res. 674. A resolution expressing the unequivocal support of the House of Representatives for Israel's right to self defense in the face of an imminent nuclear or military threat from Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

197. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 67 urging the Congress of the United States to provide further drought relief to Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture.

198. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, relative to Resolution No. 2425 expressing solidarity and support of the Senate of Puerto Rico to the People of Cuba and its support to the claim for the immediate holding of free and true democratic elections in our sister island; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

199. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 125 urging the Congress of the United States to restore full funding to the Community Oriented Policing Services program to assist Texas law enforcement in patrolling the border before authorizing funding for the police force of the United Mexican States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

200. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 41 memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such actions as are necessary to research and promote Virtual Command Technology to improve police, emergency medical services, and fire protection; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

201. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46 urging the Con-

gress of the United States to authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to convey the Thomas T. Connally Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Marlin, Texas, to the State of Texas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

202. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 urging the Congress of the United States to support legislation for veterans' health care budget reform to allow assured funding; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

203. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to eliminate the 24-month Medicare waiting period for participants in Social Security Disability Insurance; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

204. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Texas, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 urging the Congress of the United States to support the Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005; jointly to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Ways and Means.

205. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska, relative to Legislative Resolution No. 28 opposing the enactment or enforcement of the REAL ID Act; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 12: Mr. JINDAL.
 H.R. 25: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
 H.R. 89: Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 101: Ms. HIRONO.
 H.R. 111: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
 H.R. 133: Mr. HALL of Texas.
 H.R. 138: Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 380: Ms. CASTOR and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 418: Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 463: Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 479: Mr. ROYCE.
 H.R. 549: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
 H.R. 551: Mr. HALL of Texas.
 H.R. 583: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 601: Ms. HARMAN.
 H.R. 616: Mr. FOSSELLA and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 643: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. BRADY of Texas.
 H.R. 657: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 676: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 715: Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 728: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 840: Ms. HARMAN, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 946: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 992: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 1064: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky and Ms. HARMAN.
 H.R. 1070: Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 1076: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 1092: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 1125: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
 H.R. 1148: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1157: Mr. CASTLE, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 1166: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 1174: Mr. TIERNEY and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 1222: Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 1223: Mr. GOODE and Mr. MICA.
 H.R. 1228: Mr. OBERSTAR.
 H.R. 1245: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 1283: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1293: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 1302: Mr. DOYLE.
 H.R. 1303: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 1328: Ms. CARSON and Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 1338: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 1352: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 1353: Mr. GORDON and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 1376: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 1390: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. Fortupo, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 1415: Mr. WATT.
 H.R. 1422: Ms. HARMAN.
 H.R. 1428: Mr. TIBERI.
 H.R. 1432: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 1509: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 1514: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1553: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. BERMAN.
 H.R. 1586: Mr. ISSA, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SAXTON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 1644: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. CHANDLER.
 H.R. 1647: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 1655: Mr. WAMP, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. TIERNEY.
 H.R. 1665: Mr. KELLER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 1671: Ms. CARSON and Ms. HARMAN.
 H.R. 1687: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 1713: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
 H.R. 1726: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SAXTON, and Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 1772: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 1809: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 1869: Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 1876: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SIRES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. CARDOZA.
 H.R. 1907: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 2046: Mr. DELAHUNT.
 H.R. 2052: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.R. 2063: Mr. HOYER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. WYNN, Ms. SHEAPORTER, Mr. HARE, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 2074: Mr. EMANUEL.
 H.R. 2075: Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 2087: Mr. MATHESON.
 H.R. 2097: Mr. WYNN.
 H.R. 2108: Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 2109: Mr. MCHENRY.
 H.R. 2122: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. BERMAN.
 H.R. 2144: Mr. KAGEN.
 H.R. 2164: Mr. ARCURI.
 H.R. 2165: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. CARNAHAN.
 H.R. 2167: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 2210: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 2266: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 2287: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
 H.R. 2295: Ms. LEE and Mr. HELLER.
 H.R. 2303: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2329: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and Mr. BACHUS.
 H.R. 2363: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 2371: Mrs. LOWEY.

- H.R. 2417: Mr. STEARNS.
H.R. 2443: Mrs. CUBIN.
H.R. 2468: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2478: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2484: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2503: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2516: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2537: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2574: Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 2610: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2620: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2634: Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2668: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2702: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SHULER, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 2706: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2717: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2719: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 2744: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2758: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 2762: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 2768: Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2769: Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 2779: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2799: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2802: Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 2832: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 2833: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 2840: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2910: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 2916: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 2922: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2942: Mr. ARCURI and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 2943: Mr. MCKEON and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2949: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 2955: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2991: Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 3008: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3024: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3036: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3053: Mr. GORDON and Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 3055: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 3058: Mr. SALAZAR and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 3077: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 3081: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 3085: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 3090: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3100: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3109: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 3119: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 3121: Mr. BACA, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3140: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 3168: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3174: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3186: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3187: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3193: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3204: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3213: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3223: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3232: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MATHE-SON, Mr. ROSS, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 3257: Ms. CARSON and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3258: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 3282: Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3294: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3298: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3317: Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 3327: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3329: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3331: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3334: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3337: Mr. FARR and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3355: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3380: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3381: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3394: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3406: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 3416: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 3429: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. ELLSWORTH, and Mr. WEXLER.
H.R. 3432: Ms. BORDALLO and Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 3457: Mr. ROSS, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3467: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3481: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3486: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3494: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 3495: Mr. HARE and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 3498: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3508: Mr. CASTLE, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 3521: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3533: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3541: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 3543: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3547: Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3558: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 3562: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 3563: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 3564: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3566: Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3567: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3569: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. HARMAN.
H.R. 3584: Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. KELLER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 3585: Mrs. BONO and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3586: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 3605: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. SHEA-POR-TER.
H.R. 3622: Mr. ROSS and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 3631: Mr. GORDON, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.J. Res. 6: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. SIMPSON.
H.J. Res. 47: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. Linda T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. HONDA.
H. Con. Res. 25: Mr. HARE and Mr. SHMKUS.
H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 70: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H. Con. Res. 83: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H. Con. Res. 122: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Con. Res. 133: Mr. MARSHALL.
H. Con. Res. 154: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. MACK, and Mr. ROYCE.
H. Con. Res. 185: Mr. ANDREWS.
H. Con. Res. 198: Ms. NORTON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FILNER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FARR, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 200: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 204: Mr. GINGREY, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. POE.
H. Con. Res. 208: Mr. SCHIFF.
H. Res. 76: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 79: Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 95: Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 111: Mr. COBLE, Mr. HAYES, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WU, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H. Res. 143: Mr. McNULTY.
H. Res. 237: Mr. KENNEDY.
H. Res. 282: Mr. BURGESS.
H. Res. 405: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. PALLONE.
H. Res. 470: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. TURNER, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H. Res. 499: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. TIBERI.
H. Res. 542: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Res. 548: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H. Res. 573: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. SERRANO.
H. Res. 576: Mr. PASTOR.
H. Res. 584: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H. Res. 590: Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. SUTTON.
H. Res. 605: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. WU, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Res. 618: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 620: Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Res. 630: Mr. GORDON, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HILL, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. SHULER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr.

SNYDER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BOREN, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. HARE, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 635: Mr. WU, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 641: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H. Res. 644: Mr. DENT, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. GERLACH.

H. Res. 647: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H. Res. 651: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 658: Mr. KANJORSKI and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H. Res. 661: Ms. WATSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. CARSON.

H. Res. 668: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WATT, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 669: Mr. OBEY.

OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The amendment to be offered by Representative Miller or a designee to H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 661: Mr. TERRY.